

March 2, 2010

The Seward City Council met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 with Mayor Roger E Glawatz presiding and Administrator Assistant/Clerk-Treasurer Debra Schaefer, recording the proceedings. Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were present: Verlon Vrana, Brett Smith, Sid Kamprath, Mark Eilers, Robert Fiala, John Singleton, Loren Pogreba, David B. Stewart III. Other officials present were: City Administrator Daniel Berlowitz, City Attorney Larry Brauer, W/WWTW Superintendent David Lathrop and Chief of Police Alan Baldwin. Absent: None.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by the method of communicating advance notice of the regular and special meetings of the City Council of the City of Seward, Nebraska, as stated in Resolution Number 14-99, which was adopted on the 17th day of August, 1999; said method stating that the notice of such meeting, with the agenda thereon, be posted in the following places: City Hall, County Courthouse and Seward Public Library. The certificate of posting notice is attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda are attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were take while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

#### THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Glawatz announced that a copy of the Agenda for this meeting is posted on the front window of the Municipal Building and copies are available on the north wall where a copy of the Open Meetings Act is also posted for public inspection. Mayor Glawatz explained that the Council can only discuss items that are on the agenda. He also noted that forms for the public to request an agenda item or administrative action were available in hard copy at the meeting, or that they could be downloaded from the City's website or picked up at City Hall.

#### 1. HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Councilmember Kamprath requested a presentation on the City's Health Insurance Benefit package. Mark Kolterman, the City's representative for Health Insurance benefits, was at the meeting and reviewed the current Health Insurance Benefit package with the Council. Mr. Kolterman reviewed the renewal process (October 1), available companies, plan design and rates, and the service he provides to the City, including employee meetings and education.

The City's health insurance package is with Blue Cross-Blue Shield (BCBS) and Mr. Kolterman noted that this is the most prevalent company being used in our comparability array. He also noted that BCBS is financially strong and is a national provider, so it is very convenient for our employees as far as claim processing is concerned. He emphasized that the health insurance package is probably the richest plan in the comparability array, however it still fits in very well.

He continued that the City does go out for bids for health insurance when deemed necessary. He noted that we did bid the package out three years ago. The determining factors considered when we go out for bids are when rate increases go higher than the market is showing, if there is a change in the company, or if there have been too many negative experiences with claims. When the bidding process is initiated, employees have to fill out a 4 page confidential health questionnaire and it is a very lengthy process. He noted that some municipalities self-insure, but this can be pretty risky and in a group our size, he would not recommend it.

He noted that he had contacted BCBS recently and the medical insurance rate trend is going up almost 1% per month. In regard to the service Kolterman Insurance

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provides, he noted that they process all new enrollments, visit with each employee individually to talk about options, and hold informational meetings for employees when changes occur. In addition, they work with a company called Colonial Insurance who sit down individually with employees and discuss policies on short and long term disability, accident insurance, cancer insurance, etc. He noted that the City does not pay the premiums for these policies, but allows employees the option of purchasing them through a payroll deduction.

During discussion City Administrator Berlowitz noted that the Legislature does not currently allow Cities of the First Class to join together for health insurance plans, nor do they allow them to join in with Counties. Mr. Kolterman noted that in the past we have discussed going with the County, however their rates are higher than the City's are right now. He also noted that the City's plan is very comparable to what the School District of Seward has, however their rates are also higher.

Councilmember Eilers suggested that we look into a Health Savings Account (HSA) which is a tax advantage health savings account. Mr. Kolterman responded that he does a lot of HSA's and he thought it would be fine to look into it. He stated however that he did not know if we would get a lot of interest in this type of a plan from our employees because they would have to put money into a savings account. He noted that HSA's are very popular with people with larger incomes than our employees have. He noted that the rationale for an HSA is that employees have some skin in the game. City Administrator Berlowitz recommended that an HSA option be looked into further and offered as an option if it is a possibility.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Kolterman for his presentation.

## 2. W/WWTW - FACILITY RENOVATIONS

Jim Condon and Jim Burroughs of Olsson Associates were at the meeting and presented the final plans and specifications, engineers estimate of probable construction costs and a notice to bidders for the WWTW Facility renovations.

The items that will be included in this first phase of renovations include site piping and grading, raw sewage pump improvements, primary clarifier modifications, trickling filter improvements, final clarifier improvements, ultraviolet disinfection installation, sludge holding tank repairs, process building modifications, mechanical, electric repairs and improvements, and instrumentation and controls.

Mr. Condon noted that these are the priority items and reminded the Council that there are some major capacity improvements that will be necessary in the next 5 to 10 years depending on growth demands. It is projected that the priority improvements would be completed by December of 2010.

A motion to approve the final plans and specifications, engineers estimate of probable construction costs of \$2,623,116 and authorize a notice to bidders for the WWTW Facility Renovations was made by Councilmember Eilers, seconded by Councilmember Fiala.

Aye: Fiala, Singleton, Pogreba, Stewart, Vrana, Smith, Kamprath, Eilers  
Nay: None.  
Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember Singleton noted that he would like to see the City consider preparing an annual report on where we are releasing on greenhouse gas in the future.

## 3. REPORT ON MEETINGS

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Councilmember Pogreba reported that the Cemetery Board met and discussed budget items and noted that they want to continue on with the fencing.

Councilmember Eilers, Mayor Glawatz, City Administrator Berlowitz and Administrator Assistant/Clerk-Treasurer Schaefer recently attended portions of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Midwinter Conference. The sessions they attended provided information on tax increment financing, non-emergency calls and reverse 311 calls out to the public, wind energy in Nebraska, how the Von Maur emergency was handled, Council/Administration communications, cost saving ideas for Cities, and social networking implications for municipalities.

Mayor Glawatz announced that in regard to cost savings, the City has been notified that they actually saved \$126,000 in the recent refinancing of water bond issues. Councilmember Stewart mentioned that he was disappointed that this was not in the Independent.

W/WWTW Superintendent David Lathrop invited everyone to an irrigation management workshop that will be held on March 3, 2010 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Harvest Hall. Information will be presented by the City, the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District and Farmers Co-op.

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following consent agenda items were approved in a motion by Councilmember Fiala, seconded by Councilmember Singleton.

- a. Minutes
- b. Claims

Aye: Pogreba, Stewart, Vrana, Smith, Kamprath, Fiala, Singleton, Eilers  
Nay: None  
Absent: None. Motion carried.

Abbreviations: Eq, Equipment; Ex, Expense; Ma, Maintenance; Mi, Mileage; Misc, Miscellaneous; Re, Repairs; Sa, Salaries, Se, Services; Su, Supplies; Ut, Utilities, CI, Capital Improvements.

Payroll, Etc.	\$ 148,619.35
ABC Elec., Su	353.85
Black Hills Ener., Ut	1,809.88
BKD, SE	12,337.42
Blackburn Manu., Su	243.75
Bakery, Su	42.50
Bolte Oil, Su	1,080.42
CDW Govt., Su	109.93
City Accts	31,699.64
Const. Ener., Ut	2,965.41
Dakota Su., Su	609.02
Dues, Memb., Mtgs	362.97
Emerg. Med, Su	390.83
Graybar, Su	4,125.23
Hobson Auto, Re	108.00
Hewlett-Packard, Su	44.00
Hughes Bros., Su	13.80
Hawkins Inc., Su	1,775.36
Husker Elec., Su	844.67
Jackson Serv., Se	118.50
Latsch's, Su	35.79
NE Dept. Of Health, Se	40.00
Modern Methods, Se	154.00

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Marlin's Plbg., Re	366.86
Mid Con Systems, Su	192.25
Menards, Su	88.92
Verizon, Se	143.91
Nutri-Ject, Su	8,877.53
Orscheln, Su	234.23
O'Reilly, Su	10.64
Prestige Signs, Se	55.00
Quill, Su	1,083.93
Mem. Health, Se	2,003.96
R O's Lounge, Misc	1,214.45
Visa, Su & Mtgs	1,879.05
Rummery Sod, Su	1,209.59
Sam's, Su	48.96
Rochester Midland, Su	178.20
Richters, Re	867.35
Olsson Assc., Su	58,822.38
Servi-Tech, Se	178.86
NE Publ. Health, Se	84.00
Plains Power, Su	80.76
Seward Electronics, Su	7.95
Suppl. Serv., Se	119.78
Precision Tool, Su	316.86
U S Postal, Su	2,400.00
USA Bluebook, Su	118.93
Skarshaug, Su	60.40
Ultramax, Su	592.00
Tinius Plbg., Re	500.00
Tiger Direct, Su	26.98
WESCO, Su	132.91
Billing Corrections	3,630.09
Rec Fees	1,962.00
G. Wolter, Misc	65.78
Matt Parrott, Su	300.26
TOTAL	\$ 295,739.09

5. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS BY COUNCILMEMBERS

None.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, NEBRASKA

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Roger E. Glawatz  
Mayor

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Debra Schaefer  
Administrator Assistant/  
Clerk-Treasurer