

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 309 West Madison Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska, on Monday, October 6, 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, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke and Wilson. Absent: None.

Staff members present were City Administrator Al Roder, Public Works Director Dennis Smith, City Attorney Clint Schukei, City Clerk Beth Deck, Transportation, Building & Grounds Director Jim Koch, Wastewater Plant Superintendent Todd Boling, Water & Sewer Director Dennis Watts, Solid Waste Manager Gary Lund, Finance Officer Randy Gates, Property/Operations Manager Gary Miller, Police Chief Bill Mizner, and Fire Chief Shane Weidner.

The media was represented by Greg Wees, Norfolk Daily News; Jim Curry, WJAG/KEXL; and Bill Seifert, US92/94Rock.

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 Saunders moved, seconded by Councilperson Coy to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2008 Finance Committee meeting as printed. Roll call: Ayes: Council members Brenneman, Coy, Fauss, Lange, Reeder, Saunders, Van Dyke, Wilson and Mayor Adams. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 5030

(vacate portion of Fox Ridge Estates Addition)

Public Works Director Dennis Smith explained this ordinance vacates a portion of the plat of Fox Ridge Estates Addition, Phase 1 to the City of Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska, being part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 20, Township 24 North, Range 1 West of the 6th P.M., Madison County, Nebraska. This is a housekeeping issue at the request of Dick Johnson on behalf of Carhart Lumber Company to realign Prospect Avenue to match Prospect Avenue platted to the east of this Addition.

Ordinance No. 5031

(repeal Paving District 500)

Smith stated Ordinance No. 5031 repeals Ordinance No. 5016 creating Paving District No. 500 which contained an incomplete legal description. The ordinance needs to be repealed in order to start the process over for the paving district (Pebco Addition).

Ordinance No. 5032
(create Paving District 501)

Smith explained Ordinance No. 5032 creates Paving District 501 (Pebco Addition) providing for paving of Glen Street (private) from Monroe Avenue to approximately 475' north of Jefferson Avenue. The paving district is at the request of the adjacent property owners. However, Smith requests Ordinance No. 5032 be tabled at the October 6, 2008 City Council meeting to allow further information to be obtained from the Nebraska Department of Roads in conjunction with the traffic signal project at Highway 81 and Monroe Avenue.

Ordinance No. 5033
(order of business for Council agendas)

City Administrator Al Roder stated Ordinance No. 5033 amends Sections 2-17 of City Code eliminating the requirement that the deadline for agenda items is 4:30 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the City Council meeting. Roder stated there will not be a change in the deadline for submission of agenda items but said this is a management issue and not appropriate to be in the City Code. Roder explained the ordinance also amends Section 2-18.1 of City Code to provide that the business of the City Council be taken up pursuant to an agenda created by the City Administrator setting forth the order of business.

Ordinance No. 5034
(Transfer Station \$2.00 fee increase)

Solid Waste Manager Gary Lund stated Ordinance No. 5034 amends Section 10-28 of City Code by increasing the transfer station operating fee from \$26.55 to \$28.55 per ton of waste effective November 1, 2008. Lund stated fuel surcharges for transporting trash to the landfill were anticipated to increase by \$66,000. The adjustment will cover only the waste types bound for the landfill and these increased expenditures are offset with a matching increase in revenue. Lund stated the trend in diesel prices is decreasing but the increase in the Transfer Station fee will only help the City "catch up" on the approximate \$45,000 surcharge paid by the City last year.

Ordinance No. 5035
(adjust sewer rates)

Public Works Director Dennis Smith explained Ordinance No. 5035 adjusts sewer rates for residential, commercial and industrial classifications by an average of 15% effective November 1, 2008. Sewer rates have not been adjusted since October 2005 and the increase will provide for ongoing operations as well as the required debt service coverage. The rate increase is based on the recently completed Sewer Master Plan and Rate Study submitted by Black & Veatch. The study addressed future operation and maintenance costs as well as system improvements needed for the continued efficient performance of the wastewater collection and treatment systems. The average residential bimonthly rates will increase approximately \$2.87.

Ordinance No. 5036
(adjust water rates)

City Administrator Al Roder explained Ordinance No. 5036 adjusts water rates by an average of 4% effective November 1, 2009. However, Councilperson Fauss questioned whether the water rate adjustments could be more uniform and have less of an impact on customers if an increase was included in FY 2008-2009. Roder stated a water rate increase is not included in the FY

2008-2009 budget but the elected officials could proceed if so desired. Roder explained a larger increase in rates is necessary if the City extends water service south of the river. However, a 4% increase in FY 2008-2009 would only temper the overall increases for 2-3 years.

Public Works Director Dennis Smith agreed that a 4% increase in FY 2008-2009 would be most beneficial over the next two years.

Councilperson Saunders is opposed to any rate increases but the services are vital for the city.

Mayor Adams stated Norfolk's water system must be kept solvent.

Councilperson Brenneman feels an increase in water rates for FY 2008-2009 is prudent and makes good sense.

Councilperson Coy feels the sooner the upgrades are completed, the more cost-effective it will be for citizens.

Ordinance No. 5037
(cleaning sidewalks)

Roder stated Ordinance No. 5037 amends Section 22-1 of City Code to require the removal of snow and/or ice from sidewalks within twenty four (24) hours after the cessation of precipitation. This ordinance adds the wording "*or other substance*" and deletes the wording "*hours of the time when the street adjacent thereto has been cleaned for two lane vehicle traffic*" to that section of City Code. Roder stated the new language requires sidewalks be cleared whether or not the streets need to be cleared.

Councilperson Fauss moved, seconded by Councilperson Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 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.

Jim Brenneman
President of the Council

ATTEST:

Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk

(S E A L)