

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

March 15, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on March 15, 2017 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, Henke, Britton, and Dettmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the February 15th, February 20th & March 3rd, 2017 meetings 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.

The January Treasurers Report available. City Treasurer, Todd Blome of BMG present. All bank accounts have been reconciled, checks have been accounted and amortization schedules are up to date. Blome discussed the sales tax numbers fluctuating; he mentioned the building and construction of Love's may have accounted for this. Typically sales tax increases account from vehicle sales as well as construction projects. Ambulance claims are up specifically Blue Cross/Blue Shields claims, Blome recommended Clerk Farmer speak with the Rescue Chief regarding this. Expenses are up in General due to the welcome sign claim as well as Park expenses because of claims due from a lightning strike, Street expenses are up because of the water main break concrete repairs. Year-to-date the numbers reflect the accounts are breaking even at this point. Blome pointed out that utility collections are up as well as capital expenditures but that is from a reclosure claim paid after the new budget began. Blome suggested the reclosure claim isn't much of a concern in the budget as there is plenty of cushion built in; department heads should try to allow a little time at the end of the year when pushing end of year purchases. Mayor Ortiz explained the City has been working hard to tighten up the budgets and not have that much cushion when it comes to the individual line items. Blome explained from his stand point more cushion is better as this shows built up cash reserves but understands the need to tighten up on the individual expenses. This could be monitored with a spreadsheet or worksheet he will work on. Mayor Ortiz would like to sit down with Blome to discuss a more efficient way to handle the budget process moving forward. Britton made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: None.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Deputy Holland present. Holland will be sending a 52-page packet to Attorney Stilmock reflecting 2016 numbers for the Sheriff's department. One deputy is currently on medical leave. Total calls for the month of February equaled 38, this being a fairly quiet month. Reflected were six vandalism/theft calls, seven traffic stops, six welfare checks and one drug call among others included in Holland's breakdown. If the City was not in a contract with the Sheriff's office, the majority of time a deputy would be in town would be when on a call or serving papers. Holland pointed out Syracuse is a central location in the county and the deputies like to congregate at different locations around town. Day vs. night coverage is not much different as there are the same number of deputies on duty, but more resources are available during the day hours. Mayor Ortiz requested Holland give him a call to further discuss things.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-07 approving the Kerns Agreement authorizing the Mayor's signature. Attorney Stilmock explained there is a change order confirming start date. Council member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 17-07, Henke seconded: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none. Vogt explained the clarifier is currently at Syracuse Iron Works.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on shredder bids. Superintendent Vogt presented two bids from Keim Farm Equipment, Kan Equip and John Deere. The Rhino Turbo from Kan Equip was the low bid at \$4800.00; this can also be used by the Parks department. Council Member Britton suggested looking into a double chain in addition to what is standard on the Rhino. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the shredder bid from Kan Equip inquiring on a 2nd chain, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Other items presented by Superintendent Vogt were installation of a camera at the CMH hospital re-build site and the new shed at the Sports Complex is very close to completion.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Murrell present. Murrell presented a report from SENDD explaining 11 applications are being reviewed with one being reviewed and two going out for bid. April 22nd, 2017 is the first tournament for the season being held at the Sports Complex. Seven tournaments between softball and Legion ball have been scheduled. Aqua Center employees have been interviewed and hired, training classes have been scheduled. Mayor Ortiz explained the Park Facilities Manager has been offered to an applicant; the City is pending reply.

CEMETERY BOARD – Bob Volker present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-08 on Park Hill Cemetery mowing contract authorizing Mayor to sign the contract. The Board members agreed to move forward with the bid from Gregg Zahn. Council suggests any damage done to head stones, etc. be reported immediately; Zahn does carry liability insurance in case of damage claims. The term of the contract will be for one year commencing March 1st, 2017. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-08 approving the Mayor's signature and contract for Park Hill Cemetery mowing, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 17-09 authorizing Mayor to sign Agreement for Services between City and Staffing Services. Attorney Stilmock explained there are a couple of corrections to the first agreement drafted by Staffing Services. Council Member Dettmer moved to adopt the agreement authorizing Mayor's signature, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and discussion on Ordinance No. 1012 to amend Appendix A, Article 4.24, Storm Sewer System of the Subdivision Ordinances. Attorney Stilmock explained this has been done in two parts, once already in the regular code. The Planning Commission recommended this move on to Council for discussion. This ordinance would change the language from a 10-year storm to a 25-year storm. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Britton introduced Ordinance No. 1012 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1012 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1012, Britton seconded. Mayor Ortiz asked shall Ordinance No. 1012 be passed and adopted and requested roll call vote. Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and discussion on Ordinance No. 1013 to amend Figure 23, Future Land Use and Transportation Map of the Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan. Attorney Stilmock explained all updates and corrections have been made on the new map. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 1013 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1013 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1013, Britton seconded. Mayor Ortiz asked shall Ordinance No. 1013 be passed and adopted and requested roll call vote. Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and discussion on Ordinance No. 1014 to amend and adopt a new Zoning Map of the City of Syracuse. Attorney Stilmock explained all updates and corrections have been made on the new map as well as the extraterritorial jurisdiction being outlined properly. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Henke, introduced Ordinance No. 1014 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1014 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1014, Britton seconded. Mayor Ortiz asked shall Ordinance No. 1014 be passed and adopted and requested roll call vote. Yeas: Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none. Updated maps will be placed on the website as well. Council Member Britton inquired on a ETJ map showing a photo of the area that can be superimposed to clarify properties as well. Attorney Stilmock will reach out to JEO regarding the inquiry.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-03 and authorizing Mayor’s signature. Attorney Stilmock explained the payment is for the contractor working on this project but goes through SENDD; the State deposits the funds into an account set up by the City. Council Member Britton moved to approve the final payment of \$24,995.00 for 15-OTF-03, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Partial Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-04 and authorizing Mayor’s signature. Council Member Britton moved to approve the partial payment of \$20,605.00 for 15-OTF-04, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Drawdown #03 authorizing Mayor’s signature. Council Member Britton moved to approve Drawdown #03 in the amount of \$53,900.03, Gigstad Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

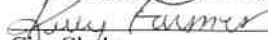
Mayor Ortiz opened the discussion and Ordinance No. 1015 to control access onto streets and state highways within jurisdiction of City. Attorney Stilmock explained this ordinance permits or deny access of a controlled access Nebraska Highway 2 as well as Highway 50/Park Street. The background is that the City currently does not have specific control as to where access off of a highway is placed; this ordinance would help with that by allowing the City to have veto power when working with NDOR. Council Member Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 1015 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1015 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1015, Henke seconded. Mayor Ortiz asked shall Ordinance No. 1015 be passed and adopted and requested roll call vote. Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none. The application and fee for Ordinance No. 1015 will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on negotiations between the City and Otoe County Sheriff’s Department regarding the Inter Local Agreement. The Council and Mayor are in agreeance to begin negotiations, Attorney Stilmock will draft a memo to the County stating to begin the process. In a separate conversation, concern was raised by a Syracuse resident regarding the speeding going east on 1st Street heading out of town onto the gravel road. Placing a speed bump at the location or possibly use of stop signs in order to make drivers more aware was discussed. Mayor Ortiz will communicate the concern with Deputy Holland in order to increase police surveillance in the area.

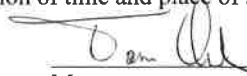
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding the farm lease. Tenant Luetchens inquired on a few items for the Council and Mayor to consider. The first being Luetchens submit the signed Farm Lease agreement to the local FSA office. The second is Luetchens inquiry regarding work to be completed on any waterways and/or ditches on the ground. The City views these items as the responsibility of the tenant therefore the Council and Mayor look for the tenant to make the corrections as deemed appropriate at the tenant’s expense. Lastly, the City does not have possession of any production records from the previous owners. Attorney Stilmock will communicate this with Mr. Luetchens.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 28th 2017.

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