

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, November 19, 2007, beginning at 7:02 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, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke 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, Solid Waste Manager Gary Lund, Library Director Ted Smith, Police Chief Bill Mizner, Fire Chief Shane Weidner and Operations Manager Gary Miller.

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

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.

The first items discussed were the **transfer station** and Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition (NNSWC) annual reports. Solid Waste Manager Gary Lund reviewed the reports with elected officials. The transfer station data originates with the scale computer billing report at the end of each month. Each material is credited towards either an alternate disposal column, trailer tons (to the landfill) or tons out. Three sets of scale transactions are compared for accuracy – waste in, waste out and waste into the landfill – which represents income versus expense (payments to the City of Norfolk by customers or payments by the City to the landfill). The positive 375.5 tons on the report indicates a 1% error in favor of the transfer station. The accuracy is affected by mud, incomplete unloading, fuel load, and equipment modifications. Lund noted that 94% of the transfer station revenue is received from charge customers; however, the ticket count is split about even between charge and cash customers. Lund explained scale ticket count continues to increase and was at 19,835 for fiscal year 2006-2007. Receipts are essentially unchanged for the year; however, the NNSWC rate reduction is being passed onto customers in the form of stable transfer station rates for the near future. Grass, leaves and brush disposal sites are heavily used by residential customers and represents almost 5,000 of the scale transactions. The City received an NDEQ grant for grass handling equipment. Lund stated the equipment should be operational in the spring of 2008.

Lund explained the NNSWC annual report. This data also originates with the monthly billing reported generated by the scale computer. The Coalition dropped rates because of the extended life of the landfill due to NDEQ approval to expand upward on the site. Norfolk tonnage stabilized in FY 2006-2007 with Fremont tonnage up 2.5% and Columbus tonnage up 7.2%.

Lund stated Columbus tonnage varies with the weather. Haulers in Columbus seem to be more willing to take waste to the Columbus the transfer station instead of the Butler County landfill during inclement weather. Lund stated the biggest reason for the increase in tonnage was the addition of Bud's Sanitary Service. Bud's Sanitary Service is a collection company doing business in the southwest corner of Madison County. Lund stated the Coalition's rate reduction played a significant part in the decision by Bud's Sanitary to use the NNSWC landfill. Lund explained the proposal to modify the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) was submitted to NDEQ but the first response was less than favorable. Staff feels the data was misinterpreted, and Lund said discussions continue with the State. Lund stated the landfill is functioning under the new air permit which has had little effect on site operations except to increase reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Lund does anticipate a more aggressive gas management program will be necessary at the landfill in the future which will probably mean installation of a gas piping system.

These two items were for informational purposes only.

The next item discussed was the settlement received by the Norfolk Public **Library** for problems with the carpet installation. City Administrator Mike Nolan stated the Library received \$19,000 as a settlement for problems with the carpet that was installed in 2005. The carpet project cost \$38,000 with the City paying \$23,000 and the Library Foundation paying \$15,000.

Library Director Ted Smith would like to place the entire \$19,000 in the Foundation's endowment fund for another "spruce up" project at the Library. Smith stated the funds will be earmarked for a Library project and both the principal and interest earned on the \$19,000 can be used at any time for a Library project.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Wilson to approve and authorize the \$19,000, received by the Norfolk Public Library as a settlement for problems with carpet installed two years ago, be placed in the Library Foundation Endowment Fund for future library building improvements. Roll call: Ayes: Councilpersons Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Police Chief Bill Mizner and Fire Chief Shane Weidner explained the **Safe Communities** America designation project to elected officials. The Nebraska Safety Council requested the City of Norfolk become a community partner and apply for a \$7,500 grant to assist in preparations necessary to apply for a Safe Community America designation. The program seeks to reduce injuries and death in communities and is overseen by the National Safety Council. The Nebraska Safety Council approached four other cities in Nebraska (Lincoln, Beatrice, Scottsbluff and Gering) about participating in the program. Currently there are only four cities in the United States with the Safe Community America designation – Dallas, Texas; Anchorage, Alaska; Springfield, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska. Mizner explained the initial requirement is for the Mayor to provide a letter of support that indicates the City of Norfolk will do the following: 1) seek the Safe Communities America designation for Norfolk; 2) agree to convene a project steering community; 3) agree to participate in the site visit; and 4) agree to assist in organizing and planning the designation ceremony/celebration. Mizner stated the City does not need to provide funding for the project. If the application is successful, the City of Norfolk will partner with other entities in Norfolk in a cooperative and collaborative effort to promote safety and health, as well as manage risk within the community. The community itself determines what areas have the greatest need for prevention, intervention and control.

Mayor Adams questioned whether the City would be obligated for any type of funding for the project.

Mizner and Weidner reiterated their understanding that the City will not need to provide funding for the project.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Lange to approve and move forward with the Safe Communities America designation and authorized the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the project. Roll call: Ayes: Councilpersons Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The last item discussed was a proposed letter to the **Highway 35** Association regarding Nebraska's expressway program. City Administrator Mike Nolan explained several legislative leaders, including Senator Mike Flood, want to infuse additional funding into the Highway 35 expressway project. However, Senator Fisher disagrees on earmarking funds for the project. The letter to Highway 35 Association members communicates Norfolk's policy on working with Congress, the Nebraska Legislature, the Highway Commission, Department of Roads and other Nebraska counties and cities on future proposals to obtain highway funds for current maintenance, capital improvements and the Nebraska expressway program. However, Norfolk will not seek Congressional earmarks that divert funds from State programs currently established. The letter also indicates that Norfolk intends to commit City time and resources to aid the efforts of Legislative leaders.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Fauss to approve the Mayor signing and forwarding the letter to Highway 35 Association members regarding Nebraska's expressway program. Roll call: Ayes: Councilpersons Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Mayor requested a motion to adjourn from regular session and convene into executive session to discuss property negotiations.

Councilperson Van Dyke moved, seconded by Councilperson Fauss to adjourn from regular session and convene into executive session at 7:21 a.m. to discuss property negotiations. Roll call: Ayes: Councilpersons Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Reeder to adjourn from executive session and reconvene into regular session at 7:42 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Councilpersons Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Adams stated for the record the only item discussed during the executive session was property negotiations and elected officials will continue to investigate the possible property acquisition.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk