

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 29, 2023**

The Wayne City Council met in special session at the Wayne Freedom Park Shelter House on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Cale Giese called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Councilmembers Brent Pick, Terri Buck, Nick Muir, Brittany Webber, Clayton Bratcher, Jason Karsky, Matt Eischeid, and Jill Brodersen; Attorney Amy Miller; City Administrator Wes Blecke; and City Clerk Betty McGuire.

Notice of the convening meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Wayne Herald, Wayne, Nebraska, the designated method of giving notice, as shown by Affidavit of Publication. In addition, notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is on file with the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the Council convened in open session.

Mayor Giese advised the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the north wall on the refrigerator of said Shelter House, as well as on the City of Wayne website and was available for public inspection. In addition, he advised the public that the Council may go into closed session to discuss certain agenda items to protect the public interest or to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public hearing.

Finance Director Beth Porter stated these numbers are based on the final numbers set at the budget work session. In addition, because of the passage of LB148 last year, the following changes have been made again this year:

- The budget hearing is being held separately from regularly scheduled meetings and cannot be limited by time;
- At least 3 copies of the proposed budget are available to the public;
- A presentation is being given outlining the key provisions of the proposed budget, including a comparison with the prior year's budget;
- Any member of the public desiring to speak will be allowed to address the governing body and be given a reasonable amount of time to do so; and
- The methods and dates of meeting notices are recorded in the meeting minutes.

The total of the FY 2023-2024 budget is \$54,337,210. The property tax proposal for the General Fund operation is \$1,072,999.61, which compares to the 2022 tax asking of \$1,009,364.56. Pursuant to State Law, the maximum levy for a municipality is \$0.45 per \$100 of property valuation. When combined with the debt service asking, the combined amount for the proposed budget year is \$1,175,499.61 or \$.0358201 per \$100 of property valuation, which is lower than last year - \$.0384371. The valuation in the community, as reported by the County Assessor for 2023, is \$328,167,247, which is up \$38,898,571 from last year. The 2023 operating budget is \$53,585,042; the 2022 operating budget was \$40,484,352. The combined levy from 2022 to 2023 has decreased from \$.0419053 to \$.0417696.

City Clerk McGuire had not received any comments for or against this public hearing.

There being no further comments, Mayor Giese closed the public hearing.

**RETREAT TOPICS:**

**Water Department – Sprinkler Systems and Backflow:** Casey Junck, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, advised the Council that there is no permitting process to install sprinkler systems and the City does not have the ability to protect its water system. In addition, it is not a fair bidding process for those contractors that do install backflow devices vs those that do not. Installing a backflow system protects the water system and is a best practice. After discussion, Councilmember Eischeid suggested that he, Joel Hansen, Street and Planning Director, and Casey Junck, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, get together to try to come up with a permitting process/recommendation.

**Food Trucks:** Because the State is currently working on setting up rules/regulations for food trucks, the consensus was to wait until that legislative bill has passed or been approved.

**Update on “Old City Hall Building:”** Staff was directed to start the “Request for Proposals” process.

**Funding update on Wayne Area Economic Development (WAED):** Luke Virgil, Director of WAED, updated the Council on the funding they will be receiving from Wayne County. The County agreed to fund the organization \$125,000 in the next fiscal year, \$150,000 the second year, and \$175,000 the third year. Mr. Virgil also advised the Council that they are actively seeking to find a person for the

housing position. The Wayne Community Housing Development Corporation Housing Director will be under the umbrella of WAED. There will then be a total of four positions within that organization.

**Funding update on the Wayne Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA):** Luke Virgil, Director of WAED, updated the Council on the CRA's new tax asking, etc. Mayor Giese stated his hope is that the CRA will work more hand in hand with the Housing Director.

**Traffic Control Expectations (4<sup>th</sup> Street)/Parking Restrictions:** There are safety concerns where 4<sup>th</sup> Street meets the driveway coming out of the Sports Complex and the trail crossing. After discussion, consensus was to place a stop sign at Tomar Drive coming from the north stopping at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and then adding one on 4<sup>th</sup> Street for westbound traffic. Discussion took place on the parking around the Elementary School and Meadow Lane. Staff will take a more in-depth look at where stop signs should be located and bring forward an ordinance at a future meeting for Council consideration.

**Future Goals/Other Items of Interest:** Outdoor fitness area; ice skating rink; stop signs coming off the streets.

**Update on Properties of Interest:**

Councilmember Brodersen made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Buck, to enter into executive/closed session to protect the public interest to discuss properties of interest, and to allow City Administrator Blecke, City Clerk McGuire, and City Attorney Miller to be in attendance. Mayor Giese stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried, and executive/closed session began at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Giese again stated the matter to be discussed in executive/closed session relates to property negotiations.

Councilmember Webber made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Bratcher, to resume open session. Mayor Giese stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried, and open session resumed at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Giese declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.