

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met in the City's Conference Room, 309 West Madison Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska, on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Mayor Gordon D. Adams called the meeting to order.

Roll call found the following Committee members present: Mayor Gordon Adams and Councilpersons Kaspar-Beckman, Brenneman (7:18 a.m.), Fauss, Lange, Saunders, Stauffer, Van Dyke (7:01 a.m.) and Wilson. Absent: None.

Staff members present were City Administrator Mike Nolan, Public Works Director Dennis Smith, City Attorney Clint Schukei, City Clerk Beth Deck, Information Systems Manager Jim McKenzie and Assistant City Engineer Dale Bohac.

The media was represented by Jim Curry, WJAG/KEXL, and Greg Wees, Norfolk Daily News.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Norfolk Daily News, and notice of the meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council prior to the meeting.

The Mayor presided and the City Clerk recorded the proceedings.

Scott Zaruba, Field Operations Manager for Aquila, gave a 20-minute briefing to the Mayor and City Council on **Aquila's** natural gas operations. Zaruba spoke on the following topics: natural gas bill components; Nebraska's Rate Area 3 billing rate history; NYMEX pricing settlements; diversified supply portfolio; Bear and Bull markets; 2002/2005 commodity cost to index seasonal comparison; 2005-2006 commodity cost estimate to index comparison; communication with customers and community leaders; bill paying programs offered to customers; customer assistance and community partnership.

The next item briefly discussed was **Highway 35** funding. Proposed letters, signed by the Mayor and City Council members, to State Senator Joel T. Johnson, United States Senators Jeff Fortenberry, Ben Nelson, and Chuck Hagel express gratitude for working on and securing funding for an enhanced expressway system between Norfolk and South Sioux City. The letters will be mailed out by the City Administrator's office.

Another letter will be sent to State Senator Patrick Bourne expressing the City of Norfolk's strong support of LB 1199, the **sex offender residency** bill. LB 1199 is Senator Flood's priority bill. In the letter, Norfolk's elected officials encourage the Legislature to develop a statewide response and preclude localities from having the authority to do something different than what is provided in a statewide response. Failure of the Legislature to do this would lead to a labyrinth of regulations relating to sex offender residency making compliance difficulty even for those trying to obey residency requirements.

Information Systems Manager Jim McKenzie provided information to the Mayor and City Council regarding **fiber optic** cable. McKenzie found an article in the Lincoln Journal Star entitled *Unite, Inc. provides fiber for Lincoln Public Schools*. Unite connected school buildings in Lincoln with fiber optic cable for a 10 year agreement worth \$2.875 million. Unite's 2001 bid beat out proposals from Alltel (\$26.7 million), Quantum Electric (\$18.8 million) and Dark Fiber

Solutions, \$41 million). Unite says it has 5,000 fiber strand miles in Lincoln. McKenzie stated the City of Norfolk linked the Norfolk Public School buildings for approximately \$320,000 which was a one time charge. McKenzie also stated Norfolk has approximately 4,300 fiber strand miles in Norfolk.

Councilperson Van Dyke commended McKenzie and other city staff for doing a good job putting the network together for Norfolk and the Public School system.

City Administrator Mike Nolan briefly informed elected officials about a community visioning process proposed by several community leaders including Kent Warneke and Joe Ferguson.

Rick Smyre suggests the following factors for a visioning process:

- 1) Develop process methods which will interest and motivate as many diverse people as possible.
- 2) Assume citizens will be suspicious of the motivation for the visioning process and see it as a potential waste of time as a result of the way government is presently viewed in the United States. Many citizens believe that only lip service will be paid to their opinions and suggestions and think it will be a waste of time to participate if others are in control of final decisions.
- 3) Consider leading in with a community survey to identify most important issues and concerns for the future that can be used for citizen dialogue as part of the visioning process.
- 4) Any set of parallel processes used as a part of the visioning process need to be designed so that those that want to develop new ideas for existing issues can be involved as well as those that would like to identify emerging issues and innovations that do not presently exist. It is important to design a visioning process to give various "access points" for people with diverse interests and world views.
- 5) Consider what type(s) of visioning process(es) should be implemented:
 - a) A weekend event only
 - b) A series of monthly dialogues with a final report
 - c) A community-based system of parallel processes
- 6) How should the newspaper and other media (to include the Internet) be utilized.
- 7) Consider whether the event(s) of any process are to stand alone or be connected as a community-based system.
- 8) Consider integrating a web site as part of the visioning process and not just to provide information as public relations.
- 9) Should the "master capacity builder" group work with the Leadership Norfolk class to design the process?
- 10) Should the Leadership Norfolk class be coached by the "master capacity builder" group to be facilitators of "futures generative dialogue" if this method of small group interaction is decided to be used?

- 11) Decide if a kick-off event should be held and if a nationally known keynote speaker or teleconference should be used.
- 12) Should neighborhood and community networks be utilized to seed interest in the community visioning processes, and if so, how?

Nolan wanted elected officials to be aware that the community visioning process has begun. This will be Smyre's last year with Leadership Norfolk and Nolan has encouraged the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce to pay the rest of Rick Smyre's fee for this year. Nolan encouraged elected officials to be supportive of the visioning process.

Mayor Adams cautioned that any goals set by a visioning committee should not "go on the shelf". Mayor said this is the "danger of this type of thing".

General consensus of elected officials is to be sure the visioning process is reasonable, applicable, and workable.

The last item discussed was the **Downtown Streetscape** Planning Master Plan 2004. JEO Consulting did a draft of the proposed project for the town hall meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Phase I, medians, is complete.

An all inclusive budget summary estimate for 1st Street to 6th Streets is \$1,380,750 which includes \$178,750 for medians (Phase I); \$1,052,000 for sidewalks, landscaping and lighting (Phase II); and \$150,000 for site amenities (Phase II). A summary of funding sources is: City of Norfolk, \$460,000; Vehicle Parking District, \$460,000; and assessments, \$460,000. Estimated assessable frontage is 3,800 with the cost per assessable foot at \$121.

An all inclusive budget summary estimate for, 1st Street to 8th Street is \$1,756,250 which includes \$178,750 for medians (Phase I); \$1,427,500 for sidewalks, landscaping and lighting (Phase II); and \$150,000 for site amenities (Phase II). A summary of funding sources is: City of Norfolk, \$585,500; Vehicle Parking District, \$585,500; and assessments, \$585,500. Estimated assessable frontage is 4,900 with the cost per assessable foot at \$120.

The general concept of Phase II is for new sidewalks with new street lighting and new lower-type lighting by the sidewalks.

Mayor Adams received strong negative feedback regarding the street lighting. Citizens feel it isn't a very good use of funds to take out the current overhead street lights.

Public Works Director Dennis Smith said the electrical engineer can describe the street lighting project in detail at the Thursday night meeting.

Councilperson Lange feels it isn't a good practice to include contingency fees with design fees.

Councilperson Fauss questioned whether more mid-block crossings will be constructed.

Smith stated no more mid-block crossings will be constructed but pedestrian access to the mid-block crossings will be put in place.

This item was for informational purposes only.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson to adjourn the meeting at 7:45

a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Kaspar-Beckman, Brenneman, Fauss, Lange, Saunders, Stauffer, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk