

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on March 16, 2016 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. 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. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

December Treasurer's Report available. Todd Blome of BMG present. All accounts have been reconciled as of January 31st, 2016. Blome presented the Treasurer's Report as well as a template to show the breakdown for the Utilities for future reporting. This report would be from this point forward. Britton made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None. Blome also presented six of the City's bank accounts can be consolidated into the main operating account and also. At the same time, one of the ambulance accounts will be combined with another ambulance accounts. Internal controls and best practices were also discussed. Council member Britton moved to approve consolidation of accounts, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

AFLAC	443.78
Alan Britton	161.61
Alfred Gigstad	161.62
American Public Power Assoc.	1078.06
American Test Center	1162.00
Arbor Valley Animal Clinic	52.50
Assurant	116.38
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	758.80
Baragary Construction, Inc.	1935.00
Books By the Bushel	62.05
BMG	2500.00
BTE Corporation	2650.00
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	231.23
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	1068.50
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	44.15
Cardmember Service	1578.45
City of Syracuse – Highway Allocation Bond	10,827.50
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
City of Syracuse	868.82
Culligan Water Conditioning	9.00
Combined Revenue Bonds P & I	26,250.00
DHHS	48.00
Dawn Kastens	30.00
Deb Dettmer	161.61
Dutton Lainson Co.	1230.82
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	590.15
Douglas Tire	603.00
Dentegra Insurance Company	297.12
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	1376.27
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	163.00
ET's Lawn & Leisure	12.14
Farmers Cooperative	14.60
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	181.95
Hanks Garage	219.62
Hawkins, Inc.	136.38
Heiman Fire Equipment, Inc.	201.50
Ingram Library Services	478.09
Interstate All Battery Center	39.15
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	1304.25

Jason LaFollette	55.34
Jeni Leefers	30.00
Julie Slafter	83.81
JH Sporhase LLC	2385.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Kriz Davis	123.18
Kelly Farmer	2391.57
Kim Parde	183.45
Kristine Henke	161.61
Karen Kimpel	166.23
Laramie Werner	67.75
League of NE Municipalities	46.00
Leah Ganzel	116.37
Joe Reisdorff	184.70
Marcia Scheinost	184.70
Mark Moerer	140.47
Matheson	50.90
Martin Marietta Aggregates	186.73
Municipal Supply of Omaha	9215.69
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE	867.00
Municipal Service & Supply	83.46
Micro Marketing Assoc.	40.39
Municode	3375.00
My-Lor, Inc.	64.10
Municipal Emergency Services	105.91
Nebraska City Utilities	1417.24
Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association	25.00
Nebraska Rural Water Association	75.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	7.95
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	110,150.08
Papillion Sanitation	318.08
Prevention	19.97
Richard Sitzman	115.41
Roy Bretthorst	350.46
Reminisce	12.98
Sam's Club/Synchrony Bank	233.64
Security Equipment Co.	168.00
SENND	3546.95
Southeast Community College	585.00
Southeast Girls Softball League	660.00
Syracuse Ironworks	25.74
Syracuse Lumber Co.	99.83
Synchrony Bank/Amazon	278.23
Syracuse Do It Best	19.79
Syracuse Motor Supply	99.47
Syracuse Veterinary Service	62.34
Terry's Family Foods	111.98
Tree City Tees	18.00
Terry Scheinost	485.78
Utility Service Co., Inc.	19,016.64
United Healthcare	8344.44
U.S. Post Office	546.24
Verizon	340.34
Western Area Power Administration	3781.36
Western Sand & Gravel Co.	86.95
Windstream	1596.58
WriteTime Communications	329.69
Shayna R. Murrell	1792.94
Todd E. Aksamit	1835.14
Derek R. Harms	1912.65

Jason LaFollette	2059.05
Mark S. Moerer	2018.25
Chiona R. Morris	1774.10
Julie J. Slafter	1457.54
Mitchell Stubbendick	2058.83
Jeff Vogt	2833.44
Sue Antes	1603.96
Eldon Halm	115.43
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Peggy Neemann	184.70

RESCUE REPORT – Carol Linquist present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Syracuse Rescue transfer stipends and if the volunteers should be considered employees. Treasurer Blome does not see any reason as an accountant that the volunteers cannot be added to the payroll. Attorney Stilmock will research and the discussion will be on the April agenda. Trevor Clark was approved by the Council as a new Rescue member. Council member Britton moved, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Nolan Werner present. He is working towards receiving his badge for Boy Scouts for active listening. The Mayor and Council welcomed Nolan and any questions he had.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Deputy Mike Holland present. The month of February was a fairly quiet month overall. Deputy Holland explained the difference between man hours versus basic covered hours. The department still has a couple deputies out on medical leave.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes was not able to attend. No one had any questions.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell presented. T-ball sign-ups are going on until May. Parks and Rec softball numbers are down due to more traveling teams in the area. Murrell has been working on updating banners at the complex; this would mean increasing the initial cost of the banners to \$275.00 with the cost of \$150.00 per year after that. The increase is due to banner production costs going up. Council member Gigstad moved to approve the banner cost increase, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: None. Murrell received a letter from the NRD qualifying the City to apply for a trail at the complex. Murrell also presented dimensions of a bathhouse from the Burbach blue prints from when the Aquatic Center was built. Mayor Ortiz explained that preliminary results from the community survey were recently sent out. The Mayor and Council would like to wait until the final results from the survey are discussed before moving forward with the trail or bathhouse further. Dettmer suggested the Rec department host a bike safety course for kids. Murrell will check into this.

PARKS REPORT – Park Manager Todd Aksamit presented report. An Early Bird Tourney is being held at the complex in mid-April, as well as another tourney later in April. Soccer practices are starting at the Soccer fields. Aksamit has been busy putting the concrete pads at Williams Park for the lamp posts repaired by Syracuse IronWorks. Bids for the Complex maintenance shed have been given to Aksamit. Aksamit and Jeff Vogt have been discussing the Utilities Department helping out with some of the work as well. The lowest bid was from WJH Construction at \$50,511.36. Council Member Britton moved to approve the bid from WJH, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz asked Aksamit to let the Mayor and Council know of a start date for the construction.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt led the discussion on the sewer located at 4th & Locust. The Utilities Department recently had the sewer jetted in that area. A crack was discovered 18 feet into the pipe thus causing problems. The pipe will need to be repaired. Jeff will receive bids for repairing the sewer pipe and present to the Mayor and Council at the April Council 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 recommended table the discussion until the April meeting.

Superintendent Vogt led the discussion on the replacement of batteries in the tornado sirens. It has been

over four years since the batteries have been replaced. The cost will be \$4200.00 total for Jim Schmader to replace the batteries in the five sirens. Council Member Britton moved to approve the bid of \$4200.00 and to use the General Fund, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Vogt led the discussion on utility pole testing. LARM confirmed there is no current program required therefore no further discussion is needed at this time.

Vogt informed the Mayor and Council that 90% of all meters have been changed out to radio read meters.

CEMETERY REPORT – Jim Pfeiffer of the Cemetery Board present to discuss bids for the Park Hill Cemetery mowing position. Gregg Zahn submitted the one and only bid for \$1,285.00 per mowing. Attorney Stilmock presented an agreement and Resolution No. 16-08. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 16-08, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion regarding a center lane for Park Street. Ortiz approached the Nebraska Department of Roads regarding concerns the City has over speed limits, a guardrail by the Middle School and a possible center lane on Park Street. A meeting has been set up for March 30th to discuss these items and tour Syracuse. Additional people attending will be NDOR representatives, SDA Superintendent Brad Buller as well as Senator Watermeier. Council Member Dettmer suggested a reduced speed to 25 mph on Park Street during school hours. Council Member Britton confirmed the speed limit signs north of town have been moved.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Leadership Designation survey. The survey period has concluded, Rian Harkins will be packaging the results to present to the Mayor and Council. Harkins was unable to attend the meeting therefore the discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Municode. Attorney Stilmock explained the City is waiting on proofs showing the old code and the proposed revisions.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Community Development Coordinator or Special Projects Coordinator. This position would oversee community projects from start to finish. Mayor Ortiz asked the Council and crowd if anyone had any recommendations. Council Member Gigstad feels the City could use a City Manager but cannot afford one but the City could use a person that could go after grant money and to follow up on the discussions and ideas presented at Council meetings. Council Member Dettmer agreed that it would be nice to keep moving forward on the projects the City has going currently and they could really use the attention this position would give them. Council Member Britton is not in favor of adding the position at this point, Council Member Henke also feels it is not the right time. Henke expressed that many changes have occurred and that things need to settle. Britton said he would like to see the current staff move forward for another year. Attorney Stilmock asked about salary and full-time vs. part-time. Mayor Ortiz proposed a full-time position and a negotiable salary based on qualifications. Britton feels the department heads should be able to follow thru with any projects regarding their departments. Dettmer expressed the department heads don't have the time in their daily schedules to write the necessary proposals for grants. Council Member Dettmer moved to hire a Community Development Coordinator position, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: Britton, Henke. Vote reached a split vote; deciding vote goes to Mayor Ortiz whereas he voted yes. Britton asked if this position will start with the new budget year and if the funds are available. Mayor Ortiz asked Britton if he would like to be on the hiring committee, Britton said he could. Dettmer would like to participate depending on when the interviews will be taking place.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Resolution No. 16-09 for request to purchase past Christmas lights and fixtures. Attorney Stilmock explained all bids need to be submitted by April 12th, 2016. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 16-09, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on nuisance properties. Realtor Charlie Pickering and others present to express concerns regarding properties violating City ordinances. Pickering recently submitted photos of various properties that are in disrepair. He feels the City has an image problem and has been told the town is “dumpy”; property values will start declining. The Mayor and Council agree something needs to be done. A nuisance tracker has been created to document all properties that have received a complaint. The owners and tenants of the properties will be sent a 30-day certified letter and photos will be taken, then a 5-day certified letter and updated photos will be taken, then the file will be handed over to the Sheriff’s department and eventually move forward to the County Prosecutor. The tracking sheet will help with the follow-up process. Mayor Ortiz recommends continuing on with the tracking sheet and turning it over to Roy for follow up on the properties listed. Attorney Stilmock granted a request to receive a copy of the tracking sheet, removing any names prior to release.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 986 to amend and expand the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City of Syracuse and amend and adopt a new Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Map of the City of Syracuse. Dave Potter of JEO unable to attend, Attorney Stilmock led the discussion. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 986 and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Council Member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 986 by title, Council Member Henke moved for final passage of the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Britton. Mayor Ortiz stated the question, “Shall Ordinance No. 986 be passed and adopted?” Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 987 to amend Figure 23, Future Land Use and Transportation Map of the City of Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan. Attorney Stilmock led the discussion. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Britton introduced Ordinance No. 987 and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Council Member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 987 by title, Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Gigstad. Mayor Ortiz stated the question, “Shall Ordinance No. 987 be passed and adopted?” Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

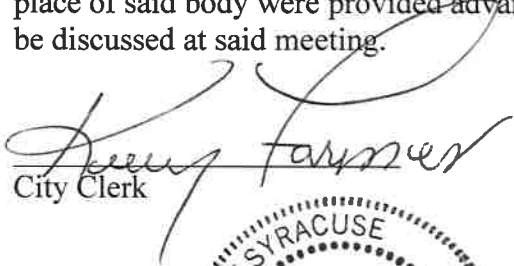
Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 988 to amend and adopt a new Zoning Map of the City of Syracuse. Attorney Stilmock led the discussion. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Henke introduced Ordinance No. 988 and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Council Member Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 988 by title, Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Britton. Mayor Ortiz stated the question, “Shall Ordinance No. 988 be passed and adopted?” Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for 2:00 A.M. closing time for Smarty’s LLC, dba B & J’s Restaurant. Anthony Hensley present to express he doesn’t want to stay open until 2:00 A.M. every night but would like to have the option to when it is justified. Currently a few surrounding towns do stay open until 2:00 A.M.; Hensley expressed this is a safety issue as people are leaving the City when the establishment closes at 1:00 A.M. and driving to these other communities. Council Member Gigstad recommends Attorney Stilmock draft an Ordinance for the April Council meeting.

Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 13th, 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

