

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 2015

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on May 13, 2015 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse Public Library meeting room at 480 5th Street. Present were Mayor Ortiz, Council members Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton and Henke. 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.

Peggy Kuser, City Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and following claims, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

AFLAC	591.72
Aqua-Chem, Inc.	921.50
Arbor Valley Animal Clinic	43.00
Awards Unlimited, Inc.	338.20
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	219.55
B & B Pump N Go, Inc.	1,056.44
Baragary Construction, Inc.	6,180.00
Benefit Plans, Inc.	306.25
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	275.32
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	1,150.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	54.69
Cardmember Service	871.46
Caren Dey	30.00
City of Syracuse	780.12
Culligan Water Conditioning	26.50
Combined Revenue Bonds Pri. & Int.	26,250.00
Danko Emergency Equipment Co.	43.33
Davidson Electric	209.99
Dearborn National Life Ins. Co.	158.24
Dennis Kreifels	68.12
Dutton Lainson Co.	3,166.25
Eakes Office Plus	108.62
Electric Specialties Company	160.00
EMS Billing Services, Inc.	675.43
EMSAR Des Moines	282.05
Environmental Analysis South, Inc.	355.40
Falls City Mercantile	205.68
Farmers' Cooperative	13.60
Farner-Bocken Company	431.20
Ferrellgas, Inc.	12.00
Fire Protection Service	157.00
Fireguard, Inc.	537.22
Garry Carman	1,053.49
Gatehouse Media Nebraska Holdings, Inc.	523.21
GPM	372.00
Hank's Garage	50.00
Hawkin's	252.98
HD Supply Waterworks, LTD	2,445.53
House Beautiful	19.97
Ingram Library Services	626.17
Int. Institute of Municipal Clerks	180.00
Jeff Vogt	13.95

JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	2,857.50
John Palmtag	100.00
K-2 Construction Company	94,797.23
KanEquip, Inc.	45.52
Kriz Davis Co.	1,580.88
League Assoc. of Risk Management	500.00
Lincoln Landscaping	250.00
Martin Marietta Aggregates	445.47
Micro Marketing Assoc.	15.29
Midwest Farmers Cooperative	1,662.27
Midwest Laboratories, Inc.	15.24
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE	2,133.55
Nebraska City Utilities	484.25
Nebraska Dept. of Roads	2,050.50
Nebraska Life Magazine	24.00
NE Public Health Env. Lab.	512.00
Nebraska Rural Water Assoc.	275.00
Nebraska Municipal Power Pool	1,317.77
Nick Liesemeyer	3,475.00
NWOD	30.00
Omaha Public Power District	96,643.55
One Call Concepts, Inc.	39.95
Otoe County	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	507.00
Pavers, Inc.	111.80
Peggy Kuser PCA	850.00
Pepsi Cola of Lincoln	1,540.60
Petty Cash	49.56
Petty Cash Parks & Rec.	350.00
Percival Culligan Water	26.50
Phenova	337.53
Pioneer Underground Sprinklers	670.00
Practice Sports, Inc.	150.00
Real Simple	24.00
Roy Bretthorst	53.80
Sam's Club	566.99
Shayna Murrell	92.77
JH Sporhase LLC	1,200.00
Stutheit Implement	1,288.21
Synchrony Bank/Amazon	351.74
Syracuse Do It Best	270.08
Syracuse Do It Best	126.75
Syracuse Lumber	92.36
Syracuse Motor Supply	458.70
Syracuse Vet. Service	67.69
Synchrony Bank/Amazon	351.74
Terry's Family Foods	2,276.13
The Added Touch	97.00
The Good Life	24.00
Town & Country Pharmacy	13.15
Turf Company	840.00
United Healthcare	9,300.84
USA Blue Book	116.35
Utility Service Co., Inc.	19,016.64
Verizon Wireless	333.03
Western Area Power Administration	3,435.97
Western Sand & Gravel Co.	86.25
Windstream	1,453.14
Gregg Zahn	5,092.50

Zahn Construction, Inc.	6,205.83
Combined Revenue Bonds 2012	25,985.50
US Postal Service	321.28
Todd Aksamit	1,845.17
Connie Albers	29.56
Susan Antes	1,425.01
Timothy Antes	115.44
Carolyn Bremer	183.87
Roy Bretthorst	351.13
Alan Britton	161.61
Garry Carman	2,569.09
Deborah Dettmer	161.61
Kelly Farmer	1,967.76
Caleb Frede	115.44
Alfred Gigstad	161.61
Carol Graham	92.35
Eldon Halm	115.44
Derek Harms	1,850.02
Kristina Henke	161.61
Peggy Hobscheidt	1,814.24
Karen Kimpel	110.82
Jason LaFollette	1,751.75
Carol Linqvist	115.44
Shayna Murrell	1,739.34
Cassandra Oestmann	210.23
Tomas Ortiz	461.75
Julie Slafter	1,408.32
Richard Sitzman	115.44
Mitchell Stubbendick	2,101.59
Jeffery Vogt	2,549.35
Timothy Wilson	115.44
Dale Young	469.92

SHERIFF REPORT – Report presented by Chief Deputy Mike Holland. There were 86 calls in April, 27 being Rescue calls. Chief Deputy Holland reported that the hours are down for April due to the new deputies not knowing that they needed to check in with the Otoe County Dispatcher when they were doing patrol in Syracuse. Chief Deputy Holland also reported that his department did a Safety Check Point on Highway 50 in the City limits and several warnings and citations were issued.

LIBRARY REPORT – Report presented by Librarian Sue Antes. Librarian Antes reported that this month, the Nebraska City Traveling Museum is featuring the Native Collection of Dick Lawton.

Librarian Antes also reported that the Library received their 2015 State Aid in the amount of \$938. This is calculated on service population, legal service area and an incentive program for which the Syracuse Public Library has a Silver accreditation.

PARK REPORT - Park Manager Aksamit stated that Practice Sports will be at the complex on May 14th or 15th to start working on netting and poles over the playground equipment. Manager Aksamit stated that seasonal workers Morgan Mueller started on May 11th and Kelsea Bayliss started today, May 13th.

Park Manager Aksamit informed Mayor and Council that Pioneer Underground, Inc. will not guarantee that the filtration system will solve the hard water problem with the Sports Complex irrigation system. Manager Aksamit stated that instead of going ahead with purchase of the filtration system, he feels that the money could be better spent in other areas at the complex. Manager Aksamit would like to obtain bids for permanent covers for the dugouts. Mayor and Council agreed and requested that bids be obtained for the June meeting.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS - Recreation Coordinator Shayna Murrell reported that 100 children are playing T-Ball. Coordinator Murrell reported that she is currently conducting meetings with the lifeguards and the swimming pool will open on May 22nd.

Coordinator Murrell questioned if former seasonal employee Julie Isaacs could have a pool party at the pool for one hour on May 20th. Ms. Isaacs will pay the fee for pool party and is still a certified guard and will take care of all life guard duties. Mayor and Council will allow the pool party.

Park Manager Aksamit requested that the Mayor and Council let him voice his opinion on the matter and compensatory time virus flex time. Mayor and Council agreed to Manager Aksamit request.

Manager Aksamit stated that he was not in favor of flex time; as this is his busy time and he cannot get all his work done in forty hours per week. Manager Aksamit would like to be able to have compensatory time that he could use in the winter and work on Saturday and Sundays as needed. Manager Aksamit stated that his seasonal workers are not qualified to chalk and get the fields ready for ball games. Aksamit stated that he is concerned about the condition of the complex if he is forced to take off during the work week.

Recreation Coordinator Murrell also stated that she would like compensatory time to be used at a later date. Murrell stated that she is receiving phone calls about the ball games and soon will also be receiving phone calls from the pool employees with questions on pool chemicals, etc.

Mayor Ortiz stated that both Aksamit and Murrell need to change their attitudes and spend more training their seasonal workers and letting them do the jobs they were hired to perform. Mayor Ortiz stated that Manager Aksamit might need to budget for an additional worker next season.

Council member Britton expressed his concerns about the safety of children walking and riding their bikes to the Sports Complex. Mayor Ortiz reported that he has been contacted by an individual that is interested in making a donation for a bridge and trail to the Sports Complex. He will follow up with the individual and report back to the Council.

Also, Council member Dettmer requested that Park Manager Aksamit work on the pot holes located behind the handicap parking stalls. Council member Dettmer stated that the pot holes are making it difficult for the elderly and handicapped to get to the sidewalk.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Report presented by Superintendent of Public Works Garry Carman. Superintendent Carman reviewed with Mayor and Council Pay Application No. One for Highway 50 Water Main Replacement for work performed by K-2 Construction, Inc. Pay Application No. One is in the amount of \$94,797.23. Superintendent Carman and Evan Wickersham of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. recommend payment of Pay Application No. One to K-2 Construction, Inc.

Council member Britton made the motion to approve Pay Application No. One for Highway 50 Water Main Replacement for K-2 Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$94,797.23, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Superintendent Carman stated that the department needs to replace the utility line marker. With trade-in of \$700 for old line marker, the cost of new would be \$4,247.60.

Council member Gigstad made the motion to purchase a new utility line marker in the amount of \$4,247.60, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Council member Britton made the motion to continue the public hearing concerning the following-described real estate: Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) W & S of Railroad Right-of-Way and the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) Northwest Quarter (NW ¼), Section Twenty-two (22), Range Eight (8), Township Eleven (11), Otoe County, Nebraska to change the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map from Transitional Agricultural to Light Industrial, public hearing on application for a change of zoning designation for the following-described real estate: Southwest Quarter (SW¼) W & S of Railroad Right-of-Way and Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) Northwest Quarter (NW ¼), Section Twenty-two (22), Range Eight (8), Township Eleven (11), Otoe County, Nebraska from TA-1 Transitional

Agricultural to I-1 Light Industrial and to Change the official zoning map and public hearing on application for a conditional use permit pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.13.03.04 grain storage and elevators on the following-described real estate: Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) W & S of Railroad Right-of-way and Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) Northwest Quarter (NW ¼), Section Twenty-two (22), Range Eight (8), Township Eleven (11), Otoe County, Nebraska until the July 8, 2015 at 6:00 P.M., second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

City Attorney Jerry Stilmock stated the he spoke with Tom French Secretary of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 57 and due to the renovation being over \$5,000; they are currently working with their attorney to see what procedure they need to follow. Mr. French had not notified City Attorney Stilmock of their plans.

City Attorney Jerry Stilmock will contact Mr. French and have the renovation plans for the next meeting.

Rhae Werner, Chairman of Germanfest, appeared before Mayor and Council to review the map showing location of Beer Garden for Germanfest on July 11, 2015. The area is the same as last year with beer garden open from 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M. A map of Beer Garden is attached to these minutes.

Council member Britton made the motion to approved hours and location of beer garden as indicated on the map, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Council member Henke made the motion to approve special designated liquor license for Tim Collins dba The Beer Stein on July 11, 2015, second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Britton, Henke, Gigstad. Nays: None.

Council member Henke made the motion to approve special designated liquor license for Anthony Hensley dba Smarty LLC on July 11, 2015, second by Dettmer. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Due to Anthony Hensley not attending the Council meeting, there was no discussion on extending hours to sell alcohol until 2:00 A.M.

Tim Wilson, Rescue Squad Chief, appeared to give update to Mayor and Council. Chief Wilson stated that Tracy Sachs is returning to the Squad and is already trained. Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve Tracy Sachs as new member to Syracuse Rescue Squad, second by Henke. Roll Call: Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: None.

Chief Wilson also stated that the Squad is requesting the closing of Mohawk Street between 5th and 6th Street for Open House in honor of EMS Week on May 21, 2015 from 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. There will be a free Bar-B-Q, bounce house, driving simulator and tour of facility and squads.

City Clerk Hobscheidt was instructed to contact LARM and question if City is covered for bounce house and driving simulator for event.

Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve the street closing of Mohawk Street between 5th and 6th Street for Open House in honor of EMS Week on May 21, 2015 from 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

Chief Wilson stated that the Rescue Squad has been awarded a \$15,000 Grant for purchase of LUCASS CPR device and \$25,000 Mission LifeLine Grant for a defibrillator through the STEMI program.

Chief Wilson reported that there are currently 20 active members but there is a great need for additional members. Chief Wilson stated that there have been discussions on having paid paramedics and having a paramedics in Syracuse and Nebraska City. Wilson stated that there will be continued meeting with the Squad, City, County and Community Memorial Hospital.

Chief Wilson stated that with the Otoe Rescue Squad joining Syracuse, they would like to donate their 1992 Suburban to Syracuse. Syracuse will use the unit for trade-in when they update in the future.

Council member Henke made the motion to accept the 1992 Suburban Rescue Unit from Otoe QRT, second by Britton. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

City Attorney Stilmock stated that after transfer of the title, LARM should be notified and vehicle added to the City insurance policy.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing on application for Community Development Block Grant Funds – Syracuse Downtown Revitalization – Phase 1 Planning Grant.

Lisa Beethe, Southeast Nebraska Development District, informed Mayor and Council that the City will be requesting \$30,000 for Downtown Revitalization – Phase 1 Planning grant. \$27,900 will be used for planning and \$2,100 for general administration. The funds will be matched with \$9,300 from the City, for a maximum project of \$39,300.

Mrs. Beethe also explained that if there were any other groups within the community that would be willing to donate any additional funds for the project, it would help the City in receiving the grant. Mrs. Beethe will be contacting Carolyn Gigstad and inquiring if there will be any funds available by the Chamber of Commerce or the Syracuse Area Economic Development.

Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing.

Council member Britton made the motion to adopt RESOLUTION 15-07: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL TO SIGN AN APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDS, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: None.

A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

City Attorney Stilmock reviewed with Mayor and Council the revisions to the Employee Handbook. Revisions are: paragraph 3.5 (a) 1. Delete Street Department and Utilities Department and have Public Works. Also, delete on page 3-4 (1) in section (C). Per the request of the Mayor and Council Section (B) was revised to read that all payment of any unused compensatory time by the end of the fiscal year.

Council member Britton made the motion to adopt RESOLUTION 15-08: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYRACUSE, OTOE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 3.5 OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF SYRACUSE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS OR SECTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF THE PREVIOUS SECTION 3.5 OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, second by Henke. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: None.

A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

Council member Henke made the motion to approve the renewal of the following electrician licenses: Galen Gartner Electric and the following plumbers licenses: Mueller Trenching, Action Plumbing and Wellman Plumbing, second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

Mayor Ortiz informed the Council that a panel of Council members Dettmer and Henke, Deputy Clerk Kelly Farmer, City Clerk Peggy Hobscheidt and Mayor Ortiz has concluded interviews for City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk position.

Mayor Ortiz stated five individuals were interviewed and that the panel all concluded that the best applicant for the position was Debra Niedermeyer. Mayor Ortiz stated that the panel had decided on a starting salary of \$16.00 per hour.

Ms. Niedermeyer is currently in the process of moving back to Nebraska from Chicago but would be available to start working on June 1, 2015.

Council member Dettmer made the motion to approve the hiring of Debra Niedermeyer for City Treasurer/Payroll Clerk with a starting salary of \$16.00 per hour with a six month probation period, second by Gigstad. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: None.

City Attorney Stilmock stated that he had contacted Mrs. Charles Martin to obtain a release for absetos abatement at their house on 6th Street, but Mrs. Martin has not responded to his request.

Council member Dettmer made the motion to adjourn at 8:30 P.M, second by Britton. Roll Call: Yeas: Briton, Henke, 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.

City Clerk

Mayor