

SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

August 17, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 17, 2016 for their special meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. 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 tabled discussion regarding the City's Building and Zoning Inspector. Attorney Stilmock has been working on a possible short-term agreement with Nebraska City to use the services of their current Building Inspector who also services the county. Clerk Farmer will compile a current list of building and zoning projects, such as Love's Travel Stop. The discussion was tabled until further notice in order to finalize details of an Inter Local Agreement.

Mayor Ortiz led the tabled discussion on the Inter Local Agreement with the Otoe County Sheriff. A meeting was held between Syracuse authorities and Otoe County attorneys, commissioners and deputies. Discussion continued regarding bringing on additional staff as well as adjustments to the current contract; currently the staff consists of 12 deputies and 2 jailers. There is concern regarding the current tracking system used by the county's Sheriff's office. The Mayor would like to gather the community's input possibly through a town hall meeting. It was suggested the City propose a one-year contract for \$180,000.00 but the City will pay only \$90,000.00 until an additional deputy is hired and provided to the City.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Mayor's signature on City audit bid from BMG. Council member Britton moved to approve the Mayor's signature for the Internal Control Review audit bid, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor led the discussion on approval of Mayor's signature for BMG's Letter of Engagement for Budget Services. Council member Britton moved to approve the Mayor's signature on the Letter of Engagement regarding the budget services provided by BMG, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor led the discussion and Resolution regarding the 2016-2017 LARM Renewal and authorization of Mayor's signature. The Mayor and Council have questions regarding the language of the renewal because the City's three-year contract with LARM is not coming to term. The discussion has been tabled.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on salaries for the upcoming budget year. A six percent wage increase was recommended for the full-time employees; three percent step increase and three percent for cost of living increase. A suggestion was made that the department heads all be salary paid, not hourly. Many of the full-time employees were in attendance. Julie Slafter brought up she is the lowest paid full-time staff member although she has been with the City almost the longest. Sue Antes is asking to be compensated for the personal expense she incurs from not being on the City's insurance plan. Mark Moerer offered to defer his raise to be able to add his wife onto the insurance plan as a dependent. There are strong feelings that in order to keep the current employees they need to be compensated. Council member Henke brought forward the fact that even if all full-time staff receive an across-the-board raise, Julie Slafter is still the lowest one paid. Mayor Ortiz would like to see the step plan updated implementing the cost of living as well as the job descriptions. Council member Britton moved to increase the step wage by 3% across the board and also add in a 3% cost of living increase for each full-time employee, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

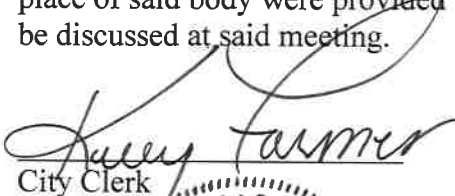
The Mayor led the salary discussions for the Swimming Pool and Parks Seasonal Employees and Librarian Antes. Recommended increase of \$.25/year increase with a cap of three years for pool staff and the addition of a pool office employee at \$8.00/hour. Pool staff will be reimbursed 100% of the training expenses: 50% up front, 25% at the end of June & 25% at the end of July contingent on the employee have 80 hours worked by the end of July and if leave on good standing; Murrell suggests this may be an incentive to continue to work the entire season.

The Parks salary proposed increases include one staff member go to \$1.00/hour raise and \$.75/hour increase for the remaining four Seasonal Parks staff.

The Mayor and Council agreed to give Sue Antes the 6% wage increase but no additional compensation besides that for any insurance reimbursement. Council member Britton moved to approve the mentioned wage increases for the City's Seasonal Employees and Sue Antes, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

Council member moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 P.M., Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke, 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.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

