

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

February 15, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on February 15, 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, Britton, Henke. Absent was Council Member Dettmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the January 11th & February 8th, 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.

December's Treasurer Report available. City Treasurer, Todd Blome of BMG not able to attend. No questions were asked. Gigstad made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

AFLAC	282.68
Amazon Credit Plan	835.06
American Public Power Association	1076.81
Backer Acres	2750.00
Baragary Construction, Inc.	1260.00
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	1123.31
Benefit Plans Inc.	295.00
BMG	2500.00
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	2855.59
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	208.00
Capital Business Systems	138.99
Cardmember Services	2399.20
Chiona Morris	345.60
Chuck's Computer Repair	350.00
Culligan	9.75
Country Magazine	7.50
Creighton University	300.00
City of Syracuse	691.56
City of Nebraska City	349.71
Collection Services Center	410.76
Community Memorial Hospital	554.19
DHHS	40.00
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	150.12
Dutton Lainson Co.	803.15
Dentegra Insurance Company	380.42
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	3801.26
Eakes Office Plus	51.27
First National Bank – Fremont	500.00
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	181.45
Gale/Cengage Learning	41.44
Gottula Propane Service, Inc.	359.39
Hank's Garage	1039.50
Hawkins, Inc.	126.14
Henke Automotive	138.49
Ingram Library Services	331.67
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	11,938.50
Jackson Zastera	25.00
Jason LaFollette	150.00
Jessica LaFollette	75.00
Jody Bruns	280.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Julie Slafter	109.21

Kera Bohaty	15.00
Krista Sisco	100.00
Kriz Davis	759.04
Lindsey Bjork	240.00
Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc	155.00
Martin Marietta Aggregates	398.86
Mark Moerer	416.70
Meyers Body Shop	157.10
Michelle Zoller	75.00
Midwest Alarm Systems	239.48
Midwest Laboratories, Inc.	121.40
Mike's Window Service	107.83
Moore Medical LLC	235.75
Municipal Emergency Services	503.38
Nebraska City Fire & Rescue	60.00
Nebraska City Utilities	1809.72
Nebraska Life Magazine	24.00
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	82.00
NMC Exchange LLC	429.69
Omaha Public Power District	124,839.60
One Call Concepts, Inc.	4.53
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	285.31
Petty Cash – P & R	200.00
Reliable Pharmaceutical Returns	150.00
Ryan Murrell	150.00
Smart Apple Media	140.70
Syracuse Motor Supply	575.48
Syracuse Lumber Co.	2879.69
Syracuse Do It Best	302.82
Tami Andera	32.00
Terry's Family Foods	187.46
Tashia Buller	125.00
Trevor Brinkman	50.00
The Good Life	15.00
TKK Electronics, LLC	162.00
TruGreen	1013.88
United Healthcare	10,829.34
U.S. Post Office	309.84
Verizon	173.22
Western Area Power Administration	3492.14
Western Sand & Gravel Co	181.94
Windstream	1437.19
Woman's Day	8.00
Shayna R. Murrell	1862.38
Sue Antes	1457.09
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Karen Kimpel	99.75
Todd E. Aksamit	1975.98
Deb Dettmer	184.70
Alan Britton	204.46
Kelly Farmer	2162.46
Leah Ganzel	224.40
Alfred Gigstad	184.70
Craig Boldt	115.34
Ken Parde	369.40
Derek R. Harms	2068.32
Kim Bellinder	183.87
Kristine Henke	204.46
Mark S. Moerer	1901.09
Chiona R. Morris	1722.79

Marcia Scheinost	184.70
Julie J. Slafter	1674.97
Mitchell Stubbendick	2304.17
Brian Vodicka	1375.06
Jeff Vogt	2891.74
Eldon Halm	115.43
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Carol Linquist	183.87
Patricia Hogancamp	110.82
Richard Sitzman	461.75

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – County Commissioner James Parsons spoke about updates relating to Syracuse in the County. Bridges around rural Syracuse have been fixed and are now open for use. Parsons is striving to bring everyone across the county together to work on projects and moving forward and all being on the same page. Also moving forward is the county’s website. Parsons has been working hard with the regional Veterans Service Officer, Susan to help veterans to be able to utilize the services and benefits that are offered to them. Parsons is planning to attend Council meetings every few months with updates.

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Holland not present. Mayor Ortiz went through the report provided by Holland, no discussion was had.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-03 on the LPA Program Agreement between the City and NDOR authorizing Mayor’s signature, Russ Daehling of Nebraska LTAP present. Syracuse is a pilot program; the big emphasis is bringing all signs in town up to the reflectivity required. A two-hour training class will be conducted for City employees regarding installation of the signs and regulation of the signs. Many of the signs to be replaced are stop signs as well as others up to about 60% of the town’s signs. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 17-03, Henke seconded: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on end of probationary period and pay increase for Utility Employee Brian Vodicka. Vogt said things have been going well. Council Member Britton moved to approve the end of the probationary period for Brian Vodicka and award a \$.25 hourly pay increase, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval to pay 2017 NMPP Value Support Plan. Clerk Farmer explained the Value Support Plan and scope of services. \$200.00 will be refunded as the Bank Statement Reconciliation program has not been utilized in over a year. Council Member Britton moved to approve the Value Support Plan in the amount of \$5,184.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: none.

Superintendent Vogt led the discussion on security cameras at City facilities. Vogt has been receiving bids for various systems and asked to table the discussion until a future Council meeting. A suggestion was made to utilize the City’s IT person to help with this. Vogt would like to at least have two cameras at the brush pile, with the video recording at Jeff’s office in the Utilities shop; future cameras could be added on to that system.

Superintendent Vogt led the discussion on purchase of Christmas lights at \$1750.00. Carolyn Gigstad has announced the Chamber will contribute \$850.00 towards the purchase. Council Member Gigstad move to approve the purchase of the Christmas lights and accept the Chamber donation, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: none.

Other items presented by Superintendent Vogt were a report by NRD showing static water levels since 1976 as well as reporting reps from Suez are planning to attend the March Council meeting to discuss the usage of antennas on the City’s water tower. Lastly, three reclosures are up and working currently. Engineers from Kriz-Davis helped Utility workers Derek Harms and Mark Moerer with installation and the programming involved. An extra sheet on the monthly meter reading report has been created to document the readings. This should eliminate the town-wide interruptions.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT – Murrell not present, Mayor Ortiz gave report in her absence. P&R basketball games are wrapping up with the 4th grade teams holding their tournament at Syracuse this year. The adult 3-on-3 league is wrapping up its season this coming weekend as well. Softball sign-ups have started. Pool applications are being taken until February 24th.

ZONING & NUISANCE REPORT – Bruce Neemann present. Neemann has looked at 4-5 properties, paperwork is being completed and may be sent to the Sheriff's Office if needed. Regarding zoning projects, one permit has been signed already. Neemann is utilizing Dropbox using electronic signature in order to have a faster turn-around time back to City Hall and Building Inspector Alan Viox. One setback Neemann is experiencing is that his Dropbox is filling up quite quickly due to uploading pictures of nuisance properties. Neemann suggested bumping up to one terra bite of storage at the cost of \$99.00. The Mayor and Council suggested working with Chiona or the City's IT person to purchase the additional storage and work out any email issues; whatever Bruce needs to be able to get the job done.

CEMETERY BOARD – Bob Volker present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and presentation of bids for Park Hill Cemetery Mowing Contract. One bid submitted by Gregg Zahn. The Board recommends continuing the contract. The question of repairs was discussed; Attorney Stilmock explained the person contracted is required to hold insurance and when a claim is brought to the City's attention, a claim will be submitted. Kay Bremer has received concerns that damages to head stones have happened by mower blades but nothing has been brought to the City's attention. It is not evident when the damage was done therefore a claim cannot be made for damage done in the past, not knowing who or what caused the damage. The Mayor and Council requested the Board document these damages and anything new and bring to City. It was suggested the Board speak with the bidder regarding the issues before the contract be signed. The discussion will continue at the March Council meeting.

The discussion and Resolution regarding the Mayor's signature on the Park Hill Mowing Contract will also be continued at the March Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on replacement for Cemetery Board member Dominic Martacho. No recommendations have been made at this time. The Mayor suggested put a notice on the City's web page. Alan Britton gave a name to Clerk Farmer to look into. This brought up the discussion regarding utilizing Mail Chimp for sending out City notices, etc. much the same way Shayna sends out notices for groups via her Parks and Rec email list. This system is already being used for utility notices.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on a bid from Baragary for concreting the Park Hill Cemetery driveways. This project was not budgeted for therefore it was suggested possibly \$3000.00 from road rock expenses in the Cemetery's budget as well as possibly \$3000.00 from bagworm spraying; additional area may be the over-seeding grass expense. The Mayor asked if this project could utilize Perpetual Care funds, Attorney Stilmock will research. Keno funds were also suggested. The Mayor and Council suggested the discussion be tabled until the March meeting to look further at possible areas where the money could come from.

RESCUE REPORT – Tim Wilson presented the Active Member Certification for SRS members who have met the minimum requirements. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SRS member list for the 2016 tax credit, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. This

Wilson presented licensed EMT Stephanie DeGroot as a new member of the SRS; the SRS has voted her on already. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve DeGroot as a new Rescue member, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Wilson is interested in utilizing the Ride-Along Program for Sue Obermeyer in order to see if she is interested in continuing on as an SRS member. Council Member Britton moved to approve Obermeyer for the Ride-Along Program pending LARM's concurrence, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Syracuse Streambank Stability Assessment. Attorney Stilmock and a group have met and will continue to hold meetings as well as meet with Chuck Porter. Porter suggested there may be some negative impact if a person would go and perform dirt work on their own. Attorney Stilmock will continue to set up a meeting with Randy Peterson. The discussion is being continued.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-04 on revision to Yard Waste Agreement with Kent Backer and authorizing Mayor's signature. The revision states half of payment will go out as of February 15th, 2017 and the remaining half being paid in December of 2017. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the agreement between the City and Kent Backer, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution on Agreement for Services between the City and Staffing Services, Inc. regarding temporary City personnel and authorizing Mayor's signature. Clerk Farmer explained the scope of the job duties being mostly clerical and customer service allowing the full time clerks to take care of the utility billing software and accounts. It was suggested to look into the cash handling by the temp person as well as Clerk Farmer going through various questions provided by Attorney Stilmock. The discussion will be continued until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on request for Special Designated Liquor License for the Knights of Columbus on the dates of March 3rd, March 17th and March 31st 2017 at St. Paulinus Social Hall from 4:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., Adam Holz present to explain. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL requests, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes not present, no need to attend this meeting. Antes' monthly report was reviewed. Britton asked about the Gellermann Estate & room rental – this is a yearly donation. Love's Travel Stop is donating \$2000.00 to the Library for the use of the meeting room for purposes of interviewing for staff for the Syracuse Love's Travel Stop.

NEW BUSINESS Continued – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for letter of support and \$1300.00 in funds for Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging to accompany Transportation Application. Carla Frase and rep present and explained how much of an asset the Handi-Bus is and is utilized for various trips into Syracuse as well as Lincoln or Omaha for appointments or the bus depot or the airport. The Mayor and Council suggest placing a link on the City's website for Blue Rivers as well as passing the web address and facebook to the Chamber to spotlight on the Chamber's address for the Churches specifically. Council Member Britton moved to approve the letter of support and contribution of \$1300.00, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 P.M., Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, 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


City Clerk




Mayor