

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

February 13, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on February 13, 2019 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, Jerry, Laramie. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the January 9th, 2019 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 January financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome explained he had comments on the Auditor's report also presented this night, therefore he suggested City Auditor Julie Baumann present in his place. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the January Treasurer's Report and to pay the claims, Jerry seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of the 2018 City of Syracuse Financial Audit; Julie Baumann of Julie Baumann, CPA P.C. present. Baumann explained financially the City is doing very well. Baumann explained how they look at controls and compliance as well as all the financials the City held as of September 31, 2018. The Governmental Funds consist of all City entities and departments except for the Utilities departments; these are known as Proprietary Funds. The City received an Unmodified Opinion; this is the best opinion a municipality can receive. Baumann went through the report in depth explaining all the types of financial activities including any bonds, equity and the City's net position. Baumann and Blome explained it is healthy for a City to have some bonds but not have too much wrapped up in bond debt. Council Member Dettmer moved to accept the City's 2018 financial audit, Laramie seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Gigstad, Dettmer, Laramie. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and authorization of Mayor to sign Management Representation Letter for 2018 Audit. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the authorization for Mayor Ortiz to sign the letter, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Adkins Signs	60.00
Aflac	338.30
Ameritas	134.20
Arbor Valley Animal Clinic	29.50
ASCAP	357.00
Awards Unlimited	50.45
B&B Pump N Go	1595.57
BMG	5000.00
Bill Dutton	90.00
Border States	4301.54
Bound Tree Medical	1293.32
Brian Bock	90.00
Brook Fox	75.00
Brooklyn Nordhues	75.00
Capital Business Systems	364.59
Cardmember Service – Elan	3476.05
Cassidy Roberts	125.00
City of Nebraska City	313.74
City of Syracuse	1004.66
Continental Fire Sprinkler	250.00
Culligan	9.00
Danko Emergency Equipment	420.20
Delta Dental	340.37
Demco	103.07
DHHS – Pool License	40.00
Eakes Office Solutions	39.29

Echo	324.68
EMS Billing Services	1047.10
Epic Sports	4.00
Erin Beth Designs	42.00
ET's Lawn & Leisure	22.05
Farmhouse Style	19.98
Five Nines	2179.53
Gatehouse Media	137.07
Great America Financial Services	1572.82
First National Bank – Fremont	500.00
First Wireless	110.00
Ingram Library Services	720.14
Iowa Pump Works	4568.64
Jill Crook	157.50
Julie Slafter	588.00
John Palmtag	100.00
Josh Fishpaw	100.00
JEO	4662.50
Klayre Roberts	75.00
Krista Sisco	175.00
Lauren Meyer	175.00
Lily Vollertsen	125.00
Meyer's Body Shop	1584.21
Micro Marketing	32.40
Mike's Window Service	193.03
Mike Sheets	150.00
Midwest Sound & Lighting	200.00
Midwest Labs	121.40
Mitchell Brinkman	175.00
Municode	1025.45
NE Life Magazine	24.00
Nebraska City Utilities	1366.06
NE Public Health Environmental Labs	48.00
NMC, Inc.	1144.79
NDEQ	150.00
OPPD	256,635.21
One Call Concepts	6.50
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Otoe County Treasurer	117.78
Petty Cash	137.86
Prevention	36.00
Rachel Zahn	50.00
Rodney Nincehelsler	1312.50
Ron Rosenthal	1500.00
Ryan Walker	150.00
Sam Pester	75.00
Sargent Drilling	1441.35
Sporhase LLC	101.05
Sandry Fire Supply	4822.97
Scotty Gottula	242.50
Simple Solutions	25.00
Steve Berner	540.69
Sue Antes	1900.72
Synchrony Amazon	306.90
Southeast Area Clerks Association	10.00
Stephen & Danelle Owens	100.00
Stutheit Implement	281.66
Syracuse Country Club	125.00
Syracuse Do It Best	130.61
Syracuse IronWorks	209.32

Syracuse Motor Supply	397.02
Syracuse Rescue Squad	2750.00
Terry's Family Foods	103.92
Tom Compton	35.00
Tom Schulte	90.00
TCA Outdoor Power	1115.56
TruGreen	458.47
United Healthcare	10,027.58
Unum	162.77
Uline	629.50
U.S. Post Office	309.82
Verizon	310.90
Western Area Power Administration	2975.91
Western Sand & Gravel	222.12
Windstream	1826.33
YMCA	150.00
Todd Aksamit	2289.49
Kelly Farmer	2430.25
Derek Harms	2703.53
Mark Moerer	2053.17
Julie Slaffer	1801.33
Jeffrey Vogt	4023.24
Brian Vodicka	1914.60
Brent Teten	2792.12
Nicole Vonderschmidt	1921.04
Jill Crook	2297.22
Cody Pester	1976.51
Tyler Collin	106.81
Tim Wilson	1100.00
Marcia Scheinost	125.00
Jody Bruns	125.00
Carol Linquist	381.70
Susan Obermeyer	200.00
David Sabatka	150.00
Chris Lutjemeyer	150.00
Craig Boldt	150.00
Laramie Werner	158.98
Jerry Werner	158.98
Max Brammier	50.00
Karen Kimpel	110.39
Tomas Ortiz	454.25
Deb Dettmer	158.98
Orv Gigstad	158.98
Patty Hogancamp	109.02
Leah Ganzel	175.79
Bruce Neemann	170.34
Tami Andera	150.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT -- No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT -- Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present. There were 49 total incidents documented for Syracuse; these ranged from a variety of types of calls. Of the 49, 10 were traffic stops, 11 house check/watch, and six traffic complaints. Caudill brought up the discussion on the current ordinances and enforcement particularly parking and snow removal. Mayor Ortiz explained there will be a meeting to go over what changes are needed. Currently, the Otoe County Sheriff's Department is placing red tags on vehicles that are not abiding by the City's parking ordinances. Hours are down due to the agency being down two deputies. Two are currently in the academy; two are injured and one is currently in the interview process. Ortiz has spoken with Vogt regarding additional jake-breaking signs to be placed north by the on and off ramps of Highway 2 as well as going southbound through town around the 400 to 500 blocks.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes not present; the report for January 2019 was circulated to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting. No further discussion was had.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson not present. No discussion was had.

FIRE REPORT – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of new member, Colton Lotter, to SVFD. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve Lotter to SFVD, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Dettmer, Laramie, Gigstad. Nays: none.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook not present as she is at another meeting; she will attend later in the meeting. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for end of 6-month probation for P&R Manager, Jill Crook, including a \$.25 hourly pay increase and participation in City retirement plan. Council Member Laramie moved to approve Crook's end of probation, quarter hourly pay increase and participation in retirement contribution plan, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Jerry, Laramie. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and update on Aqua Center Bathhouse; Carolyn Gigstad present to report. The committee is currently at \$62,000.00 +; this includes donations and pledges. The Chili Cook-Off raised \$600.00. T-Shirts are available; there are two designs, the Aqua Center logo as well as the Build-A-Bathhouse logo; these are for sale for \$15.00. The CCCFF Planning Grant will be available by March 1st if the City is awarded the grant. Gigstad explained the Council will need to decide who will be the hired architect; Gigstad suggests hiring one for the entire process.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-03 on Syracuse Utilities water rate increase. Council Member Jerry moved to adopt Resolution 19-03 to approve the water rate increase effective March 1st, 2019, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Dettmer, Jerry, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on lawn and leaf pile. Vogt reported the leaf pile has been cleaned up and final payment has been made to Kent Backer for the 2018 agreement. Discussion was had regarding what direction to continue with the lawn and leaf pile. Options include making changes to the employee handbook to allow previous bidder who is also a Syracuse Utilities employee to go into agreement with the City or using Papillion Sanitation's service during certain months out of the year to pick up the lawn and leaf clippings free of charge for Papillion Sanitation customers. Concern was had for those commercial lawn businesses within Syracuse and where they are supposed to dump their lawn refuse. Vogt mentioned other municipalities fence in the leaf and brush piles only open during certain hours. Leaves and lawn clippings cannot be burned with the brush. The Mayor and Council suggested Attorney Stilmock work on revisions to the Employee Handbook to allow for City employees to be in agreement with the City. Upon approval of this at the March City Council meeting, advertisement for bids will be published again with a bid awarded at the April City Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on future of City property located at 324 6th Street. Options are using it as green space and pouring sidewalks or putting the property out for sale. Carolyn Gigstad asked the Council to consider waiving the setbacks for this property and using the existing footprint of the previous building; a home will not be able to be constructed on this property using the current setbacks. Zoning Inspector Neemann included there is a section in the City code that allows for the building to line up with existing buildings/houses on the block. The Mayor and Council suggest first speaking with the property owners on the north and the east side of the lot to see if they would be interested in purchasing the property.

Vogt explained the 1977 snow blower the City uses when pushing snow quit working during a recent snow storm; they were able to repair it but it won't last forever. Ortiz suggested Vogt look at prices for a replacement to build into the budget as needed.

OLD BUSINESS – 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; Justin Stary of Powder River present to represent AT&T. The property is located on the north side of Highway 2 east of Syracuse. Attorney Stilmock explained the Planning Commission recently recommended approval at their December meeting. Two conditions are being included in the Ordinance upon approval: A. Submission

to City and approval of written technical evidence from applicant's engineer that proposed tower shall meet established building code, federal standards, state standards and American National Standards Institute standards and B. Submission to City and approval of written technical evidence from applicant's engineer that upon collapse, if any, structure would be contained within guy-wire radius. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Laramie introduced Ordinance No. 1043 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Jerry, Gigstad, Laramie. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1043 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1043, Laramie seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Gigstad, Dettmer, Laramie. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on solution for air circulation in the City Hall basement; Clerk Farmer presented bids from Thrasher, Paul Davis and Sporhase. Council member Dettmer moved to approve the bid from Thrasher for \$8,258.16, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on sidewalks at new location of Mainstreet Bank at 1780 Poplar Street; Penny Weber and Justin Douglas of Mainstreet Bank present. The Planning Commission recently recommended to approve 8' sidewalks on the west side of the property and omit the sidewalk on the north side. Randy Sump, developer of the Syracuse Business Center, present to speak about future sidewalk construction within the Business Center; 1780 Poplar Street is located in the Business Center. Carolyn Gigstad of Planning Commission also present to discuss where the Planning Commission was coming from when making their recommendation. Sump suggested considering the capacity of the commercial buildings when deciding if the current Syracuse Code requiring 8' sidewalks in commercial districts can be reduced. Ortiz feels a sidewalk needs to be placed on the north side of 1780 Poplar because of the uncertainty of what future development will bring across Highway 50. Discussion of a crosswalk installed across Highway 50 was suggested. Council Member Laramie moved to approve 4' sidewalks on the west and north sides of 1780 Poplar Street, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding notice to LARM the City's request for proposals. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve sending notice to LARM and its members the City's request for proposals, Jerry seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Gigstad, Dettmer, Jerry. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Special Designated Liquor Licenses for Knights of Columbus fish fry's to be held at St. Paulinus Church on the dates of March 8th, 22nd, 29th, and April 5th, 2019; Adam Holz of Knights of Columbus not present. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the SDL requests for the dates listed, Laramie seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Jerry, Laramie, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of construction contract bid awarded to Red Lion Roofing, LLC for Otoe County Housing Rehab Project #026, authorizing Mayor's signature; SENDD not present. Council Member Jerry moved to approve the construction contract for Project #026, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Laramie, Jerry, Dettmer. Nays: none.


Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of construction contract bid awarded to Red Lion Roofing, LLC for Otoe County Housing Rehab Project #027, authorizing Mayor's signature; SENDD not present. Council Member Dettmer moved to approve the construction contract for Project #027, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry, Laramie, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Parks and Rec Report Continued – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval to purchase gravel for Eagle Run Soccer parking lots. Bids were presented for rock to be placed at the west and east soccer field parking lots. A second option would be to place rock in these two soccer lots plus add 90 ton of rock to the existing Sports Complex parking lot and a third option would be to include the soccer lots, the complex lot plus add in the parking lot at the Aqua Center. Council Member Jerry moved to approve the third option or Option "C" from Martin Marietta in the amount of \$5,943.60, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Laramie, Jerry, Gigstad. Nays: none. The Aqua Center parking lot will need some grading before the rock is placed.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie, Jerry, Gigstad, 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

