

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

December 9, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on December 9, 2015 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer and Britton. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. 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. Mayor Ortiz began the meeting by opening the discussion on the election and request for nominations for Council President. Council Member Henke moved to nominate Alan Britton as Council President, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on the appointments. Council Member Britton moved to approve the following appointments: City Clerk, Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works, Jeff Vogt, Zoning and Building Inspector, Roy Bretthorst, City Attorney, Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock, City Treasurer, BMG, City Street Superintendent, Evan Wickersham of JEO, City Engineer, JEO and City Physician, Dr. Zak Templemeyer, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Todd Blome of BMG presented the October/November Treasurer's Report. Blome also presented an outline of what BMG has to offer the City in regards to additional reports to provide comparative numbers. Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

AFLAC 369.28, Alan Britton 161.61, Alfred Gigstad 161.62, Amazon Credit Plan 334.61, B & B Pump N Go, Inc. 770.89, Blue Cross/Blue Shield 1277.76, Books By the Bushel, LLC 26.15, Bound Tree Medical, LLC 29.58, Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock 2067.18, Bruce Neemann 404.68, Capital Business Systems, Inc. 60.00, Cardmember Service 1801.56, Carol Linquist 183.85, Carolyn Bremer 183.87, Chuck's Computer Repair 125.00, City of Syracuse 834.11, Community Memorial Hospital 579.00, D&D Communications 187.00, Demco 125.54, Deb Dettmer 161.61, Dana Anderson 1100.00, DHHS 325.00, Dutton Lainsen Co 1070.55, Eakes Office Plus 220.45, EMS Billing Services, Inc. 230.08, Emergency Apparatus Maint 1083.91, Emergency Repair Service 292.00, Danko Emergency Equip. Co. 360.00, Environmental Analysis South, Inc. 30.00, Farmers Cooperative 7.96, Ferrellgas 1049.44, Fire Protection Service 149.00, Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc. 44.37, Gregg Zahn 5580.00, Hach 111.10, Hank's Garage 15.00, Henke Automotive 111.10, Ingram Library Services 950.81, Blake Voorhees 90.00, Delwin Antholz 1500.00, Kay Anderson 200.00, Kent Antes 2700.00, JEO Consulting Group, Inc. 917.50, Interstate Battery 70.90, JH Sporhase LLC 61.50, John Palmtag 100.00, Kelly Farmer 2530.74, Kim Parde 345.13, Kristine Henke 161.61, Karen Kimpel 103.43, League Association Of Risk Management 120.64, Larson 1047.52, Leah Ganzel 92.34, Linda Merritt 110.82, Marcia Scheinost 184.69, League of NE Municipalities 539.00, Midwest Farmers Cooperative 245.50, Martin Marietta 406.55, Matheson Tri-Gas 89.18, My-Lor 12.54, Micro Marketing Assoc. 33.29, Municipal Supply Inc. of NE 165.60, Moore Medical LLC 272.60, Nebraska City Utilities 479.67, NMPP 4932.00, One Call Concepts, Inc 14.10, Otoe County Sheriff 15,000.00, OPPD 103,646.92, Omaha Wholesale Hardware 736.98, Papillion Sanitation 398.63, Richard Sitzman 115.41, Roy Bretthorst 163.92, Pioneer Underground Sprinkler 740.00, Savvik Buying Group 75.00, Shaffer Communications 391.80, Sitzman Auto Repair 145.00, Stutheit Impl. 12,225.77, Syracuse Do It Best 253.65, Syracuse Motor Supply 27.62, Syracuse Lumber Co. 11.72, Syracuse Veterinary Service 124.68, Taste of Home 14.98, Terry's Family Foods 66.11, Tree City Tees 18.00, TDV Distributing 16.50, Trugreen 1013.88, United Healthcare 9803.94, U.S. Post Office 372.91, Verizon 342.62, Windstream 2158.39, Western Area Power Administration 3587.75, YMCA 90.00, Zoll 111.83, Shayna R. Murrell 1,792.94, Todd E. Aksamit 1,775.13, Derek R. Harms 1,963.26, Jason LaFollette 1,935.57, Mark S. Moerer 1,749.98, Chiona R. Morris 1,740.68, Julie J. Slafter 1,457.91, Mitchell Stubbendick 2,251.99, Jeff Vogt 2,917.10, Sue Antes 1,217.63, Eldon Halm 115.43, Tomas Ortiz 461.75, Timothy A. Wilson 184.68, Peggy Neemann 369.40.

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Holland present. There were 34 calls in November, 8 being Rescue calls. Holland explained problems with the tracking software regarding calls coming in thru the phone company coming into the system; the program is being updated currently. Low coverage hours are caused by vacationing and long-term disability affecting these coverage hours. Council member Britton inquired about a day-long speed monitoring, Holland said this is doable.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Sue Antes. Circulation and book clubs are running smoothly. Librarian Antes spoke of the Southeast Library group's monthly meeting regarding the position of the Nebraska libraries and administrative boards. Librarian Antes has communicated with

Senator Watermeier and read a letter she recently wrote to the Senator outlining Syracuse's stance.

Turnout was good for the Library's Tannenbaum Santa visit and soup supper.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS AND PARKS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Murrell has been working on the basketball schedule as well as the Tumbling schedule for January. Murrell has been speaking with JEO regarding a new bathhouse for the Aqua Center. Park Manager Aksamit has been working on winterizing all facilities as well as the soccer field equipment.

RESCUE SQUAD REPORT – Tim Wilson in attendance. Council Member Britton moved to approve Laramie Werner as a new member of the Syracuse Rescue Squad, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt. Utility staff has been busy putting up the Christmas tree and decorations. Replacement of Christmas decorations was discussed. These are very expensive and will possibly need to be strung out over time. Sponsors and fundraising has also been mentioned.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on interest by Western Engineering Co. regarding leasing of City property. Traffic, smell, and future affects are concerns. Council Member Gigstad moved to decline the offer by Western, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for change in speed limit on Hwy 50. Numerous letters have been written on behalf of the City. Attorney Stilmock will have the ordinance ready at the December meeting. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Municode. James Bonneville was available via phone to discuss questions. The legal review has been sent out by Roger Merriam of Municode. Syracuse has the option of linking to the Nebraska state codes by including the citation for that code in the City's code book. These are \$10 per link plus \$250.00 base rate, or the City can use only one link for a direct like to the Nebraska Legislature web page where an individual can search on their own. For the next two years, Municode will be reviewing changing state laws and how these affect Syracuse's code. Council Member Britton asked about linking to the state statute; Attorney Stilmock will follow up with Municode on this during the teleconference. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Nuisance Enforcement Program. Attorney Stilmock explained currently the City does not have a person that primarily takes care of this; Building and Zoning Inspector Bretthorst helps out but is typically an as-needed basis. Mayor Ortiz would like to continue this onto the January agenda as but more research is needed. Mayor Ortiz opened up the continued discussion on hiring another clerk for City Hall. This person would be more of community development position and would focus on special projects and programs such as a nuisance program and grants. The majority of the Council feel this would be a full-time position. Job description and title will be researched.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion and Resolution No. 15-19 authorizing the Mayor to sign documents regarding employment retirement plan sponsor change. Josh of Mutual of Omaha in attendance to explain. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-19, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the existing Treasurer's bond. Attorney Stilmock is working with Todd Blome of BMG on this. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on a guardrail or fence for Highway 50. Ortiz will be having a meeting with SDA Schools Superintendent, Brad Buller regarding this. Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on the end of probation and pay raise for Superintendent of Public Works, Jeff Vogt and City Clerk, Kelly Farmer. Council Member Britton moved to approve to end the probation and quarter hourly raise for both, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Council member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Kelly Farmer, City Clerk