

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on January 4, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1369 25 Avenue, Columbus, Nebraska.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the City Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given simultaneously to the Mayor and members of the City Council, with a copy of the acknowledgement of receipt of notice being on file in the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND ROLL CALL:** Mayor Moser announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were Mayor Michael Moser and Council Members Beth Augustine-Schulte, Charlie Bahr, Jim Bulkley, Rich Jablonski, Dennis Kresha, John Lohr, Terry Reardon, and Ron Schilling. City staff members present included City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Administrator Joe Mangiamelli, City Engineer Rick Bogus, City Clerk Janelle Kline, Finance Director Anne Kinnison, Police Chief William Gumm, Public Property Director Doug Moore, Public Works Director Greg McCaffery, Library Director Drew Brookhart, and Assistant City Clerk Michaela Luckey.
2. **PRAYER:** Bahr led in prayer.
3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Moser invited all to join in the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mangiamelli stated that the following items are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. He pointed out that there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Council member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from consent status and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The items on the consent agenda were approved as presented with a motion by Bahr and a second by Schilling. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Bulkley, Jablonski, Kresha, Lohr, Reardon, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".
 - 4.A. Minutes of December 21, 2015, City Council meeting.
 - 4.B. Annual report from Columbus Housing Authority including Computation of Payment in Lieu of Taxes.
 - 4.C. Resolution No. R16-01 approving amendment to Program Down Payment Assistance Guidelines for Centennial Park 6th Addition. Resolution No. R16-01 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE

CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENTS OF THE DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES FOR CENTENNIAL PARK 6TH ADDITION ON GRANT 12-TFHP-5051, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO; AND PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME.

- 4.D.** Resolution No. R16-02 approving amendment to Program Income Reuse Plan for Centennial Park 6th Addition. Resolution No. R16-02 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENTS OF THE PROGRAM INCOME REUSE PLAN FOR CENTENNIAL PARK 6TH ADDITION ON GRANT 12-TFHP-5051, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO; AND PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME.
- 4.E.** Resolution No. R16-03 approving amendment to Program Guidelines for Bradshaw Place Addition. Resolution No. R16-03 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENTS OF THE GUIDELINES FOR BRADSHAW PLACE ADDITION ON GRANT 07-TFHP-5096, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO; AND PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME.
- 4.F.** Payroll and bills on file. 1/15/16 Payroll \$542,823.26 TOTAL \$542,823.26.
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Included in Consent Agenda
- 6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
- 6.A. Proclamation declaring January 2016 as National Mentoring Month.** Mayor Moser proclaimed January 2016 as National Mentoring Month. Bob Arp and Trisha Faust, representatives of TeamMates Mentoring Program, gave a history of the program, reported on services that TeamMates provides, acknowledged other mentoring programs in the city, including Big Pals~Little Pals and Youth for Christ, and encouraged citizens to volunteer in a mentoring program.
- 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
- 8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
- 9. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:** None
- 10. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:** None
- 11. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None

12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None

13. **NEW BUSINESS:**

13.A. **Sales tax renewal options and potential capital improvement projects including Fire/Police facilities and Library/Cultural Arts Center.** Mangiamelli referred to information presented to the Mayor and City Council during the past six months regarding the need for renewal of sales tax and said following presentation of information and discussion at this meeting, he would like the council to generate a list of questions or comments within the next two weeks in order to provide city staff direction in preparing ballot language options to review at the January 18, 2016, city council meeting. Kinnison noted that the current one percent and one-half percent sales tax will expire at approximately the same time and in order to avoid interruption, she is recommending that a one and one-half percent sales tax question be presented at the Primary Election in May 2016. She noted that renewal of the sales tax is the critical issue now and any bond issues can be considered at a later election. Kinnison gave a history of sales tax in the city and reported on various projects and expenses that are covered by the tax. Kinnison explained the five-year Capital Improvement Plan that is prepared annually in conjunction with the budget process and said the plan is a tool for prioritizing projects utilizing sales tax. She reviewed the timeline for holding an election on renewal of the sales tax and said it is critical that decisions are made in the next few weeks as ballot language must be submitted to the Election Commission no later than March 1, 2016. Kinnison presented the sales tax rates for all communities in Nebraska and noted the rates for communities with a population over 5,000. Phil Lorenzen, D.A. Davidson & Co. and Bond Underwriter for the City of Columbus, reported on the city's history of being fiscally responsible and noted the following key decisions that will need to be made to prepare ballot language: 1) Sales tax rate: One percent, One-half percent, One and one-half percent, or some combination; 2) One ballot question, Two-part ballot question, or Two individual ballot questions; and 3) No sunset provision, specific sunset date, or event sunset date. Mike Rogers, Gilmore & Bell, P.C. and Bond Counsel for the City of Columbus, explained that simplified ballot language is less confusing and due to stricter national regulations with regard to terms of debt issuances, he is recommending a combined one and one-half percent sales tax with no sunset. Rogers pointed out that should a sales tax election fail, there is a 23 month waiting period to present a sales tax question back to voters. Lorenzen said a one-half percent sales tax could support debt service payments on a \$25 million twenty year bond issue using the full one and one-half percent for coverage, which leaves the one percent portion for other city projects and equipment. If the City wanted to use only the one-half percent for debt service Lorenzen said the City would have a borrowing capacity of approximately \$17.5 million. Rogers explained that combining the current separate sales taxes into a combined one and one-half percent would allow the City to pledge the whole sales tax

toward debt service, providing sufficient coverage that would make the bonds easily marketable, yet the City could continue to use the one percent for other city projects and equipment. Extensive discussion followed with regard to the information provided and the various options that need to be considered.

- 13.B. Comments from Mayor and City Council Members.** There were no comments from the Mayor and City Council members.
- 14. RESOLUTIONS:** None
- 15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:** None
- 16. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:** None
- 17. ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING:** None
- 18. CONSIDERATION OF PAYROLL AND BILLS ON FILE:** Included in Consent Agenda
- 19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None
- 20. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. with a motion by Bulkley and a second by Bahr. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Bulkley, Jablonski, Kresha, Lohr, Reardon, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

Presented and approved this 18 day of January, 2016.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK