

SPECIAL MEETING_BUDGET
CITY COUNCIL

July 19, 2017

The City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on July 19th, 2017 for a special meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz pointed out the open meeting act and requested roll call, present were Council members Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. 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.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-28 regarding the Inter Local Agreement between City and Otoe County Sheriff's Department, authorizing Mayor's signature. Council Member Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-28, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-29 regarding the Highway 50 Guardrail Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature. Ortiz explained the breakdown of how the guardrail will be paid for. The Nebraska Department of Roads will be responsible for half of the total at their portion being \$17,500.00, the City will pay \$5,834.00 and the donor will be responsible for \$11,666.00. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-29 with the City's net portion to be paid out of Keno funds, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and consideration for release of Meisinger escrow funds, Ron and Barb Zahn present. Information was presented by Attorney Stilmock in advance. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the release of the escrow funds in the amount of \$9,830.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the 2017-2018 department budgets. Mayor Ortiz explained the use of doodle instead of email communication in order to schedule meetings and enable to see everyone's availability. The use of Dropbox was also used for the first time instead of paper packets being delivered to everyone.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Library budget, Sue Antes present. Antes placed a 3% increase in exception of the magazines and the telephone should stay at where it currently is at \$3,396.00. Antes explained Building and Grounds is trash service, furnace filters and anything that needs to be done to the building itself or the library grounds.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Cemetery budget, Jim Pfeiffer present. Clerk Farmer needs to work on the numbers for this budget as it is not complete. Discussion was had regarding if the mowing should continue to be contracted out or if the City's Parks Department would take over the mowing, tree care, etc. at Park Hill Cemetery. The position is usually put out for bids in October as the contract expires December 31st. The North Sign has not been included in the Cemetery budget.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Fire budget, Bruce Neemann present. Increases include an additional \$25.00 per Steward and \$100.00 for Fire Chief; this increased the Social Security. A general equipment and liability insurance increase of has been placed. Neemann included capital outlay to start replacing bunker gear and hoses as well as any annual higher dollar purchases. Britton suggested speaking with Todd Blome and sub-accounting a sinking fund for the Fire Department as well as any others that may include a sinking fund in their budget. The widening of Mohawk Street in front of the station was continued onto the 2017-2018 budget as the project will not be completed during this budget year. Neemann will be looking into the costs involved for installing a generator for the Fire/Rescue Complex.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Ambulance budget, Tim Wilson present. The budget numbers are staying pretty consistent from the current budget to the 2017-2018 budget; this helps by tracking the

expenses better throughout the year. Wilson explained medications and medical supplies are facing the issue of a shortage, driving up the cost; it is unknown how long the shortage will last. Britton suggested adding the new rig into the budget as well as a line for grant funds and/or contributions.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Concessions budget, Julie Slafter present. Currently in the budget, profits are up. Additional equipment needed for next year include an additional freezer for ices and a new cheese machine. Lowering the age for complex concessions would help gain additional volunteers to work the concessions as long as one or two adults work at the same time to handle the money and the hot dog machine. Slafter announced the pool concessions currently show a profit.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Swimming Pool & Programs budget, Shayna Murrell present. Increases for the 2017-2018 Budget include doubling the fixture supplies for a handicap lift. Also to be included are expenses for additional tables and chairs if the funds cannot come from the current budget and/or pool concessions profit. Britton suggested some shade trees be planted at the Sports Complex. Murrell proposed a sand volleyball court be put at the Sports Complex possibly west of the new shop.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Parks budget, Jon Baugous present. Items included in the 2017-2018 Budget include a water fountain at Williams Park, a power washer and possibly some bleachers for the soccer fields.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Street budget, Vogt present. Evan and Vogt will be working on the street budget in the next couple weeks. The budget will be presented at the next budget meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the electric budget, Vogt present. Salaries were discussed otherwise no real big changes for the 2017-2018 Budget.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sewer budget, Vogt present. The addition of the WWTP operating expense is included in the 2017-2018 budget at \$42,500.00 to monitor lab testing, equipment, electrical purchased expenses. Capital Improvement items include a grinder for the WWTP.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Water budget, Vogt present. The 2017-2018 budget will include Well Field numbers; Vogt will speak with Dane Simonsen of JEO regarding estimated costs; this would be in Capital Improvement expense. As with the Fire budget, it may be beneficial to have a sub-account on the monthly financial report provided by BMG for the Well Field.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sales Tax budget, Farmer present. Council Member Britton presented reports and graphs showing traits of sales tax over the years and how Love's and the CMH rebuild has or could affect the sales tax revenue. Also presented were sales tax rates at which other municipalities comparable to Syracuse in case the City would think about implementing an increase in the future; a property tax relief would also be discussed at the same time.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the General budget, Farmer present. General increases include attorney fees, engineering fees, a 3 % salary increase. A vehicle for City Hall use is in the 2017-2018 Budget also. Decreases include pro/schooling fee costs, printing & publishing expenses, copier maintenance and Municode and website.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Building budget. The proposed budget is consistent with the current budget except for the 6% insurance increase. Cleaning has been placed in the budget for the summer months when Julie Slafter does not have time to keep up with the office cleaning. Maintenance stayed at \$30,000.00 for future IT such as speakers, power cords, an additional television for the opposite corner.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Keno budget. Keno proceeds have been down a little from previous years, this is reflected on the 2017-2018 Budget.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sheriff budget. Numbers are consistent as the Inter Local Agreement continues to be at \$180,000.00 contracted amount.

Council President Gigstad asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. 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 said 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