

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

October 10, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on October 10, 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 Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the September 12th, 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 approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG present. BMG had sent the September report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome put together a report to place with the year-end records pages 3.4, & 5; the report included variances and notes on things that Blome found vary from one year to the next. For example, why is Park income account 4130 down from the prior year? As far as the year end financials, the report is mostly cash basis. BMG will work with the City Auditor Julie Baumann to adjust as necessary; for example any inventory Baumann shows. Blome pointed out the long-term debt section and how each of the bonds have gone down. Blome has a list of outstanding checks he will send to Clerk Farmer so she can look into as to why they are still outstanding. Blome said these checks can be sent to State Treasurer's office as unclaimed property or are maybe checks that were voided or maybe a check that was re-issued. If a check goes back a couple of years, a check can be written off. Blome will send the analysis as a substitute for his presence when he cannot make it to a meeting. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the September Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Aflac	357.10
All Roads Barricades, Inc.	32.36
Ameritas	80.56
B&B Pump N Go	308.52
B&D Diamond Pro	8695.00
BMG	2500.00
Border States	524.28
Big Red Drainage	138.00
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom, Stilmock	4117.50
Builrite Bleachers	16,945.07
Burr Farms	149.95
Capital Business Systems	98.10
Case III	2604.50
City of Nebraska City	736.21
City of Syracuse	1928.22
Complete Cabling Solutions	8435.00
Conney Safety	381.56
Consumer Reports	59.95
Culligan	44.00
Delta Dental	380.42
Delores Post	83.34
Eakes	230.50
EMS Billing Service	1472.23
Dutton Lainson Co.	1387.23
Echo	22.22
ET's Lawn & Leisure	9000.00
Gatehouse Media	61.57
Gerald Siefken	35.00
Good Housekeeping	15.97
Great America Financial Services	1572.82
Francis Milder	35.00
Five Nines	2160.89
Hanks Garage	625.50

Hawkins	111.05
Hemje Plumbing, Htg. & AC	65.00
Howard Engelbrecht	35.00
Ingram Library Service	587.28
JEO	556.75
Jim Clark	35.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Kelly Anderson	35.00
LARM	46,427.01
Micro Marketing	16.19
Martin Marietta	423.93
Matheson	608.35
Michael Angelo	200.00
Midwest Labs	130.90
Mike's Window Service	107.83
Moore Medical	215.37
Municipal Supply Inc	4425.85
Nebraska City Utilities	440.82
Nebraska Library Commission	500.00
Northern Safety & Industrial	71.21
NMC Exchange LLC	331.97
NZ Construction	100.00
OPPD	128,110.33
One Call Concepts	19.65
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Pioneer Underground Sprinklers	650.00
Papillion Sanitation	68.00
Paul Davis Restorations	12,137.54
Perceptor Tau	433.88
Peterson Earthmoving	6400.00
Petty Cash	116.29
Roxanne Smith	16.66
Southeast Seamless	35.00
SDA Cheerleaders	169.57
Security Equipment	168.00
S-Club	496.22
Smart Apple Media	108.70
Stutheit Implement	1141.76
Sue Antes	1513.64
Suez	6236.00
Syracuse Journal Democrat	52.50
Syracuse Do It Best	1315.45
SVFD	312.05\
Syracuse Iron Works	409.33
Syracuse Lumber Co.	84.54
Syracuse Motor Supply	99.16
Syracuse Vet. Service	362.02
Taste of Homes	33.98
Terry's	138.51
U.S. Postal Service	311.43
Verizon	150.82
Windstream	1601.23
WAPA	1562.22
Writetime	2759.99
Todd Aksamit	1002.27
Kelly Farmer	1083.40
Derek Harms	1118.92
Mark Moerer	1124.56
Julie Slafter	1122.04
Jeffrey Vogt	1610.79
Brian Vodicka	793.08

Jonathan Baugous	702.31
Brent Teten	1135.24
Nicole Vonderschmidt	1005.14
Jill Crook	1351.93
August Levenhagen	88.24
Tami Andera	120.00
Andy Brace	320.00
Kim Bellinder	40.00
Jody Bruns	40.00
Cody Pester	883.84
Kody Cardinal	60.00
Trevor Clark	60.00
Caleb Frede	90.00
Sharon Morrow	210.00
Carol Linqvist	300.00
Susan Obermeyer	180.00
Christa Reisdorff	50.00
Joe Reisdorff	30.00
Becca Royal	120.00
Jamy Prokopec	52.24
Marcia Scheinost	80.00
Kristy Henke	181.70
Karen Kimpel	122.64
Tomas Ortiz	454.25
Carolyn Bremer	181.70
Alan Britton	181.70
Deb Dettmer	181.70
Orv Gigstad	158.99
Patty Hogancamp	109.02
Leah Ganzel	359.77
Bruce Neemann	88.58
Tim Wilson	850.00
John Voyles	200.00
Laramie Werner	120.00
Jen Staack	160.00
Ken Halvorsen	40.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No One present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Chief Deputy Mike Holland present. Holland reported 46 total incidents for the month of September within the City. Three deputies have been hired on to bring them up to staff. One is from Nebraska City Police Department and the other two will need to go through training in Grand Island. Dettmer asked about the 35-mile per hour speed limit on Highway 50 and the area where it has been placed; Holland explained he looked into it and the construction company doing the work on Highway 50 say they have a permit with the state place the speed limit and the location.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes present. Antes' report for September 2018; circulation was very good. The Friends Group has decided they will not hold their annual Soup dinner during Tannenbaum this December. The meeting room will be used for children's activities during the day and Santa will be visiting the library on that date. The computer usage is down; Antes thinks this is due to patrons using their own devices. The meeting room had 12 uses for the month. Adult Programming continues to meet at various times throughout the year. Donations made to the Library for the month of August totaled \$50.00.

ZONING REPORT – Zoning Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on removal of dead tree and placement of lien on property. Neemann explained certified letters have been sent to the property owner and nothing has been done therefore the City ordinance states the City can proceed to have the tree removed at the owner's cost. Stilmock explained Superintendent Jeff Vogt recently asked for bids on a tree removal and suggested Neemann use the same process of moving forward as Vogt did. Council Member Britton moved to advertise for bids for tree removal for two

weeks, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. Neemann asked Stilmock if he foresees any issue with accessing the yard; Stilmock will check on this.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT –Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Ortiz announced Parks Employee Jon Baugous turned in his resignation. Mayor Ortiz and Crook will work on Jon's replacement.

Crook led the discussion on proposal for Williams Park dugout drainage. Crook explained Pester Grading proposed two different options: just fixing the dugout issue and the second being fixing the entire field. Crook explained the use of the white rock is so that the rock cannot go into the tube and will help with some of the runoff of the clay or sand. Pester had cleaned out the existing tubes while he was discussing the work needed. Pester's bid includes replacing the grate as well as creating a slope helping to eliminate some of the mud run-off onto the sidewalk to the west of the dugout. Crook is not certain if the white rock will be placed in both dugouts. The Williams Park field is used for t-ball but Crook would like to see this field, along with possibly the SDA elementary field, used for softball practices for 8 and under age group. Dettmer suggested in the future possibly placing a t-ball field out at the Sports Complex. Funds originally budgeted for soccer field bleachers in the 18-19 Park budget could be used for this since the bleachers were already purchased using the 17-18 Parks budget. Pester will need to complete the work after harvest but it would be this season still. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the bid of \$2065.40 plus \$250.00 for rock as bid for fixing just the west dugout, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding online scheduling. Crook presented Team Snapchat information to the Mayor, Council and Attorney Stilmock. The cost is per-team and it is set up for people to enter all their information online. For 15 teams, the cost is \$1,136.00 but Crook is not sure how many teams the City would have. Crook feels this is top priority as she spends a lot of time entering in everyone's information and following up on registration fees and/or jersey costs still due. This also allows teams to chat through the site and is firm on deadlines. The Mayor and Council would like to see two or three options, talk to residents for feedback and reach out to other municipalities who are using something like this. Crook feels this would need the initial set-up to be during the off-season or winter months as the summer is probably the busiest time for her position. The item will be tabled and discussed when more information is available.

Crook reported the soccer bleachers have arrived but need to be constructed. Shelves have been built for Parks and Rec equipment at the shop at the Sports Complex. The basketball practice schedule has been completed through February 2019. Basketball registrations are due October 29th. The pool is winterized; the boards still need to come down. Basketball refs are being hired; Crook would like a few more. Parks employee Cody Pester will be helping with the basketball games on the weekends; he helped with volleyball games hosted by Syracuse. Flag football thanked the City for use of the Sports Complex and lights. The previous Parks and Rec phone number of 402-269-2601 has been removed as the line is not in use. The pool will have a phone come next summer.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Aqua Center bathhouse fundraising. Carolyn Gigstad and Jamy Prokopec present. The fundraising committee has met and created a timeline. Gigstad went through the timeline explaining the grant available as well as scheduling an open house to brainstorm ideas. JEO has offered to help write the grant. The City currently has plans from 2003 from Burbach but need significant changes. The grant is a one-to-one match and the bathhouse is something that can be accepted for application for possible funds. Other municipalities that have been able to utilize this grant include Fairbury, Hickman, Tecumseh, Blue Hill among others. The Kimmel Foundation is also being looked at including a Game and Parks grant. More points will be given to applicants who have the City's backing and engineering, designing and planning in motion. The timeline proposes bathhouse would be completed by May of 2021. The fundraising goal is \$300,000.00; the committee is positive the funds can be raised. The grant funds would need to be spent within two years of acceptance. SAEDC is also interested in possibly helping. Mayor Ortiz would like to know how the size of a bathhouse is estimated and for the committee to research this; the attendance and capacity of the pool plays into this. If additional funds are raised, Mayor Ortiz would like to see what other areas at the pool could utilize any leftover funds; examples include equipment, water features, shade for the zero-depth area, lifeguard chairs, etc. Britton mentioned the public being able to use donated funds as a tax write-off but the public needs to be aware of the how they go about doing this. The committee has created fliers to explain how people can take advantage of this opportunity.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on contract between City of Syracuse and OPPD. Attorney Stilmock explained he is waiting on commitment from Dave Peterson to proceed on this item which requires 3-year notice.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on NRWA water rate study; Randy Hellbusch of NWRA present. A rate study is typically done by Nebraska Rural Water Association every one to two years. Hellbusch presented a 3-year average showing our current rates are adequate when you don't tie-in the well-field and transmission main project currently in progress with USDA; USDA not able to be present at the meeting. USDA requires a 10% reserve needing to be placed in a separate account as well as a short-lived asset fund; this is in addition to the annual loan payment responsible by the City. USDA's concept uses a dwelling unit and the size of water meter at each unit; commercial properties are also rated by the size of water meter at that property. Hellbusch has put together estimated rates and monthly service charge for each size of water meter; these service fees are significantly higher than what the current monthly fee is for the City. The usage rate is estimated to increase from \$2.10 up to 10,000 gallons used to \$2.25 for the same amount. These would allow the City to generate the amount of revenue annually to help pay for the well field and transmission main paid. Hellbusch encouraged if the City has three years then to spread this out over three years to allow for people to budget for. Hellbusch will contact USDA and give information on a three-year plan to Clerk Farmer to distribute.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on department sinking funds. Vogt asked how sinking funds work and if the Utilities and Street departments could utilize them. Britton explained sinking funds are generally targeted for something specific, such as a bathhouse. One item specifically Vogt has in mind is the sewer plant. Increasing prices and fees now in order to allow to save for a project to be completed within the next ten years is ideally the way to collect additional money and set aside for future use on that project. Instead of going with what is left at the end of a budget year, the sinking fund should be budgeted for. For example, the line item needs to specify what the sinking fund would be used for. If there is more than one specific project then each needs to have it's own line. Other possible items include potentially an additional water tower to the north as well as electricity for future growth of the City. Mayor Ortiz suggests educating the public on these items as well. This is applicable for all departments but as Britton pointed out the Utility Department is separate as they are funded by utility revenue and not tax-based as other City departments are.

Vogt reported the leaf and brush piles are up and working. He asked for additional publicity by the press.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of end of probation for Utility Billing Clerk, Nicole Vonderschmidt, to include participation in retirement contribution and a \$.25 per hour pay increase. Council Member Britton moved to approve end of probation, participation in retirement contribution and pay increase for Vonderschmidt, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-21 regarding proposal and agreement for fiber to City buildings; Ryan Kramer of Unite and Zach Branstetter of Five Nines present. Unite provided the City with a proposed agreement to connect the four City locations of City Hall, the Public Library, the Fire and Rescue Complex and Utility building with fiber. This will help implement the IT upgrade project by increasing speed capacity for the new server and internet and allows for the City to grow not only in IT but for a future phone system upgrade. Unite is estimated 90 to 120 days from date of the signature on the contract. Unite will use Olsson for engineering and permitting. The City currently has fiber ran throughout as Unite provides network services already to Community Memorial Hospital and SDA Schools. Branstetter discussed items that can be done prior to the fiber completion in order to help keep the IT upgrade project moving as much as possible. The contract with Five Nines allows for four work stations to be installed in a month under the monthly contract already being executed therefore the Mayor and Council would like to make sure this continues to happen. Attorney Stilmock confirmed with Kramer the cost is firm regardless of the City's current agreement with Unite for franchise fees and pole attachment fees. Kramer confirmed the term of the agreement is 84 months. Council Member Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-21, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1041 on proposed amendments to Syracuse Zoning Code, Section 7.07 Sign Schedules, in the C-3 Highway Commercial District to: A. Permit 2 ground signs within development if development contains minimum of 20 acres; and B. Increase maximum height of ground sign to 12 feet 6 inches. Stilmock explained this is a request by the hospital to allow for the signage at the new hospital site. Stilmock noted publication was had and a sign had been placed at the site as required. The Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of recommending the approval by the City Council. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Britton moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1041 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1041 by title. Council Member Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1041, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1042 on applications for conditional use permits for 4 wall signs to be located upon the following described real estate: Lot 1 Hospital Addition, and addition to the City of Syracuse. Stilmock noted publication was made and the required signage was placed at the site. The Planning Commission also considered this request at their September meeting and unanimously voted to move on for Council approval. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Henke moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1042 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1042 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1042, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance on proposed amendments to Zoning Ordinance of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska to Article 5 Zoning Districts to add Build Through Overlay District; to state the intent of the district, permitted uses, conditional uses, accessory uses, height and lot requirements within said district; and establish notification procedures for future title owners within such districts. Stilmock noted publication was had and explained this item had been previously discussed a joint meeting led by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission considered this issue and the vote was 4-0 to recommend denial for submission of the Build-Through Overlay District. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Britton commented on the issue and recommended to approve the project but he doesn't like how it's currently proposed. He feels the division of the lots is not part of his vision. He's spoken with property owners and builders and sees the need/want for that type of living and lifestyle. Britton feels this would better our community by allowing this within our one-mile jurisdiction to allow for some control and input by the City in regards to the building and zoning codes while working with the developers. He feels the frustrations that will come with allowing for the development do not out-way the potential for growth and the public's wishes and needs. Ortiz allowed the public to voice any comments limiting their time to three minutes to allow for the meeting to continue on in a timely manner. Justin Stark of Olsson Associates present and suggested keeping the lots consistent and not break up as Britton spoke about. He also mentioned when putting in the streets whether they are gravel or not to size accordingly adhering to setbacks so that future paving of the street or even future development to extend a road can be done correctly. Dettmer feels the City needs to embrace the opportunity for growth and decide something instead of drawing it out more. Mayor Ortiz agrees there needs to be a compromise and does not like subdividing up the acreage lots as previously proposed by engineers. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Britton motioned to approve the project as designed with the modification that the shadow sub-lots within the language be stricken to allow a full lot to not be subdivided. Stilmock explained a new ordinance will need to be drafted as well as re-published for a new public hearing at another Council meeting. No motion to pass the existing ordinance. By guidance of the Council, Stilmock is to draft the new ordinance per the specifications as stated previously by Britton.

Mayor Ortiz announced the public hearing for New Business Item 13-D will be held on Novmeber 14th at 6:00.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and resolution regarding the Debris Management Master and Action Plan; Gregg Goebel of Otoe County Emergency Management Association not present. The item will be tabled until the next Council meeting scheduled for November 14th, 2018.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on 18-19 Employee Health Insurance Plans; Sharon and Wayne McDermott of Diversified Benefits present. The employee's current plan did change for the upcoming renewal year but the premium did not increase. The best plan offered by United Healthcare is comparable to what the current plan is but comes with a 13% premium increase. Something that is offered now more widely throughout most plans is the Telehealth option where people can call in and allows for them to receive a prescription without actually having to go into the doctor's office. Alan Britton asked Clerk Farmer to gather the amount paid out for deductible payments to the employees for the last year. Mayor Ortiz would like Clerk Farmer and Superintendent Vogt to go back to the eligible employees and speak with them for feedback regarding the offered plans before the Council voting on the new plan which begins on December 1, 2018. Regarding the Unum life insurance, Sharon mentioned to Clerk Farmer it is open enrollment for that currently if any of the employees wish to increase that amount. The item will be discussed at the next meeting and an employee meeting will be scheduled for the McDermott's to go over with them.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for Special Designated Liquor License for The Beer Stein for use at The Green Room on October 27th, 2018 from 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.; Tim Collin of The Beer Stein not present. Council Member Henke moved to approve the SDL request for October 27th, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request to close 5th Street use from Chestnut to Mohawk Streets on Wednesday October 31st, 2018 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. for Halloween Parade; Jenny Janssen of SDA Schools present. Janssen received positive feedback from last year's parade and the 5th Street business owners have been very receptive towards the idea. Council Member Britton moved to approve the street closure for the Halloween Parade, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request for Special Designated Liquor License for The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at St. Paulinus Church on November 4th, 2018 from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.; Adam Holz of Knights of Columbus not present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL request for November 4th, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

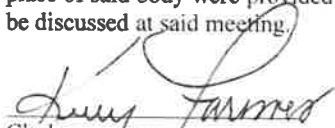
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Grant Formal complaint. – Jim Warrelmann of SENDD present. Also in the audience was Luke Pray who made the formal complaint as well as two members of the Housing Committee. The contractor did some work that is not acceptable to Pray as the homeowner as well as SENDD. The Housing Committee made their recommendations for approval by the City. If the Council agrees the homeowner has the option to hire a third party mediator to mediate between the homeowner and contractor. Warrelmann explained the Housing Committee is composed of a group of members from Otoe County not affiliated with SENDD or any of the contractors. Pray referenced the contract for his project specifically Section six of the contract and the City of Syracuse's involvement in the process. Pray has identified his concerns in writing. The Mayor and City Council would like Attorney Stilmock to look at the documentation further and discuss at a future Council meeting. Warrelmann added the rules of the program are in the guidelines not the contact.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on contract extension for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Grant; Jim Warrelmann explained to extend the project to March 9th of 2019. The project has executed nine housing projects, two are currently underway and two more applications are being reviewed to be completed within this 6-month extension time period. Council Member Britton moved to approve the 6-month extension, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, 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 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

