

July 26, 2017

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

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, Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at the Alliance Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on July 19, 2017. 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 Yeager opened the July 26, 2017 Special Budget Workshop of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 2:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Yeager, Council Members Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Mischnick and Reynolds. Also present were City Manager Kuckkahn, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Olsen, and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Yeager read the Open Meetings Act Announcement and indicated a copy of the Act was posted on the north wall of the meeting room.
- Mayor Yeager announced the purpose of the Special Budget Workshop was to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

The meeting began with a review of the City’s primary funding sources: funds transfer, sales taxes, property taxes, enterprise transfers and major grants. City Manager Kuckkahn reported that sales tax in up about 7%, property taxes have increased 2%, and the State of Nebraska has reduced the Municipal Equalization Fund distribution to Alliance. Nebraska Department of Roads funding for street projects accounts for about 4 million in the major grants category.

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At this point in time, no rate adjustments are being planned for the enterprise funds outside of the 1% annual adjustment. Staff is anticipating an electric rate study be performed during the next fiscal year.

Personnel authorized strength and salary and benefit projections were reviewed. Concern was expressed over our current employee turnover rate. The City has recently hired the Hays Group to broker our employee health insurance program and the initial report is positive that we should see a reduction in this area.

The Capital Improvement Plan modifications were discussed. It was reported the Police Department will be obtaining an actual gun safe/vault instead of renovating a room, park trail lighting was discussed as well as the automated metering system for the Electric Department.

City Manager Kuckkahn then finished the meeting with a quick review of the debt recap and projections, economic development, Airport projections, special funding allocations and Council contingencies. The Council's contingency fund was increased for next fiscal year to cover the additional pre 84 Police pension need and the potential demolition of the old swimming pool at 16th Street and Cheyenne Avenue.

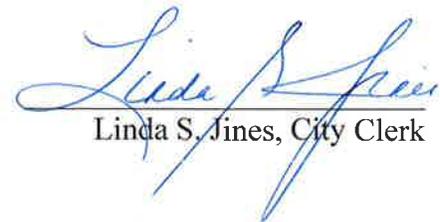
No action was taken on any of the discussed issues. Council will have the first reading of the ordinance to adopt the budget at the August 1, 2017 regular meeting.

- Mayor Yeager stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 3:12 p.m."

(SEAT.)



Ralph Yeager, Mayor



Linda S. Jines, City Clerk