

Minutes of Council Meeting
City of Minden, Nebraska
January 23, 2014
4:00 p.m.



The City Council of the City of Minden, Nebraska, met on this day at 4:00 p.m. in special session in the Council Chambers, pursuant to advance notice of said meeting simultaneously transmitted to all members of the Council and to the public as shown by the copy thereof posted in the Minden City Hall, Outside the Minden City Hall, First Bank & Trust Co., Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co., and the Post Office. A copy of the notice is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following City Council members were present: Larry Evans, Teresa Sumstine, Ted Griess, and Lathan Thompson. The following City Officials were present: Mayor Roger Jones, City Administrator Matthew Cederburg, and City Clerk Abbey Jordan. Absent: City Attorney Tom Lieske.

All proceedings hereinafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the Public.

After roll was called, Mayor Jones led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones next made the following statement:

“Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and Public Records Law Requirements a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted for public inspection on the door located in the back of the Council Chambers. In addition, for public inspection, there is located on the table to the south of the chairs in the Council Chambers, a copy of the Council packet that was distributed to the members of the Council prior to this meeting.”

“The City Council will take public comments on an agenda item, if it is deemed necessary, before the Council begins discussion of the agenda item.”

Agenda item #3, consider discussion and approval of Selection Committee’s Recommendation of an Engineering firm to conduct the City of Minden’s Water System and Improvements Study.

Mayor Jones stated that the Selection Committee is recommending Olsson and Associates to conduct the water study. He stated that both firms were excellent but after all the information was studied, Olsson Associates and their team outweighed JEO. Council Member Sumstine did extensive research, interviews, and on-site visits. She pointed out that JEO does not have the ability to do water or soil testing at their Grand Island facilities whereas Olsson Associates has a lab and other testing facilities at their location in Grand Island. JEO would send samples to Lincoln and Denver for testing which could increase the time and cost. Council Member Evans stated that people want to see a new vision and a new perspective which he thinks is JEO. He also thinks HDR’s biologist and chemist would be valuable assets. Utilities Superintendent, Mike Kleen, stated his concerns with JEO and their availability of having an onsite engineer. Mr. Kleen also stated that he was comfortable with Olsson Associates as they have an extensive knowledge of our infrastructure and they will map all items such as valves that they install

during the construction. City Administrator Matt Cederburg stated that by working with Olsson Associates the past 2 years, expectations from Council and the City have been established, that the job will get done right with Olsson Associates. Council Member Lathan Thompson expressed concerns that residents are unfavorable towards Olsson's due to their association with the previous City Administrator. The biggest concern from Council Member Ted Griess was about who will be held accountable when something goes wrong especially with the JEO/HDR relationship.

Council Member Sumstine motioned to approve Selection Committee's Recommendation of Olsson & Associates to conduct the City of Minden's Water System and Improvements Study. Council Member Griess seconded the motion. On roll call the following voted Aye: Sumstine, Griess. The following voted Nay: Evans, Thompson. Mayor Jones voted Aye to break the tie. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Council Member Evans and seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. On roll call the following voted Aye: Thompson, Sumstine, Griess, and Evans. The following voted Nay: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

/s/ Roger Jones
Roger L. Jones, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Abbey Jordan
Abbey Jordan, City Clerk

(SEAL)