

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeannie Sanders, Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Kenneth Johnson, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Police Chief Ron Axtman, Police Officer Jason Corcoran, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee, Rhonda Miller; and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

Absent was: Councilmember Shannon McKay.

Mayor Sanders advised that the Young Life banquet is scheduled for the same evening as the March workshop and asked if the City Council would want to reschedule their workshop to be held on March 14th, just prior to the regular City Council meeting. It was agreed and the March workshop was rescheduled to March 14th.

CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Chief Axtman gave an overview of the Utility Officer's role and responsibilities. He reported that we received a \$5,000 grant in 2004 and an additional \$9,000 in 2005 towards this employee's wages and benefits. The Chief provided a job descriptive statement and reviewed their plan to addressing code violations. He advised that they split the city into four quadrants, and Officer Corcoran has been addressing code violations within the first quadrant. Officer Corcoran explained his daily work schedule, which varies between swing and day shifts. He explained how he is able to address some code violations along with criminal issues simultaneously. Officer Corcoran asked that code violation issues be forwarded to him.

Councilmember Spohr stated that citizens would like the City to continue the abatement program and he personally wants to address junk vehicles and other motor vehicles that are parked on the streets (storage verses parking) for a long time. He provided copies of O.M.C. 8.26.030, which defines nuisances; 8.29 regarding junked vehicles and 17.56.055 regarding recreational vehicle parking, and pictures of four vehicles that he found to be junked vehicles parked on the city streets. Officer Corcoran advised that we currently do not have provisions in the Municipal Code regarding parking of abandoned vehicles that don't meet the junk vehicle definitions. Spohr asked Council to consider setting a time frame for parking inoperable vehicles on City rights-of-way. Councilmember Brodahl suggested that communication to these vehicles owners be made before consideration of setting a time limit. She stated her concern of police vehicles parking on the wrong side of the streets and Corcoran advised that there are times that they make that decision when responding to certain calls.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION/OPERATION

Chief Axtman reviewed the Police Departments organizational chart. He then reviewed his hiring practice, noting that he has had extensive training in hiring and termination of employees. The hiring process includes Civil Service examinations, driver license inquires, and criminal history checks. The candidates are then subject to an extensive personal history questionnaire, which is scored by an outside agency. The candidates are also given a polygraph test; psychological examination, extensive background examination; a final interview and a physical examination. Chief Axtman explained that the extensive background examination is provided by our own officers.

POOL DISCUSSION

Mayor Sanders advised that the Council is being provided the City's bonding capabilities and other financial information. She noted that only 55% of the County voters supported the aquatic center levy while 66% of the City voters supported it. She announced that a pool organizational meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 22nd at 10:30 and asked for Council and citizen input. Mayor Sanders explained that almost 1500 people voted in the November election

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and we would need 40% of them to vote in a levy and 60% of the 40% to approve a levy ballot. The levy issue could be on the April, May, September, November or a Special election.

Finance Officer Rhonda Miller provided some basic financial options for the Council to consider. She reviewed the bonding capacity of the City, including Councilmatic bonds and voted levies. She provided a matrix that listed bonding for various costs for an aquatic center. This included information for a voted tax levy with the City funding 50% of the cost and figures if the City would fund a voted tax levy at 100%. Ms. Miller also reviewed the Utility Tax Fund 2004 ending balance, 2005 beginning balance and the expected revenues and expenditures through 2009. This discussion included use of Utility Tax Funds for an aquatic center. She also provided November 2004 aquatic center bond voting results for inside and outside city limits. Mayor Sanders advised that she has requested an architectural design of a \$1.5; \$2; and \$2.5 million facility from ALC Architects. Mr. Sheldon advised that the information included proposals from two bonding authorities, and noted that these figures could change drastically.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Sanders advised that the elected officials were provided information regarding filing their annual financial report, which is due in April.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr asked if the High School directional signs could be erected soon for the Sandhill Crane Festival scheduled in late March. Spohr also announced a concern that there may not be enough candidates to hold the Jr. Miss pageant this year, which would also alleviate a float.

Mayor Sanders advised that Mr. & Mrs. Michek's timeframe to remove several cars from their lot will expire soon and the City may have to move those vehicles. She stated that there have been offers from citizens to help the Michek's, but unfortunately, these offers were not accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:36 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk