

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 9, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 9, 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, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Utility Billing Clerk Chiona Morris sat in for City Clerk Farmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the July 12th and July 19th, 2017 meetings 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.

The June Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement available; Todd Blome of BMG present. Blome explained everything has been accounted and reconciled for. Nine months of activity is shown in the reports. This year versus last year overall in terms of cash receipts and income receipts is very similar. Blome spoke regarding how it didn't make economic sense to refinance the two bonds that come to term in 2017 based upon Clerk Farmer's discussion with John Trecek of Ameritas. Regarding account #4120, in the past everything was dumped into that one account on the financial reports; this year the accounts have been broken up for budgeting purposes. There has been a 46% increase in Sales Tax in 2017. Britton shared his research findings with Blome given to the Council at the July Council meeting. Pertaining to when Sales Tax is applicable Blome explained some non-profit associations are subject to sales tax as political subdivisions are not; this also depends on the nature of a particular project. Blome will look into this more and how the hospital rebuild will be taxed. Blome will not attend the Council Budget meetings but would like the budgets by the 18th. Blome will need to publish for the September Budget hearing by September 1st for publication on September 8th. Blome will send the City a draft. The City's tax rate came up, Mayor Ortiz said nothing had been established yet regarding any changes; Blome will need to see what the valuation says when it comes out later in the month. If a discussion needs to be had he will contact the City. Blome spoke highly of Julie Baumann's auditing services. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Britton second. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. It was confirmed Monday August 21st, 2017 is the budget meeting.

Aflac	282.68
Amazon/Synchrony Bank	232.35
Ameritas	180.72
Aqua Chem	752.95
Arbor Valley Animal Clinic	146.00
B&B Pump N Go	1296.56
Benefit Plans Inc.	298.75
Bruce Neeman	163.78
Caitlyn Carlson	86.35
Capital Business Systems	105.61
Cardmember Services	3379.33
City of Syracuse	2349.25
Culligan	9.00
Danner Construction	955.00
Dentegra	380.42
Demco	66.82
Dutton Lainson Co.	368.92
Eakes	1016.08
Erika Hunzeker	22.50
Family Circle Magazine	6.00
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	74.17
Garrett Collin	35.00
HACH	497.55
Hawkins, Inc.	206.65
House Beautiful	7.97
Ingram Library Services	488.15
Jacob Heitkamp	44.45

JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	4556.75
Jessica Meyer	80.00
JH Sporhase	70.20
Jill Ford	35.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Kandi Bilsend	80.00
Kriz Davis Co.	11,675.43
Landis Engine Company Inc.	51.60
Laura Buck	71.40
League of NE Municipalities	3751.00
Mark Moerer	122.95
Matheson	124.07
Micro Marketing LLC	77.35
Mike's Window Service LLC	107.83
Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha	7386.07
My-Lor, Inc.	44.11
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	429.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	26.43
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Pacific Magazine Billing	49.95
Papillion Sanitation	512.29
Reminisce	14.98
Rieschick Drilling Co. LLC	26,249.96
Stutheit Implement	513.21
St. Paulinus Church	233.94
Syracuse Area Chamber of Commerce	110.00
Syracuse Do It Best	450.09
Syracuse Motor Supply, Inc.	9.79
Syracuse Veterinary Service, P.C.	113.88
Telescada	4980.43
Terry's Family Foods	94.77
The Oprah Magazine	12.00
Tom & Linda Thompson	35.00
United Healthcare	11,610.15
Verizon	197.40
Windstream	1192.10
Writetime Communication	1420.03
Shayna R. Murrell	1862.38
Sue Antes	1609.10
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Karen Kimpel	952.13
Todd E. Aksamit	2107.01
Deb Dettmer	184.70
Alan Britton	183.87
Kelly Farmer	2489.77
Leah Ganzel	369.86
Alfred Gigstad	184.70
Craig Boldt	115.44
Ken Parde	184.70
Derek R. Harms	1985.43
Jody Bruns	115.44
Kristine Henke	183.87
Mark S. Moerer	1974.23
Chiona R. Morris	1722.80
Marcia Scheinost	115.44
Julie J. Slafter	1690.29
Mitchell Stubbendick	2332.31
Brian Vodicka	1369.02
Jeff Vogt	3282.25
Tomas Ortiz	461.75

Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Carol Linquist	183.87
Patricia Hogancamp	110.82
Bruce Neemann	138.53
Chris Lutjemeyer	115.44
David Sabatka	115.44
Joe Reisdorff	184.70
Dale Young	396.19
Cody Pester	680.55
Tyler Knake	531.04
Tyler Armagost	490.67
Nate Hemje	632.15
Jon Baugous	1358.22
Laura Buck	372.99
Erika Hunzeker	749.43
Caitlyn Carlson	431.89
Jamy Prokopec	727.71
Madison Mueller	469.59
Cody Ryan	897.63
Taylor Weiler	856.61
Viktor Werner	901.80
Cassie Katen	715.43
Jonathon Cox	637.31
Aprille Johnson	616.75
Emily Isaacs	794.91
Megan Reuter	459.06
Jacob Heitkamp	378.25
Madison Marrs	540.79

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

Mayor Ortiz gave an update on the Highway 50 Guardrail. The bid for the guardrail construction has come up at \$22,000.00, lower than previously estimated. Construction will start on the August 14th and be finished by August 15th. Attorney Stilmock has informed SDA Superintendent Brad Buller.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes present. June had the biggest circulation since she had been with the Syracuse Public Library. Children’s program had 117 total, fall and winter hours will go into effect August 17th. The motherboard for the doors is still being worked on at the companies cost as the wrong equipment was originally installed. Wi-fi usage has been proper, no nuisances on the roof; the wi-fi is available 24/7. Eight parties used the meeting room. Fall programming organizing is currently underway.

RESCUE REPORT – Tim Wilson had to leave the meeting for Rescue Squad purposes. Discussion on EMS Billing Collections Amendment and discussion on contracting Rescue Officer pay instead of using salary pay will be tabled until the next Council meeting.

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Holland present to report for the month of July. Six of the calls were vandalism/theft with four being gas drive-offs; this is an unsettling issue for gas stations in town, particularly one more than others. Two deputies are still on extended leave. The County met with Motorola regarding the radio system upgrade. Council Member Henke asked what the process is when animal abuse is reported. Holland said they get particularly a lot of horse abuse complaints along with some cat and dog cases but when a call comes in it is investigated.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS & PARKS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell presented a quote for the batting cage at \$15,000.00. JEO is still on track with their designing of the Aqua Center bathhouse costing \$54,800.00. A separate account will be set up for the Aqua Center Bathhouse in order to ear-mark the funds for donations, as well as the \$50,000.00 from the Waste Connections settlement. Council Member Britton suggested recording the \$54,800.00 out of the Swimming Pool & Program budget and posting it into the additional fund ear-marked Aqua Center fund; this also needs to be done for the \$50,000.00 out of the General fund into the Aqua Center fund. Quotes were received for 80 and 120 gallon water heaters ranging from \$1200.00 to \$1800.00, both from Sporhase and Hemje’s. The

Council suggests going with the 50 gallon presented a couple of months ago. The school P.E. classes will use the pool the first couple of weeks of school while staff is still able to be present. It has been suggested increasing the number of lifeguards next year back up to 18 or 20. Murrell has been working on the Williams Park shed in order to allow for people to rent it for gatherings.

Park Manager Jon Baugous presented quotes for the Williams Park pond grading with Randy Peterson quoting \$7862.50, Pester Grading came in at \$2500.00 and Customs Scapes bid the job at \$7200.00. Council Member Henke moved to approve the \$2500.00 Pester bid, Britton second. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. Pester will supply the dirt and can start during the fall. 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.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on online bill pay, Utility Billing Clerk Morris explained. Morris presented the online bill pay proposal to the Mayor and Council. Many of Syracuse Utility customers have asked about this capability. Morris is particularly interested in Neonlink of the three companies suggested. This will enable customers to pay their bill online anytime of the day at a 2.5% fee of whatever the amount is they're paying. Morris sends out almost 1100 bills monthly. Stilmock asked Morris to ask for an agreement and table the discussion until the next Council meeting.

Superintendent Jeff Vogt explained sending Utility Employee Brian Vodicka to a wastewater class in order to get the ball rolling on a possible future wastewater certification. Council Member Britton moved to approve the cost of \$240.00 to send Brian to the class, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on utility upgrade expenses at the CMH rebuild site. Vogt and Attorney Stilmock explained this is in regards to the sewer. Evan Wickersham proposed moving it to the west side; the sewer will be deeper and will allow for better access. The cost of the change would be roughly \$10,000.00 for the City. There are currently two other cost items pending involving the City and CMH. The Council is on board with this.

Vogt also presented test wells have begun to be drilled at the site of a possible future well field; the soil taken out of the ground when the well is dug is also laid out and studied at site. The City has received the grant for the GIS Mapping / Water Source Protection Grant. Eight new radios have been installed for the SCADA system. Conduit at the hospital has been put in at the new CMH site along with setting up a transformer for temporary power.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Syracuse Streambank Stability Assessment. Attorney Stilmock and Alan Britton will plan to meet with JEO, no further discussion was had.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-30 on Agreement for Development of Infrastructure and Cost-Recovery, authorizing Mayor's signature. Attorney Stilmock has communicated with Love's regarding the costs. Stilmock has presented documents showing there are no liens on the two properties the City would seek for easement purposes. Council Member Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-30, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock will acquire the document after the Mayor signs and deliver to Love's for their signature.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on private streets; the discussion has been tabled until a future meeting. Attorney Stilmock will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and presentation of bids for auditing services for 2017 audit. The only one who responded was Julie Baumann out of Falls City with a three-year contract with the first year being at \$10,100.00 and increasing by \$100.00 each of the next two years. Council Member Henke moved to approve the bid from Julie Baumann, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on expiration of Agreement between City and Waste Connections for garbage hauling and disposal. Ortiz recommends the City put it out for bids. The Agreement expires on November 19th. Information will be sent out to those the City knows of and then also published for bids. Billing Clerk Morris was instructed to look into Salt Creek Software about adding garbage to utility bills and if this could be optional particularly for some of those utility customers who do not live here part of the year. Some of the Council would like everyone having the garbage service as many do not and store their garbage on their property, trailering it eventually.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on renewal of Inter Local Agreement with City of Nebraska City for use of Building Inspection Department. No complaints have been made regarding the current Building Agreement. Stilmock has communicated with City Administrator Path of Nebraska City that the renewal is in discussion. Stilmock, the Mayor and Council would like to see what the City has acquired for building permits versus what the City has paid out to the City of Nebraska City during the current agreement. Stilmock recommends moving forward with agreement discussions with the City of Nebraska City and looking at the data on our own to see if the City of Syracuse is charging enough money to cover the Building Inspector costs.

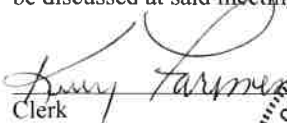
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on New Manager Application for Terry Sailor for Syracuse Country Club. Council Member Britton moved to approve the New Manager Application for the SCC liquor license, Henke second. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-04, authorizing Mayor's signature. Council Member Britton moved to approve the final payment for project 04 in the amount of \$3730.00, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-31 regarding the decrease of the monthly Water Tower Maintenance Fee. Council Member Henke moved to adopt Resolution 17-31 approving the fee to decrease from \$3.00 per month to \$2.00 per month, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none. This will take effect October 1st, 2017.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Electricians and Plumbers for 2017-2018. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve Teten Electric, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M., Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. 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