

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

June 8, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on June 8, 2016 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz & Council members Henke, Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer. 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. The minutes 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.

April Treasurer's Report available. City Treasurer, Todd Blome of BMG present. All accounts have been reconciled. Blome has plans to add schedules regarding utilities, possibly available for the July Council meeting. Compared to this time last year, gross receipts are down but doesn't necessarily mean anything; could be due to milder weather this year thus causing the utilities to be lower. Payroll is going well, twenty new employees have been added due to the seasonal help hired. Blome supplied copies of the bond amortization schedules. Blome offered to help with any budget questions the City may have. BMG has discussed educating the City on internal controls; Mayor Ortiz asked Blome to put a proposal together. Blome will send a document known as the "dirty dozen" to Clerk Farmer to send out to the Mayor and Council. Gigstad made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: None.

AFLAC	443.78
Alan Britton	161.61
Alfred Gigstad	161.62
Awards Unlimited	242.64
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	892.14
Better Homes and Gardens	9.99
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	814.49
BMG	2500.00
B & D Diamond Pro, Inc	510.00
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	570.48
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	5250.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc	60.00
Cardmember Service	1951.66
Community Memorial Hospital	13.75
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
City of Syracuse	911.60
Conney Safety Products	1317.24
Culligan Water Conditioning	60.64
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	288.00
Deb Dettmer	161.61
Dutton Lainson Co.	1453.08
Dentegra Insurance Company	148.56
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	1463.66
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	83.00
Farmers Cooperative	14.60
Falls City Mercantile	552.40
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	305.12
Gregg Zahn	6027.50
Hanks Garage	189.60
Hawkins, Inc.	159.69
Hemje Plbg, Htg and AC	162.00
Ingram Library Services	428.17
Int. Institute of Municipal Clerks	180.00
Jason LaFollette	268.18
JC Cross Co.	2625.00
John Palmtag	100.00

JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	6249.50
Julie Slafter	86.99
JH Sporhase	36.00
Kelly Farmer	2290.04
Kim Parde	183.45
Kristine Henke	161.61
Karen Kimpel	124.57
Kriz Davis Company	1472.42
Kurt Kastens	899.28
Layne Christensen Company	692.30
Leah Ganzel	91.43
League of NE Municipalities	443.00
Joe Reisdorff	184.70
Marcia Scheinost	184.70
Micro Marketing Assoc.	48.53
Midwest Laboratories, Inc	13.78
Midwest Farmers Coop	503.58
Mikes Window Service	74.55
Municipal Supply of Omaha	9602.11
Nebraska City Utilities	365.17
NWOD	30.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	17.01
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
OPPD	100,638.26
Papillion Sanitation	420.31
Patricia Hogancamp	173.16
Petty Cash –Swimming Pool	490.00
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	1338.20
Pioneer Underground Sprinkler	3269.70
Real Simple	24.00
Richard Sitzman	115.41
Roy Bretthorst	636.02
Sam’s Club/Synchrony Bank	626.35
SENND	1136.43
Shayna Murrell	227.62
Southeast Library System	25.00
Stutheit Implement	257.20
Syracuse Lumber Co.	167.52
Synchrony Bank/Amazon	392.45
Syracuse Do It Best	429.54
Syracuse Motor Supply	304.89
Syracuse Veterinary Service	87.04
Terry’s Family Foods	2537.45
Turf Supply Company, Inc.	680.00
United Healthcare	1825.27
U.S. Post Office	391.99
Verizon	340.28
Western Area Power Administration	3435.97
Westrum Leak Detection	1600.00
Windstream	2106.60
WriteTime Communications	259.68
Shayna R. Murrell	1792.92
Todd E. Aksamit	2067.49
Derek R. Harms	1962.88
Jason LaFollette	2011.42
Mark S. Moerer	2130.31
Chiona R. Morris	1732.50
Julie J. Slafter	1464.29
Mitchell Stubbendick	2129.14
Jeff Vogt	2708.73
Sue Antes	1931.85

Eldon Halm	115.43
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Timothy A. Wilson	184.70
Carol Linquist	183.45
Katherine Mahar	7.85
Tim Stilmock	62.80
Dale Young	644.82
Morgan Mueller	453.33
Julie Isaacs	74.57
Cody Pester	62.80
Coleman Orchard	74.57
Jamy Prokopec	258.87
Dawson Flint	26.67
Madison Mueller	26.67
Cody Ryan	26.67
Emily Holthus	26.67
Taylor Weiler	26.67
Aaron Mead	26.67
Viktor Werner	26.67
Lyndsey Sheil	26.67
Cassie Katen	26.67
Brynn Krieger	26.67
Aprille Johnson	26.67
Megan Reuter	26.67
Izaak Prater	26.67

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Deputy Mike Holland was called out therefore he was not present. No questions were asked regarding the report supplied by Deputy Holland.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes presented her report. Good circulation for the month. Antes has been working on her annual statistical report for the Public Library. The library received a silver rating which is the highest a library the City’s size can receive. Summer reading has over 100 children signed up with 25 volunteers. The Foundation has okay’d Antes to purchase crock pots for the Library.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS REPORT – Rec Coordinator Shayna Murrell present. Boys and girls tourneys are scheduled as well as Slump-Buster tourneys the next two weekends and then the legion tourney. Boys and girls t-ball has begun. The AquaCenter opened on Memorial Day; swim lessons begin next week. 56 people attended a fundraiser held for the pool and raised over \$1000.00 for purchase of toys, lounge chairs, and paint for cosmetic fixes to the bath house. Discussions added to the agenda by Pool Manager Prokopec tabled until the July meeting; she was not able to attend. Council member Britton expressed a comment he received that the feeling at the pool is much better this year than last pool season.

PARKS REPORT – Park Manager Aksamit presented report. The maintenance shed at the Sports Complex is moving forward well. The sprinkler system is running well currently and pot holes in the complex parking lot have been repaired. The Park summer help has been working out good. Aksamit will touch base with the Syracuse Soccer committee to make sure no one is using the soccer fields so patches can be fixed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Jeff Vogt unable to attend. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on bid results for the Asphaltic Concrete Overlay Project, Attorney Stilmock explained. A notice of award has been prepared by Street Superintendent Wickersham of JEO for Pavers, Inc. with a bid of \$121,852.70 and a start date of September 2016. Council Member Britton moved to approve the bid with Pavers, Inc. to Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. The discussion on bids for City Hall roof repair should be tabled until the July Council meeting since Vogt is not present.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on past utility accounts reconciliation. Chiona Morris, Utility Billing Clerk explained letters have been sent to those with balances. Only a couple paid the outstanding balance, most were agitated. Morris is seeking approval to write off these accounts due to statute of

limitations in order to start fresh. Council member Britton moved to write off the accounts applicable, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on property liens. Chiona Morris, Utility Billing Clerk explained that property liens can be placed for past due water bills. Morris is concerned that ownership has changed since the outstanding bill; Attorney Stilmock would like to meet with Morris to discuss the liens. In the meantime, Morris will generate a second notice and reach out to title companies to work together to collect any unpaid water bills with the help of Attorney Stilmock.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Municode. Attorney Stilmock will include the approval of the code at the July Council meeting. The Planning Commission will meet on the code in June.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Ordinance No. 990 regarding barking dogs. Attorney Stilmock has prepared the ordinance to allow for a citation to be issued by law enforcement. Council Member Britton moved to introduce Ordinance No. 990 and suspend the three readings, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton, Gigstad. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 990 by title. Mayor Ortiz asked for final passage; Council Member Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 990, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution on Highway 50 guardrail cable and the discussion and resolution between the City and Syracuse School District. Attorney Stilmock explained upon discussion with SDA Superintendent Buller, the school district has agreed they would pay one-fourth of the \$35,000.00 bill for the guardrail with the City maintaining the guardrail and the City paying one-fourth and the Nebraska Department of Roads paying the remaining half. The State has agreed to pay for everything leading up to the construction. Council Member Britton expressed the school should pay 100% of the project and take care of the ongoing maintenance as the City's residents already pay taxes that go toward the school. Council member Gigstad believes the 50% split is not out of the question and brought up looking at the newly purchased ground be a possible place for a school crossing. Britton also feels the guardrail should begin closer to the property line rather than the 800 feet in length. The Council recommended tabling the discussion until the July Council meeting and Stilmock reach out to the school board regarding alternate payment of the guardrail cable.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on advertising for bids for the removal and disposal of yard waste. The current contracted individual does not wish to renew the contract ending September 30, 2016. The Mayor and Council advised to move forward with advertising for bids but check with Superintendent Vogt if there is a place the City could take care of dumping and spreading the yard waste. Necessary equipment includes a tractor and a spreader.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on water drainage at 146 Ash Street, Lucas Wamsley of Syracuse present. Wamsley expressed his concern regarding the wash out in his backyard from the field to the east of his property. Wamsley spoke with Scott, Assistant Manager at NRD, and the NRD is willing to work with the City. Britton explained the Council is not the group to speak with regarding this situation and that the seller should disclose these types of things, especially when the property is defective. The owner of the field suggest Wamsley and his neighbors buy lots from this farm ground in order to manipulate the ground to keep the water from flooding their yards. Gigstad suggested possible FEMA funds available and will talk to Scott of NRD to see what is available.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request of support for help to remove ash tree, Karen Driever of Syracuse Housing Authority present. A large ash tree placed in between the buildings at Westview Manor has a fungus and needs to come down. Driever received a bid from Doug Grimm for \$2400.00 to remove the tree. Syracuse Utilities has removed what they could out of the wires given the small space for the equipment necessary; vacated alleys need to be researched for accessibility. Karen has reached out to Southeast Nebraska Forestry for recommendations however she has not heard back from them. Driever is asking the Council for help with the cost of removing the tree. Superintendent Vogt will be directed to contact a couple tree services and cooperate with the City's help and report back to the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on request of Special Designated Liquor license for use on the

fairgrounds during Otoe County Fair dates of July 27th thru August 1st, 2016 by the Otoe County Ag Society. Council member Britton moved to approve the request of the SDL, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on 2016 German Fest beer garden Special Designated Liquor license for July 9th, 2016 for Triple D Saloon; Darren Allen, owner, present. Council member Britton moved to approve SDL for Triple D Saloon, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion regarding City to pay for increased size of water line from 8” to 10”, Attorney Stilmock explained. No motion was needed, the Council recommended Attorney Stilmock to move forward by contacting Brett Biwer regarding a “pioneering agreement” and receiving figures for both the 8” and 10” water lines.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Plumbers and Electricians to work within the City of Syracuse. Council member Henke moved to approve those licenses listed by the City Clerk, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on street closing for 2016 German Fest beer garden Special Designated Liquor license for July 9th, 2016 for The Beer Stein; Tim Collin, owner, present. Council member Henke moved to approve the street closing and SDL for The Beer Stein, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Syracuse Foundation. Recently the Foundation went to the Mayor to ask how they can help with some of the projects being discussed; the Mayor wanted to bring it to the Council for their input. Ideas are a recycling trailer, a new pool house at the Aqua Center, the property where the City yard waste dump is located, and a cross walk by the Middle School but a working group will need to be established for planning. Economic Development will match what the Syracuse Foundation contributes. Jamy Prokopec has volunteered to help with a working group for a new pool house. Council Member Britton likes the idea of seeking a new pool house.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on projects that need completed. Clerk Farmer will send out the nuisance tracker to the Mayor and Council a couple times a month. Building/Zoning Inspector Bretthorst is happy with the process thus far; almost all of the nuisance properties on the tracker have responded. A complaint was made regarding a property on Park Street, Inspector Bretthorst will look into it. No discussion regarding legislative action, taxes and budget.

At 8:21P.M., Council Member Dettmer moved to go into closed session to discuss potential litigation, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz confirmed potential litigation as the purpose of the closed session.

Council Member Gigstad moved to come out of closed session at 8:41 P.M, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke.

Mayor Ortiz briefed the Council on his discussion with Jeff Vogt regarding hiring for a Street position possibly in October. Ads have been run in three separate publications for the open position of Water/Wastewater Operator. The deadline for apps is June 17th, 2016.

Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn at 8:58 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 12th, 2016 in the Council Chambers.

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