

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

January 10, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday January 10, 2018 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 Gigstad, Britton, Henke Dettmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the December 20th, 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 Library Report, Librarian Sue Antes present. Tannenbaum soup luncheon was a success raising more funds than the soup supper did in previous years. 140 children were present to visit Santa Claus. Antes explained there were issues with the breaker during the luncheon; the Syracuse Foundation is going to address the issue. The Foundation has approved a bid of \$500.00 to clean the carpets at the Library; this will be done in the Spring. Mayor Ortiz would like to meet with the Syracuse Foundation and someone come with Sue once a quarter to report.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Report. Todd Blome of BMG present with the December Treasurer's report. Blome reported several bond payments were made during December; all bank accounts are reconciled and tied out. Income statements showed the comparison from this year to last year; a separate sub-account has been created for the well farm expenses and revenues. There was discussion on how to account for the grant funds that come in from the County and then go out to contractors from a separate checking account, Blome will look into setting up a separate income to show these ins and outs. Utility revenue is down but this could have to do for the warmer weather up to this point where people will have more utility usage coming into the colder months; sales tax is down compared to this time last year. No further discussion was had. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the December Treasurer's Report and pay the claims. Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked if anyone would like to speak for Hearing of those present, no one present. Mayor Ortiz did make sure everyone wished Attorney Stilmock a happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Aflac	282.68
Ameritas	102.72
Arbor Valley Animal Clinic	47.50
ASCAP	348.00
B&B Pump N Go	1273.05
Backer Acres	2750.00
Better Homes and Gardens	6.00
Biblionix	1500.00
BMG	2500.00
Bound Tree	2161.67
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom, Stilmock	2042.70
Brian Vodicka	100.00
Capital Business Systems	121.29
City of Nebraska City	717.20
City of Syracuse	1318.97
Collection Services Center	410.76
Culligan	9.00
Darold Grundman	200.00
EMS Billing Services	1862.61
Gatehouse Media	210.71
Gregg Zahn	1325.00
Hawkins	184.71
Heath Sports & Tees	780.99
JEO	3000.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Julie Slafter	21.06

Kriz Davis	1502.72
Matheson	135.64
Micromarketing	31.48
Midwest Labs	121.40
NE Child Support Payment Center	581.56
Nebraska City Utilities	1173.91
Ninceheler Trucking	200.00
One Call Concepts	14.40
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	285.31
Renee Cheney	100.00
Ron Rosenthal	300.00
Stutheit Implement	290.49
Suez	6236.00
Syracuse Do It Best	603.75
Syracuse Iron Works	77.96
Syracuse Lumber Co.	456.24
Syracuse Motor Supply	223.46
Syracuse Rescue Service	19,200.00
Syracuse Veterinary Clinic	62.34
Terry's Family Foods	15.68
Tree City Tees	36.00
United Healthcare	11,561.59
U.S. Post Office	310.07
Verizon	142.00
WAPA	3678.85
Windstream	1583.47
Shayna Murrell	1886.36
Todd Aksamit	2100.62
Kelly Farmer	2186.71
Derek Harms	2186.79
Mark Moerer	2288.17
Chiona Morris	1875.03
Julie Slafter	1698.36
Jeffrey Vogt	3293.75
Brian Vodicka	1456.20
Jonathan Baugous	1243.01
Brent Teten	265.29
Sue Antes	1718.32
Kristi Henke	180.87
Karen Kimpel	130.83
Carol Linqvist	180.87
Tomas Ortiz	454.25
Marcia Scheinost	113.55
Tim Wilson	181.70
Carolyn Bremer	180.87
Alan Britton	180.87
Deb Dettmer	181.70
Orv Gigstad	181.70
Patti Hogancamp	109.02
Leah Ganzel	523.30
Craig Boldt	181.70
Ken Parde	181.70
Bruce Neemann	224.86
David Sabatka	180.87
Chris Lutjemeyer	181.70
Jody Bruns	113.55
Tami Andera	180.00
Andy Brace	160.00
Jody Bruns	120.00
Kody Cardinal	60.00

Trevor Clark	80.00
Stephanie DeGroot	80.00
Ken Halvorsen	40.00
Carol Linquist	650.00
Sharon Morrow	330.00
Susan Obermeyer	240.00
Kim Bellinder	320.00
Chris Richardson	50.00
Joe Reisdorff	150.00
Jen Staack	160.00
Marcia Scheinost	120.00
John Voyles	250.00
Tim Wilson	900.00
Laramie Werner	340.00

#### SHERIFF'S REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz welcomed Sheriff Deputy Holland to present the monthly Sheriff's report for the month of December. Holland discussed the transition to the State radio system; it may be ready to go by January 22<sup>nd</sup> but it may be later to ensure all the bugs are worked out. Training with the State for this new system will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Holland will also be training the staff on the new Records Management System around the same time. The go-live date is sometime in May tentatively. Holland gave kudos to the other deputies for helping out while he is in the office working on the new systems. December was relatively quiet compared to other months. Vandalism/Theft called consisted of two with one being a gas drive-off. Suspicious Activity totaled at two calls; Holland explained Suspicious Activity calls are somewhat of a catch-all for minor calls to check up on something that may have been called in. There were also two animal complaints, seven traffic stops and one drug call which was a probation check. Holland reported the department is still three deputies down since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017; one may be retiring, the other two are anticipated to come back from medical leave hopefully soon. The department doesn't do light duty therefore a deputy on medical leave needs to be completely cleared by their doctor to return to work. Holland explained the training process for a new deputy takes close to a year. Holland thanked Council Member Alan Britton for his call to Holland regarding the bank robberies happening in small rural towns as this call spurred the heightened awareness of the department thus helping with the robbery that later happened in Palmyra days later.

#### FIRE REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz led the Fire Report, Bruce Neemann opened with the discussion and approval on certification of SVFD members eligible for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Neemann explained 15 members qualified with 13 qualifying last year. Council Member Britton moved to approve the certification to submit to the State, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none. Stats for the department were also sent out to the Mayor and Council; two are currently taking the firefighter course. Neemann is pleased with the training hours.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on SVFD 2017-2018 Capital Improvement budget. Neemann asked the Mayor and Council about the Capital Improvement items included on the approved budgets. In recent years, many of these Capital Improvement items were included for a sinking fund. Mayor Ortiz explained items on the budget were approved but still need to be discussed and approved when actually moving forward with using the funds. Mayor Ortiz and the Council agree that projects need to be prioritized to ensure the funds are available for those priority items. Since the Mohawk Street widening has been on the Fire budget from year to year, the Mayor and Council suggested Neemann move forward with receive pricing for the project; \$5000.00 is budgeted for this project.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Chris Szydelko as new member of SVFD. Council Member Britton moved to approve Szydelko, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the new ambulance for SRS. Wilson said the new rig is set for delivery at the end of January with a current price tag of \$225,614.00. The graphics need placed and radios need installed still. The new rig is a truck style and will take some training on behalf of the Rescue volunteers to drive it. Funding is secure for the rig with the Kimmel Foundation donated \$100,000.00. These funds have been deposited into the Rescue's funds. Wilson has resumed his conversation with Peter Kewit Foundation. The SRS officers

have decided to keep all three of the rigs after they take possession of the new one and then evaluate the older rigs from there.

Wilson led the discussion on a new member to SRS. Council Member Britton moved to approve Rebecca Royal to the SRS, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

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

Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell present with the Swimming Pool & Programs report. Murrell explained tumbling has started and the first P&R basketball games are scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> with three weeks of home games on the schedule. The 10-week adult Basketball League games will be starting soon. Murrell currently has 10 Williams Park Shelter rentals with six more on the books. Currently no deposit is required to use the facility; Murrell will work on possibly implementing one. Mayor Ortiz asked Murrell to touch base with SENDD to make sure she's getting reports on the Otoe Countywide Housing Grant. Murrell would like to start moving on the sand volleyball pit at the Sports Complex; the Utilities department has already flagged the area.

Park Manager Jon Baugous presented the Parks department report. Baugous spoke about the bleachers behind the Parks shop at the Sports Complex. He can piece them together to use at the Soccer Complex. Baugous will fill holes in at the Soccer Complex once the ground softens up as well as give attention to the area west of the Soccer Complex as this is planning to be used for a GermanFest event. Mayor Ortiz suggested Baugous and Murrell start thinking about when to start the application process for the seasonal employees. Mayor Ortiz also spoke about the full-time position that will be under direction of the Parks department; this currently is going out in the paper as well as the job description being finalized by Farmer and Baugous

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the review of the 2018 One & Six Year Street Plan, Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. The only item on the one-year plan is redoing the alley behind Hemje's and the new Shirley Street. The hospital will be responsible for paying for Shirley Street. The public hearing for this will be at the February 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. No further discussion was had no changes were made to the plan. Council Member Britton gave an update regarding the drainage structure which resides under Shirley Street; engineers are currently working on this.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-01 on approval of Water and Sewer Mapping Agreements, authorizing Mayor's signature, Michael Schultes of JEO not present, Vogt explained. Joe Sather of JEO recommends having the pics done by March before the leaves are on the trees. The total project needs to be complete by June 2018 in order to comply with the grant requirements. Mayor Ortiz spoke about how this mapping will be used in the future and possibly working with the County and their GIS program. A County Commissioners meeting has been scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> to be held in the Syracuse Council Chambers. Vogt explained the City will continue to apply for the grant again next year for the remaining half of the town's mapping but it is not typical a town receives the grant every year therefore it may be 2020. Stilmock reviewed the agreement and asked Vogt questions, no further discussion was had. Council Member Henke moved to adopt Resolution 18-01, authorizing Mayor's signature, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on a bid presented for Yard Waste Removal and Disposal presented by Kent Backer of Backer Acres. Mayor Ortiz recently reached out to Backer regarding why he didn't initially want to bid for the job and Backer explained it was a lot more time involved as the trash in the pile was overwhelming plus the number of loads anticipated was underestimated in his 2017 bid. Backer had to pick out all of the trash and the property owner where the waste was being disposed was upset regarding the trash. Vogt will look into a camera to be placed at the yard waste dump site. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the bid of \$12,060.00 annually for the yard waste removal and disposal, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Vogt reached out to LTAP regarding the free signs for the City. Currently NDOT is waiting for approval of the sign order; LTAP will be in touch with Vogt.

Vogt updated the Council he has Eden Tree Pros trimming the trees out of the primary power lines where trucks cannot access.

Council Member Britton suggested Vogt speak with Evan Wickersham of JEO regarding the storm sewer drains at the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> & Poplar stemming from the conversation Derek Grotrian had at a previous Council meeting regarding the problem with trucks turning north at that intersection.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of SDL requests for St. Paulinus Fish Fry dates of February 16<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 4:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. each; Adam Holz present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL requests, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on private streets meeting update. Council Member Britton explained the discussion had consisted of a concept placing these streets outside of the City limits; JEO is taking photos to show these particular areas on a map for the City. Britton explained the idea has become over-complicated but the desire is there to try to find a way to allow it. Council Member Henke asked what happens if the person that owns the property where the private street is allowed sells the property and only one house is placed on the land and expressed this is one of the reasons why it's hard to say that the City just won't allow it. The Mayor asked the question why is the assumption that Syracuse needs to be like all other communities and why can't the City move forward with allowing the private streets idea to move forward. It was explained many people are now looking at acreages and not just lots. Britton explained if the City has some oversight into any developments then it is more likely that things will be put in place to allow for future growth. It was suggested that another zoning be created where this idea could move forward but the question is where would this zoning be allowed. Council Member Dettmer asked about how a Homeowners Association works in regards to the private streets. It was explained a Homeowners Association for that particular neighborhood would be in control of the private streets. Dettmer suggested the rock private streets be made the same dimension as what a concrete one would in the case a rock road would be concreted over in the future. Stilmock explained the setbacks vary when it comes to a paved road versus a rock/gravel road. The Mayor and Council directed Stilmock to move forward with a future zoning area allowing for the private streets including writing up the rules and regs for this zoning and ordinance but the question still exists where this zoning would be allowed. Mayor Ortiz explained why a process such as this takes months possibly a year to put in place as it is a bigger issue than just private streets as has been seen with many of the developments that went up in the past. Stilmock will send out a memo to Jeff Ray of JEO to bring him up to speed.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-02 on approval of Unum Benefits Onboarding Paperwork for Employee Life Insurance, authorizing Mayor's signature. Robert Allen of Unum nor Sharon McDermott present. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 18-02 authorizing the Mayor's signature. Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

New Business –

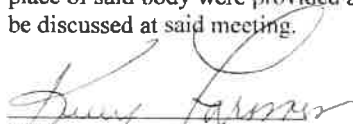
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Partial Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-05, authorizing Mayor's signature, SENDD not present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the partial payment of \$23,345.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.


Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-16, authorizing Mayor's signature, SENDD not present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the final payment of \$2,500.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab SENDD Payment Request for General Administration and Housing Management Fees of \$3583.47 for the dates of 5/1/17 thru 6/30/17, authorizing Mayor's signature. Council Member Britton approved to pay the fees of \$3583.47, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, 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.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor

