

WORK SESSION JOINT GOVERNING MEETING

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met with representatives from the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, the Norfolk Public School Board and the Madison County Commissioners on Thursday, March 6, 2014, beginning at approximately 12:00 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center, Suite B, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska.

Dr. Mike Chipps called the meeting to order.

Roll call found the following City Council members present: Mayor Sue Fuchtman and Councilpersons Merrill and Moenning. Absent: Coy, Clausen, Fauss, Lange, Murren and Pfeil. A quorum of the Norfolk City Council was not present at the meeting.

Staff members present were City Administrator Shane Weidner and City Clerk Beth Deck.

Others present were:

Norfolk Public Schools – Sandy Wolfe and Dr. Jami Jo Thompson

Madison County -- Lee Klein, Jerry McCallum, Christian Ohl, Nancy Scheer and Dick Johnson

Northeast Community College – Dr. Mike Chipps, Dr. John W. Davies, Dirk Petersen and Diane Reikofski

Also present at the meeting was Bob Wehrer, Chairman of the Board, Hadar, Nebraska

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.

Dr. Chipps informed the public about the location of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act available in the meeting room and accessible to members of the public.

Roundtable Updates

Madison County – Last phase of the Northeast Industrial Highway project was bid and work should begin prior to April 1, 2014. The Lindsay hard surfacing road project is progressing well. It was suggested the legislature needs to review the judicial system regarding housing of inmates.

City of Norfolk –The City is doing a lot of infrastructure projects; community housing issues was discussed as well as potential revenue sources, e.g. increase in sales tax by 1/4 or 1/2 cent which would need approval by voters, can only be used for infrastructure and would sunset in 10 years. Also discussed was the City Auditorium which operates at a loss of over \$37,000 annually. The City Auditorium is in need of repairs which are expensive; parking is an issue; it competes with private business; restrooms are not sufficient for large crowds; and possibly offering for sale in the open market. The City is also working on a possible library expansion/significant remodel; expanding trail system; Norfolk 101: Citizens Academy began; and demolishing the water tower on North 25th Street and rebuilding a telecommunications

tower. Also discussed was Tejas Tubular locating in Norfolk and natural gas line expansion; Housing Task Force; LB 840 funds, possible improvements to Johnsons Park, and possible purchase of additional property for Ta-Ha-Zouka Park expansion.

The group agreed it is important to inform citizens that other things need to happen to help move the community forward, including new funding sources and keeping citizens informed.

Norfolk Public Schools – The Board adopted a comprehensive facilities plan; is looking at making changes with the alternative high school/career academy; and considering remodeling the central office building. NPS applied for a \$2.3 million learning community grant to provide after-school programming for middle school and junior high school students. Two central office staff retired which provides an opportunity to reorganize and hire a human resource officer.

Northeast Community College – Items discussed included the O’Neill expansion project; new agreements with Bellevue College; dual tuition with Norfolk Public Schools; student successes; resident hall project; Associates of Occupational Studies degree program; and international educational opportunities.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Sue Fuchtman
Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk

(S E A L)