

WORK SESSION

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 12:00 noon in the City of Norfolk Administration Training Room, 309 N 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701.

In the absence of Mayor Moenning, Council President Jim Lange called the meeting to order.

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Josh Moenning (12:06 p.m.) and Councilmembers Jim Lange, Rob Merrill, Fred Wiebelhaus, Thad Murren and Gary L. Jackson. Absent: Corey Granquist, Shane Clausen and Dick Pfeil.

Staff members present were City Administrator Andy Colvin, City Clerk Beth Deck, Danielle Myers-Noelle, Staff Engineer John Cahill, Public Works Director Steve Rames, Assistant City Engineer Mike Middendorf and Finance Officer Randy Gates,

Also present was Jesse Poore with FHU Engineering.

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 accessible to members of the public.

Stormwater Utility Funding

Staff Engineer John Cahill explained the City of Norfolk stormwater management was previously funded with grant funds but those are no longer available. The program, however, is mandated and needs to be funded.

Jesse Poore, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU) Engineering, gave a presentation on proposed stormwater utility funding for the City of Norfolk. See attached summary dated April 1, 2019. Poore said the program can be funded through the City's General Fund with property taxes; however, there are several other options available. Options: (1) flat rate (used by most municipalities); (2) Tiered Rate – (Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) bills higher rates for properties that have more impervious area) – this type of fee is not currently allowed by Nebraska State Statutes; and (3) Customer-Type Tier Rate (created by Columbus, NE in 2018 to distribute costs equitably without using the ERU method). Option three takes a significant amount of time to match up county parcel numbers with utility billing customers.

Councilmember Jackson questioned whether citizens that don't have any stormwater areas are still required to pay a fee.

Rames said all utility billing customers would pay the fee.

Poore explained that either method would work but the most convenient way for Norfolk would be to adopt a flat rate and evaluate it in the future. The stormwater program is very comprehensive and needs to be kept in compliance with regulations. The proposed budget is

\$149,972 even though the estimated expenses for the program are approximately \$250,000; however, some of the costs are staff that do other duties for the city.

Rames said it is important to know that this is a stormwater fee and not a storm sewer fee and the City must comply with MS4 regulations. Some annual reporting requirements are: post construction, best management practices, illicit discharges, discharge investigation, construction storm water management, storm sewer system mapping, etc.

Councilmember Merrill feels "there is an obvious need for the program" and is not against it but elected officials need to remember this is a tax burden on citizens. Merrill feels the City has a responsibility to educate the community on what is proposed. Merrill feels Option 1, flat fee, is the easiest at this time but would like some "historical information that separates this from the rest of the budget."

Councilmembers Jackson and Lange agreed and said educating the public is important.

Gates said the flat fee rate is most compliance with state statutes. Gates feels citizens need to be educated that funding the stormwater program is either with property taxes or a utility fee.

Myers-Noelle said Nebraska State Statutes would need to be changed to implement a tiered rate structure.

Rames said that, as part of the public education process, the City needs to get information out to customers and then bring back to the City Council and media for discussion.

General consensus of elected officials was to implement a flat rate fee but provide citizens with education before City Council's formal consideration.

Resolution No. 2019-21
(NCEA Agreement)

Public Works Director Steve Rames explained the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance (NCEA) was formed with 9 original members but has grown to include 39 members with the purpose of promoting "transportation and housing choices that include lifecycle cost of ownership, retained energy value and economic competitiveness by coordinating and leveraging federal and state policies and investments to community projects demonstrating direct high impact." Rames said there is a one-time cost to join the NCEA of \$1,000 but there is a \$500 fee every time the City of Norfolk wants to participate in a grant application. If the Alliance is dissolved, the City would get a portion of the fee back, or approximately \$800. However, several councilmembers asked questions, including: Councilmember Lange questioned whether the City of Norfolk can terminate the agreement and if Norfolk would be liable to additional fees in the future, e.g. if employees are hired to manage the NCEA and submit grants. Rames said NCEA has one staff person that writes grants and the grant applications include funding for administration. Any member can withdraw from the agreement. The next NCEA meeting is April 3, 2019 for review of grant applications to be submitted in the fall of 2019. Rames said the NCEA group works collectively on placement of charging stations but each member would need to apply separately for grant funds. The concept "is to make sure grants are received and distributed to some project to collaboratively help get infrastructure across the State of Nebraska.

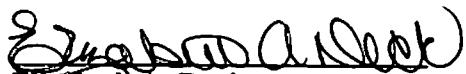
Mayor Moenning said "the group talked about strategically placing charging stations along certain highway corridors."

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.



Josh Moenning
Mayor

ATTEST:



Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk

