

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 2015

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

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

AFLAC	397.18
Allure	15.00
Aqua-Chem, Inc.	357.00
All Roads Barricade, Inc	161.80
Amazon Credit Plan	415.94
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	1,429.28
Baragary Construction, Inc.	5,450.00
Blackburn Mfg. Co.	208.24
Books By the Bushel, LLC	24.45
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	1,382.03
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	2,642.57
Cardmember Service	924.82
Carol Linquist	115.44
City of Syracuse	1,974.51
Combined Revenue Bonds P & I	26,250.00
Conney Safety Products	278.08
Culligan Water Conditioning	60.44
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	74.38
Dearborn National Life Ins. Co.	196.08
Demco	101.18
Douglas Tire	299.00
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	2,129.28
Enerspect Medical Solutions, LLC	24,995.01
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	30.00
Farmers Cooperative	13.60
Fireguard, Inc.	1,462.63
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	533.23
Hank's Garage	166.15
Hawkins, Inc	329.85
Ingram Library Services	464.23
John Palmtag	100.00
JEO	3,297.50
JEO	550.00
JEO	2,900.00
Keim Farm Equipment	105.36
Kriz-Davis Company	372.75
Kelly Farmer	2,316.83
Kristine Henke	183.87
Karen Kimpel	110.82
League Association of Risk Management	60,888.13
League of Nebraska Municipalities	3,411.00
Lincoln Landscaping	169.50

Lacy Christians	87.50
League of NE Municipalities	1,069.00
Marcia Scheinost	115.44
Morgan Mueller	188.39
Midwest Farmers Cooperative	518.94
Marteney Enterprises	700.00
Martin Marietta Aggregates	377.29
Midwest Laboratories	108.06
Nebraska Dept. of Revenue	25.00
Nebraska Municipal Power Pool	541.62
Nebraska Public Health Environ. Lab.	48.00
Nebraska City Utilities	706.78
NMC Exchange LLC	26,000.37
One Call Concepts, Inc.	48.30
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	126,640.05
Papillion Sanitation	398.76
Otoe County Title	10.00
Pavers, Inc.	153.73
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	939.80
Physio-Control, Inc	10,854.20
Pioneer Underground Sprinkler	1,040.50
Phenova	114.53
Right Eye Digital, Inc.	1,800.00
Roy Bretthorst	203.86
Sam's Club/Synchrony Bank	76.28
JH Sporhase LLC	56.55
School District #27	2,330.00
Stutheit Impl.	135.58
Syracuse Do It Best	406.63
Syracuse Fire Department	612.80
Syracuse Journal Democrat	52.50
Syracuse Lumber Co.	91.70
Syracuse Motor Supply	624.50
Syracuse Veterinary Service	798.51
Terry's Family Foods	380.12
Twisted K Embroidery & Apparel	164.07
United Healthcare	8,846.50
U.S. Post Office	324.94
WJH Construction	1,900.00
Windstream	1,614.84
Write Time Communications	211.64
Western Area Power Administration	3,438.80
Verizon Wireless	332.78
Shayna R. Murrell	1,743.95
Todd E. Aksamit	1,792.38
Derek R. Harms	2,629.18
Jason LaFollette	2,411.40
Mark S. Moerer	2,466.16
Chiona R. Morris	1,884.82
Debra N. Niedermeyer	1,939.40
Julie J. Slafter	1,404.04
Mitchell Stubbendick	2,422.89
Jeff Vogt	3,441.44
Sue Antes	1,379.44
Eldon Halm	115.44
Allison Mead	60.00
Alex Johnson	60.00
Katherine Mahar	60.00
Emily Isaacs	60.00
Julie Isaacs	134.72

Erin Hunzeker	341.20
Erika Hunzeker	694.79
Gregg Zahn	9,087.50
Kerstin Barrett	87.50
Jason LaFollette	266.76
Jeff Vogt	59.63
Caleb Frede	115.44
Patricia Hogancamp	92.35
Anna M. Rippe	60.00
Helen Mikayla Zahn	60.00
Gabrielle N. Williams	60.00
Scott Sawyer	103.44
Dale E. Young	897.20
Casandra L. Oestmann	7.38
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Richard Sitzman	115.44
Timothy A. Wilson	115.44
Alan C. Britton	183.87
Deborah J. Dettmer	184.70
Alfred O. Gigstad	161.61
Leah Ganzel	140.38
Garry Carman	383.20
Mariah Yunker	60.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Girl Scouts presented *File of Life* video to Mayor and Council they and the Syracuse Rescue Squad have been jointly working on. Scout group explained the importance of a *File of Life*. Mayor and Council will support the Girl Scout group and offered the video to be posted on the City website to help promote the *File of Life*.

SHERIFF REPORT – Mike Holland not present. There were 63 calls in August, 10 being Rescue calls and 6 accidents. Mayor Ortiz discussed increased presence by the Sheriff's department. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock following up with the State regarding their letter about speed limit concerns north of town.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Librarian Sue Antes. Fall Pre-School Story time currently has 28 children signed up. Fall Book club will run Tuesday September 1st thru May 26th; the afternoon session has 26 members. Librarian Antes is concerned the wind storm on Labor Day weekend damaged the electronic door lock; she is waiting for door company to make their assessment. The bronze statue commissioned by the library is currently being stored until the base is complete; no date on installation yet. The statue has been added to the City's insurance.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS REPORT – Mayor Ortiz explained storm damage and clean-up by the Parks Department and Rec Coordinator Murrell. Luther Memorial Church had already planned to clean up Williams Park prior to the storm but will be at the park the next weekend to aid with the clean-up.

Rec Coordinator Murrell announced Nebraska Baseball Academy is holding its Sunday league at the Syracuse Sports Complex again this season; they will be using all four fields this year. The Aqua Center has been winterized. Fall Rec Volleyball has 40 girls signed up this year; games start September 26th.

PARK REPORT – Park Manager Aksamit continues to find damage caused by the wind storm. Aksamit has communicated with the Flag Football program to practice and play games on the outfields of two of the complex fields. Mayor Ortiz would like Parks and Rec to reach out to the Flag Football committee to talk about partnering with the Parks and Rec Programs. Aksamit continues placing traps around town. Council Member Henke asked Aksamit about rocks on the field. Aksamit explained the rocks are in the soil and overtime these surface. Raking and sweeping the fields help move the rocks off the fields.

Mayor Ortiz discussed future plans for the pond at Williams Park. City workers will continue to fill the pond with clean dirt from various construction sites or left over projects.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt. Vogt presented the Mayor and Council with Street Sweeper bids. Mayor and Council tabled the discussion until after the budget meeting.

Superintendent Vogt raised concerns about Section 3.5, letter D in the City Employee Handbook. Concerns are in regards to what is considered overtime vs. regular “worked” hours. Attorney Stilmock explained any time “worked” over eight hours per day constitutes as overtime for that work day OR any hours worked over 40 hours per week constitute as overtime. Any overtime not considered “emergency” needs to be approved in advance. Any comp time accrued is considered time and a half and can be banked for 90 days.

Superintendent Vogt led the discussion on the Southeast Nebraska Training Group held by Bob Mead of NMPP. The group consists of five towns and holds one class per month on various subjects at the cost of \$541.62. Syracuse is scheduled to host the Training Group in October and required to provide lunch for the group. Council member Britton moved to the City of Syracuse participate in the Southeast Nebraska Training Group, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz thanked Superintendent Vogt and the City Utility workers for their extra efforts and extended hours worked due to the storm over Labor Day weekend.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of the 2015-2016 Budget. The Mayor and Council agreed to continue the discussion at a special Council meeting scheduled for September 14th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Ordinance No. 981 for the purposes of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observation of taxpayers relating to the 2015-2016 budget requests.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Resolution 15-14 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observation of taxpayers relating to setting the final property tax levy request of 0.50000.

Council Member Britton moved to continue the discussions on approval of 2015-2016 Budget, Ordinance No. 981 and Resolution 15-14 to Monday September 14th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opens the discussion on “Otoe County Rehab Project”, Lisa Beethe of SENDD present to explain the revised Housing Program Guidelines. Applications and guidelines will be accessible on the City’s website. Beethe announced Syracuse received approval for the county wide grant; more information for the Syracuse town only grant will be decided later in September. Council member Gigstad moved to approve the guidelines for the Otoe County Housing Rehab project, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Resolution 15-15 authorizing the Mayor to Execute General Administration Contract with SENDD. Lisa Beethe explained this resolution replaces a resolution approved at the prior month’s Council meeting; there was an error in the previous resolution. Mayor closed the public hearing. Council member Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution 15-15, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on fire pits. Council member Henke voiced concerns brought to her regarding the use and construction of outdoor fire pits. She would like an ordinance put in place to help regulate the uses and types of fire pit allowed within Syracuse limits. Attorney Stilmock recommend he along with Fire Chief Bruce Neemann and Building/Zoning Inspector Roy Bretthorst discuss jointly and return to Council at a later date.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on life insurance companies and policy for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Fire Chief Bruce Neemann explained the issues with the City's current life insurance provider being that anyone at the age of 65 automatically is terminated from the policy. Chief Neemann presented two alternative life insurance companies to the Council for review and discussion. Council member Britton recommended speaking with local insurance companies to see if they offer any life insurance policies that would be applicable for what the Fire Department and Rescue Squad are requiring. Council member Dettmer move to continue the discussion to the Monday, September 14th meeting at 6:00 p.m., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on leasing property located west of Syracuse Soccer Fields. Council member Britton explained leasing terms pertaining to planting alfalfa on the seven acres for possible lease dates of September 2015 to March 2022. Attorney Stilmock raised concerns regarding the City paying taxes if the City would move forward with leasing out the property. Stilmock also recommended advertising for lease of the property. Council member Britton moved to table the discussion until the September 14th Council meeting in order for Attorney Stilmock to research possible tax requirements, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on golf cart usage on City Streets. The current City ordinance needs to be revised to coordinate with State law stating golf carts are allowed to drive on city streets. Council member Dettmer moved to continue the discussion to allow Attorney Stilmock to research the new law and revise the current ordinance accordingly, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussions pertaining to concerns from Syracuse resident Bill Witty. Mr. Witty spoke about the street on the west side of the Post Office. He voiced concerns that the area where the street meets the parking stalls is raised and in his opinion is hazardous. Council member Britton pointed out a designated cross-walk is available for pedestrian crossing and the area in question is not where the cross-walk is located. Mr. Witty also voiced the issue of traffic exceeding the speed limit on 17th Street between Swanson and Behling Drives. Mayor Ortiz will advise the sheriff's deputies to patrol this area more.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on projects that need to be completed. Attorney Stilmock explained the City is currently in the process of asking for the Deed from the owner of one of the nuisance properties. Stilmock had no updates regarding legislative action, taxes and budget.

Council member Britton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. 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