

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

June 13, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday June 13, 2018 for their regular 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 Dettmer, Henke, Britton; Council Member Gigstad absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the May 31st, 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 Treasurer's Report and Claims. Todd Blome of BMG presented the May Treasurer's Report. Blome reported the City is eight months into its budget year; all bank accounts have been reconciled as well as bond payments and amortization schedules. Blome mentioned revisiting on merging some of the separate accounts that don't have any activity. During May there was not a lot of activity besides the regular expenses and receipts; total receipts for the year are up as well as property taxes. CDBG account shows a payment received late in the month; the disbursement for the same amount will show going out in June. Ambulance income is currently flat where expenses are up a little. Re-stocking of the new SRS rig would cause more expenses than what would show this time last year. Park expenses are down this year. Capital expenditures have been noted and total receipts still exceed disbursements. Purchase power for electricity is up but revenue is up as well; those two should generally tie. Capital expenditure items include payments made to Iowa Pump Works and Sargent Drilling. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the May Treasurers Report and pay the claims, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

American Public Power Association	1082.84
Ameritas	80.56
Aqua Chem, Inc.	1012.05
B&B Pump N Go	2374.06
B&D Diamond Pro	9022.00
BC Meyer Homes	400.00
Blaine Reed	75.00
BMG	2500.00
Bound Tree	210.35
Border States	280.73
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	2751.70
Capital Business Systems	77.53
Cardmember Services	7019.64
City of Nebraska City	818.21
City of Syracuse	1198.33
Conney Safety	652.18
Cubby's	948.00
Dana Anderson	1050.00
Danko Emergency Equipment	505.92
Darold Grundman	200.00
Eakes Office Solutions	29.99
EMS Billing Service	2621.96
Erika Hunzeker	90.00
Erin Hunzeker	180.00
Fireguard, Inc.	232.75
Five Nines	2130.00
Food Network Magazine	27.97
Gatehouse Media	428.46
Gloria Richman	150.00
Gottula Propane Svc. Inc	507.00
Hein Construction LLC	13,124.72
Ingram Library Services	403.50
Jamy Prokopec	23.40
Jarrod McAlevy	200.00
JEO	3535.00

JH Sporhase	102.25
John Palmtag	100.00
Julie Slafter	202.24
Kan Equip	29.12
Kay Bremer	40.00
Kelsea Bayliss	75.00
Maddie Werner	75.00
Matheson	38.51
Midwest Labs	148.46
Midwest Turf & Irrigation	1256.99
Morgan Mueller	75.00
Moore Medical	234.92
Municipal Emergency Services	71.66
Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha	709.99
Nebraska City Utilities	781.96
Nebraska DHHS	299.00
One Call Concepts	34.77
OPPD	124,646.20
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	548.86
Pat Griepentstroh	847.20
Pepsi	1542.00
Perceptor Tau	466.57
SDA Cheerleaders	611.21
Syracuse Iron Works	677.56
Syracuse Library	130.22
Syracuse Lumber Co.	612.18
Syracuse Motor Supply	324.54
Syracuse Softball	946.55
Terry's	2582.81
Unum	89.89
U.S. Postal Service	116.00
Verizon	120.82
WAPA	1593.78
Windstream	165.70
Writetime Communications	1123.70
Xi Beta Lambda	665.57
Zahn Construction	200.00
Shayna Murrell	954.71
Todd Aksamit	1071.58
Kelly Farmer	1280.20
Derek Harms	1210.11
Mark Moerer	1033.56
Julie Slafter	883.49
Jeffrey Vogt	1546.38
Jamy Prokopec	469.80
Brian Vodicka	746.15
Jonathan Baugous	718.07
Brent Teten	1339.59
Patrick Bryant	886.09
Nicole Vonderschmidt	1005.14
Caitlyn Carlson	410.03
Madison Marrs	274.35
Aprille Johnson	150.42
Nate Hemje	483.22
Rhonda Iburg	410.88
August Levenhagen	491.03
Brayden Behrends	199.34
Brooke Hiller	61.83
Hunter Rumery	391.88

Grace Kuenning	292.00
Dale Young	114.93
Cody Pester	588.38
Cassie Katen	722.66
Jonathon Cox	25.84
Nicole Kimpel	221.01
Naudia Flores	283.25
Camryn Tompkins	131.17
Hannah Hiller	127.42
Teja Farley	204.24
Suzanna Shanks	97.43
Natalie Thies	121.80
Liz Johnson	303.46

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No One present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Chief Deputy Mike Holland present. Holland generated reports from the County's new records management system; these reports do not include individual addresses. Sixty-five calls show for May; the most notable was a burglary at Town and Country Pharmacy. Holland is working on the report still to show rescue calls. Another report shows day of the week and time; a high percentage is from 8:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. Other calls include six traffic stops, four noise/stray/lost/neglect/bite calls, two assaults, and three welfare checks just to name a few. Holland has the system set up for the calls to be logged right away from the patrol vehicles but the department is currently waiting on the docking stations for the vehicles to come in. One deputy is down from a knee injury and as he comes back, another will be going on leave for a knee surgery. The system has multiple reports which can be ran; Holland asked the Council let him know if there's anything specific they or the Mayor would like to see. Members of the Otoe County Sheriff's Department and SDA school officials had a meeting regarding SDA's schools emergency plans; there is intent to do some training possibly involving fire and rescue in order for everyone to have a good understanding of the best approach to take.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz asked to jump to New Business items and led the discussion on SDL request for the 2018 Otoe County Fair dates and times of Tuesday July 24th beginning at 11:00 A.M. and ending at 1:00 P.M. Sunday July 29th to be held at the South Park concessions area; Mike Rudolph of Otoe County Fair Board present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL request for the Otoe County Fair dates, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on street closing request for 2018 Otoe County Fair Parade for the date of Saturday July 28th from 1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; Mike Rudolph of Otoe County Fair Board present. The street closings will be the same as previous years; Jeff Vogt is fine with the request. Council Member Britton moved to approve the street closings for the parade, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab 3rd Partial Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-21, authorizing Mayor's signature; SENDD not present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the payment of \$5,380.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes not present; the report for May 2018 had been distributed prior to the meeting. No discussion was had on the report.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS & PARKS REPORTS – Rec Coordinator/Pool Manager Murrell and Park Manager Baugous present. Agenda Item 9-A is no longer needed; Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on ash trees. Baugous presented a quote from Greenwade Tree Service of Auburn for \$17,800.00 which is roughly \$250.00 per tree. Baugous has worked with the company in the past and was pleased. \$15,000.00 of the quote is for the school's trees and the remainder is for the City's portion of trees at Williams Park. Baugous explained there are no signs of infestation yet; 10 years treatment is covered at the \$250.00 per tree; eventually the tree will die. Britton explained many areas are planting trees where a tree is looking at possibly needing to be removed in order to have a couple years of growth before the dying tree will need to be removed. Baugous suggested there are a few trees at the park that could come down now that are dead and split. Mayor Ortiz asked Baugous to identify those trees

possibly infected by the Ash Borer disease. Dettmer asked if the City will start planting trees that are already larger or if we'll start with just the starter trees? Larger trees will be more expensive but possibly less maintenance will be required. Good resources may be the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska City or Department of Ag at UNL or Nebraska Forestry Department. Baugous will use time this winter to research this more. Seasonal employee Ronnie has been keeping up on the watering of the flowers and plants at the Welcome Signs. No one has spoken with the school to see what or if they are planning to do about the Ash trees on their property.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on water fountain at Williams Park. Baugous recently ordered a drinking fountain for the cost of \$1,886.72; Rec Coordinator Murrell's husband has offered to come help install the fountain as he has experience with this. The drinking fountain will be located by the Williams Park Shelter Rental building. Council Member Britton moved to approve the purchase of the fountain, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on bid for dugout covers at the Sports Complex. Baugous has reached out to Advanced Exteriors of Syracuse for a quote of \$8,903.82 for four covers (two fields). This is comparable to WJH's. Ortiz mentioned there is a donor that may want to contribute to this project. Council Member Britton moved to approve the purchase of the dugout covers from Advanced Exteriors, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Dettmer asked what the policy is regarding the gates at the Sports Complex. When practices are going on the coaches usually open them up in the morning, otherwise they are left open except Baugous locks them after coed softball on Sundays.

Baugous has worked on the drainage issue at the playground area but in his research he has been told around \$13,000.00 to fix the standing water issue there. His trenching work seemed to work better when he checked the area after a recent rain. The dugout areas continue to have standing water after a steady rain.

Murrell reported softball ended this week; tball practices have begun. The Aqua Center staff consists of four shift managers, 12 guards and 14 pool parties are on the books. The sand volleyball court construction is in progress. Murrell received quotes for artificial turf with one roll being \$2100.00; two would be needed. She researched online and found a company that uses repurposed football field turf stitched together at \$1094.00 but it will be patchwork. Attorney Stilmock will reach out to Burke regarding any available turf as well as a donation to be made towards the turf.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and update on electrical system and rates; Dave Peterson of JEO present. Peterson has made a list of nine separate items of things that are being taken care of currently by Vogt and the utility staff with JEO's assistance. The budget update item will be done in September. Peterson presented an annexation map to show what is registered with the Nebraska Power Review Board that basically says Syracuse is within OPPD's area. A few small squares throughout this area show communities where Nebraska City Utilities actually services. The areas north of town which were recently annexed in are not included in this service area; these changes need to be made and signed by OPPD in recognition this area is being taken away from them and registered with the NE Power Review Board. Britton suggested while doing this to the north also include to the east to cover the proposed Eastridge area. Peterson explained the sections that are included in Syracuse's area should be covered and taken over by Syracuse if they are not already. These areas would need to be connected to Syracuse Utilities system. Ortiz asked why this has not been done in the past; Peterson said it happened way before his time as well as previous Superintendent Carman's. Nebraska Utilities staff is changing so it may be a good time to move forward with any sort of takeover. Peterson thinks if the City has not annexed an area it cannot be controlled by Syracuse Utilities until the annexation has been done. The process could be relatively easy if negotiations go well. Projects costs would need to be budgeted. Taking over these sections would basically be buying their customers from them. Vogt will research the buy-out issues and Stilmock will work the expansion of the service area as this would be with the NE Power Review Board.

Peterson showed how the City is currently purchasing it's power with OPPD & WAPA coming to approximately 1.5 million for 2019. If the City was on a wholesale market away from OPPD the City would have to purchase it's capacity at \$1.50/kw at 50% wind, 30% as a market participant, 10% solar

and remaining 10% various variables ; the wholesale market would be between 26% - 28% less than what the City's currently at with OPPD. This doesn't include hidden costs and the current trade of electricity with OPPD at the OPPD service center and City wells. Wind farms don't have an inflation cost otherwise inflation is typically 2% average. The SPP market would have more of the inflation. OPPD is looking into the wind market now and Peterson clarified OPPD has been primarily in the coal market in the past. Britton asked if it would be possible to negotiate terms with OPPD. Peterson does not know but they've been pretty set on going with what their rates are. Additional costs would be with someone to help manage a transition such as this. A non-capital advantage includes the City's benefit of having OPPD here for the City anytime we need it. Stilmock explained this is on a separate perpetually running contract. Vogt added there are additional benefits not noted on paper. Stilmock and Peterson will work together on what steps need to be taken next regarding the issues discussed as well as any existing or expired contracts.

Peterson discussed getting the new hospital on the circuit; this has been done but the new issue is there is question as to which phase is which. OPPD could not help with this but someone that could help will be back in July to help complete the process.

An electrical map will be hung in the Council Chambers to show the electrical system. Peterson explained using a backup feeder to provide for growth containing a switch between this feeder and the current to be able to go back and forth without leaving anyone without power. This will be a cheaper option than what has been discussed in the past. This will be added to the next year's budget.

Peterson also discussed adding the CMH site into the loop; this would take approximately a full summer. This is priority as the hospital is scheduled to open this fall. Vogt will add it to the 18-19 Budget. The loop will tie into any businesses on the east side of Highway 50 across from the new hospital site.

The final item discussed is the arc flash update; this will be another map. This is part of the capital management plan. Peterson will continue to work on this.

Council Member Orv Gigstad is now present.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on bids for removal of trees at 6th & Midland & 12th & Kennedy Streets. The property at the corner of 6th & Midland is scheduled to be burned down sometime in August therefore the trees need to be removed and a cottonwood tree east of the Fitness Center was struck by lightning, killing the tree. Bids came in at \$2400.00 & \$2700.00. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the bid of \$2400.00 to be taken out of the Street budget, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on new commuter at WWTP; Vogt explained the item was budgeted with the bid coming in at \$28,965.00 from Iowa Pump Works. Council Member Britton moved to approve the bid, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on end of probation period and \$.25/hour pay increase for Utility Employee Brent Teten. The pay increase will start on July 9th, 2018 including allowing him to participate in the retirement contribution plan for the employees. Council Member Henke moved to approve the end of probation and pay increase for Brent Teten, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Utility Employees Grade Four Water Certifications and \$.50 hourly increase in wage. This would be for Derek Harms and Brian Vodicka. Council Member Britton moved to approve the wage increase starting on June 25th, 2018, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Vogt discussed the USDA Rural Development Grant funding proposal to the City. Vogt has spoken with Dane Simonsen of JEO, Jerry Stilmock and Alan Britton. Vogt suggests the City accept the two million dollar grant proposal and move forward with the two wells and the transmission main. Britton mentioned this is only the 2nd time USDA has reached out to a city. They currently have surplus grant money; this is likely not going to be available again in the future. Their fiscal year ends September 30, 2018. The City's rate would be 3 & 1/8 fixed. Britton would like to the Council to be prepared to make

a vote on the proposition at a future meeting. Using the USDA as a funding tool would be beneficial as they would not implement the Davis Bacon Rule. Stilmock explained the money used to purchase the farm may or may not have an impact on the amount of the grant per Dane Simonsen. Ortiz is asking what the options are for the City to be able to pay for the five million dollar loan. Britton explained the Utility department does not have as much bonded debt and if the City decides to wait to move forward on the project the costs of construction will likely be more. Britton is gathering information to see where the City's rates are at and if a rate increase would be allowable. Ortiz suggests JEO tell the City what direction does the City need to go with these projects and prioritize. Superintendent Vogt will reach out to Dane Simonsen regarding the deadline for the USDA grant funding proposal.

Vogt updated that Hein Construction will be doing the crack sealing in the streets in the next couple weeks.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City Uptime Project Scope; Scott and Jeff of Five Nines not present. The discussion will be tabled until a future meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on RFP information for City's insurance. Attorney Stilmock presented the packet of information to hand out to insurance companies for their proposals. He will look to Clerk Farmer to confirm updated values on vehicles if needed. Council Member Britton moved to approve the RFP information, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

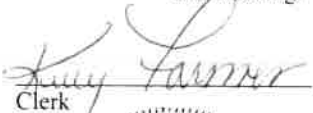
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and update on private streets zone development. The Planning Commission and City Council had a joint meeting. At that meeting, the Planning Commission would like to think about the issue and digest before moving forward. The Planning will continue the discussion at a future Planning Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on vehicle purchase for City use. Council Member Henke moved to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for City use not to exceed \$15,000.00, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and request for SDL and beer garden from 1:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. on July 14th, 2018 to be located in the enclosed area already approved for GermanFest. Molly Hillman and members of the GermanFest Committee present to explain. This is back-up in case the other applications for SDLs for this date do not happen. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the Chamber's non-profit SDL request, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, 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

