

July 21, 2020

## ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

STATE OF NEBRASKA            )  
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COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE        ) §  
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CITY OF ALLIANCE                )

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Budget Workshop, Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., at the Alliance Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on July 15, 2020. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk in City Hall; provided the Council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda, also had been delivered to each of the City Council Members. An agenda, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours from the publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Mayor Dafney opened the July 21, 2020 Special Budget Workshop of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 9:00 a.m. Present were Mayor Dafney, Council Members Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds and Bentley. Also present were City Manager Sprock, Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Hoelsing, and City Clerk Johnson.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement and indicated a copy of the Act was posted on the easel in the northeast corner of the meeting room.
- Mayor Dafney announced the purpose of the Special Budget Workshop was to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.
- Finance Director Randy Waggener presented Council with the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Finance Director Waggener began the meeting with a review of the City's budget history for the most recent ten years. The total appropriations proposed was \$53.9 million. The capital request modifications were detailed with the revised capital total at \$18.3 million or 34% of the proposed budget. Over \$10 million of the capital requests are contingent or grant awards or other prerequisites. Purchased power costs are included at \$9.5 million or 17% of the budget. Personnel costs are estimated at \$7.9 million (15% of total budget) with a 2% COLA included for all employees and small decreases in public transit and utility customer staff leaving 107.4 FTE in the plan. The only adjustment in the pay grid is to increase public transit drivers to ensure

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comparability. Transfers of \$6.85 million comprise 13% of the budget. Contracted services are an increasing portion of the overall budget at \$2.66 million or 5% of budget. Health Care Fund expenses of \$1.93 million (4% of budget) and economic development payments of \$1.59 million (3% of budget) comprise the remaining major components of the budget. Debt payments of \$738,000 are 1% of budget. New debt for streets projects and refuse scrapper could increase overall debt to almost \$7 million which would be the highest level since 2013. Contingencies of \$735,000 at 1% of the budget are \$140,000 higher than last year in the Water Fund. Funding requests will eliminate the one-year WING payment and decrease Community Redevelopment Authority by \$5,000 with the inclusion of Panhandle Area Development District at \$6,600 as a reinstated payment.

Primary General Fund sources are enterprise transfers (26%), sales taxes (18%), property taxes (16%) and major grants (18%). Sales tax estimates for Alliance remained steady at \$2 million with \$1,500,000 designated for the General Fund. There are no big changes within the proposed operations portion of the budget from last year. The general consensus of Council was to allow the automatic 1% increase in utility rates for the upcoming year.

No action was taken on any of the discussed issues. Council will have the first reading of the ordinance to adopt the budget at the August 4, 2020 regular meeting.

- Mayor Dafney stated, “there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 11:48 a.m.”

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Mike Dafney, Mayor

(SEAL)

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Tarrah S. Johnson, City Clerk