

SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

January 24, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday January 24, 2018 for a special meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the January 10th, 2018 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; no further discussion was had. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve to pay the claims, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Auburn Hoops	75.00
Bound Tree	58.49
Cardmember Services	186.06
Collection Services Center	205.38
Creighton	3250.00
Dutton Lainson Co.	68.37
First Wireless	110.00
Gatehouse Media	16.46
Ingram Library Services	360.77
JEO	4221.00
Jason LaFollette	75.00
Justin Damme	110.00
Krista Sisco	100.00
Kriz Davis	443.04
Michelle Zoller	100.00
Meyers Body Shop	114.96
Micro Marketing LLC	16.19
Mikes Window Service	107.78
Mitchell Brinkman	50.00
Monty Roberts	75.00
Municipal Service & Supply Co.	371.22
Municipal Supply	1632.59
My-Lor	13.00
NE Child Support Payment Center	290.78
Nebraska Public Health Envir. Lab	539.00
Nebraska Life	24.00
OPPD	125,617.32
Ryan Murrell	135.00
Steven Llewellyn	75.00
Synchrony Bank (Amazon)	80.16
United Healthcare	11,579.02
Verizon	173.40
Western Sand & Gravel	204.61
Woman's Day	10.00
Shayna Murrell	954.72
Todd Aksamit	1166.49
Kelly Farmer	1207.79
Derek Harms	1267.21
Mark Moerer	1145.39
Chiona Morris	929.67
Julie Slafter	860.31
Jeffrey Vogt	1795.22
Brian Vodicka	829.34

Jonathan Baugous	686.55
Brent Teten	999.38
Jody Bruns	125.00
Carol Linqvist	200.00
Marcia Scheinost	125.00
Tim Wilson	200.00
Craig Boldt	150.00
Chris Lutjemeyer	150.00
David Sabatka	150.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval on certification of SRS members eligible for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Wilson explained the forms show those who are eligible as well as those who are not, with only one person not eligible; the report also gave a comparison to 2016’s numbers. Council Member Britton moved to approve the list of members eligible for the Incentive Act, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz complimented Chief Wilson on his attention to detail and organization of his reports.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-03 on approval of Yard Waste Removal and Disposal agreement between City and Backer Acres, authorizing Mayor’s signature; Kent Backer not present. Attorney Stilmock explained the agreement will read February 15, 2018 and December 1, 2018 for payment dates. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-03, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Superintendent Vogt told the Council he will continue to send one of the utility staff down to the leaf pile every morning to pull out any trash left at the site.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on upgrade of City computers. IT rep Chuck Sieck and Billing Clerk Chiona Morris present. Morris asked Sieck to be present after the tabled discussion at a previous meeting as she felt the questions and information inquired on were beyond her knowledge of the IT. Sieck explained it is in the City’s best interest to connect all of the City’s buildings and departments. Mayor Ortiz asked about offsite back-ups for all City services; Sieck explained there are many options such as a WAN (Wide Area Network) backup where it backs up to Cloud, a tape back-up where someone would be responsible for switching that out every night. Sieck discussed VPN connections would be needed for WAN which is operated through the internet. Everything could be accessed and done from one single location whether it be patches, anti-virus, etc. as long as someone had remote access. He explained the options are endless depending what the City wants to do as well as having everyone networked in to one server allows much more control. Sieck explained currently the City is not running at 2018 standards. Discussion was had on networking the Library in. Sieck explained the public computers at the Library could be separated or be used as a “captive portal” where the user would be required to acknowledge and accept usage rules before allowed access to the internet. Council Britton explained he would like to see if the City was just starting from scratch how would Sieck build it; he would like to see a design put together and presented to the Council at a future meeting. This would include networking all City buildings. Britton expressed disaster recovery needs to be involved along with flexibility to shut things down if necessary. Sieck explained the three aspects to look at are network, software and hardware. Britton also would like to see what it would be to replace all the systems at the same time in order to get away from a hodge-podge of IT equipment. Windows 10 Pro is recommended along with Dell equipment. Mayor Ortiz asked Sieck to also incorporate VOIT phone system into his design. This would need to include all City buildings; those locations would need to be connected to internet.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding online bill pay. Utility Billing Clerk explained she was sent information on Nebraska.gov online bill pay which is who the City currently uses for credit card payments. The charge to the customer would be 2.49% of the amount they are paying, this is the same as the credit card charge. Council Member Britton moved to approve internet bill pay through Nebraska.gov, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Projects Planning. Council Member Dettmer explained it is moving along; project lists are still being submitted to her. Dettmer announced the name is going to be “Projects in Motion”.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Shirley Street median, Justin Stark of Olsson Associates present. Stark came to discuss the Shirley Street median and where it connects to the highway and if the street is going to have curbing. Concern was raised by a local property owner who will need to cross the street to access his farm ground and it will be difficult to go over a raised median with farm equipment. Stilmock explained nothing was set in stone by any of the parties as to how the street was to be. The Mayor and Council agreed no median will be constructed on the street and lines will be painted. Discussion was also had on grading of the intersection where the road is used to access the south along with curbs. Olsson will follow up on if anything had been discussed earlier on in the project.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on hospital drainage at the CMH rebuild site, Justin Stark of Olsson Associates present. The City had requested Olsson look at the drainage to go under Shirley Street. A structure is being looked into that is made in a way to be able to increase the water storage up to a 100-year storm event. The upstream side is elevated therefore there would be a cost with the culvert. Britton suggested they structure the design of Shirley Street so they don't need to change the culvert. Street Superintendent, Evan Wickersham explained he doesn't feel it is a good idea to get into changing the culvert; Stark explained that this would include a whole new project of engineering and structure design. Stark suggests looking at what the other options are and also made it known a water structure as discussed with orifices or slots would include some maintenance. Wickersham doesn't think NDOR needs to have any input on this at this time as it really doesn't pertain to them. Stark will work on another design iteration of this structure as well as pull the cost of the structure and present the information at a future meeting. Mike Harvey present and said the hospital rebuild is on track.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on access to 1201 Park Street, Grotrian Enterprises, from Highway 50, Derek Grotrian present. Grotrian recently spoke with Keith Kohill of Nebraska Dept. of Roads regarding his inquiry to have access off of Highway 50 onto 1201 Park Street. Grotrian explained Kohill said the highway access is not an option but did suggest putting in an access across from 12th Street. He explained the plan is to bring up the property elevation to be same level as street. Another option Kohill mentioned was putting in a turning lane at the 11th and Park intersection to help alleviate at least one direction's build-up of traffic when trucks are turning west onto 11th Street off of Park Street but the 11th and Poplar turn going north onto Grotrian's property is still an issue as discussed at a previous meeting. Grotrian explained if 12th Street was extended to the west onto his property he would like to see it stop at the right-of-way then he would take responsibility from there on and would like to place a “No Outlet” sign so that drivers do not think it is a thru street. Grotrian explained whatever water is there already flows to the west. The Highway 50 guardrail would need to be shortened and wrapped to the west. Britton explained if Grotrian wanted the street on his property he would need to pay for the street to be put in up to City standards. Grotrian is hesitant to go too far in as a City street as he will lose usable property. He explained he would like to place a drive along the north side of the building to allow for trucks to go in and out around the building, making entry and exit easier. Britton suggested Grotrian reach out to an engineer to have a sketch laid out which would also give Grotrian an idea of what the costs are. Stilmock is concerned of a City street that goes nowhere as well as who is responsible for snow removal and maintenance. He suggests Grotrian to continue to push the Controlled Access consideration from the state. Gigstad brought up the past discussion of putting in a school crossing at that location to help kids cross the highway and if this would help to bring the two things into one. Britton explained to Evan Wickersham the issues that happen when trucks turn north onto 11th & Poplar and the damage that is being done to the storm inlets and curbs. Wickersham will work on putting together costs involved with putting in flat grates at this location. Parking issues at the intersection was also discussed. Grotrian asked the Mayor and Council if there is any sort of sign that can be placed at the 11th & Poplar intersection asking drivers to yield to turning trucks entering 11th street west. This will help to allow cars to back up if necessary so trucks can safely turn and not back up Highway 50 traffic. The Mayor and Council will look at the options and keep in touch with Grotrian.

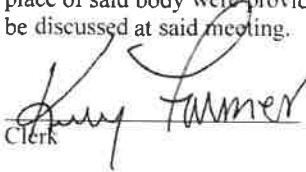
New Business –

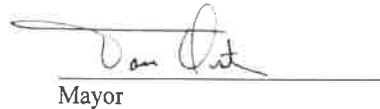
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of 20-17 City's financial audit, Julie Baumann of Baumann CPA present as well as Todd Blome of BMG. Baumann gave a history of herself and her company and explained the process of doing the City's audit. Baumann expressed she felt it went very well and

presented a power point presentation on how to read the audit report and understand its contents. The City received the best opinion available and the net position of the City included total assets of are holding very steady when comparing to 2016. Total equity jumped up and total liability went down which is what we want to see; this includes all the City debt. Baumann did not see any material breakdowns in internal control and she explained there were no findings in the City's internal control report. Baumann explained the City is financially sound and had a very good year in 2017 with no findings and is doing very well. Baumann and Blome explained they will continue to work together on the reporting and bringing them together to line up where the numbers will be easier traced in his report. This time next year the two reports will look very similar. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the 2017 financial audit, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: none

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Britton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. 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

