

(Neb.)-Council Makes Progress With East Niobrara Property, Approves Safeway Liquor App [Listen](#)

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/30/2013 02:30 PM

(CHADRON)-After much discussion and passionate arguments from a variety of standpoints, the Chadron city council did find a way to move forward at their meeting Monday night regarding the status of city-owned property on East Niobrara Avenue. City attorney Adam Edmund kept encouraging the council to thoroughly review the specifics of the sale of the property so that the topic did not have to keep resurfacing. A couple of council members wanted to have an auction and get the property sold as soon as possible, while others wanted to make sure that enough time was given to proper marketing strategies in order to assure the possibility of a fair asking price for each lot.

Vice mayor Levi Grant was one in favor of getting the property sold as soon as possible.

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Mayor Karin Fischer said despite differences of opinion, the council was able to reach a positive consensus.

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Grant agreed that the council knows how to work together even when sometimes butting heads.

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Fischer said she was gratified with the way the meeting turned out and that a healthy compromise was reached.

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The council determined that the property should have a base bid of \$14,500 and will be sold at a public auction. Any remaining lots not sold at the auction, will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for the base amount. The council gave Edmund, city manager Wayne Anderson, and city clerk Donna Rust the go ahead to construct an ordinance that will officially be voted into effect at the next council meeting on Monday, May 6th.

In other news, the council also decided to support the Chadron Safeway store in their pursuit of applying for a liquor license for on and off sale of liquor in their store. Safeway representative Tim O'Neill said if approved all alcohol sales will be off sale, which means a person must take the liquor off the site where purchased to drink it. O'Neill shared with council members that Safeway, who has been serving the Chadron community for 40 years, would consider it a privilege to be entrusted with a liquor license. He explained that the store already has a policy in place regarding the sale of age-restricted products, as it currently sells tobacco products, so the transition to alcohol sales would be relatively easy. He also shared that he had met with Chadron Police Chief Tim Lordino to make sure that all requirements were fully met. O'Neill assured the council that Safeway would be a responsible and cautious in their sale of alcohol and just wanted to add a level of convenience to shoppers.

Police chief Lordino said that he appreciated O'Neill seeking him out and making sure that any issues were resolved satisfactorily, saying, "Safeway is going to do a really good job on responsibly managing" the sale of alcohol in the community.

Despite the vows of responsible stewardship, council member Paris Fisher had reservations, saying that

anytime more alcohol is brought into a community, a price is paid somewhere else. Council member John Gamby said he too echoed Fisher's sentiments, and yet he felt that saying "no" would be restricting free enterprise, which he felt was more important. The council voted in favor of allowing Safeway to proceed with their liquor license request 4-1, with Fisher the dissenting vote.

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