

### Work Session

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska, held a work session in the Norfolk Public Library, 308 W Prospect Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska, on Monday, May 3, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Josh Moenning called the meeting to order.

Roll call found the following present: Mayor Josh Moenning and Councilmembers Frank Arens, Kory Hildebrand, Cory Granquist, Gary L. Jackson, Rob Merrill, Thad Murren and Fred Wiebelhaus. Absent: Shane Clausen.

Staff members present were City Administrator Andy Colvin, City Clerk Brianna Duerst, Finance Officer Randy Gates, City Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle, Risk Manager Lyle Lutt, Public Safety Director Shane Weidner.

### CARES Act Revenue

Andy Colvin, City Administrator said that, as a follow up to the Retreat, he wanted to revisit some topics so that staff has some clarity on the direction moving forward. City received CARES Act funding in early 2021 to cover public safety payroll from March through May 2020. This money was reimbursement for money the city has already spent and the decision is to find the best use to spread through community. The City received just over \$2,000,000. For General Fund purposes, a portion of that has already been authorized for a 2% mid-year cost of living adjustment and additional street work totaling approximately \$1,000,000. With the committed use of the funds that leaves just over \$834,000 unallocated. Colvin discussed previously discussed options including help for senior center (\$50,000), planning/architecture design for an indoor aquatic center and park improvements (\$100,000) and to help offset some costs for the Police Station renovation (\$250,000). This leaves \$434,000 left and highlighted potential projects including turf on Memorial Park baseball field, investment into public art and Liberty Bell Park improvements. Currently do not have dollar amounts for those potential projects.

Merrill asked what the money can and cannot be used for. Colvin said he would recommend not applying the funds toward ongoing costs and to look at investing into one-time things or jump-starting projects. Discussed Council priority dollars which are for Economic Development personnel funding and the City Hall purchase.

Moenning discussed the need for funding for Memorial Park, Liberty Bell Park and public art. Moenning said Memorial field has been discussed for quite some time and it would be appropriate to consider a portion of this funding toward that project. Liberty Bell, something will need to be done there and noted the pool is not salvageable. It is a neighborhood park that is important as it serves a lot of users. Public art is appropriate, but at a smaller level. Moenning said he is open to other ideas. If there are not other ideas, would like to drill down to direct city staff.

Earl and Marilyn Mitchell, associated with Norfolk Art Center, discussed the struggles the Art Center is currently experiencing. There is a need for an air conditioning and heating system. Building is 21 years old and need to update security system. Art Center Director recently resigned. Would like to see a gift of \$50,000. Peter Kewitt Foundation has been contacted and would match up to 50%.

Arens discussed a potential Creative Arts District and said he sees an opportunity to see Norfolk create one to see some of the memorials maintained. Arens would like to see some money set aside to create an Arts Council.

Moenning said he sees value in arts and culture. Council has an opportunity to decide how to best use these funds to benefit the community and noted interest in finding an appropriate level in funding for arts in general. City is looking at \$434,000 with big-ticket items of park improvements. Moenning proposed the following for use of the remaining unallocated funding - \$250,000 for Memorial Field improvements, \$125,000 for Liberty Bell Park improvements and \$59,000 for public arts which includes creating a Public Arts Council to determine where to best allocate these funds.

Public Safety Director Shane Weidner said the estimate to remove pool at Liberty Bell Park and bring to level ground was \$28,000 to get to bare ground.

Merrill discussed the possibility of the Art Center and Museum coming together as one entity as there are private dollars donated that likely get split between the two.

Councilmembers discussed the potential for Taha-Zouka Park and Memorial Field with Memorial Field being a specialized facility and the sports complex at Taha-Zouka Park bringing outside events into Norfolk with baseball, softball and multi-purpose fields to service large amounts of people.

Granquist moved, seconded by Merrill to allocate funding accordingly: \$250,000 for Memorial Field improvements, \$125,000 for Liberty Bell Park improvements and \$59,000 to public arts.

Roll call: Arens, Granquist, Hildebrand, Jackson, Merrill, Murren, Wiebelhaus. Nays: None.  
Absent: Clausen. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

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Josh Moenning  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brianna Duerst  
City Clerk

( S E A L )