

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

November 18, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on November 18, 2015 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5<sup>th</sup> 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 briefed the Council on the Engagement Letter provided by BMG CPA's as well as the work performed up to date. The agreement will take place over a six-month period with the possibility of the City and BMG continuing to work together beyond the six-month period. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-17 authorizing the Mayor to sign the Engagement Letter between City of Syracuse and BMG, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

September Treasurer's Report available. Council member Britton made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: None.

AFLAC	369.28
Alan Britton	161.61
Alfred Gigstad	161.62
American Water Works Association	300.00
Amazon Credit Plan	468.99
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	1,403.85
Ball Insurance	2,003.40
Benefit Plans Inc.	302.50
Big Red Drainage Pipe Supply, Inc.	948.57
BMG	4,608.20
Books By the Bushel, LLC	26.00
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	172.88
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	1,903.50
Bryan LGH Medical Center	533.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	60.00
Cardmember Service	1,385.74
Carol Linquist	183.85
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Chuck's Computer Repair	125.00
City of Syracuse	1,546.09
Community Memorial Hospital	49.45
Culligan Water Conditioning	48.25
Creighton University	4,317.65
D&D Communications	187.00
Demco	42.90
Deb Dettmer	161.61
DHHS	524.00
Dutton Lainson Co.	770.72
Eakes Office Plus	17.34
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	1,314.31
Emergency Apparatus Maint.	839.16
Emergency Repair Service	292.00
Enerspect Medical Solutions, LLC	341.73
ET's Lawn & Leisure	943.68
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	30.00

Farmers Cooperative	397.18
Fastenal Company	404.94
Federal Publishing	298.50
Fireguard, Inc.	1,355.40
Fire Protection Service	149.00
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	37.35
Granneman Agency	20.00
Hank's Garage	34.00
Hawkins, Inc.	351.29
Ingram Library Services	59.56
IRS	398.76
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	160.00
JH Sporhase LLC	61.50
John Palmtag	100.00
Johnson Hardware Co.	1,496.33
Kriz-Davis Company	1,246.05
Kelly Farmer	2530.74
Kim Parde	345.13
Kristine Henke	161.61
Karen Kimpel	103.43
League Association Of Risk Management	49.24
Lincoln Journal Star	686.50
Leah Ganzel	92.34
Linda Merritt	110.82
Marcia Scheinost	184.69
Midwest Farmers Cooperative	145.49
Marteney Enterprises	440.00
Meyers Body Shop	374.85
Micro Marketing Assoc.	31.48
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE	4,319.72
Moore Medical LLC	36.66
Municipal Service & Supply	6,169.93
Nebraska City Utilities	293.81
Nebraska Library Commission	500.00
Nebraska Rural Water Assoc.	200.00
NMC Exchange LLC	1,928.45
One Call Concepts, Inc.	24.50
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	103,639.21
Papillion Sanitation	397.76
Peggy Hobscheidt	122.59
Peggy Neemann	25.00
Penworthy Company	39.92
Petty Cash	150.16
Richard Sitzman	115.41
Roy Bretthorst	163.92
Register of Deeds	44.00
SE Nebraska Development District	583.00
Shaffer Communications	1,123.72
Shayna Murrell	83.81
Stan Leseberg	250.00
Stock Seed Farms, Inc.	90.00
Sue Antes	25.98
Syracuse Do It Best	620.13
Syracuse Motor Supply	208.19
Syracuse Lumber Co.	125.83
Syracuse Veterinary Service	178.43
Taste of Home	31.98
Terry's Family Foods	149.16
Turf Supply Company, Inc.	620.00
United Healthcare	8,857.50

U.S. Post Office	322.91
Verizon	199.12
Wayne Schomerus	150.00
Windstream	1,983.26
Western Area Power Administration	1,876.15
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 67 calls in October, 24 being Rescue calls. Coverage hours were average; low weeks are caused by vacationing and ill deputies. Council member Dettmer asked Holland are the County Sheriff’s and State Patrol share the patrolling of the highways. Holland expressed addressing calls are priority along with 911 calls. Additional focus has been placed on 17<sup>th</sup> Street after concern was voiced after the October meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Mayor Ortiz, Librarian Antes unable to attend. Mayor Ortiz spoke of significant increase in usage of the meeting room. Mayor Ortiz and Attorney Stilmock spoke also of the upstairs area of the City Hall building. Determination needs to be made regarding who’s property the stairwell is. Attorney Stilmock will report to the Mayor and Council on his findings.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS AND PARKS REPORT – Park Manager Aksamit not in attendance therefore Rec Coordinator Murrell gave both reports. Murrell announced basketball registrations are wrapping up; numbers are down a little compared to the 2014 season. She will be attending meetings to discuss game schedules. An email has been sent out regarding Parks and Rec Tumbling registration. Mayor Ortiz asked Murrell to follow up with Mr. Hrabik regarding use of the high school multi-purpose room for the tumbling classes. Park Manager Aksamit has been working on winterizing concessions at complex, sprinkler systems on City properties and the complex batting cage has been taken down for the winter. Rec Coordinator Murrell brought blue prints of a proposed shed for the Sports Complex.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt. Andrew Synhorst of JEO in attendance to discuss the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Synhorst discussed issues regarding the clarification system and the aeration tanks system. The clarification system is outdated and parts are hard to come by. Synhorst explained future requirements regarding the City’s Discharge Permit; the City will be receiving its updated permit in January. The new permit requires testing for phosphorous and nitrogen. The waste-water plant is 35 years old. State revolving funds are available by the DEQ for waste water treatment facilities.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and discussion on Resolution No. 15-18 for Maintenance Agreement No. 45 for Hwy 50/Park Street. The cost of \$2,050.00 has not increased since last year’s resolution. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-18, Gigstad seconded. Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened discussion regarding interest by Western Engineering Co. for leasing of property for \$10,000.00 to set up asphalt production site for one-year. Concerns raised were road condition, environmental hazards, smell and tearing up of the property. Council Member Britton asked Vogt to explore options of trading services with Western for street repairs using asphalt as well as speak with Street Superintendent Evan Wickersham. Attorney Stilmock asked Vogt to ask Western for a prototype. The Mayor and Council would like more information.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for change in speed limit on Hwy 50. Attorney Stilmock explained. Council Member Britton would like to see the State's reports and how they base their conclusions of the studies for the speed limit issues. Attorney Stilmock will follow up with the State and prepare an ordinance for December. Mayor Ortiz brought attention to a concern for need of a guardrail also on Highway 50 by the high school; Attorney Stilmock is currently working on a letter regarding this call for action.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding the Treasurer/Payroll position and the option of continuing to out-source the treasurer/payroll duties. The Mayor brought up the need for someone to take on special projects, possibly including economic development. The majority of the Council feels they would not like to bring the Treasurer/Payroll position back in house at this time but there's also a concern that the City should not involve itself with economic development but an individual with some accounting experience would be beneficial.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Municode. Attorney Stilmock brought forward concerns of removing codes suggested by Municode those of which they consider redundant as they are state statute. This will be a condensed form of the City's current code book. Attorney Stilmock is asking for assistance in deciding whether the City wants to not include these codes in question. Council Member Britton asked about linking to the state statute; Attorney Stilmock will follow up with Municode on this. Mayor Ortiz inquired about outdated ordinances. Stilmock suggested that the Council look at those particular ordinances but a portion of the Council suggests at this time put the data out electronically to not slow up the current process and clean up can be addressed at a later time. The discussion will continue at the December Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Nuisance Enforcement Program. Rian Harkins of SENDD explained the program and how it could be useful for Syracuse. The approach is more pro-active by breaking up the City into sections and addressing all areas in those particular sections by conducting drive-by assessments. SENDD would send courtesy letters and time frames for the property owners to address issues and moves forward accordingly. Pictures are provided and all issues are stated clearly to the property owners. Ultimately information is turned over to the City Attorney if reaches that point.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding concern of road surface at 578 Plum Street along with usage of crosswalks and speeding concern along 17<sup>th</sup> Street that of which was mentioned earlier in these minutes. Billy Witty of Syracuse inquired if jay-walking is illegal in Syracuse and if a person is required to use designated crosswalks. He argued that he has seen many people not use crosswalks. Mr. Witty asked that the road surface at 578 Plum be fixed. Mayor Ortiz replied that adding this area to a future road surfacing project may be looked at and appreciated Mr. Witty for coming in to voice his recommendations and concerns.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on Thomas Neemann as a new member of the SVFD. Bruce Neemann explained. Council Member Britton moved to approve Thomas Neemann as a new member, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on projects that need to be completed. Attorney Stilmock did not have any updates at this time.

Council member Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 P.M., Dettmer 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.

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City Clerk

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Mayor