

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 Monday, April 16, 2007, 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 Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange (7:01 a.m.), Reeder, Saunders and Van Dyke. Absent: Wilson.

Staff members present were City Administrator Mike Nolan, Public Works Director Dennis Smith, City Attorney Clint Schukei, City Clerk Beth Deck, Park Superintendent Pat Mrsny, Fire Chief Shane Weidner, Operations/Property Manager Gary Miller and Police Chief Bill Mizner.

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.

The Mayor informed the public about the location of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room and accessible to members of the public.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Brenneman to approve the agenda as printed. Roll call: Ayes: Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: Lange and Wilson. Motion carried.

The first item discussed was a proposed ordinance related to **camping** vehicles at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park. City Administrator Mike Nolan explained the City has recently received requests from persons working construction in the area to camp at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park for extended periods of time. Some of the people have offered to help out financially to install more camp pads at the campgrounds. However, staff feels a more immediate solution is necessary.

Park Superintendent Pat Mrsny explained park personnel have been enforcing a four (4) day overnight stay at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park for years. However, staff has not been able to locate an ordinance to that effect. Mrsny has been receiving requests from citizens who want to camp as long as 6-9 months. Mrsny stated the park would be hard-pressed to provide for the normal park campers, those coming for a reunion or just driving through Norfolk on vacation, if the campgrounds is used for long term camping. Ta-Ha-Zouka has only 22 power pedestals in the campgrounds and there isn't any other camping located in the immediate area. Mrsny proposes an ordinance that would establish a limit of seven (7) consecutive nights stay at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park with the option of extending the stay with written consent by the Park and Building Maintenance Superintendent. This will allow staff to more efficiently manage the camper load at the campground and help ensure a more fluid usage of the limited number of camping spots with power hookups. Mrsny stated the cost to camp is \$6.00 without electricity and \$9.00 with electric hookup.

Nolan stated Norfolk has a lot of rental housing available with the closure of the Tyson plant to accommodate the construction workers. However, elected official may need to look at more camping spots with power hookups in the future.

Councilperson Van Dyke feels the seven day stay is a reasonable proposal.

Councilperson Fauss suggested the City charge more if a camper is going to stay a full week.

Councilperson Van Dyke doesn't want to discourage campers from using Ta-Ha-Zouka.

Councilperson Coy feels that if the park has space available for more pads then the City should "let them add pads to the park."

Mrsny stated there is room for expansion at the campgrounds in Ta-Ha-Zouka Park; however, no real commitments for funding additional camping pads have been received.

Councilperson Brenneman stated elected officials need to keep in mind the intent of the campground, which is usually for campers to stay 1-2 days. Brenneman feels the proposal is fair. Brenneman worked with the Orphan Grain Train to make arrangements with a local trailer park several years ago for campers to stay from 30-45 days while working on a project in Norfolk. Brenneman suggested that same option be considered.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Coy to approve and move forward with an ordinance to establish a limit for the number of consecutive nights camping will be allowed in the Ta-Ha-Zouka Park campground. Roll call: Ayes: Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: Wilson. Motion carried.

Elected officials briefly discussed a purchase offer for railroad right-of-way property. Operations/Property Manager Gary Miller received a faxed copy of a purchase agreement from Brandon R. Swoboda, a single person, to purchase railroad right-of-way property at 1009 Queen City Boulevard (located between Queen City and Georgia Avenue). The property is 29,252 square feet and Swoboda offered to pay \$45,000 for the property (approximately \$1.53 per square foot). Miller stated other property in the area has sold from between \$1.45 and \$1.62 per square foot so the offer is reasonable.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Brenneman to move forward with the sale of the property as discussed. Roll call: Ayes: Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: Wilson. Motion carried.

Mayor Adams requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation negotiations.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Lange to adjourn from regular session and convene into executive session at 7:19 a.m. to discuss litigation negotiations. Roll call: Ayes: Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: Wilson. Motion carried.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Fauss to adjourn from executive session and convene into regular session at 7:47 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: Wilson. Motion carried.

Mayor Adams restated for the record that the only item discussed during the executive session was litigation negotiations.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Fauss to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: Wilson. Motion carried.