

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

October 14, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on October 14, 2015 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Gigstad, Dettmer and Britton. Council member Henke was absent. 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. July Treasurer's Report available. Council member Gigstad made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None. AFLAC 369.28, A. Britton 161.61, A. Gigstad 161.61, Allure 15.00, Amsterdam Printing & Litho 497.57, A. Brace 300.00, Arrow Int'l Inc. 470.05, Amazon Credit Plan 308.20, B & B Pump N Go, Inc. 1,567.34, Blue Cross Blue Shield 1,571.91, Books By the Bushel, LLC 58.95, Bound Tree Medical, LLC 902.43, Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock 1,872.49, Capital Business Systems, Inc. 123.84, Cardmember Service 662.95, Caleb Frede 25.00, Carol Linquist 258.87, Carolyn Bremer 183.87, Carrie Brandt 90.00, Christa Reisdorff 50.00, City of Syracuse 1,181.69, Combined Revenue Bonds P & I 26,250.00, Combined Revenue Bond 2012 867.50, Community Memorial Hospital 280.35, Conney Safety Products 200.57, Culligan Water Conditioning 10.06, Consumer Reports 26.00, Dearborn National Life Ins. Co. 161.68, D&D Communications 187.00, Deb Dettmer 161.61, DHHS 362.00, Dutton Lainson Co. 3,198.33, Eakes Office Plus 224.80, EMS Billing Services, Inc. 3,153.64, Emily Reed 120.00, Enerspect Medical Solutions, LLC 24,995.01, Environmental Analysis South, Inc. 30.00, ET's Lawn & Leisure 1,006.23, Farmers Cooperative 13.60, Fireguard, Inc. 97.00, Garry Carman 479.06, Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc. 91.62, Glamour 18.00, Hank's Garage 463.80, Hemje Plbg., Htg. and AC 496.35, Highway Allocation Bonds, 2008 Series 61,802.50, Humana 64.00, Ingram Library Services 514.63, Interstate All Battery Center 125.05, Jason LaFollette 39.02, Jessica LaFollette 180.00, JH Sporhase LLC 57.75, Jody Bruns 25.00, Joe Reisdorff 50.00, John Palmtag 100.00, Johnson Hardware Co. 40.60, Julie Isaacs 51.72, Konica Minolta Business Solutions 297.92, Kriz-Davis Company 530.80, Kelly Farmer 2,253.06, Kim Parde 75.00, Kristine Henke 138.52, Karen Kimpel 110.82, League of Nebraska Municipalities 40.00, Lincoln Landscaping 150.00, Lynn Lyon 50.00, Leah Ganzel 88.66, Linda Merritt 110.82, Marcia Scheinost 334.70, Morgan Mueller 51.72, Midwest Farmers Cooperative 31.98, Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc. 69.08, Municipal Supply Inc. of NE 2,676.99, Midwest Laboratories 95.00, Municode 3,375.00, Municipal Facilities Corp 129,428.75, Nebraska City Utilities 642.64, NMC Exchange LLC 650.57, One Call Concepts, Inc. 42.10, Otoe County Sheriff 15,000.00, OPPD 121,872.74, Papillion Sanitation 398.76, Peggy Neemann 25.00, Post Living Family Trust 83.34, Richard Sitzman 115.44, Roxanne Smith 16.66, Roy Bretthorst 460.00, Samantha Young 90.00, Security Equipment Inc. 162.00, Self Magazine 16.00, SE Nebraska Development District 1,651.00, St. Paulinus Catholic Church 1,107.03, Stutheit Impl. 311.33, Syracuse Do It Best 600.47, Syracuse Iron Works 452.53, Syracuse Journal Democrat 52.50, Syracuse Lumber Co. 499.38, Syracuse Veterinary Service 203.13, Terry's Family Foods 322.35, The Added Touch 52.50, Todd's Valley Farms, Inc. 740.00, United Healthcare 8,857.50, U.S. Post Office 319.69, Utility Service Co., Inc. 19,016.64, Verizon 466.08, Walmart 111.74, Windstream 1,615.54, Western Area Power Administration 2,169.41, Shayna R. Murrell 1,812.10, Todd E. Aksamit 1,738.75, Derek R. Harms 1,892.31, Jason LaFollette 1,739.80, Mark S. Moerer 1,825.37, Chiona R. Morris 1,884.82, Debra N. Niedermeyer 2,010.16, Julie J. Slafter 1,428.89, Mitchell Stubbendick 2,175.23, Jeff Vogt 2,848.04, Sue Antes 1,463.23, Eldon Halm 115.44, Dale E. Young 642.83, Tomas Ortiz 461.75, Timothy A. Wilson 584.70.

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Caudill present. There were 97 calls in September, 13 being Rescue calls and 7 accidents. Caudill discussed increase in speeding complaints being addressed and the detainment of two individuals has helped decrease the number of incidents. Council member Dettmer voiced concern about truck parking on Park Street by B&B Pump-n-Go. Caudill said is very much a concern and the situation does need to be addressed but at the same time do not want to deter business. Mayor Ortiz asked to pass along to the Sheriff's office to enforce the no parking rule as it is posted on Park Street. Council member Britton mentioned the area businesses visit with their customers to remind them of the no parking laws.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Librarian Sue Antes. Fall Pre-School Story time currently has 34 children signed up. Fall Book club started and runs thru May 26th; the afternoon session has 26 members. Men's book club will meet on last Wednesday of the month in the evening. The bronze statue commissioned by the library was installed; Librarian Antes thanked the City Utility workers for all of

their hard work. Clerk Farmer will ensure the statue and base are covered appropriately by the City's insurance. Librarian Antes inquired on the use of a surveillance camera; Antes clarified she is not concerned about safety. Council members and Mayor Ortiz are in favor of cameras; Antes will speak with the Library Foundation about funding the surveillance system.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Murrell announced Nebraska Baseball Academy finished its Sunday league; good feedback from the Academy as well as the flag football league. Volleyball has started and Syracuse will be hosting games on two Saturdays. Lindsey Bjork has been hired as the new Tumbling program instructor.

PARK REPORT – Park Manager Aksamit raised concern about the west 20 ft. area at the complex playground and how the rubber mat is holding water and causing this area to sink. Aksamit addressed the white film on the side of the Library; he will start the cleaning within the week. Aksamit continues to have success placing traps around town. Manager Aksamit introduced two bids for a new Gator and drag. Council member Britton moved to approve the purchase of a new Gator and drag for the amount of \$12,200.00, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: None. Mayor Ortiz discussed expanding the west parking lot at the soccer fields in order to keep spectators from parking on the road. Council member Dettmer praised Aksamit and his crew for their work on grating the complex parking lot.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt.

The new Skid Steer was delivered; Shaffer is scheduled to come down to install new radio.

Vogt has been researching protocol for testing the wooden power poles. OPPD is working with Superintendent Vogt to help start a schedule for pole testing for insurance purposes. Mayor Ortiz asked Vogt to communicate to Mayor and Council within the next month. Superintendent Vogt led the discussion referring to Section 8-105 of Syracuse Municipal Code Book, overhanging branches and tree trimming. Mayor Ortiz and the Council feel the ordinance needs to be enforced. The ordinance will be spotlighted on the City website and posted in the Journal-Democrat. Vogt will notify City Hall of properties in violation of this ordinance; a letter will be sent out to the property owner(s).

Superintendent Vogt introduced two bids for a new truck for the Utility Department. Council member Britton moved to approve purchase of a 2006 Chevy truck to replace Unit 1 in the amount of \$22,422.00, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Superintendent Vogt discussed end of probation for Mark Moerer and Chiona Morris. Council member Dettmer moved to accept \$.25 raise and completion of probation for both, Britton seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Cemetery Board members, Jim Pfeiffer present. Council member Dettmer moved to approve Linda Sutton and Leonard Buchholz as new Cemetery Board members, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. Cemetery Board members are protected under City's liability. Council member Britton inquired about the projected time line for the cemetery. Board member Pfeiffer discussed approximately twenty years; the Board is discussing additional property to be purchased for future Cemetery use.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz read the Proclamation for Parade of Veterans. Members of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary were present. 2015 is the 10th year of the Parade of Veterans. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and application for Ordinance No. 983 for amendment to Syracuse Zoning Code Section 5.13 to allow as a conditional permitted use "outdoor storage of trailers, campers and mobile homes"; Corey Hiller present. Attorney Stilmock will ask JEO for their assistance sorting thru the zoning in CI-1 & I1. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Britton moved to introduce Ordinance No. 983 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 983 by title. Council member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 983, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on closure of 5th Street for Tannenbaum festivities on Sunday, December 6th, 2015. Erin Velazco of Syracuse Chamber of Commerce explained. Velazco asked for closing to be constructed at 2:00 p.m. in order for set-up. The Living Nativity display will be combined with Tannenbaum this year. Council member Britton made a motion to close 5th Street on Sunday December 6th from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on SENDD Request for Consideration of FY 2015 Membership Dues. Council member Britton moved to approve payment of \$1,651.00 for membership dues, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Resolution 15-16 authorizing the Mayor to sign Contract between City of Syracuse and NE Dept. of Economic Development for the Otoe County Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Grant. No discussion; Mayor closed public hearing. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 15-16, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on renewal of City employee health insurance plan; Wayne and Sharon McDermott explained changes in healthcare plans due to the Affordable Care Act and how these changes affect City of Syracuse's current plan. Mayor and Council reviewed what plans fit closest to the current plan as employees have been happy with it thus far. Council member Britton moved to approve, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on renewal of City employee health insurance plan; Wayne and Sharon McDermott of Diversified Benefits explained changes in healthcare plans due to Affordable Care Act and how these changes affect City of Syracuse's current plan. Clerk Farmer will set up a meeting with the employees and Diversified Benefits to explain the new plan. Council member Britton moved to change plan to a new United Healthcare plan, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and application for Ordinance No. 984 authorizing the use of outdoor fire places. Attorney Stilmock explained the details of the Ordinance and revisions made from Roy Bretthorst's and Bruce Neemann's recent meeting. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Britton moved to introduce Ordinance No. 984 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 984 by title. Council member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 984, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the brush pile. The Mayor brought forward many issues that have arose in the past month pertaining to the brush pile. Due to the recent wind storm, the brush pile was unusually large and consistently windy days caused the pile to rekindle and smoke frequently. He asked for feedback regarding the brush pile and the smoke. At this time, there is not another property owned by the City where the brush pile could be located and renting a wood chipper will be costly and labor intensive for the Utility Department. Mayor Ortiz recently confronted a company illegally dumping at the Syracuse brush pile. The Mayor and Council would like to remind the public that the brush pile is for use by Syracuse residents only. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding the resignation of the City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk, Deb Niedermeyer. Clerk Farmer and Treasurer Niedermeyer are currently speaking with CPA firms to take over the City's treasurer and payroll duties. An ad is being placed in local newspapers, the City's website and an employment search site for the position of a City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk if the City should want to bring the position back into City Hall. Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on JEO's involvement with future projects such as a trail at the Sports Complex, a new bathhouse at the Aqua Center, and maintenance shed at the Sports Complex. The City is looking at grants to help with these projects but much of the underlying work needed can be done by JEO. The City will be discussing the costs involved for JEO's assistance. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the insurance claim from the Labor Day wind storm. Attorney Stilmock is currently waiting response from LARM about questions regarding property potentially not being covered. Mayor Ortiz informed the Council on meetings regarded future plans for emergency operations and response. An introductory meeting has already been held and more meetings are being scheduled to include members of the Sheriff's office, CMH and City Hall. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on projects that need to be completed. Attorney Stilmock will speak with Bruce Neemann about SVFD conducting a controlled burn at 324 6th Street. Stilmock had no updates regarding legislative action, taxes and budget. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Kelly Farmer, City Clerk