

Special Meeting

May 24th, 2021, at 5:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Norby called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order at 5:30PM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.
3. **ALDERMEN PRESENT:** Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Sergent, Alderman Stevenson, Alderman Koffler.
4. **Visitors:** Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Shanks, Utilities Manger Anderson, Jordan Mayer with Interstate Engineering, Spencer VanWichen with Interstate Engineering, Kale Rasmussen Fire Marshall, Thomas Kalil City Attorney (via phone).
5. **West Holly Water Project Bid Award:** Mr. Mayer gave an overview on the West Holly Project, he stated that blue portion is schedule #1 the water main to be rehabilitated from 12th AVE to 2nd ST NW, this project was identified in the rate study. The gray portion is schedule #2 the water main to be rehabilitated 12th AVE to 15th AVE, and the brown is schedule #3 new water main be installed. Mr. Mayer mentioned they also bid the project with an alternative to horizontally directional drill this whole project, Mr. Mayer mentioned that the City of Sidney opened bids last Wednesday and there were three bidders: BEK Construction, Fer-Pal, and Franz Construction. Mr. Mayer mentioned that Fer-Pal was the lowest bidder for lining activities throughout schedule #1, #2 and #3. Mr. Mayer stated that BEK was the lowest bidder for directional drilling activities for alternative #1, #2, and #3, Mr. Mayer did state that all the bids are at least 25% higher than the engineers estimate. Mr. Mayer did talk to the contractors, and they said across the board supplies are 20% to 30% which was required in more areas than anticipated by MDT, hence the higher estimates.

Mr. Mayer gave an overview on the different funding options for the city, he explained that the city had a \$1,050,000.00 loan for schedule #1 for this project. Mr. Mayer mentioned that in schedule #1 the low bid came in at \$250,000.00 higher than the loan amount. Mr. Mayer mentioned if the city decides to do schedule #1 and #2 then the bid was shorted by approximately \$850,000.00, and schedule #3 could be bid out again as its own separate schedule project or in addition to a subsequent project. Mr. Mayer stated per his recommendation he would like to do lining for schedule #1 and #2 and not do schedule #3. Mr. Mayer also mentioned that taking out a 1 million loan with SRF without raising our current water and sewer rates would be quickest option. The city has the ability to take up to a \$4 million loan with SRF without raising waite rates. The new loan would be approximately \$1.9 million. Mr. Mayer mentioned that other option is ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) that is handle by the state, he said that the City of Sidney is already receiving one grant of \$1,494,597.00 from the ARPA Funds. Mr. Mayer said that these different grants could be used for this project or different projects, there is more information about these grants coming later.

Mr. Mayer is making a recommendation of awarding of the lining is because the pipe that is already in the ground is ready to go, and there are many unknow factors for directional drilling. Mr. Mayer stated in his recommendation he would like to see the city award Fer-Pal in lining for schedule #1 and #2 and take out an SRF Loan and save ARPA Funds for a later project. Mr. Mayer mentioned that Fer-Pal could start construction on this project within four to six weeks, they already have supplies stocked up, Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if the city does decide to go through with the lining will this project cause traffic to be stopped on West Holly for maintenance activities. Mr. Mayer stated that for future maintenance, the lining activities would not stop traffic nearly as much as if the city decided to go with directionally drilling and the new alignment would be in east bound traffic lane.

Alderwoman Rasmussen made a motion to award Fer-Pal the lining bid for schedule #1 and #2 and add to the current SRF loan. Alderwoman Christensen seconded the motion, Alderwoman

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Christensen mentioned that the water and sewer committee will have to meet to discuss ARPA funding options for other water/sewer projects. With no further discussion. All present voted aye.

6. **Fireworks Season for 2021:** Alderwoman Christensen mentioned she was approached out in the community and asked what the City of Sidney is going to do with fireworks season this year due to the extreme drought, and she thought it would be nice to discuss it prior to 4th of July. Alderwoman Christensen did mention people are better off shooting off fireworks within the city limits other than county limits, Fire Marshall Rasmussen stated that there is currently a county burn ban that does not include city residents. Alderwoman Christensen stated that any decision can be made at this time, and Alderwoman Christensen believes that the county will not light any fireworks this year due to the dryness in Richland County. Fire Marshall Rasmussen also stated people are better off lighting fireworks off within city limits, and hopefully the chance of rain increases throughout this week. A general consensus was made to not make an official decision tonight regarding fireworks for the 2021 season.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:12PM.

ATTEST:

MAYOR NORBY

DEPUTY CITY CLERK/TREASURER

DATE APPROVED