

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 21, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 21, 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 Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the August 9th, 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.

Council Member Britton moved to approve and pay the claims, Gigstad second. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Amazon/Synchrony Bank	501.22
Aqua Chem	265.75
BMG	2500.00
Bound Tree Medical	1207.59
Brad Johnson	60.00
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom, Stilmock	2560.49
Brown Glass Co.	1050.00
Cardmember Services	2888.41
City of Nebraska City	1183.28
Collection Services Center	410.76
Dan's Tire & Repair	659.58
Ditch Witch	469.73
Dutton Lainson Co.	1284.93
Eakes	8.49
EMS Billing Services	2263.18
Farmers Coop	42.55
Fireguard	246.02
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	120.31
Henke Automotive	188.64
Ingram Library Services	488.15
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	2636.00
Kriz Davis Co.	1254.39
Langfeldt Overhead Door	116.00
Love's - VP of Real Estate	25,000.00
Matheson	159.22
Midwest Farmers Coop	67.62
Midwest Labs	134.68
Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha	305.03
Municode	2547.26
NE Child Support Pymt. Center	581.56
Nebraska City Utilities	249.37
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	66.00
OPPD	156,516.13
Otoe County Mutual Aid Association	75.00
Pacific Magazine Billing	49.95
Pepsi	2049.60
Russell Erwin	240.00
Simple Solutions Computer Group, Inc.	229.91
Southeast Community College	240.00
Syracuse Aqua Center Fund	104,800.00
Terry's Family Foods	146.81
Verizon	314.72
WAPA	3124.67
Windstream	162.78

Shayna R. Murrell	1862.38
Sue Antes	1540.53
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Karen Kimpel	166.23
Todd E. Aksamit	2025.15
Deb Dettmer	184.70
Alan Britton	183.87
Kelly Farmer	2196.04
Leah Ganzel	141.30
Alfred Gigstad	184.70
Craig Boldt	115.44
Ken Parde	184.70
Derek R. Harms	1982.32
Jody Bruns	115.43
Kristine Henke	183.87
Mark S. Moerer	1926.05
Chiona R. Morris	1773.04
Marcia Scheinost	115.43
Julie J. Slafter	1674.96
Mitchell Stubbendick	2294.59
Brian Vodicka	1383.93
Jeff Vogt	2912.88
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Carol Linquist	183.87
Patricia Hogancamp	110.82
Bruce Neemann	318.61
Chris Lutjemeyer	115.44
David Sabatka	115.44
Joe Reisdorff	184.70
Dale Young	182.85
Cody Pester	444.13
Tyler Knake	311.79
Tyler Armagost	277.01
Nate Hemje	615.05
Jon Baugous	1623.17
Erika Hunzeker	214.63
Caitlyn Carlson	483.86
Jamy Prokopec	1042.60
Madison Mueller	450.95
Taylor Weiler	647.74
Viktor Werner	395.06
Cassie Katen	1415.41
Jonathon Cox	415.36
Aprille Johnson	135.67
Emily Isaacs	463.94
Megan Reuter	258.96
Jacob Heitkamp	49.53
Madison Marrs	295.52
Brynn Krieger	341.35.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on paying the claims. Council Member Britton explained the claim tracking document. This identifies when the claim comes in, the total amount due; this is entered by someone other than those signing the checks. Ortiz explained someone will open the mail, next the claim should be stamped showing the date received and initialed, then entered into the tracker. A test sheet will be used until October 1, 2017. The excel document will have a tab for each month with a new file for the following fiscal year. It has been suggested that payroll should be included on the monthly claim tracker; Attorney Stilmock is researching what is required. Julie Slafter is to be the point of contact for the claim tracker. Council Member Britton moved to approve the claim tracking document, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request to increase City Attorney's hourly pay rate. Attorney Stilmock is requesting an increase from \$135.00/hour to \$150.00/hour and keeping the \$750.00/month retainer. Any court proceedings will be evaluated on a case by case basis for the time being. The Mayor and Council are very happy with Stilmock's work performed for the City over the years as well as his knowledge of the town, residents and City employees. Council Member Henke moved to approve the pay increase to \$150.00/hour while keeping the \$750.00/month retainer and negotiate fee for court time and negotiation, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

RESCUE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on two EMS Billing Collections Amendment. Wilson explained the agreement with EMS Billing with Syracuse Rescue states EMS will send past due Rescue bills for patients will be sent to a collections agency. Council Member Britton moved to accept the collections agreement presented by EMS Billing, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz will sign the documents upon Stilmock's approval of the agreements.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on contracting officer pay instead of using salary pay. Wilson explained this has been in front of the Council before; the Officers receive monthly pay as well as the quarterly stipend which they and other Rescue members receive based on the number of runs they participate in. Wilson is suggesting to change the officer pay to be consistent with stipend pay. There is a question on how this would affect the volunteer status of the Rescue members; it is suggested to table the discussion until Attorney Stilmock has time to review.

Wilson led the discussion on John Voyles as a new member for the SRS. Council Member Britton moved to approve John Voyles, pending the Rescue Squad's approval, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Ambulance budget. Wilson has submitted the requested changes involving the capital expenses, this is shown on his revised budget. Wilson cautioned they are experiencing some medication shortages that will cause prices of those to increase; he cannot estimate what these prices will increase to. No further discussion was had.

FIRE REPORT – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Neemann led the discussion on approval of Austin Jones and Shaun Rempel to the SVFD. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve Jones and Rempel as new members of SVFD, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

DISCUSSION ON BUDGETS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Fire budget. The only change is the addition of \$70,000.00 for a generator; Bruce and Tim are looking into grant funds for help with the cost of the generator. Bruce explained how he has been patching the roof of the fire barn, trying to find where a leak is happening. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Park Hill Cemetery budget. Jim Pfeiffer present. It had previously been discussed not putting the mowing of Park Hill out for bids this fall but instead having the City hire an additional staff member to be in charge of the mowing/upkeep of the grounds at Park Hill. This employee would fall under the Parks department and would help additional departments with upkeep around town when time allows. Jon has been instructed to come up with a list of equipment needed to perform all the duties necessary at Park Hill. The City will try this option for one year and leave the 17-18 Cemetery budget the way it is. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Library budget. Sue Antes not present. No further information was presented regarding the carpet cleaning of the Library. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Concessions budget. Julie Slafter present. The cost of the freezer will be lower than previously estimated on her 17-18 budget; Clerk Farmer will make the change. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Swimming Pool & Programs report. Shayna Murrell present. Murrell increased the amount for fixtures, no other changes were suggested. It was suggested to hire a

few more lifeguards next season to prevent the guards from getting burnt out by the end of the season. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Parks budget. Jon Baugous present. Baugous has been looking at bleachers for the soccer fields. The bid is for two 15' long bleachers with four rows of seating at a price of \$2200.00. Projects on the current budget that are still unfinished include the restrooms for the soccer fields budgeted at \$10,000.00. Baugous has been reaching out to Chris Wallman to get going on this. New signs for the ballfields will be ordered this winter. Additional wood chips for the bike/walk path to the Sports Complex have not been purchased. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Street budget. Jeff Vogt present. The only change was an increase allocated for tires for the Street dump truck as well as funds for a new mower. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Electric budget. Jeff Vogt present. Vogt explained an apparel expense item has been added to include the cost of shirts as well as a \$100.00 boot allowance per employee every ~~two~~^{four} years; three utility employees would be covered for this under the electric budget. \$22,000.00 has also been added for a new roof at the Utilities shop. This amount accounts for 45% of the total roof cost. Clerk Farmer explained how the capital expenditure items are broken down on the budgets and how they incorporate in the total budgeted amount. Dave Peterson of JEO will be coming early September to meet with Vogt to discuss contracts with OPPD as well as a rate study. The 3-phase underground loop is also being researched by Dave Peterson. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sewer budget. Jeff Vogt present. The apparel expense and boot allowance was also added to this budget; one utility employee will be covered by the sewer budget. \$11,500.00 was added for the utilities shop roof, accounting for 23% of the total roof cost. \$100,000.00 was added for repairs to the lift station and the commuter. The lift station repairs accounts for \$65,000.00 and just came up since the last budget meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Water budget. Jeff Vogt present. The apparel expense and boot allowance was also added to this budget, two utility employees will be covered by the water budget, this includes Todd. \$16,000.00 was added for the utilities shop roof, accounting for 32% of the total roof cost. 1.5 million dollars was added for the cost of the two wells, this number was given by Dane Simonsen of JEO. Previously the City was thinking only one well so this cost will be lowered to \$750,000.00 on the budget; Clerk Farmer will make the changes electronically. Discussion was had also regarding who is responsible for the equipment on top of the water tower. The triangle equipment belongs to EMS therefore if someone would want to use the structure they will need to get permission from both the City and EMS. No further discussion was had

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the General budget. Kelly Farmer present. No changes to the General budget. No further discussion was had

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Building budget. Kelly Farmer present. No changes to the Building budget. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Keno budget. Kelly Farmer present. No changes to the Keno budget. No further discussion was had.

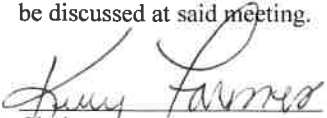
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sales Tax budget. Kelly Farmer present. The revenue was increased as suggested during the last budget meeting. No further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sheriff budget. Kelly Farmer present. No changes to the Sheriff budget. No further discussion was had.

Council Member Britton moved to accept the budgets as presented, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, 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