

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 28, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on June 28th, 2017 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the June 14th, 2017 meeting 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.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes in attendance to present report. The month of May is typically a transition month. The state aid received for 2017 is \$908.00; \$200.00 of this is from an incentive payment for Silver accreditation. Antes noted the state explained to be prepared for the state aid to go down next year. Summer reading will happen July 11th, 18th & 25th; 108 children are signed up with 24 Jr. High students volunteering. Antes requested the lawn not be mowed on these dates from 12-3 p.m. The Syracuse Foundation hosted classes at the Middle School with 18 laptops being purchased for use with these classes. The activities can be compared to Bright Lights but on a smaller scale. These classes will be held again next year.

The April and May Treasurer's Reports available; Todd Blome of BMG present. Blome explained everything has been accounted for and reconciled, all bond payments have been made. Eight monthos of activity is shown in the reports. Utility receipts are up around \$50,000.00 and expenses are up around \$18,000.00. Sales tax continues to be up. Cemetery is up due to work on the brick columns. The Utility Cd came up for renewal recently and in Blome's opinion the City should shop around for more competitive rates. Mayor Ortiz and Blome met regarding the upcoming budget. Blome explained the current spreadsheets used are fine and the City can continue to use them with Clerk Farmer forwarding the excel spreadsheets to Blome to review also. Blome has created some documents to help show how much of the department budgets have been executed; BMG will be assisting with the budget again this year. The budget hearing will be in September. Blome suggested looking at starting discussions on this year's audit and asking for bids for the next Council meeting. Clerk Farmer will touch base with John Trecek of Ameritas regarding any bonds that reach their five-year in 2017. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Dettmer second. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Aqua Chem	163.90
ASCAP	343.50
Awards Unlimited	520.35
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	509.00
Bound Tree Medical	887.26
Bruce Meadows	148.33
Caitlyn Carlson	43.75
Capital Business Systems	83.31
CLIA Laboratory Program	150.00
Conney Safety	878.57
Culligan	42.40
Danko Emergency Equipment	449.70
Eaton	19,060.31
Erika Hunzeker	75.00
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	69.26
Gregg Zahn	8860.00
Jacob Heitkamp	87.50
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	6533.50
JH Sporhase	37.50
Kastens Electric	272.45
Keim Farm Equipment	166.95
Moore Medical	596.20
Municipal Supply of Omaha	715.87
NE City Utilities	47.94

NE Public Health Environmental Lab	48.00
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	1546.50
Phyllis Buck	175.00
Ryan Murrell	75.00
Shayna Murrell	56.25
Stutheit Implement	930.80
Stock Seed Farms, Inc.	90.00
Suez/Utility Service Co., Inc.	19,016.64
SVFD	813.00
Syracuse Do It Best	1750.63
Syracuse Ironworks	257.32
Syracuse Lumber Co.	35.28
Syracuse Veterinary Service, P.C.	87.04
Terry's Family Foods	3117.58
Verizon	454.49
Windstream	1192.10
Writetime Communication	181.71
Shayna R. Murrell	2932.05
Sue Antes	1506.25
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Karen Kimpel	918.88
Todd E. Aksamit	3266.51
Deb Dettmer	184.70
Alan Britton	183.87
Kelly Farmer	3503.47
Leah Ganzel	128.83
Alfred Gigstad	184.70
Craig Boldt	115.44
Ken Parde	184.70
Derek R. Harms	3203.47
Jody Bruns	183.87
Kristine Henke	183.87
Mark S. Moerer	3155.32
Chiona R. Morris	2079.99
Marcia Scheinost	184.70
Julie J. Slafter	2684.65
Mitchell Stubbendick	3599.87
Brian Vodicka	2122.11
Jeff Vogt	4334.93
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Carol Linquist	183.87
Patricia Hogancamp	110.82
Bruce Neemann	110.82
Chris Lutjemeyer	115.44
David Sabatka	115.44
Joe Reisdorff	184.70
Dale Young	799.06
Cody Pester	1593.78
Tyler Knake	880.89
Tyler Armagost	725.36
Nate Hemje	1294.18
Jon Baugous	2771.34
Laura Buck	563.42
Erika Hunzeker	965.82
Caitlyn Carlson	504.36
Jamy Prokopec	756.70
Madison Mueller	662.69
Cody Ryan	1574.03
Taylor Weiler	1209.36
Viktor Werner	1120.09

Cassie Katen	1246.21
Brynn Krieger	19.63
Jonathon Cox	1014.70
Aprille Johnson	482.71
Emily Isaacs	727.49
Megan Reuter	535.46
Jacob Heitkamp	652.07
Madison Marrs	787.01

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Holland present to report for the month of May. Total calls were 55 with eight being traffic stops, seven vandalism/theft and thirteen civil/question/assist. Holland spoke of the technology upgrades have been approved and will begin moving forward. The system will store electronic files and allow departments to communicate and share records much more efficiently. Spielman is the company responsible for the upgrades.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT – Linda Sutton present. The first discussion explained placement of a sign on the north end of Park Hill. The board would like to ask for an exception for the sign to be allowed to be placed closer to the road. Attorney Stilmock explained the Nebraska Department of Roads is firm regarding their 120 foot rule. Sutton also presented information for a kiosk to be placed at Park Hill Cemetery possibly in the future. Present cost is \$26,000.00 plus annual website hosting fees. The kiosk would be available via a website and would have information regarding location of plats, obituaries, etc. Sutton visited the kiosk at the Wilber Memorial at the Courthouse and said she was impressed. No further discussion was had.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS & PARKS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell not present; Park Manager Jon Baugous present. Baugous discussed the pond at Williams Park and presented a bid from Pester Grading for \$2500.00. Concern has been raised by Syracuse residents regarding the standing water and mosquitos. Grading would allow the water to drain out; mosquito repellent is very costly. Dirt has been brought in the past but this did not help with the draining of the pond. Council and Mayor suggested Baugous obtain a couple more estimates for the grading services. The discussion will be tabled until the July Council meeting. Baugous will look into the remaining dugout covers to be installed at the Sports Complex. Mayor Ortiz inquired on the bathrooms at the soccer fields that were budgeted for this year, Baugous has not been able to work on this but will look into what all needs to be done.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the batting cage at the Sports Complex. Legion has offered to help pay for an additional cage. Council Member Britton suggested Murrell obtain a quote for two additional cages and possibly the funds donated by the Legion would allow them to have one cage just to themselves. Location of additional cage/cages was discussed.

Mayor Ortiz led the bathhouse at the Aqua Center. Clerk Farmer presented a letter written by JEO in 2013. The letter also contained photos of the bathhouse showing the state of the bathhouse back in 2013 with no improvements made since. Council Member Dettmer asked if JEO will help draw up a bathhouse, Evan Wickersham of JEO explained that is something JEO can be involved in. Cost estimates presented back in 2013 will need to be reviewed by Wickersham. Current bond debt payoff was reviewed. Council Member Britton explained six years is left on the original pool construction bond along with a street project that was bonded at the same time. In six years, approximately \$140,000.00 per year will be freed up.

Clerk Farmer gave an update on the Otoe County Housing Rehab Grant. Two more projects are being sent out for bids and applications are being reviewed. Four have been approved already.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt present. Vogt opened his discussion announcing the electrical move at the Syracuse Storage Complex has been completed as well as the cabinet being moved. The last reclosure has been installed and is working. JEO is talking with OPPD regarding their substation. OPPD would skip their fast speed in order for the City's reclosure to identify it and allow for power to stay on throughout the town when a blink happens. Vogt contacted LTAP regarding the City's free signs, LTAP is saying about two more months. The bridge at 28th & P Road has started construction; there is question if the City's main will not be in the way. Vogt will report back on this. Vogt spoke

with Jon Brinkman regarding the bridge heading out the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to increased traffic, the bridge is in need of repair. No further discussion was had.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Syracuse Streambank Stability Assessment. Attorney Stilmock explained the governmental agency would not be able to assist the City with this.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Subcommittee Report on Love's Pioneering Agreement. Attorney Stilmock has no updates at this time. Stilmock will look into feedback from Evan Wickersham.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-23 on change of 5th Street Centre businesses. Dawn Richardson present. Stilmock explained the 432 5th Street address will be assigned to the apartment only with the 5th Street Centre itself being 430 5th Street with the businesses inside being suites. Council Member Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-23, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City Hall upstairs. Council Member Britton and Stilmock suggest put the equipment out for bid. Stilmock will put together a resolution for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Highway 50 guardrail. Ortiz received a response from an anonymous donor to cover the City's portion as well as the SDA school's portion in order to move forward with the installation of a guardrail to be placed on the west side of Park Street / Highway 50 by SDA Middle School. The cost will be half and half with the donor and the Nebraska Department of Roads. Stilmock will work on finalizing the agreement and have something ready at the July Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on private streets/street surfacing. Evan Wickersham and Jeff Ray of JEO present as well as developers and builders Bruce Meyer, Ron Zahn and Randy Peterson. Attorney Stilmock began the discussion explaining if the City should consider any other type of road surfacing material that are outside of the City limits but still within the extra territorial jurisdiction. Typically when a new subdivision is being put in the City requires the property be annexed into the City limits right away. Bruce Meyer would like the Council to consider allowing gravel to be used; he has many perspective home buyers wanting acreages north of town. Bruce Meyer and Ron Zahn both believe the cost of paving the streets in a development would increase the buyer's cost of the lot deterring people from building in this area thus halting growth of residential areas. Zahn said a typical lot averages around \$25,000.00. Meyer has sold five acre lots for \$45,000.00. Randy Peterson raised concern regarding the required size per acreage. Council Britton mentioned the option of a paving district where the burden would be passed onto the homeowner over a number of years rather than upfront in the cost of the lot. This dilemma has come up in Omaha as well as Lincoln. Council Member Henke feels that the requirement to pave streets in the acreages being discussed thus turning potential home buyers will halt the growth of the City. Moving forward, the Mayor and Council request JEO will work on possible plans in order to allow for growth of the City. A timeframe of thirty days was confirmed by all parties.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for Mohawk Street closing from 11th to 12th Streets from 5:30-8:30 P.M. for 2017 Vacation Bible School July 10th thru 13th. Council Member Britton moved to approve the street closing, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Housing Authority renewal of two board members and replacement of one and addition of another; Jim Pierce present. Pierce brought additional information outlining the Housing Authority and its responsibilities. Clerk Farmer will send out to the Mayor and Council. Council Member Britton moved to approve the renewal of Ron Apel and Jim Pierce's terms and addition of Woodene Danner and Judy Guillatt as board members, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding of a possible contract on Verizon small cell request. Steve Ward of Ward development present to discuss. A small cell consists of one or two antennas placed on existing structures. The fire siren on top of the building at 6th and Mohawk has been noted as a possible site for a small cell antenna. The antenna will provide additional coverage and capacity for cell users within the downtown area. The operation of the fire siren will not be interfered with. The current code

does not have language on how an antenna can be attached to an existing structure. The code would need to be amended, a lease agreement will need to be drafted as well as a discussion on if a separate meter would be required. The Mayor and Council suggest Stilmock work on this in order to go to the Planning Commission. Ward is sending Stilmock a list of other communities working with Verizon and small cell antennas.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-24 on renewal of Syracuse Senior Center contract, authorizing Mayor's signature.; Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging not in attendance. Expenses for the Senior Center were compared to revenue. The Council suggested an increase of the monthly rent by \$100.00 making it \$600.00 per month starting July 1, 2017 for a term of five years ending on June 30th, 2022. Council Member Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution 17-24 approving contract with Blue Rivers for use of the Syracuse Senior Center, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none. Clerk Farmer will send signed and initialed agreement to Blue Rivers for consideration.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-25 regarding approval of City application forms. Stilmock explained. Council Member Henke moved to adopt Resolution 17-25 approving the application forms, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on garbage contract expiring December 31, 2017, Mike Hurst of Papillion Sanitation present to answer questions. Mike offered Papillion Sanitation's commitment to the City as it moves forward with obtaining bids whether or not Papillion Sanitation is considered. Mike explained how a pilot program may benefit the City moving forward into its next contract but putting together and proposing a pilot program really takes about a year so this is not being offered at this time. An example would be automated trucks or having the billing flow through the City like the utilities.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Electricians and Plumbers for 2017-2018. No discussion, no applications have been submitted.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 P.M., Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

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.


Clerk


Mayor

