

SPECIAL MEETING_BUDGETS
CITY COUNCIL

August 3, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 3, 2016 for their special meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Dettmer, Gigstad and Britton. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on estimate of \$2500.00 from BMG for budget assistance. The Council and Mayor recommend moving the budget services from Ritterbusch and Piotrowski to BMG but continue to use Ritterbusch and Piotrowski for the City's annual audit. Council member Britton moved to approve BMG's bid of \$2500.00 for the City's official budget, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yays: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the new Water/Wastewater Operator for the Utilities department. The new hire is Brian Vodicka and will start on the third step at \$14.73/hour and will start on August 15th, 2016. Council member Dettmer moved to approve the new hire, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yays: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the tabled discussion from the July 12th, 2016 Council meeting regarding the proposed guard-wire for Highway 50. An anonymous donor has stepped forward and would like to donate one-third of the half of the cost the Nebraska Department of Roads will not cover, thus the SDA School District paying one-third of the half and the City paying the remaining one-third of the half. Mayor Ortiz suggested using keno funds to pay the City's one-third. There was concern regarding who will be responsible for payment on repairs to the guard-wire as well as the maintenance. Currently any claims would be filed with the City's insurance through LARM. Council member Britton recommends an inter-local agreement be created between the City and the School District to establish the language. The Council agreed to contact NDOR another time about paying for the whole project with the argument that the guard-wire will actually be protecting the driver, the next option is to speak more with SDA Superintendent Brad Buller and suggest an inter-local agreement to set guidelines.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on possible purchase of real estate for City purposes. Alan Britton explained the City has an opportunity to possibly purchase some property that will be useful to the City. The details could not be disclosed in open discussion and will be further discussed in closed session.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on the City retaining an appraiser in order to look at purchasing any property. Jan Moore of Professional Property Valuations submitted a bid to the City for \$1600.00 for appraisal services. Council member Britton moved to approve PPV's bid of \$1600.00, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yays: Gigstd, Dettmer, Britton. Moore will move forward with appraising the afore mentioned property inquiry by the City.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the budgets. He requested to postpone any discussion on salaries and wages until the August 10th, 2016 meeting to discuss these further, after evaluations have been turned in. Vogt handed out wage comparisons for various City positions from other communities.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Electric budget. Jeff Vogt, Superintendent of Public Works, present. Other than a wage increase, the budget has no changes. The 2016-2017 proposed budget shows the electrical re-closures JEO is working on. Council member Britton reminded everyone that the budget mainly focuses on the expenses but we also need to remember to keep an eye on the revenue as well in order to discuss any possible rate changes. A sub-station may be necessary for the north in the future. Vogt will speak with OPPD regarding this.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Water budget. Jeff Vogt, Superintendent of Public Works, present. Vogt pointed out the only major change on his budget is a proposed wage increase. Setovers were discussed; these will be done throughout the budget year instead of at the end. Personnel insurance costs are down. The water tower maintenance is going well, Vogt and Clerk Farmer will review the contract to see when the quarterly payment decreases.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Sewer budget. Jeff Vogt, Superintendent of Public Works, present. The biggest item on the sewer budget is the sewer plant re-build aeration at \$110,000. The Mayor and Council recommend at next year's budget time, looking at starting a sinking fund. Wage increase is another area of attention, thus causing the retirement to increase as well. Johnson Services has been useful; the City will continue to use their sewer camera services.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Street budget. Jeff Vogt, Superintendent of Public Works, present on behalf of Evan Wickersham, JEO. Vogt would like to hire a Street person back onto the staff estimated at about \$35,000.00 annual salary. Vogt kept a street sweeper on the budget, carrying over from the current budget but the sweeper is an item that could wait with the sewer plant project coming. Vogt is requesting an 8-foot shredder to be purchased to go behind the tractor. Currently the City is renting one. The proposed street budget is lower than the current year's.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Library budget. Sue Antes, Librarian, present. Antes expressed concern about her being able to come to the regular meetings. This requires her to leave the library while working in order to present her report. Antes, the Mayor and Council reached a decision that she will come when the Library closes at 8:00 P.M. Overall, the Library items increased by 3%; currently the Library is under budget for the year. Antes asked the Mayor and Council to think about bringing Antes on full-time in order to receive insurance benefits or raising her salary to off-set insurance costs since she does not have personal insurance benefits through the City.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Ambulance budget. Tim Wilson, Syracuse Rescue Squad Captain, present. A few line items have gone down a bit; most of the Ambulance budget consists of expenses for capital improvements since the coming year is an anniversary year. Private donations and funds from the squad's capital account may cover the cost of replacing Rig 3 and are not reflected in the proposed budget. Mayor Ortiz inquired on a decrease in salaries, Wilson explained this is due to eliminating one position, combining the responsibilities with another. The squad is refurbishing two de-fibs for the cost of what one would normally cost at \$12,000.00 yet to be purchased during the current budget year. Pagers are another item that may be done during this budget year.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Cemetery budget. Jim Pfeiffer, Cemetery Board member, present. Cemetery Board member Pfeiffer explained an increase in the mowing line item due to the combining of two line items shown on the current budget. Currently the Cemetery budget is under and Jim does not have any major expenses for the rest of this budget year besides any claims submitted by Gregg Zahn for mowing. Mayor Ortiz asked if real estate needed to be addressed on the budget. Council member Britton recommended adding a line item for a sinking fund being designated to real estate.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Swimming Pool and Programs budget. Shayna Murrell, Rec Coordinator/Pool Manager, present. Coordinator Murrell pointed out major changes are the office personnel for the pool as well requested wage increases for the 2016-2017 pool employees. Maintenance has jumped up quite a bit due to sand, painting and repairs. She also added a planning/design phase for a new bathhouse. New equipment was purchased last year for many of the programs, decreasing the expenses on the proposed budget. Mayor Ortiz inquired on a maintenance plan at the AquaCenter for the pumps and equipment. Murrell explained these are updated about every two years.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Fire budget. Bruce Neemann, Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department Chief, present. Neemann pointed out an increase in the steward salaries due to the combining with Otoe. The Rural board would be willing to split half and half or possibly a percentage. Neemann explained Otoe Fire did not generate any revenue besides village funds used for building costs, other items/equipment were purchased with donations. An increase in insurance costs due to the addition of equipment is reflected on the proposed budget. Telephone also went up; this was being charged to City Hall's account when it is actually a number at the fire barn. Capital outlay increase is due to replacement of bunker gear and hoses on an annual basis. Neemann has been trying to accumulate a sinking fund for some time for a new truck estimated around \$400,000 or for the purchase of new air packs due in 2019-2020. Other items on Neemann's wish list are new restrooms/showers as well as installing a generator estimated at \$130,000 to \$150,000; grants are being researched.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the General, Police, Keno, Sales Tax and Building budgets. Kelly Farmer, City Clerk, present starting with the General budget. A decrease in Personal Service due to

changes in staff. Farmer presented two bids for a new copier, fax, scanner machine in order to decrease the costs of printing both black and white and color copies. The Police budget was next. Mayor Ortiz has started speaking with Deputy Holland regarding negotiations for the upcoming expiration of the Inter-local Agreement with the Otoe County Sheriff. Building budget is on track with the current budget. Farmer explained where the totals for property insurance are shown. Sales tax was discussed next. Farmer was not sure how to show for the Love's truck stop coming in and how much the City would receive from sales tax for this. Farmer will speak with BMG to make sure the sales tax revenue is on track and being coded accordingly. Keno budget was reviewed next. All the revenue should also show as "expenditures" in the case the funds need to be used.

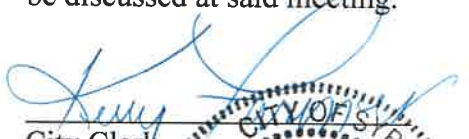
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Parks budget. Todd Aksamit, Parks Manager, not present. Mayor Ortiz pointed out major areas on the Parks budget is seasonal help pay increase as well as additional expenses not previously noted on the Parks budget. These include additional sprinklers, sign repairs, misters, concrete pads for benches, dugout covers and wood chips for a bike path. Other new items are for the soccer fields such as a building for storage and restrooms and focus on the parking lot. The Soccer foundation would like to contribute funds to permanent restrooms at the soccer fields. Overall general expenses have gone up a little. A few things are still needed for the new maintenance shed such as office, bathroom, sewer & concrete approaches. Council member Britton added the need for gutters on the new maintenance shed.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Sports Complex Concessions. Julie Slafter, Concessions Manager not present, Ortiz spoke on her behalf. New line items such as a new faucet and a plexiglass concessions window are proposed. Slafter seems to be right on track with what was projected for the current year's budget.


Mayor requested a council member move to go into closed session. Council member Dettmer move to go into closed session at 8:26 P.M. and include John Trecek, Jeff Vogt and Kelly Farmer for the reason to discuss real estate purposes, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yays: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.


Council member Britton moved to come out of closed session at 9:17 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yays: Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. No motions were made. Council member Dettmer moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: 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 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