

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on April 13, 2016 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. The minutes were approved as written. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

February Treasurer's Report available. City Treasurer, Todd Blome of BMG, unable to attend. Gigstad made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on audit expenses from Ritterbusch and Piotrowski for additional services and time involved in the annual City audit. Council member Britton moved to approve the payment of \$2000.00 to Ritterbusch & Piotrowski, Council member Gigstad seconded.

AFLAC	443.78
Alan Britton	161.61
Alfred Gigstad	161.62
American Public Power Assoc.	1078.06
Andy Brace	550.00
Arrow Manufacturing, Inc	571.09
Assurant	116.38
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	787.50
Barco Municipal Products	572.59
Baragary Construction, Inc.	82.00
Birds & Bloom	10.00
Blaine Reed	225.00
Books By the Bushel	44.05
BMG	2500.00
B & D Diamond Pro, Inc	510.00
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	685.60
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	3239.33
Cassi Rippe	75.00
Cardmember Service	2059.96
Community Memorial Hospital	136.00
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
City of Syracuse	709.78
Culligan Water Conditioning	50.75
Country Living	8.00
Chiona Morris	243.68
Caleb Frede	300.00
Chris Richardson	350.00
Christa Reisdorff	150.00
Chucks Computer Repair	100.00
DHHS	723.00
Deb Dettmer	161.61
Dutton Lainson Co.	928.91
Dentegra Insurance Company	148.56
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	2797.50
Everyday With Rachel Ray	20.00
Farmers Cooperative	8.20
Farner-Bocken Company	453.20
Ferrellgas, Inc	12.00
FirstBank of Nebraska	25.00
Fireguard, Inc	161.12
First Wireless, Inc	99.00

Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	316.99
Hemje Plbg. Htg & AC	285.00
Ingram Library Services	529.57
Interstate All Battery Center	151.20
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	1304.25
Jason LaFollette	55.34
Jodi Bruns	480.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Kenneth Halvorsen	80.00
Kelly Farmer	2599.25
Kim Parde	603.45
Kristine Henke	161.61
Karen Kimpel	132.99
Ken Aden	175.00
Kevin White	100.00
Kurt Kastens Electric	231.14
Konica Minolta Business Solutions	403.75
Laramie Werner	150.00
League of NE Municipalities	46.00
Leah Ganzel	132.98
Joe Reisdorff	454.70
Marcia Scheinost	664.70
Melissa Tompkins	60.00
Mark Moerer	498.48
Matheson	43.79
Midwest Laboratories, Inc	3.78
Midwest Farmers Coop	1517.99
Mikes Window Service	92.66
Martin Marietta Aggregates	186.73
Municipal Supply of Omaha	1992.16
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE	56.36
My-Lor, Inc.	12.54
Nebraska City Utilities	1289.32
Nebraska Dept. Of Roads	2050.00
Nebraska Dept. Of Revenue	100.00
Nebraska Municipal Power Pool	1173.25
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab	93.00
NMC Exchange LLC	178.11
Nebraska Rural Water Association	100.00
Nick Rinne	225.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	43.44
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	104,778.30
Papillion Sanitation	333.36
Petty Cash Park & Rec	200.00
Petty Cash – Concessions	2700.00
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	1936.50
Richard Sitzman	115.41
Roy Bretthorst	570.65
Ritterbusch & Piotrowski, LLP	17,100.00
Sam's Club/Synchrony Bank	347.94
SE Area Clerks Association	10.00
SENND	862.33
Shayna Murrell	280.00
Stutheit Implement	931.76
Syracuse Ironworks	238.94
Syracuse Lumber Co.	167.52
Synchrony Bank/Amazon	692.60
Syracuse Do It Best	580.52
Syracuse Motor Supply	344.18
Syracuse Veterinary Service	187.02

Syracuse Volunteer Fire Dept.	1870.51
Syracuse Rescue Squad	16,000.00
Terry's Family Foods	161.73
Temple Display LTC	1826.43
Taste of Home	10.00
Tami McLaughlin	200.00
Tennant Sales & Service Co.	861.65
Todd Aksamit	83.81
True West Magazine	29.95
United Healthcare	8344.44
United Healthcare	9144.59
U.S. Post Office	460.64
Verizon	340.28
Western Area Power Administration	3928.91
Womans Day	6.25
Windstream	667.65
WriteTime Communications	288.29
Shayna R. Murrell	2079.50
Todd E. Aksamit	1844.86
Derek R. Harms	1912.65
Jason LaFollette	1963.77
Mark S. Moerer	2075.75
Chiona R. Morris	1760.08
Julie J. Slafter	1457.55
Mitchell Stubbendick	2234.61
Jeff Vogt	2813.48
Sue Antes	1492.92
Eldon Halm	115.43
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	1334.70
Carol Linquist	1384.70

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Deputy Mike Holland present. The department still has a couple deputies out for about five weeks, one for medical leave and the other at K-9 training. Holland announced a Prescription Take-Back day is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M; this is sponsored by the DEA. Council member Henke asked about an un-licensed vehicle parked, Holland will look into it. Ortiz asked about the process with the nuisance cases. Holland will pick up the packets from Roy Bretthorst/ City Hall, hand it over to the County Prosecutor where an arraignment date will be set usually 2-3 weeks out. If the issue(s) is resolved by the arraignment date there will not be an arraignment. Due to the time between the delivery to the Prosecutor and arraignment date, there will not be any extensions granted to nuisance cases.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes presented her report. Good circulation for the month, men's book club will resume in September as well as Book Club 1 and Book Club 3. Summer Reading sign-ups are currently going on and the meeting room has been booked on multiple dates. Antes has been working with the Journal-Democrat and News Press on putting past editions online but it will be a long process.

The Library Foundation presented a draft of the press release from the Library Foundation regarding the Silvia Antholz trust. The Foundation is in partnership with the Nebraska Community Foundation. An endowment of 1.8 Million dollars will be used for value added enhancements at the Library such as computer & literacy programs as well as staff training only to mention a few. The Library Foundation will be meeting with the NE Community Foundation again in May 2016. There will not be any return in 2016 therefore this year will be for used for brainstorming what some of the enhancements will be. Other projects mentioned as thoughts only are expansion of reading programs and working with the Museum of Memories. Funds can be carried over for two years to be spent, after that it goes back into principal.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell presented. The Early Buzzard and USSSA tourneys are scheduled at the complex for the next two weekends. Co-ed Softball is also beginning the upcoming weekend. Souvenir cups have been ordered for purchase at the

complex. T-ball sign-ups are going on until May 13th. Murrell interviewed eight individuals for pool summer help. Currently, there are not enough people to staff the pool and asked for feedback from the Mayor and Council. The desired number for a pool staff is at least fifteen Murrell explained. One option is to cut the pool hours. Murrell explained the training for a pool employee takes three days. The average age for the Syracuse Aqua Center is 16, other area pools employ 15-year olds. The Mayor and Council requested to continue taking applications for the pool seasonal help. Clerk Farmer will run the ad in the Journal-Democrat again. Attorney Stilmock will look into hiring 15 year-olds at the Aqua Center. This will be re-visited at the May Council meeting.

PARKS REPORT – Park Manager Todd Aksamit presented his report. Ron Ross will be fertilizing the fields at the Sports Complex. Aksamit has a sprinkler company coming this week to service the sprinklers, after he will water accordingly. The damage done to the Complex crow's nest by a storm last September and a recent wind storm will be repaired by WJH this month. Aksamit presented a breakdown of his park seasonal help. Currently his summer help cannot start until mid-May. Aksamit requested hiring an additional employee for twelve weeks to help him at the present time as he is on his own until mid-May. This would enable more focus to be on Williams Park. The Mayor and Council are on board with Todd's request to hire another individual for twelve weeks at the \$8.50 an hour rate.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt led the discussion on the sewer located at 4th & Locust. Vogt does not have any bids currently; the discussion will be tabled until the May meeting.

Superintendent Vogt led the discussion on a donation to NE Rural Water. NE Rural Water works off of grant money therefore they ask for donations and put the money toward their equipment fund to be able to assist communities. Attorney Stilmock has looked into this and recommended using the City of Creighton letter as an example to draft a letter. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve a donation of \$100.00 to NE Rural Water, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Vogt led the discussion on the Midland Street crack seal project. The cost is currently \$.48 per linear foot, thus costing \$12,000-\$15,000 to do the whole town. If the asphalt overlay project is going to happen in the near future, it would not be cost efficient to move forward with the crack-seal. The Council suggested moving forward with receiving bids for the asphalt overlay and what are the time frames involved. This will help with the decision for the crack-seal project. Vogt will present the bids at a future meeting.

Ortiz led the discussion on the bids for old Christmas lights. No bids were received and four new lights have been purchased. Dettmer recommended asking the Syracuse Museum if they would like the one original (white one) and keeping the other three in storage in case of a future need.

Vogt announced to the Mayor and Council Utility Service Group, Inc. has changed their name to Suez. The letter from the company states this does change the contract. Superintendent Vogt has been happy with their service. The Mayor and Council suggest Vogt check into the possible need to drain for maintenance of the water tower and report back to them.

Vogt recently sent Utility workers Mark Moerer and Derek Harms to a class regarding locates. The class was no charge.

Vogt led the discussion on the root cutting services by Johnson Services. Vogt is hoping to have them do 10-13 blocks this year; Johnson Services will be here in May.

Vogt asked the Mayor and Council to check out an LED bulb the Utility Department is using in a street light at the West end of 5th Street. The utilities will monitor the meter readings on this one versus the current style of street lamp bulb to see if the LED's are more cost efficient. To replace all 300 in the City, it would cost approximately \$102,000.00. The LED's claim to have a five year guarantee; each bulb costs around \$340.00. Mayor Ortiz and Council member Britton suggested setting up a ten-year plan to get them all done. Dettmer suggested putting one at the corner of 1st and Mohawk as this is typically a darker area after sunset.

Council member Britton asked Vogt how the replacement of the tornado batteries was coming. Vogt

replied Syracuse has been added to Jim Schmader's list. Council member Dettmer had researched a possible grant for this but it did not look like anything was available at this time.

RESCUE REPORT – Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Syracuse Rescue transfer stipends and if the volunteers should be considered employees. Attorney Stilmock has researched this issue and the goal is to make sure the volunteers reserve their status as volunteers for purposes of Workman's Compensation Law. The safest route is to continue to go with providing the volunteers with 1099s. Currently the volunteers earn \$30, \$40, or \$50 per transfer based on that individual's skill level. Stilmock can speak with BMG regarding this if Wilson wishes but the City should move forward with getting the individuals paid for the last two quarters stipends. Council member Gigstad moves to approve the transfer stipend amounts of \$30/MA, \$40/EMT, and \$50/ALS, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

Wilson reported call volume has gone down over the past year. Currently, the Rescue Squad is at 98 calls for the year. The Rescue Squad currently has 16 members; a few others have shown interest. The majority of calls are during 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Two individuals have recently passed their national testing for EMT certification. The Rescue Squad is looking at replacing one of the ambulances that is 12 years old so funding is being looked into. The final payment has been made to Stryker for the purchase of power lifts on the rigs; these have been a great asset. The Rescue is gearing up for EMS week approaching the week of May 14th thru May 21st. Mayor Ortiz recommended the Rescue Squad utilizing the Mail Chimp email notification system and putting their announcements on the City website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mike Goering present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion on proposed bill of sale. Bruce Neemann unable to attend the meeting, therefore this discussion will be tabled until the May 11th, 2016 City Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion for approval of Michael Printz and Lucas Zeiger as new members of SVFD. Council Member Britton moved for approval of Printz and Zeiger as new members of SVFD, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on sending four firefighters to state fire school in May 2016. Craig Boldt, Eric Foss, Thomas Neemann and Bruce Neemann are scheduled to attend. Council Member Britton moved to send four firefighters to the state fire school, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz moved up the discussion on appointments for the Library, Planning, Cemetery, Housing Authority, Board of Appeals and Board of Adjustments. Various members of these boards and committees present. A list of the board members is attached as Exhibit 1. The Board of Adjustments would like to move Don Hobscheidt up from alternate to full-time member and Kenny Staack was recommended. Charley McWilliams has been recommended for Chairman and Ken Parde for Secretary, also for Board of Adjustments. Clerk Farmer will contact these individuals to confirm. Council member Britton moved to approve the appointments for the Boards/Committees listed in Exhibit 1, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: None.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the tabled discussion on request for 2:00 A.M. closing time for Smarty's LLC, dba B & J's Restaurant. Attorney Stilmock provided an Ordinance explaining the option of a sunset clause. Sheriff Deputy Holland recommends that establishments that want to stay open until 2:00 A.M. be held at a higher standard. This includes requiring the servers and bartenders to attend training through the Nebraska Liquor Commission. Owner Hensley would send his staff to this training; he feels it provides the server a better awareness of warning signs for over-serving of alcoholic beverages. Enforcing the certification brought up various questions and concerns. Currently the training is not mandatory but is suggested by the Liquor Commission. Hensley looking into if the Commission provides a sticker that is presented at the establishment. The Mayor and Council recommended continue the discussion to the May 11th City Council meeting and suggest to write the Ordinance for one reading, not three.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on Nebraska Department of Roads. The City recently hosted a meeting that included representatives from NDOR, Brad Buller of SDA schools, Attorney Stilmock, Jeff Vogt and Evan Wickersham. The meeting brought up the issues of Highway 50 speed limits, a guard rail by the Middle School and High School, a center lane on Highway 50 and a pedestrian crosswalk for

Highway 50. The speed limits will be re-studied after Love's Truck Stop is up and going. Mr. Goodbarn of NDOR suggested a guard wire instead of guard rail. Nothing currently is on the radar for a center lane but it could be added to NDOR's 2022 projected timeline. A community group has been working on a pedestrian crosswalk. Mayor Ortiz and Council member Gigstad recently attended a meeting at the High School hosted by a high school group using this as a school project. There has been question as to where a sidewalk would be. Safe Routes grant money was suggested to pursue. Vogt has spoken with Robert Rice about painting of the crosswalks for school crossing. Utility workers are concerned about the speed limit going south of town also. Britton suggested citizens to give their feedback to NDOR as well. Ortiz mentioned a letter writing campaign could be useful.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Leadership Designation Community Survey. Rian Harkins of SENDD present to go over the survey results. Survey results concluded the majority feel the City is on the right track with the current projects/ideas. Overall the survey had thirteen questions and 133+ people took the survey. Drainage, streets and street maintenance, trails, pool house, gym space, and programs for special needs were just a few that were included in an infrastructure and facilities/programs. Reoccurring themes also included housing, downtown revitalization, nuisance properties, daycares were broken down into economic development and "other" categories. Schools, businesses, healthcare facilities were also subjects mentioned on the survey; Clerk Farmer will send the results onto the Chamber of Commerce, SAEDC, CMH and SDA Schools. Many of the areas the Leadership Designation focuses on came back as "fair". Not many people volunteered to help in the areas they feel are pertinent; most stayed anonymous. The next step is looking at this survey as well as all of the City's planning documents and how the City works with all of the different groups in town. In doing this, it has been confirmed that the City has never had a Strategic Plan done. Harkins proposed in order to keep the momentum going to stop the Leadership Designation and use our time left with SENDD to help create a strategic plan, or to work with JEO on a strategic plan. The survey results will be very useful as well as the City's Capital Improvement Plan and Comprehensive Plan to move forward with a strategic plan. Harkins will send Clerk Farmer an example of a strategic plan and a cost estimate for SENDD doing the City's strategic plan.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Municode. Attorney Stilmock has reviewed the proofs from Municode and is sending the City's changes to Municode. This is the final stage before they give the codes to the City to adopt. Stilmock is requesting Municode have this ready to go for the May 11th City Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Community Development Coordinator or Special Projects Coordinator. This position has been posted in the Syracuse Journal-Democrat, Nebraska City News Press, Lincoln Journal Star, City website and Monstar.com. Applications are being taken until April 22nd. Mayor Ortiz will touch base with those volunteering to be on the hiring committee after this date.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and update on nuisance tracking. Ortiz thanked Roy for his time and work in looking into the properties and complaints. Ortiz explained how the tracker is working.

NEW BUSINESS –

Tying into the previous discussion, Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on pay for Roy Bretthorst for his work on the nuisance cases. Building and Zoning Inspector Bretthorst voiced that he feels issuing an extension to a property owner of a nuisance case/property is not a good idea. Bretthorst also discussed how after a while others will see the fall out for those not taking care of these nuisance properties and the City may see a drop in the number of cases. Council member Henke asked if the City has ever looked into the City taking over the garbage pick-up billing. It would be part of the City bill and the only option for those in the City limits. Clerk Farmer will send a message out on the clerk-net for those currently using Papillion Sanitation if this is an option or what other municipalities bill for the garage services. The Council suggests continuing to pay Roy Bretthorst at the current set rates for his work on the nuisance properties.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on license approval of plumbers and electricians to work within the City of Syracuse. Council member Dettmer moved to approve the plumbers and electricians, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request to release portion of ZCI 1st Addition funds held in escrow. Evan Wickersham unable to attend but Attorney Stilmock explained Wickersham in communication

made the recommendation to release \$29,520.00. Council member Dettmer moved to approve the release of \$29,520.00 from escrow funds to ZCI 1st Addition, Gigstad seconded. . Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Clerk Farmer and Superintendent Vogt will sign documentation and send over to Alan Britton at First Bank of Nebraska and send a copy to Attorney Stilmock as well.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on projects need to be completed. Attorney Stilmock did not have anything on legislative action, taxes and budget.

Mayor Ortiz brought up researching the idea of a Committee of Whole. This would be for discussion on issues but not casting a vote. This would cut down on meeting length on those issues taking more time than others. The Committee would be on a different night and is an open discussion but no action can be taken. Ortiz asked the Council to think about if this would be something they would like to try. This would also help with additional research needed prior to action being taken. The option of Consent Vote was also brought up. This is a list of agenda items that do not necessarily require discussion and can be taken care of in one vote.

Council Member Henke moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 P.M., Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 11th, 2016 in the Council Chambers.

I the undersigned Clerk hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting; kept continually and available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in the said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the said meeting; that at least one copy of the reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for the examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting of the body; that all news media requesting notification concerning time and place of said body were provided advance notification of time and place of said meeting and subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

City Clerk

Mayor