

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

December 6, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday December 6, 2017 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion on election and request nominations for Council President. Council Member Britton moved to elect Deb Dettmer as Council President and approve the appointments, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none. Appointments were approved as follows: City Clerk/Treasurer – Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works – Jeff Vogt, Zoning Inspector – Bruce Neemann, City Attorney – Jerry Stilmock of Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock, City Street Superintendent – Evan Wickersham, City Engineer – JEO, City Physician – Dr. Zak Templemeyer.

Minutes for the November 27, 2017 meeting were approved as written. 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 led the discussion on Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Report. Todd Blome of BMG not present but the October Treasurer's report was presented in advance. Clerk Farmer gave a brief report on the auditor visit which was on November 20th. No further discussion was had. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the October Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked if anyone would like to speak for Hearing of those present, no one present.

Aflac	282.68
B&B Pump N Go	1216.32
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	1596.10
Capital Business Systems	167.93
City of Nebraska City	1251.29
City of Syracuse	749.88
Collection Services Center	205.38
Culligan	50.75
Dana Anderson	1100.00
Danko	98.15
Delwin Antholz	1500.00
Dentegra	380.42
Don Johnson Homes	200.00
Dutton Lainson Co.	96.49
EMS Billing Services	1793.97
Gatehouse Media	80.80
Hank's Garage & Tire Repair	16.50
Hemje Plumbing & Htg., Inc.	68.00
JEO	3997.00
John Palmtag	100.00
League of NE Municipalities	445.00
Magnolia Journal	20.00
Matheson	34.50
Midwest Farmers COOP	309.57
Midwest Messenger	405.00
Municipal Emergency Services	359.21
Municipal Supply	3604.28
National Pen	56.79
NE Child Support Payment Center	290.78

Nebraska City Utilities	509.29
Nebraska Library Commission	500.00
One Call Concepts	29.55
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	318.07
Petty Cash (City Hall)	147.07
Shayna Murrell	26.80
Simple & Delicious Magazine	17.98
Syracuse Lumber Co.	98.18
Syracuse Motor Supply	114.99
Syracuse Veterinary Clinic	198.02
Terry's Family Foods	161.96
Tom Compton	235.00
U.S. Post Office	426.91
Wes Janssen	130.00
William Cordonier	35.00
Windstream	1443.84
Shayna Murrell	958.70
Todd Aksamit	1058.64
Kelly Farmer	1239.68
Derek Harms	1212.20
Mark Moerer	1272.15
Chiona Morris	935.70
Julie Slafter	881.36
Jeffrey Vogt	1556.91
Brian Vodicka	795.94
Jonathan Baugous	594.94

#### SHERIFF'S REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz welcomed Deputy Rehrs up to present the monthly Sheriff's report for the month of November. Total hours were heavier during the first week but were low during the fourth week. Vandalism/Theft called consisted of five with a couple of those being gas drive-offs. Suspicious Activity totaled at eight calls; Rehrs explained these are lumped into a group for calls such as transient complaints and other activity that is asked to be checked out. Mayor Ortiz commented on complaints of jake-breaking; most of them that Rehrs hears are on their way out north of town. Deputies are moving further in town in hopes to catch these on their way thru town. The jake-braking done on the off-ramps echos thru town. Other complaints heard by Council Members consist of speeding on 5<sup>th</sup> Street as well as going the wrong direction on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Other speeding occurs on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Midland Street.

#### ZONING REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz explained the discussion on zoning codes has been resolved so no need for discussion.

#### SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS & PARKS REPORTS –

Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell present to present the Swimming Pool & Programs report. Murrell explained basketball practices have started for the Parks and Rec boys and girls teams; games start January 6<sup>th</sup>. Adult Basketball League registrations are currently being accepted; team registrations are due December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Tumbling deadline is this week. The new batting cages are currently being constructed at the Sports Complex and the William Parks Enclosed Shelter currently has five more reservations scheduled with eight already been had.

Park Manager Jon Baugous presented the Parks department has been pretty slow. Baugous spoke with former Park Manager Todd Aksamit regarding the drainage issues at the Sports Complex Playground. The plan is to bring in a grading company in the spring of 2018 to see what they suggest whether it be more drains. Baugous helped with a water main break on 5<sup>th</sup> Street recently and has been helping the Street and Utilities departments as needed. Mayor Ortiz brought up the issue on the washing away of the ground by the west dugout of the Williams Park ballfield. Baugous will need to wait until spring after the ground thaws but is suggesting possibly a retaining wall or drain tile. The dugout will need additional dirt where the dirt has washed away. Mayor Ortiz suggested Baugous work on keeping the west end of the Sports Complex mowed in anticipation of a Germanfest activity planned for that area in July of 2018.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and opening of the farm lease bids, Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock opened the six sealed bids announcing each bid and who the bid was from. Mark Luetchens was the high bidder at \$225.50 per acre; Luetchens is currently farming the ground on a one year lease agreement with the City at \$265.50 per acre; no issues have been had during this lease time. Council Member Britton moved to approve the bid from Luetchens Land at \$225.50 per acre, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and opening of bids for the Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup; no bids were submitted. Currently Kent Backer has an agreement with the City for the position; he has announced he is not seeking to renew the agreement. Backer informed Clerk Farmer he did not anticipate the amount of trash within the leaf pile this adding to the amount of time involved with the clean-up of the pile. Vogt has been having his department go down to the pile periodically to remove any trash that has been dumped in hopes this will alleviate part of the issue Backer has explained. Mayor Ortiz explained possible courses of action include doing away with the leaf pile all together or possibly adding this to the refuse pick-up future contract. Public announcements have been sent out via the City website and publishing notice in the paper explaining what belongs in the piles and what doesn't. City Hall will send out a mass email to educate residents as well as post the announcement on the City's Facebook pages. Rec Coordinator has been instructed to create signs for "no trash" to be placed at the sites. Mayor Ortiz will reach out to Kent Backer to see what other suggestions he might have.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution on approval of Water and Sewer Mapping Agreements, JEO reps not present. Ortiz explained he has been in discussions with JEO. He and the Council agree to slow things down a bit with the GIS Workshop discussions. There is question of what the end result is and what the vision is of all parties involved including what is the City getting for the money. Round table discussions or special meetings will be scheduled where Council members can attend if they wish to participate. Discussion was had on possible dates; Stilmock confirmed if three Council members are present a special meeting will need to be had and will be open to the public. This also brought up the need for the continued discussion on Private Streets; a round table discussion or special meeting will also be scheduled with those Council Members wishing to participate attending.

Vogt and the Utility and Street crews put up the Christmas tree on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The new LED bulbs were used in the strands crossing the streets. Vogt will work with the Chamber when ordering new lights to replace old ones; this is usually visited after the new year as the lights are on sale at that time. The utilities department has been swapping out any burnt out street lights with LED bulbs as needed.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on proposals for solid waste and recycling collection services; reps from American and Papillion Sanitation present. Council Member Britton asked if information submitted by the bidders after the initial sealed proposals were opened and presented could be used; Stilmock advised any information submitted after the initial proposal opening not be used. Mayor Ortiz discussed how commercial rates were not included in the agreement or the submitted proposals. Reps from Papillion Sanitation and American explained there are many variables when it comes to determining commercial rates therefore these are typically not included in an agreement for services pertaining to residential rates. Council Member Britton commented regarding the rate increases that have happened with the current business with no cap; he feels this most likely exceeds the \$2000.00 community donation to the City given by Papillion Sanitation. Discussion was had to extend the current agreement with Papillion Sanitation for possibly six months and issue a request to accept new proposals. If yard waste were to be included in the agreement with the garbage pick-up it is negotiable how often it would be picked up as is with regular garbage pick-up. The RFP should include all the additional information which has been brought up such as a rate lock, possible leaf pick-up and commercial rates. Stilmock will work on a proposed RFP and submit to the Mayor and Council for review before sending out for advertisement. Council Member Britton moved to reject all bids submitted for the solid waste and recycling collection services, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Private Streets, Council Member Britton explained he, Jerry Stilmock and Jeff Ray of JEO have been communicating. Where they are at is that JEO has taken it and have commented where more items have come up that need to be discussed. Britton would like to have a discussion with the parties involved in order work thru these concerns where a more refined concept can

be developed to present to the Council. Clerk Farmer will send out a Doodle notification for possible meeting dates.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on a Strategic Plan, Council Member Dettmer explained after the last meeting it was discussed implementing a list of items to prioritize in order for projects to be completed and not get dropped or pushed back. Dettmer has been in contact with Joe Johnson as well as Vivian of JEO for proposals. Dettmer is suggesting having a Strategic Planning meeting and asked for the Mayor and Council's thoughts. Johnson had explained to Mayor Ortiz this is not typically something that can be done in one meeting but rather shorter sessions. Reps from Olsson Associates and JEO could present their proposals. This would all come with a price tag of roughly \$10,000.00. Mayor Ortiz explained the end state for him is a plan or road map that tells the City officials where they are at with certain projects and priorities. He is asking each department head and Council Member along with Jerry Stilmock to compile their own lists suggesting what they feel should be the top priorities. This will enable the City staff and its officials to be more pro-active and not re-active. Council Member Britton explained when the City uses "Strategic Plan" to engineers it means something more and this "Strategic Plan" is something the City has had done in the past. Britton questions the value of the City bringing in a different engineer rather than go with a firm that doesn't have the background with the City, although he understands the value of accepting proposals from various companies. He suggests provide an update to the current Strategic Plan but many of the items on the current one have been accomplished. Mayor Ortiz doesn't really want an engineering perspective but rather a City Administrator perspective in order obtain a road map that organizes all the projects the City has going on and gives everyone a voice as to what needs to be priority. Stilmock will reach out to City Administrators who have come to the Council in the past regarding City planning. Council Member Gigstad spoke of a five-year plan which prioritizes a few goals for the year and carries on. It was concluded what the Mayor and Council is discussing doesn't entail spending the kind of money presented by an engineering firm.


Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for Special Designated Liquor License for a Christmas party at the Green Room on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to midnight. Tim Collin of The Beer Stein not present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz announced effective immediately he has resigned from the LARM board. Clerk Farmer will reference the current agreement with LARM for the expiration and prior notice deadline date.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Henke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. 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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Mayor