

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met in the Council Chambers, 309 West Madison Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska, on Monday, June 30, 2008, 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, Saunders, Van Dyke and Wilson. Absent: Reeder.

Staff members present were Interim City Administrator Gary Miller, Public Works Director Dennis Smith, City Attorney Clint Schukei, City Clerk Beth Deck, Transportation, Building & Grounds Director Jim Koch, Library Director Ted Smith, Housing Director Sheila Miller, Water & Sewer Director Dennis Watts, Information Systems Director Jim McKenzie, Park Superintendent Pat Mrsny, Finance Officer Randy Gates, and Fire Chief Shane Weidner.

The media was represented by Susan Risinger, 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.

The first item discussed was a request on behalf of the Great American **Comedy** Festival for funding in the City's FY 2008-2009 budget. The 2009 event is scheduled for June 14-22. Kent Warneke spoke on behalf of the Comedy Festival. Warneke stated the 2008 event was successful, enjoyable and broke even at expenditures of approximately \$200,000. The Comedy Festival Committee is trying to get national sponsors as well as funding from the Johnny Carson family. However, Warneke stated the Comedy Festival Committee is requesting \$7,500 funding from the City of Norfolk for the 2009 festival. Warneke stated the Committee would like "to use the City's contribution as a cushion until revenue begins coming in" for the 2009 event. Warneke stated the Comedy Festival Committee also requests that elected officials consider: (1) erecting the billboards that are in storage and perhaps adding lighting to the two billboards once erected, (2) putting up Johnny Carson banners on streetlights, and (3) help Karl Reeder's statue get built and put into place.

Lora Young, Madison County Conventions Bureau, spoke in favor of the funding request. Young stated "industry professionals were impressed" with the 2008 Great American Comedy Festival in Norfolk.

Councilperson Saunders questioned how many out-of-town people attended the Comedy Festival.

Young estimated the Festival drew in “several hundred” people from out-of-town with approximately 6,000 to 6,500 total people attending the festival. Young stated the Committee is looking at having different events in 2009. The Comedy Festival has two attorneys “on board but will probably need another attorney” who is specifically familiar with contracts for these types of events.

Denny Reeves spoke in favor of the funding request. Reeves encouraged elected officials to put up billboards at the City’s entrances and also encouraged elected officials to erect street signs showing 13th Street as Johnny Carson Boulevard. Reeves stated the Internet shows the name of the street as Johnny Carson Boulevard.

The next funding request presentation was made by Tom Higginbotham of the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (**NENEDD**). NENEDD requests \$1.00 per capita or \$23,516 from the City of Norfolk for FY 2008-2009. NENEDD is a 16-county regional development organization that encourages cooperation between local government officials, community-based organizations and the private sector. The District provides the “link” between federal and state programs and the local level where development actually occurs. Blight studies completed for Norfolk include the HyVee East Property, 1998; Dudley’s, 2001; Norfolk Avenue/Cottonwood, 2005; Roman’s property, 2007; and the Soy project, 2007. Housing studies completed include the Housing Study, 2000; Meadow Ridge Site Specific Subdivision, 2000; Meadow Ridge Multi-Family Housing Needs Assessment, 2002; and the Meadow Ridge Site Specific Study, 2006. Higginbotham reviewed the number of business loans, totaling \$1,415,000, and the number of grants received, totaling \$5,752,456, within the City of Norfolk since 1998. Higginbotham stated that for every \$1 the City has invested into NENEDD, Norfolk has received \$19 back in the form of grants and loans for community and economic development projects. NENEDD is also very involved with the economic development resource team and works closely with various housing groups.

Mayor Adams appreciates the work NENEDD provides and looks forward to that continued relationship.

Karen Linnebrink, EVEDC, provided information to elected officials regarding the request for funding in FY 2008-2009. EVEDC is requesting fees of \$47,032 from the City of Norfolk. Linnebrink estimates an additional \$25,000 in new property taxes to Norfolk are related to activities of EVEDC. Linnebrink reviewed a handout entitled, “EVEDC Investment & Major Projects” that shows total property investments of \$1,007,035; forgivable loans to businesses of \$62,000; and \$54,317 for marketing, scholarships and labor availability studies for a total of \$1,128,353. Major projects include the Ethanol plant, Sterling Computers, Madison Foods, Covidian, Protient, King Steel, Green Fiber and Roll-Tite. Linnebrink stated Councilperson Karl Reeder is the board representative for EVEDC.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Wilson to adjourn from regular session and convene into executive session at 7:28 a.m. to discuss potential litigation. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: Reeder. Motion carried.

Councilperson Coy moved, seconded by Councilperson Wilson to adjourn from executive session and reconvene into regular session at 8:06 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: Reeder. Motion carried.

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

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Van Dyke to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 a.m. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: Reeder. Motion carried.

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Elizabeth A. Deck  
City Clerk