

Ralston City Council Special Meeting  
Thursday, September 12, 2019

The Ralston City Council met in special session on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Ralston City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll was called with the following present: Council President Krause and Council members Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Sanchez, and Preis. Mayor Groesser was absent. The agenda was available at City Hall for public inspection and posted prior to the meeting. The legal notice for the meeting was published in the Ralston Recorder.

Council member Konwinski gave the invocation. Council President Krause welcomed the press and guests. Kraus said the meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted at the rear of the Council Chambers.

Krause said the purpose of the special meeting is to approve the budget for the next fiscal year.

Bohling confirmed the current budget is in conformity with the 45 cent lid. Currently the tax rate for the General Fund is roughly 43 cents which is below the 45 cent lid. This includes the 5% reduction that can be taken for inter-local agreements, which puts the tax rate at roughly 38 cents.

Bohling said the additional 1% increase is an adjustment for the spending authority for the City and raises the level by 1%. The State automatically gives 2%. The resolution authorizes exceeding the restricted funds budget by an additional 1% to increase the spending authority for future years. It has no impact on the actual numbers in the budget.

Konwinski introduced Resolution 2019-10. Russell read Resolution 2019-10 by title only: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXCEEDING THE 2019-2020 RESTRICTED FUNDS BUDGET BY AN ADDITIONAL 1%.

Konwinski moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the following resolution.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING )  
EXCEEDING THE 2019-2020 ) RESOLUTION 2019-10  
RESTRICTED FUNDS BUDGET )  
BY AN ADDITIONAL 1% )

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 13-519.02 provides that a governmental unit may exceed its restricted funds limit for a fiscal year by up to an additional one percent (1%) upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALSTON, NEBRASKA, that:

1. An additional one percent (1%) increase in restricted funds for the 2019-2020 budget is approved.

Passed and approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

ATTEST:  
/s/Rosemarie D. Russell  
City Clerk

CITY OF RALSTON  
/s/Gerald Krause  
Council President

On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Kavanaugh moved and Sanchez seconded to approve the Override of Resolution #9018, a resolution setting policy that interest only from the Lottery Fund shall be allowed to be used in the future for budgeted expenditures. Krause explained this resolution was set years ago when the City was receiving quite a bit of money from the lottery. This resolution sets a restriction that interest can only be spent unless there is a super majority vote by the council to spend more than 2% in the budget.

Krause opened the public comment period to consider the Override of Resolution #9018 at 5:34 PM. There being no comments, Krause closed the public comment period at 5:35 PM. Krause called for the vote. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Krause opened the public hearing to receive comments on the budget at 5:36 PM.

Merv Riepe, 6232 S. 79<sup>th</sup> Circle, indicated he is not in attendance to take exception with the budget as he has not really studied it. His concern is with the petition that is on for expanded gambling that has to do with Horseman's Race Track. This item, in his opinion, threatens Ralston Keno and Ralston Keno is a key structure under the arena and under the budget for the City. Riepe doesn't know whether the City has taken a position on the petition, but there is a good chance that it will be approved and will go on the ballot. The petition indicates that it will be property tax relief and he has been told that it is being readily signed. The truth of the matter is that very little will go to property tax relief. It would also open up gambling for Indian tribes not only at the horse racing track but would also open it up across Nebraska.

Krause indicated the City has not taken a position on that matter. There has been expressed at various meetings that this would not necessarily be good for Ralston. Riepe said avoiding a resolution to support it and adopt it would be helpful.

There being no further comments, Krause closed the public hearing at 5:38 PM.

Konwinski introduced Ordinance No. 1238. Russell read Ordinance No. 1238 by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT FOR THE CITY OF RALSTON TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE CITY OF RALSTON; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Krause opened the public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 1238 at 5:38 PM. There being no comment, Krause closed the public hearing at 5:38 PM.

Konwinski moved and Sanchez seconded to approve Ordinance 1238 on first reading. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Kavanaugh moved and Sanchez seconded to waive second and third readings in order to adopt the budget. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Sanchez introduced Resolution 2019-11. Russell read Resolution 2019-11 by title only: A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX AT A DIFFERENT AMOUNT THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

Krause opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution 2019-11 at 5:40 PM. There being no comment, Krause closed the public hearing at 5:40 PM.

Konwinski moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SETTING THE )  
PROPERTY TAX AT A ) RESOLUTION 2019-11  
DIFFERENT AMOUNT THAN )  
THE PREVIOUS YEAR )**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization, unless the Governing Body of the City passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City that the property tax request for the current year be a different amount than the property tax request for the prior year,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ralston, Nebraska, by a majority vote, resolves that:

1. The property tax request for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019, be set at \$2,728,711.00 and that
2. The City Clerk certify and forward a copy of this resolution to the County Clerk prior to October 15, 2019.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

ATTEST:  
/s/Rosemarie D. Russell  
City Clerk

CITY OF RALSTON  
/s/Gerald Krause  
Council President

On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Next regular meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

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Rosemarie D. Russell  
City Clerk

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Gerald Krause  
Council President