

SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 17, 2014

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:30 P.M. on December 17, 2014 in special session in Council Chambers at 495 Midland Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz, Council members Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton and Dettmer. 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.

Dr. Robert Blair, Associate Professor from University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Public Administration, Chris Anderson, City Administrator of Central City and Al Vacanti, Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator of the City of Wisner appeared before Mayor and Council to discuss the benefits of hiring a City Administrator.

Dr. Blair stated that a City Administrator is a position that can provides overall direction to carrying out the policies and programs approved by the City Council; function as Chief Administrative officer for the City, reports to Mayor and City Council and City ordinance or state statutes provide powers and responsibilities to carry out duties.

Dr. Blair stated that the main characteristics of City Administrator is responsibility for making recommendation to elected officials on problems and solutions, budget preparation and submission to Mayor and Council and responsible for a majority of City employees.

Chris Anderson, City Administrator of Central City, stated he not only handles all running of the City operations, oversees all personnel, budgeting and accounting but also is the individual that looks into bringing into the community businesses and other facilities that would be a benefit to the City and residents.

Mr. Anderson stated that he is responsible for many of the duties and meetings that a Mayor would normally handle.

Al Vacanti, Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator of the City of Wisner stated that he is Wisner's first City Administrator. Mr. Vacanti stated that a city administrator should bring value to the community that he serves. Value by saving the city and its taxpayer's money by improving the efficiency of the City operations. A City Administrator should explore and seek funding for projects and work on economic development activities.

The speakers also informed the Mayor and Council that sometimes there can be conflicts with the City Administrator and the employees or the governing body. There is a large turnover among City Administrator positions in the state due to advancement for the administrator or personality differences with newly elected City officials.

Dr. Blair suggested that if the Mayor and Council were considering hiring of a City Administrator, that a Town Hall meeting should be held to get feedback from the residents and provide information on the hiring process. All three speakers stated that they would be willing to come back to Syracuse and assist with the presentation.

Mayor Ortiz thanked Dr. Blair, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Vacanti for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting and share their experiences and expertise with the Council.

Mayor Ortiz informed the Council that Eldon Halm would be retiring at the end of February 2015 and Superintendent of Public Works Garry Carman and City Clerk Hobscheidt will be retiring at the end of May 2015.

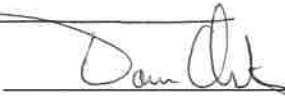
Mayor Ortiz requested that the Council review information provided by the evening's speakers and have conversation with the tax payers and City Administrator position will be discussed at the January Council meeting.

Council member Henke made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 P.M, second by Gigstad.
Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, 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 the date, 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