

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

September 11, 2018

The Special Meeting of the Liberal City Commission was held at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 325 North Washington on Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Connie Seigrist, Vice Mayor Taylor Harden, Jack Carlile, Tony Martinez and Ron Warren.

City Staff Present: City Manager Cal Burke, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Alicia Hidalgo, Fire Chief Kelly Kirk, Deputy Fire Chief Skeety Poulton, Police Chief Dennis Mulanax, and City Attorney Lynn Koehn.

Mayor Seigrist declared the meeting called to order.

1. Communications Board Joint Tower Project Presentation.

- John Ralston stated they are asking for direction on how to move forward with the new Communications Tower Project. They want to get a single source bid from Hayden Tower to get figures and costs. They have 39 years and have a State Contract for all the maintenance.
- City Manager Burke questioned why they need to go out for bid; quotes do not lock you in. If they get quotes, you can pick which one to use and develop a contract if you want to go that way. You are not locked in with quotes.
- Discussion was held regarding the spec sheet. Hayden Tower will give them the spec sheet.
- Discussion was held regarding the County's bid process.
- Mr. Ralston stated they are trying to expedite bids. If Hayden does the project they would maintain the tower.
- Sheriff McBryde stated only time will tell on any negatives. The range studies look good and they haven't had any problems. The county has set aside \$150,000. He keeps hearing that we are all in and that we want to participate. He was told that no money was set aside by the City.
- Finance Director Ford stated there is \$75,000 budgeted for the 2019 budget.
- Vice Mayor Harden stated the City allocated as much money as they could and questioned if any money will be expended in 2019.
- Mr. Ralston hopes they do in 2019. He is unsure of how much initially. Some companies require different amounts. Road work needs to be done and the pad needs to be built.
- Police Chief Dennis Mulanax noted the Highway Patrol said some radios don't work.
- Fire Chief Kelly Kirk stated he doesn't want anyone to think they haven't addressed this. Right now, the City pay 60% or \$60,000. They will probably seek financing and allocate the \$6,000 for that. The City would borrow the money and pay it over time so it's not one big hit. That was his impression of why the City does not have the \$150,000.
- He stated his department is on 400 mhz. His issue is from Fire Department side. When fighting a house fire, 800 doesn't work inside a building. The 400 works right now. He doesn't have any complaints from the Fire Department. He does realize that PD, Sheriff, and departments that operate outside city limits have the need to go with 800. They will have to have dual and yes they can do that. They have 800 MHz in most apparatuses right now. They have six handheld radios and the 400 MHz is for fire necessities. The 800 is for mutual aid. The only benefit for the Fire Department would be the mutual aid frequency. In talking with Chief Mulanax, that is the only one they can use.
- Commissioner Carlile questioned what happens if 400 goes away.

- Chief Kirk said they are multiprogramable.
 - Sheriff McBride stated there are places in town the Highway Patrol can't communicate. Stevens County and Meade County have towers. Another tower in the middle would fill the void.
 - Vice Mayor Harden noted the FCC will never give us the frequencies. FCC will not allow use for anything lower than 600. He questioned what the \$150,000 from the County and \$75,000 from the City was for. Will the tower project exceed \$1.5 million?
 - Chief Kirk thinks the total cost is close to \$1-\$1.5 million.
 - Mr. Ralston can't answer that until he has numbers.
 - Discussion was held on regarding what is on the current tower and not being able to control what goes up there and the loss of range. People are buying frequencies so they get crowded.
 - County Commissioner Wettstein questioned the cost on the tower and if it is a 60/40 split. It is 60/40 split with Communications now.
 - Discussion was held on the different tower project in Kansas.
 - It was noted the tower and building would probably be \$300,000-\$400,000, with a total project cost of possibly \$1.6 million - \$1.8 million.
 - There is an Interlocal Agreement. Chief Kirk sent the document to City Attorney Koehn and he agreed that everything can move forward.
 - City Manager Burke noted that will be clarified with Attorney Koehn.
 - County Administrator April Warden stated there is an Interlocal Agreement for the Communications Board. Everything is paid 60/40 so they will agree to go by the city's purchasing policy. The County's policy is if it's over \$10,000 they have to go out for bid and publish it in the paper.
 - City Manager Burke suggested Earles Engineering put the bid packet together.
 - Vice Mayor Harden said we need to ask Hayden Tower to provide an analysis sheet that can be given out. Some vendors are vastly different and it may benefit us to go out for bid.
 - It was noted the Communications Board paid Hayden \$38,000 for the specs. Hayden has also constructed all the towers in Kansas and is a long term company.
 - Commissioner Wettstein stated they should move ahead with quotes and give them 30 days.
 - Commissioner Warren suggested looking for grants for the project.
 - Tony Herrman with the Road and Bridge Department noted they talked about access to the tower as the tower site is on the Road and Bridge property.
 - Mr. Ralston stated they would speak to him at a future Communication Board meeting.
- Vice Mayor Harden moved to have Hayden Tower provide a spec sheet for quotes with Commissioner Carlile seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Connie L. Seigrist, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Hidalgo, City Clerk