

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

August 12, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 12, 2015 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer and Britton. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

May Treasurer's Report available. Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and claims, second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

AFLAC	397.18
Aqua-Chem, Inc.	1,359.62
All Roads Barricade, Inc	316.00
Amazon Credit Plan	279.73
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	1,637.79
Benefit Plans Inc.	608.75
Blackburn Mfg. Co.	301.25
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	171.73
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	392.88
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	2,128.62
Caleb Frede	115.44
Cardmember Service	1,594.40
Carol Linquist	115.44
City of Syracuse	2,589.06
Combined Revenue Bonds P & I	26,250.00
Conney Safety Products	154.80
Creighton University	72.00
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	660.19
Davidson Electric	110.52
Dearborn National Life Ins. Co.	165.12
Demco	55.35
DHHS	420.75
Dutton Lainson Co.	2,182.54
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	1,484.97
Eakes Office Plus	1,063.75
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	60.00
Foremost Promotions	1,080.30
Fireguard, Inc.	400.45
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	340.02
Granneman Agency	250.00
Hank's Garage	189.98
Hemje Plbg., Htg. & AC	57.00
Ingram Library Services	415.64
John Palmtag	100.00
JEO	9,487.50
K-2 Construction Company	28,983.02
Karen Hunzeker	47.90
Kelly Farmer	2,626.67
Konica Minolta Business Solutions	229.23
Kristine Henke	183.87
Karen Kimpel	147.76

Page 2 – August 12, 2015

Lincoln Landscaping	125.00
Lacy Christians	333.10
Marcia Scheinost	115.44
Morgan Mueller	945.66
Midwest Farmers Cooperative	272.67
Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc.	69.11
Midwest Laboratories	103.25
Mike's Window Service	80.94
Moore Medical LLC	942.61
Municipal Emergency Services	372.73
Micro Marketing Assoc.	79.15
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE	211.07
My-Lor, Inc.	33.74
Nebraska City Utilities	891.07
One Call Concepts, Inc.	79.20
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	262,717.38
Papillion Sanitation	383.00
Peggy Hobscheidt	254.61
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	302.60
Paul Conway Shields	280.50
Penworthy Company	60.39
Pioneer Underground Sprinkler	802.00
Petty Cash	144.36
Preceptor Tau	692.73
Roy Bretthorst	376.90
Sam's Club/Synchrony Bank	789.49
JH Sporhase LLC	191.94
St. Paulinus Catholic Church	1,960.11
Stutheit Impl.	715.69
Salt Creek Software	718.75
Syracuse Do It Best	682.82
Syracuse Lumber Co.	4,074.41
Syracuse Motor Supply	272.43
Syracuse Veterinary Service	169.34
Terry's Family Foods	1,065.83
The Added Touch	32.50
Thomas Brinkman	22.12
Todd Valley Farms	105.00
Turf Supply Company, Inc.	800.00
United Healthcare	9,922.73
U.S. Post Office	325.77
Utility Service Co, Inc.	7,990.00
Windstream	1,707.41
Xi Beta Lambda	212.89
Write Time Communications	450.40
Wesco Receivables Corp.	3,253.59
Western Area Power Administration	7,152.85
Verizon Wireless	711.96
4Imprint, Inc.	2,089.71
Shayna R. Murrell	1,743.94
Todd E. Aksamit	1,835.74
Kelly E. Farmer	3,221.98
Derek R. Harms	1,861.26
Jason LaFollette	1,708.08
Mark S. Moerer	1,811.24
Chiona R. Morris	1,184.82
Debra N. Niedermeyer	2,194.14
Julie J. Slafter	1,404.04
Mitchell Stubbendick	2,071.93

Page 3 – August 12, 2015

Jeff Vogt	2,936.91
Sue Antes	1,379.44
Eldon Halm	115.44
Allison Mead	251.42
Alex Johnson	493.92
Katherine Mahar	547.17
Emily Isaacs	525.72
Eli Dettmer	114.29
Erin Hunzeker	287.89
Erika Hunzeker	897.64
Rita Compton	41.45
Kelly Hauschild	13.00
Kerstin Barrett	97.09
Sydney J. Paden	76.18
Derek Harms	83.81
Jeff Vogt	792.30
Timothy N. Stilmock	385.46
Patricia Hogancamp	92.35
Anna M. Rippe	731.56
Helen Mikayla Zahn	217.81
Gabrielle N. Williams	337.31
Coleman S. Orchard	724.57
Dale E. Young	428.59
Casandra L. Oestmann	216.81
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Richard Sitzman	115.44
Timothy A. Wilson	115.44
Alan C. Britton	183.87
Deborah J. Dettmer	184.70
Alfred O. Gigstad	184.70
Carolyn K. Bremer	183.87

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Carolyn Gigstad spoke about South East Nebraska Partners for Progress, a group focusing on economic development. Carolyn Gigstad asked for volunteers for a five county tour being conducted by South East Nebraska Partners for Progress. Carolyn Gigstad, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce wanted to thank all of the volunteers from the City staff that have helped with Chamber events such as BRAN, German Fest and hanging the banners on the poles around the city.

SHERIFF REPORT – Mike Holland not present. There were 70 calls in August, 14 being Rescue calls. Mayor Ortiz discussed an increase in animal complaints as well as vandalism

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Librarian Sue Antes. July circulation is up. Librarian Antes reported that the new summer book club has begun. Children's summer reading program now has 128 children enrolled, this is an all-time high. The Summer Book Club has decided to continue meeting throughout the fall and winter. Fall Pre-School Story time will be on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> thru October 28<sup>th</sup>. Fall Book club will run Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 26<sup>th</sup>. Librarian Antes asked if the bronze statue commissioned by the library could be stored at the utilities shop until the base is completed. The Thursday hours of operation will be seasonal after school resumes.

SWIMMING POOL AND PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Murrell announced the high school softball season is kicking off with a tournament scheduled at the Sports Complex. An adult co-ed softball tournament is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>. Fall Rec Volleyball registrations are coming in and volunteer coaches are being contacted. The Aqua Center is holding a Patron Day for their last day of the season including pizza, games, and prizes. The Middle School and High School P.E. classes will continue to use the pool for two weeks after school starts. Mayor Ortiz recommended Murrell continue seeking an instructor for the Rec Tumbling program. Murrell was recognized by Mayor Ortiz for her Williams Park sign she painted and installed with the assistance of Superintendent of Public Works, Jeff Vogt.

Page 4 – August 12, 2015

**PARK REPORT** – Park Manager Aksamit updated the council on the progress with the animal cages being placed around town. He made a point to say that none of the cats caught have been tagged with a City of Syracuse pet tag. The cages are monitored daily and moved around based on need. Syracuse residents are instructed to call City Hall if they would like a cage placed on their property. Soccer practice is starting this week. Aksamit feels the fields look good and is pleased with the progress.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt. Vogt reported the Verizon cell tower is 50% complete, sweeper bids are coming in, the list started in April for pot holes has been finished up by the utility workers. Vogt discussed that mowing is keeping the staff busy.

**OLD BUSINESS** –

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 974 application for approval of a small tract subdivision of the following-described real estate: A Subdivision of Lot 1 & Lot 6, 14th Addition; and Lot 1 & North 18 feet of Lot 2, Block 7, Williams Addition, Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Derek Grotrian not present. Council member Britton confirmed the zoning, City Attorney Jerry Stilmock assisted. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Henke moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None. Council member Henke moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 974, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: None.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing Ordinance No. 975 for zoning text amendment of Section 2.02.318: Sign, Announcement shall mean a small announcement or professional signs not over 6 square feet in area, except that an announcement sign or bulletin board not over 32 square feet in area, set back at least 20 feet from any highway, street, road, or roadway easement may be erected in connection with any of the permitted principal uses of a nonresidential nature. – Love's Truck Stop. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 975 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 975. Council member Henke moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 975, Council member Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing for Ordinance No.976:

1. Application for zoning text amendment of Section 7.07.02: Pole Signs: Maximum of 750 sq. ft. (up 550 sq. ft.), Sign at Maximum height of 115' OAH (up 75' OAH), all others must remain at a maximum of 40'OAH, Maximum number of 3 pole signs (up by 2) and amend to Pole Signs may be increased from 750 square feet in area to 950 square feet in area when all uses/storefronts within a development are included on one sign as opposed to having an individual pole sign for every use/storefront. 1 Pole sign may be 115' Overall Height and 750 square feet, all other must be 40' Overall Height and 200 square feet. – Love's Truck Stop

2. Application for zoning text amendment for Section 7.07.02: Wall Signs: Maximum of 430 sq. ft. (up 30 sq. ft.), no change to height, Maximum number of signs are 9 (up 8 signs). – Love's Truck Stop

The Planning Commission recommended approval. Council member Britton moved to postpone the public hearing for Ordinance No. 976 until the next Council Meeting scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 977 on application for conditional use permit pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.07.05.01 for reduction of rear and side yards setback on the following described real estate: Lot 4, Block 2, Eastview 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska, within the corporate limits of the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. – Nick and Heather Kestler present. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Henke introduced Ordinance No. 977 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 977. Council member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 977, Council member Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Page 5 – August 12, 2015

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 978 application for amendment to Syracuse Zoning Code Section 5.11.02 to authorize at a permitted use “manufacturing of beverages up to and including 16% alcohol content” in order to authorize production of wine. Brian Rundquist, Safehouse Winery, LLC present. The Planning Commission recommended approval for permitted use. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Britton introduced Ordinance No. 978 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 978. Council member Henke moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 978, Council member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 979 for zoning text amendment for Section 5.18.02 to add as a permitted use “office use”. Mike Zimmer present. The Planning Commission recommended approval for permitted uses in C-2 zoning. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Britton introduced Ordinance No. 979 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 979. Council member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 979, Council member Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 980 application for conditional use permit pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.05.05.01 for reduction of rear and side yard set-back on the following-described real estate: Lot Twelve (12) of Country Living Subdivision located in the East Half (E ½) of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of Section Four (4), Township Eight (8) North, Range Eleven (11) East of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Otoe County, Nebraska, within the corporate limits of the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Roger Schwindt present. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council member Henke introduced Ordinance No. 980 and moved that the statutory rule requiring on three different days be suspended, Council member Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: None. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 980. Council member Britton moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 980, Council member Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of 2015-2016 Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department officers. Fire Chief, Bruce Neemann not present. Council member Britton moved to approve 2015-2016 fire department officers, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on and Resolution No. 15-10: Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan. JEO not present. Attorney Stilmock explained. Attorney Stilmock explained plan can be amended by the Mayor and City Council without any time constraints. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-10, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on and Resolution No. 15-11: Renewal Coverage Proposal for the 2015-2016 Pool Year. Geneie Andrews of LARM and Mark Easter of Easter and Associates present. Andrews explained the additional property and changes to the coverages (14.5% valuation) along with rate increase (14.5%) both played a part in the City’s premium increase; net overall impact is 20%. Council member Britton recommended taking action after the closed session at the end of the agenda, Andrews and Easter will return at that time.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on and Resolution No. 15-12: Request for change of address for The Nebraska Extension in Otoe County Office to “620 1<sup>st</sup> Street”. Sarah Purcell, Nebraska Extension Educator, not present. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-12, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Cemetery Board positions available. Mayor Ortiz will be discussing prospects with Jim Pfeiffer, Cemetery Board member, and continue discussion to September 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led follow up discussion on Highway 50 speed zone study. Alan Swanson, State of Nebraska Traffic Analysis Engineer not present. Attorney Stilmock explained. Stilmock will send a

Page 6 – August 12, 2015

letter to the State with concerns regarding a possible extension of lower speed limits reaching further north of town. Audience member spoke up regarding deputies to pay more attention to speeding and traffic before and after school. Mayor Ortiz will discuss this with the Sheriff's department.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on properties. Doris Dowling, Syracuse Resident presented concerns about vacant properties that are left unattended. She spoke about feral cats, trash and overgrown yards as well as speeding traffic and disregard of stop signs around elementary building. Attorney Stilmock will continue to push the pending lawsuit at one of the vacant properties. Attorney Stilmock also discussed the possibility of forming a Department of Health through the City.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on and Resolution No. 15-13: Contract between SENDD and City of Syracuse for General Administration Services for the "Otoe County Housing Rehab Project". Lisa Beethe of SENDD not present. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 15-13, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on finalizing 2015-2016 budgets and salaries. Mayor Ortiz and Council agreed to postpone the discussion until the August 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Council Meeting.

Attorney Stilmock had no further information regarding legislative action, taxes and budget.

Council member Britton made the motion to go into closed session to discuss possible litigation and to invite Geneie Andrews and Mark Easter to join at 8:55 P.M., second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Council member Dettmer moved to open the meeting back up at 9:59, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz opened the continued discussion on Resolution No. 15-11: Renewal Coverage Proposal for the 2015-2016 Pool Year. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 15-11 and to select the 3-year renewal with a 5% discount, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Council member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 P.M., second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad.

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.

---

City Clerk

---

Mayor