

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on July 8, 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.

Council approved the following claims: AFLAC 397.18, Aqua-Chem 1103.42, Arbor Valley Animal Clinic 67.00, Awards Unlimited, Inc. 44.61, B & B Pump N Go, Inc. 1553.70, Big Red Drainage Pipe Supply, Inc. 158.11, Bockmann Inc. 685.00, Bound Tree Medical, LLC 1158.98, Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock 2607.00, Brian Briley 25.00, Bruce Neemann 400.00, Caleb Frede 75.00, Capital Business Systems, Inc. 36.24, Carol Linqvist 340.44, Chris Richardson 25.00, Chuck's Computer Repair 25.00, City of Syracuse 2469.25, CLIA Laboratory Program 150.00, Combined Revenue Bonds P & I 26250.00, Culligan Water Conditioning 50.15, Danko Emergency Equipment Co. 1106.73, Dearborn National Life Ins. Co. 165.12, Demco 19.29, DHHS 66.00, Easter & Associates 200.00, EMS Billing Services, Inc. 756.80, Falls City Mercantile 391.40, Farmers Cooperative 994.72, Ferrellgas, Inc. 445.43, Fireguard, Inc. 217.56, Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc. 106.83, Gloria Richman 150.00, Gregg Zahn 8055.00, Heiman Fire Equipment, Inc. 286.75, Hemje Plbg., Htg. & AC 186.50, Ingram Library Services 367.88, Interstate All Battery Center 40.05, JC Dirt Work 200.00, Jody Bruns 75.00, John Palmtag 100.00, Johnson Service Company 9038.55, K-2 Construction Company 28983.02, KanEquip, Inc. 193.00, Kay Bremer 383.87, Kim Parde 25.00, Konica Minolta Business Solutions 160.00, Kristine Henke 542.85, Lincoln Landscaping 125.00, Lynn Lyon 175.00, Mannschreck Mowing 75.00, Marcia Scheinost 215.44, Marteney Enterprises 2100.00, Martin Marietta Aggregates 380.88, Mattice Lock & Safe 145.00, Midwest Laboratories, Inc. 97.98, Midwest Sound & Lighting, Inc. 75.00, Moore Medical LLC 91.29, NE DOL/Boiler Inspection Program 30.58, Nebraska City Utilities 975.01, Nebraska Municipal Power Pool 1413.00, One Call Concepts, Inc. 22.55, Otoe County Sheriff 15000.00, Papillion Sanitation 393.00, Peggy Hobscheidt 245.18, Peggy Kuser, CPA 850.00, Peggy Neemann 50.00, Pepsi Cola of Lincoln 2374.00, Practice Sports, Inc. 11526.26, Preceptor Tau 579.68, Roy Bretthorst 302.82, Sam's Club/Synchrony Bank 1212.84, Scott Miles 150.00, JH Sporhase LLC 43.95, St. Paulinus Catholic Church 2835.43, Stutheit Impl. 728.36, Synchrony Bank/Amazon 276.00, Syracuse Do It Best 768.98, Syracuse Lumber Co. 135.81, Syracuse Motor Supply 389.71, Syracuse Tow & Tire LLC 303.68, Syracuse Volunteer Fire Dept. 625.00, Terry's Family Foods 4875.84, The Added Touch 59.00, Tim Antes 400.00, Tom Heller 25.00, Tree City Tee's 208.50, Upstart 14.45, U.S. Post Office 378.58, Utility Service Co, Inc. 19016.64, Erin Velazco 43.29, Windstream 1675.97, Xi Beta Lambda 625.92, Cardmember Services 3395.59, Micro Marketing Assoc. 62.06, Hank's Garage 294.65, Shayna R. Murrell 2613.61, Todd E. Aksamit 2598.44, Kelly E. Farmer 3221.98, Derek R. Harms 2514.61, Jason LaFollette 3127.82, Mark S. Moerer 2754.68, Chiona R. Morris 2784.63, Debra N. Niedermeyer, 2908.63, Julie J. Slafter 2148.24, Mitchell Stubbendick 3382.32, Jeff Vogt 4287.51, Sue Antes 1609.73, Eldon Halm 115.44, Allison Mead 1364.08, Alex Johnson 555.29, Katherine Mahar 623.38, Emily Isaacs 644.14, Eli Dettmer 816.00, Erin Hunzeker 259.44, Erika Hunzeker 1015.40, Lacy Christians 608.88, Kerstin Barrett 594.22, Sydney J. Paden 91.77, Hunter J. Paden 107.03, Timothy N. Stilmock 1030.66, Kelsea E. Bayliss 912.43, Anna M. Rippe 1184.78, Samantha J. Young 567.90, Mariah L. Yunker 659.40, Helen Mikayla Zahn 558.55, Gabrielle N. Williams 853.97, Coleman S. Orchard 430.03, Dale E. Young 935.77, Morgan L. Mueller 1479.43, Karen Kimpel 258.58, Casandra L. Oestmann 114.51, Tomas Ortiz 461.75, Richard Sitzman 115.44, Timothy A. Wilson 115.44, Alan C. Britton 204.46, Deborah J. Dettmer 207.79, Alfred O. Gigstad 184.70, Carol A. Graham 92.35.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Willy Scheef asked if there are any special meetings scheduled where he could be put on the agenda for an SDL for the Otoe County Ag Society for use on at the Otoe County Fair. The request cannot wait until the next scheduled council meeting as that will be after the fair is over. A special Council Meeting has been scheduled for Monday July 13, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

SHERIFF REPORT – Report presented by Chief Deputy Mike Holland. There were 83 calls in July, 26 being Rescue calls. Chief Deputy Holland also reported four vandalism complaints and traffic stops pertaining to the follow-up of these complaints. A drug search warrant was held in Syracuse where a large quantity of product was found. The Sheriff's Department wants the public to know that this will not be tolerated. Mayor Ortiz asked Deputy Holland about the five noise complaints and animal

complaints noted on his report. Noise complaints are generally loud music issues and the majority of the animal complaints are regarding cats.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Librarian Sue Antes. Librarian Antes reported that the new summer book club has begun. Children’s summer reading program now has 124 children enrolled along with 18 volunteer helpers. Librarian Antes says this is the largest group the library has ever had. Children from the ages of Kindergarten through 5th grade can participate in the program. The library door needed to be serviced, city utility workers have attained the tools to be able to fix the issue if it comes up again. Utilities Superintendent Jeff Vogt is going to have the utilities department look at the overhang above the front doors as well. The Masons have requested for use of the library meeting room for their monthly meetings. Mayor Ortiz asked for continuation of the Thursday circulation report as well as a couple of other days to compare it to. The Thursday hours of operation will be discussed with the budget later in the month.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Murrell announced the summer softball season has wrapped up at the Syracuse Sports Complex. There were approximately 250 games over the summer. An adult co-ed softball tournament is scheduled for August 16th. The new diving board has been installed at the Syracuse Aqua Center. Swim lesson numbers are up from last year at 153 students, this may be in part due to an evening session being offered. Pool party numbers are down from last year. Coordinator Murrell presented bids for new curtains for her office. The discussion was tabled but Mayor Ortiz asked Murrell to do a little more research and see what other options are out there.

PARK REPORT – Park Manager Aksamit updated the council on repairs to the well at the complex. He thanked Superintendent Vogt and the utility workers for their help with this. The dugout covers at the Legion Field and softball fields have been installed, thanks to the Hestermann Family and their generous donation from the Live Like Addie Run. Manager Aksamit explained to the Mayor and Council that the filter system he budgeted for at the complex is not going to fix the problems due to the high iron levels in the water. Aksamit has obtained bids for six concrete pads for the complex. Manager Aksamit also presented bids for sprinklers to be ran to all four fields at \$1400.00 each. Aksamit believes this would be very beneficial. Aksamit was also informed at the meeting about an additional system that may work at the complex, which he will look into. Five lights are still out at Williams Park currently, at least two of them due to vandalism. City Clerk Farmer is checking with the insurance company to see if these are covered under the city’s insurance. Council member Britton asked Aksamit to track how many need to be fixed besides those already repaired.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt. Four electrical services have been installed, with four more to do. Parking and crosswalk lines downtown have been painted in time for Germanfest. The utilities department has been busy repairing pot holes on various city streets. Johnsons Service from Kearney recently sewer jetted a ten block area where roots have been an issue. This included cutting of roots and jetting the lines with a foam formula. Performing this service on a regular basis was discussed. The utilities department is working hard this week to prepare for Germanfest. The State Electrical Inspector has been in contact with Superintendent Vogt and City Building/Zoning Inspector Bretthorst to ensure the inspections will be handled properly and in a timely manner.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on cat issues presented at the June meeting by Syracuse resident Keith Berg. Mayor Ortiz presented feedback from other municipalities to see how they handle this same kind of situation. Mayor Ortiz would like to see properties that are feeding feral cats be named nuisance properties as well as those individuals feeding cats on other’s properties to be sent cease and assist letters. He would also recommend to the Council that Park Manager Aksamit and his crew be in charge of setting traps with food on properties that give permission. City Attorney Stilmock informed the Council that Sheriff’s deputies would be able to assist in taking the trapped animals to Dr. Sweat’s office during weekday business hours. Dr. Sweat’s office will communicate with City Hall when a trap is brought in. Mayor Ortiz and the Council want the public to know cats should be tagged and leashed as the ordinance reads. City residents with questions regarding the traps should call City Hall. Mayor Ortiz announced Cargill has been removed from the agenda. He has communicated with Cargill if they would like to be placed on agenda in the future, they will need to make their request. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock led discussion on renovation plans and lease agreement with Mt. Moriah Lodge for meeting room. Attorney Stilmock presented a letter from Mt. Moriah stating they will no longer be using the upstairs of the City hall building as their meeting room. Mt. Moriah has informed the utilities companies. Attorney Stilmock is awaiting a second letter requesting the use of the space for storage until the lodge finds another site.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the Oath of Office for the positions of City Clerk, City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk and Superintendent of Public Works. Mayor Ortiz signed and led the reciting of the oath with Kelly Farmer, Deb Niedermeyer and Jeff Vogt. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and reviewed the bond for the City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on

application for approval of a small tract subdivision of the following-described real estate: A Subdivision of Lot 1 & Lot 6, 14th Addition; and Lot 1& North 18 feet of Lot 2, Block 7, Williams Addition, Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Derek Grotrian would like to continue the public hearing until the August 12, 2015 City Council meeting at 6:00 P.M. Council member Britton moved to approve continuing the public hearing, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on application for approval of a small tract subdivision of the following-described real estate: A replat of Lots A & B, Park Street Subdivision located in part of Block B, 7th Addition to the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Bruce Meyer present and led discussion. The subdivision does have the recommendation by the Syracuse Planning Commission. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Henke introduced Ordinance No. 972 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance 972. Council member Henke moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 972, Council member Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on application for a conditional use permit pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.09.03 for optometrist office on the following-described real estate: A replat of Lots A & B, Park Street Subdivision located in part of Block B, 7th Addition to the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Bruce Meyer present and led discussion. The conditional use permit does have recommendation by the Planning Commission contingent that the structure have the same look and feel of a residential type building. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council approved Ordinance No. 973 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 973. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on application for final approval of Eastridge Estates of the following-described real estate: Block 1, Lots 1 thru 4 inclusive, Block 2, Lots 1 thru 25 inclusive & outlot "A", and Block 3, Lots 1 thru 12 inclusive & outlot "B". Being a platting of a part of the Northwest One-quarter of Section Fifteen (15), Township Eight, North, Range Eleven (11) East of the 6th P.M., Otoe County, Nebraska. – Dan Dutton, Randy Petersen, Chris Wallman. Eastridge Estates would like to continue the public hearing until the August 12, 2015 City Council meeting at 6:00 P.M. Council approved continuing the public hearing. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on bid from Kent Antes for 2016 removal of and spreading of grass clippings and leaves. Attorney Stilmock will prepare the agreement for a one-year contract. Future contracts for this job will be put out for public bids. Council approved to except the bid of \$5700.00/year contract by Kent Antes. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion for the proposal from Ritterbush & Piotrowski, L.L.P for preparation of 2015-2016 budget documents. Council approved the proposal for preparation of 2015-2016 budget documents by Ritterbush & Piotrowski, L.L.P. Mayor Ortiz announced the City has received a response back regarding lowering the speed limits on Highway 50. Discussion on this will continue at the August 12, 2015 Council meeting. The City Council meeting to discuss budgets is scheduled for July 29th, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. Attorney Stilmock had no further information regarding legislative action, taxes and budget. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Kelly Farmer, City Clerk