

Kearney, Nebraska
July 7, 2022
4:00 p.m.

A Joint City/County Budget Meeting of the City Council of Kearney, Nebraska and the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session at 4:01 p.m. on July 7, 2022 in the Peterson Senior Activity Center, 2020 West 11th Street, Kearney, Nebraska. Present were: Mayor Stanley A. Clouse; Council Members Randy Buschkoetter and Tami James Moore. Absent: Bruce Lear and Jonathan Nikkila. Council Member Jonathan Nikkila arrived at 4:05 p.m. County Commissioners present: Chairman Ivan Klein, Ron Loeffelholz; Timothy Higgins; Dan Lynch; Sherry Morrow; Bill Maendele and Myron Kouba. Absent: None. City Staff present: Lauren Brandt, City Clerk; Michael Morgan, City Manager; Michael Tye, City Attorney; Wendell Wessels, Director of Finance; Kayla James, Director of Finance; Brenda Jensen, Assistant City Manager; Eric Hellriegel, Assistant City Manager; Sarah Sawin, Assistant Director of Utilities; Andy Harter, Director of Public Works; Bryan Waugh, Police Chief; Shawna Erbsen, Administrative Services Director; Nate Mollring, I.T. Director; Scott Hayden, Park & Recreation Director and Matt Williams, Library Director. County Staff present: Jan Giffin, County Clerk and Neil Miller, Sheriff.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Kearney Hub, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment or receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Clouse announced that in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review and is posted in the room.

Mr. Wessels introduced Kayla James, Finance Director and stated Ms. James will present the budget next year as this will be Mr. Wessels last Joint City/County Budget presentation due to his retirement in the upcoming year.

Director of Finance Wendell Wessels presented the following proposed 2022-2023 budget:

County payments to the City are from July through June and City payments to the County are from October to September. Mr. Wessels stated the County's payment to the City will increase approximately \$54,000 or 5%; the City's payment to the County will remain the same.

Cottonmill Park

Notable expenditures include two large items: road asphalt replacement in the amount of \$50,000 and replacement of mower and corresponding parts that go with the mower in the amount of \$30,000. Mr. Wessels stated the \$50,000 pertaining to the road asphalt

replacement will be carried over from the current year's budget to next year. The County's share will increase \$43,000 or 18%. The total operating budget for Cottonmill Park is shared equally between the City and County.

County Commissioner Dan Lynch questioned if the asphalt replacement would be a total asphalt overlay? Scott Hayden, Park and Recreation Director, stated it will be a partial overlay. Mr. Wessels stated the County's portion will increase due to an additional \$100,000 being added to the budget to pay for the asphalt replacement.

Bookmobile

There is \$80,000 in the Bookmobile account that will eventually be used to purchase the next Bookmobile; each year the City sets aside \$10,000 from the County for the next Bookmobile. Mr. Wessels stated the Library's budget is up approximately \$7,500 or 2.8%.

Law Enforcement Center

The Law Enforcement Center's budget for the upcoming year is \$639,766; the County's share is up 1.2% or \$2,400. The Data Processing Budget will be \$524,065; the County's share will increase approximately \$18,837 or 12%. The Evidence Budget will be \$263,362; the County's share will decrease \$17,740 or 20%. He stated there are eight notable expenditures pertaining to the Building Budget that will be \$298,446; the County's share will drop approximately .06%. Mr. Wessels stated he receives the Communications budget from Lynn Martin, County Board Administrator whose official estimation final for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$1,378,802; that number is the same exact number as this year's estimation. The City pays for 63% of the Communications budget which is approximately \$868,000.

Peterson Senior Activity Center

The budget for the Peterson Senior Activity Center will be \$671,937. Mr. Wessels stated there is not an Interlocal Agreement in place with the County for the Peterson Senior Activity Center; however, the County has agreed to pay \$30,000 per year towards the facility. Discussion was held on the future creation of an Interlocal Agreement between the City and County for the Peterson Senior Activity Center.

Emergency Management

The County handles Emergency Management.

Prosecution Agreement

The City continues to pay the County \$75,000 under this agreement.

Vehicle Gasoline Purchase

This agreement is with several organizations some of which include the County, Kearney Public Schools and ESU.

Airport Road Re-Location Financing

The payment for next year will be \$92,002.50; there are five years left of payments on this item.

Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency

No change.

Kearney Area Animal Shelter

No change.

Communications Financing and System Upgrade

This item pertains to the payment the City makes to the County for the new Radio Communications project and is paid for out of the Special Sales Tax Fund.

Emergency Services Unit and Crisis Negotiation Unit

This item was added last year.

Talmadge Street & Yanney Avenue Financing

This project has begun; the City and County will share the cost of this project equally with the exception of the recently added street roundabouts.

SCALES Agreement

This agreement is between several Nebraska counties and cities and is included for informational purposes only.

Neil Miller, Buffalo County Sherriff stated the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners approved a siren notification upgrade. The City owns the sirens and the County owns the piece that sets the sirens off. The County will be upgrading the system throughout the County with the majority of the system located in Kearney. He added the new system will cost \$320,000 and will be paid for with ARPA funds.

Council Member Jonathan Nikkila questioned if monthly tests will continue? Sherriff Miller stated monthly tests will continue to assure the sirens work.

There was some discussion regarding LB644 and what that bill requires. The bill applies to cities, counties, school districts and community colleges; it does not apply to villages.

Bryan Waugh, Police Chief stated he is appreciative of the City/County relationship and how well the two government agencies continue to work together.

Moved by Higgins seconded by Nikkila to accept the proposed 2022-2023 budget as presented. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Clouse, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter, Klein,

Higgins, Lynch, Morrow, Maendele, Kouba, Loeffelholz. Nay: None. Absent: Lear.
Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Moved by Clouse seconded by Higgins that the meeting adjourn at 4:22 p.m. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Clouse, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter, Klein, Lynch, Morrow, Maendele, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Higgins. Nay: None. Absent: Lear. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

**STANLEY A. CLOUSE
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR**

**LAUREN BRANDT
CITY CLERK**