

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

January 9, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on January 9, 2019 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, Dettmer, Jerry, Laramie. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the December 12, 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 not present. BMG has sent the December financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Mayor Ortiz explained due to the length of the agenda each discussion will be limited to ten minutes. Moving forward, Blome will be attending every other month. The monthly Treasurer's reports will continue to be discussed at every meeting though. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the December Treasurer's report, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on water pipe repair at 1049 Midland Street; Tyler & Ashley Neels, property owners present. Neels explained they had recently learned their property had a lead water service from the main to the shutoff. Samples were pulled by the City. This is done at 10 houses every three years; the state mandates the same 10 houses are tested. Randy Hellbusch of Nebraska Rural Water Association present to explain these 10 sights were at some point named to possibly be more apt to read higher lead levels, that's why they were chosen. Neels discovered lead levels were high and was concerned as his wife was 6-months pregnant at the time. Neels researched infrastructure history; Superintendent Jeff Vogt explained he does not know if maps of the infrastructure exist as they are very old but he has not seen anything like this. The water from the main tested clean and later testing came back showing safe lead levels. Neels believes his home was built in 1890. The City paid for copper to be installed as part of the repair of the pipe; this cost of materials and labor was not passed on to Neels. Vogt does not have any knowledge of the claim Neels made that former Superintendent Garry Carman changed the code. Ortiz explained he takes this matter seriously but his concerns are that the City's Code of Ordinances states the City's liability stops at the main and the City cannot start replacing everyone's pipes from the main to the house. No further discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner explained the code states what the City is responsible for and the City has a sizeable expense already invested in the 1049 Midland Street property water line; he motioned to deny the claim. Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Laramie, Gigstad, Jerry. Nays: none.

Council Member Dettmer moved to pay the claims, Jerry seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Al Wirth	90.00
Aflac	357.10
Ameritas	80.56
Awards Unlimited	25.76
B&B Pump N Go	857.40
Biblionix	1500.00
Bob Stanberry	550.00
Brian Bock	180.00
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom, Stilmock	2377.30
Burr Farms	450.00
Capital Business Systems	153.20
Capital City Lock and Key	1005.42
City of Nebraska City	1115.51
City of Syracuse	971.30
Concrete Industries	259.34
Country Magazine	19.98
Culligan	44.00
Darold Grundman	200.00

Delta Dental	340.37
Don Wenzel	35.00
Dutton Lainson	2716.60
Eakes Office Solutions	311.92
Easter & Associates	150.00
Echo	1855.56
EMS Billing Services	1006.40
ET's Lawn & Leisure	9000.00
Gary Kechley	100.61
Gatehouse Media	97.82
Great America Financial Services	1572.82
Greenwade Tree Service	250.00
Five Nines	2179.53
Hank's Garage	1051.23
Heather Hauschild	35.00
Ingram Library Services	247.66
JCI Industries	1915.00
John Palmtag	100.00
JEO	8608.25
Kristin Throckmorton	35.00
Kyle Kriefels	90.00
Mark Moerer	261.55
Michael Todd & Co., Inc.	542.73
Midwest Labs	121.40
Municipal Supply Inc	1372.87
My-Lor	11.79
Nebraska City Utilities	2096.03
NE Public Health Environmental Labs	311.00
Nebraska Rural Water Association	361.65
One Call Concepts	11.34
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Rodney Nincehelser	1062.50
Scott Bandars	120.00
Shaffer Communications	28,820.00
Simple Solutions	90.41
Stutheit Implement	275.93
Sandra Kaelin	133.76
Sandry Fire Supply	732.72
Security Equipment Inc.	383.75
Sue Antes	1742.99
Synchrony Amazon	260.30
Syracuse Area Health	102.00
Syracuse Chamber of Commerce	90.00
Syracuse Do It Best	538.50
Syracuse IronWorks	503.14
Syracuse Lumber Co.	379.45
Syracuse Motor Supply	281.42
Syracuse Rescue Squad	13,250.00
Syracuse Veterinary Clinic	62.34
Syracuse Volunteer Fire Dept	250.00
Terry's Family Foods	88.19
Thomas Frech	35.00
Todd Aksamit	1020.56
United Healthcare	10,861.84
Unum	80.12
Utility Service Co. (Suez)	6236.00
Verizon	152.98
Western Area Power Administration	3135.48

Windstream	1494.71
Woman's Day	12.00
Zach Lutz	120.00
Todd Aksamit	2042.93
Kelly Farmer	2423.79
Derek Harms	2364.28
Mark Moerer	2171.67
Julie Slafter	1800.35
Jeffrey Vogt	3138.84
Brian Vodicka	1661.75
Brent Teten	2445.48
Nicole Vonderschmidt	1952.42
Jill Crook	2320.24
Cody Pester	1967.01
Tim Wilson	700.00
Marcia Scheinost	245.00
Jody Bruns	165.00
Carol Linquist	300.00
Susan Obermeyer	30.00
David Sabatka	150.00
Chris Lutjemeyer	150.00
Craig Boldt	150.00
Laramie Werner	158.98
Jerry Werner	158.98
Kristy Henke	181.70
Karen Kimpel	130.82
Tomas Ortiz	454.25
Carolyn Bremer	181.70
Alan Britton	181.70
Deb Dettmer	181.70
Orv Gigstad	181.70
Patty Hogancamp	109.02
Leah Ganzel	327.06
Bruce Neemann	95.39
Tami Andera	90.00
Andy Brace	40.00
Kody Cardinal	120.00
Laramie Werner	120.00
Jen Staack	80.00
Chris Richardson	50.00
Joe Reisdorff	30.00
Kim Bellinder (Parde)	40.00
Ken Halvorsen	40.00
Trevor Clark	30.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT -- No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT -- Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present. There were 54 total incidents documented for Syracuse; these ranged from a variety of types of calls. Of the 54, 21 were traffic stops, two house check/watch, and three burglary/law alarm incidents. The majority of calls showed to come in from the time of 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. with Wednesdays and Saturdays being the busiest days. Caudill explained he has made some shift changes; additional changes will be made when the two currently at the academy are back and one returns from injured reserve. No further discussion was had. Caudill will be present at the monthly meetings to present the reports.

LIBRARY REPORT -- Sue Antes not present; the report for December 2018 was circulated to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting. No further discussion was had.

**AMBULANCE REPORT** – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of new member to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Sophia Needum is currently an EMT and is in her last semester of the paramedic program. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve Sophia Needham to the SRS, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Annual Certification for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Wilson explained the SRS had eight members for the year 2018 who qualified. Council Member Jerry moved to approve to authorize the Mayor to sign the Incentive Act paperwork, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Jerry. Abstain: Laramie. Nays: none. Wilson explained currently the SRS staff consist of 8 EMTs, 6 EMA's with 3 currently working on their EMT's, 2 paramedics and working on two potential paramedics at this time. Day shift is the least covered at this time; Wilson explained this is a critical need. Over the past year, SRS had dealt with medication shortages therefore prices have increased, disaster planning with Syracuse Area Health (formerly CMH) as well as the squad's defibrillators are running close to their life span. By the end of 2019, Verizon will no longer support the monitors; Wilson will be working on replacing those defibs with new models where they will not need to worry about technological issues. Wilson is working on receiving pricing on another new rig for SRS. Currently the estimations to be contributed with City funds is \$100K.

**FIRE REPORT** – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Annual Certification for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. Neemann explained the same 15 volunteers who qualified last year are on the list for this year. Council Member Laramie moved to approve the Incentive Act and the Mayor's signature, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Ortiz led the opening of and discussion regarding Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup bids. Two bids were submitted. The current agreement with Kent Backer expires on December 31, 2018. The first bid opened was from Kent Backer for \$10,500.00 per year. The second bid opened was from Derek Harms for \$9,300.00 for one year or make the agreement a three-year duration with the amount being \$9,100.00 per year totaling \$27,300.00 over the three-year agreement term. Derek Harms is currently a City employee; there is concern if a City employee can participate in such an agreement. Superintendent Vogt mentioned the pile is currently not gone. Attorney Stilmock explained no other bids may be accepted and he will

**PARKS & REC REPORT** – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on bathhouse update; fundraiser committee members Carolyn Gigstad and Jamy Prokopec present. Prokopec announced \$49,149.00 has been raised thus far; this includes \$40K in pledges. The two attended the County Commissioners meeting recently. The Commissioners voted to contribute \$10K in County Kenos funds contingent on the City matching the contribution \$10K of the City's Kenos funds. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the contribution of \$10K from City Kenos funds, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Laramie, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Crook explained basketball started the previous weekend with Syracuse hosting Sunday games. More games will be hosted by Syracuse in the upcoming weekends. Referees are being supplied by a pool this year for basketball. Crook has wrapped up re-keying the Parks facilities and has been flagging some areas for a dog run. The Southeast League Softball meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.; Crook will work around the City Council meeting also scheduled for that evening. Crook explained Park employee Cody Pester is doing well.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-01 on a wholesale power options proposal by JEO. Dave Peterson of JEO recently discussed the different options at the December 12, 2018 Council meeting. Vogt feels it is something the City needs to look into. The cost to JEO is around \$5000.00. Council Member Jerry moved to adopt Resolution 19-01 to accept the proposal from JEO, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Jerry, Laramie. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-02 on Syracuse Utilities electric rate increase; Dave Peterson of JEO not present. A rate increase was discussed previously at the December 12, 2018 Council Meeting. Peterson's suggestion was to increase the electrical rate by 4.2% in order to meet the

City's needs to sufficiently run the electrical system. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve a rate increase of 4.2% for electric rates to be effective March 1, 2019, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Gigstad, Dettmer, Laramie. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution on Syracuse Utilities water rate increase; Randy Hellbusch of Nebraska Rural Water Association present. The rate increase will be done with a three-year step plan. Hellbusch suggested the resolution include language to refer to not only a meter size but also include the line size. The resolution presented will need to be revised by Attorney Stilmock before the Council can vote. The discussion and resolution was tabled until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on lawn and leaf pile cleanup bids. The item was tabled until a future Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and review of the proposed One & Six Year Street Plan; Evan Wickersham of JEO present. The plan helps consider the Highway Allocation funds given to the City. Left on the one year project is to re-surface an alley and the remainder of the projects include two on Highway 2 as well as a street project on Plum for overlay. Two larger projects include to replace a box culvert and redo a low water crossing. No changes were recommended; no further discussion was had. A public hearing will be held in February to approve the One & Six Year Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mayor Ortiz bumped up the discussion on drainage into Good Samaritan Society's storm sewer system in case Evan Wickersham could participate in the discussion; Dianna Epp, Administrator of Good Samaritan Society and Brian Larson of Larson Realty present. Larson explained he had recently purchased a lot at the dead-end of 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The 19<sup>th</sup> street drainage spills right onto his lot then continues to drain into Good Sam's property (Linden View) at the bottom of the hill. Six years ago the system at Linden View was blocked with corn stalks etc. causing Good Sam to have to restore six dwelling units due to water damage. According to Good Sam's engineers, a drain toward 17<sup>th</sup> Street and a separate storm system would be ideal. Larson has a recent drainage report from E&A while they were working on a potential subdivision at Larson's property. Planning Commission did not take any action on this at the December Planning Commission meeting; it was suggested by the Planning Epp and Larson come in front of the Council. Wickersham is not sure this is a City issue. An old file at JEO showed the development was constructed by a private developer in 2001; Good Sam was built in 2002. A note was made in the file when construction of Linden View was happening that information on drainage detention was given by JEO to Good Sam. Epp will reach out to Good Sam's engineer. The discussion was tabled in order for Wickersham and Vogt to work on.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on solution for air circulation in the City Hall basement. The discussion was tabled to allow for additional bids to be obtained.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on continuing education/certification pay for office staff. Clerk Farmer submitted lists of certifications and classes City Hall and Parks staff have taken part in as well as future classes being looked into. Vogt has sent his list to the Mayor. The office and parks staff have discussed options for possible incentives including recommendations by the Council. A recent Clerk-Net question prompted by Farmer did not provide as much feedback as Farmer was hoping. Ortiz would like to see additional staffing work done. He doesn't like to see sporadic hourly increases from taking classes. He would like to see the step plan utilized in order to review on an annual basis which employees are going above and beyond versus those who are just getting by.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on sidewalks at new home at 525 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street; Bruce Meyer of BC Meyer Homes present. The housing surrounding the area of the property was not required to put in sidewalks when they were constructed years ago but the current Syracuse Code of Ordinances requires new construction to put in sidewalks; this lot is a corner lot so it would require adjacent adjoining sidewalks. Meyer would like to see the sidewalk requirement waived. The Planning Commission recommended to approve to waive the sidewalk construction at the December Planning Commission meeting. Ortiz feels the City needs to look at the planning of the future, not necessarily the way things are now. The City is looking at many issues from past construction that do not follow the way the Code is currently written. Council Member Jerry motioned sidewalks need to be constructed at 525 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street as the Code requires, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Gigstad. Nays: Laramie, Dettmer. The vote is tied at two requiring the Mayor to vote. Mayor Ortiz voted yea therefore the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS continued – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and ordinance on Application for Zoning Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Syracuse NE to consider amending Section 5.05.02; Matt and Ryan Manning of Midwest Underground present. Ryan Manning explained they would like to purchase the property to the east of their current property. Attorney Stilmock suggested they first apply for a Zoning Text Amendment amending Section 5.05.02; Planning Commission recommended approval of the Zoning Text Amendment but included Midwest apply for a conditional use to allow for storage of commercial sales and service equipment; this is addressed in Agenda Item 14-B. Current neighbors of Midwest Underground voiced concerns against future development of the commercial use of the property to the east. They spoke of the loudness of the shop keeps them up at night; this includes loud music, machinery and if another driveway is put in for the east driveway. The Mannings had never heard of any complaints of music and were not aware of the issue; they are at the shop about every other day. Ortiz explained this area is a possible area for future development. He questions if commercial business with noise and equipment will hamper that growth. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Mayor Ortiz asked for a Council member to motion or take no action. No action was taken; Item 14-A was stricken.

Mayor Ortiz gave Matt and Ryan Manning the option to move forward with the public hearing, discussion and ordinance on Application for Conditional Use Permit for use of storage of commercial construction sales and service equipment and materials located at Lot A Railsback Acres in the SW ¼ of Section 4, Township 8, North Range 11 East Otoe County, NE. The Mannings felt if Item 14-A was not approved there was no reason to move forward with Item 14-B. The public hearing was not opened.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and ordinance on Application for Conditional Use Permit for construction of cellular communication tower located at the property S ½ SW ¼ Section 11, Township 8 North Range 11 East Otoe County, NE. Attorney Stilmock and the City's engineers are still reviewing the permit application. Mayor Ortiz continued the public hearing to Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M., Laramie seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Laramie, Jerry. 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