

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday March 14, 2018 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Henke, Britton, Dettmer and Gigstad was not present yet. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the February 28th, 2018 meeting 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.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on February Treasurer's Report Approval of Claims; Todd Blome of BMG present. Blome explained the report contains the revised information based on coordinating with the City's Auditor. All accounts have been reconciled. County money to be collected is a new item on the report; it doesn't go up or down and is visited in September typically. Year to date utility receipts are up, property tax income is up, and sales tax collection is down. Water salary wages and benefits compared to 2017 is up due to an additional utility employee in 2018. Water Capital Outlay shows a couple of larger expense items such as JEO water study as well as tools and equipment for \$6000.00+; these are non-recurring items. Year to date receipts exceed disbursements. Council Member Britton moved to approve the February Treasurer's Report and to pay the claims, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

Aflac	357.10
Ameritas	80.56
B&B Pump N Go	1816.44
BMG	2500.00
Bound Tree	159.35
Border States	610.39
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	2554.80
BTE Corporation	2650.00
Burr Farms	660.00
Capital Business Systems	53.48
City of Nebraska City	448.72
City of Syracuse	130.58
Delta Dental	1261.41
Dutton Lainson	359.41
Eakes	302.63
Echo Group Inc.	1547.12
Eden Tree Pros	15,000.00
EMS Billing Service	1879.09
Five Nines	2662.50
Gatehouse Media	83.51
Hank's Garage & Tire Repair	16.00
Hawkins, Inc.	223.76
J.H.Sporhase	61.35
Jon Palmtag	100.00
Kan Equip	14.00
Kriz Davis	523.08
Matheson	99.28
Micro Marketing	30.58
Midwest Labs	30.40
Municipal Supply of Omaha	1057.72
Nebraska City Utilities	2027.85
One Call Concepts	9.09
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Papillion Sanitation	285.31
Syracuse Fire Dept.	564.31
Syracuse Lumber Co.	1261.58

Syracuse Motor Supply	191.20
Syracuse Rescue	246.45
Terry's	61.09
Tru Green	19.18
Unum	83.59
Verizon	298.62
Western Area Power Administration	2672.82
Western Sand & Gravel	103.78
Windstream	446.90
Shayna Murrell	954.72
Todd Aksamit	1131.96
Kelly Farmer	1388.82
Derek Harms	1239.77
Mark Moerer	1155.70
Julie Slafter	883.49
Jeffrey Vogt	1901.45
Brian Vodicka	903.95
Jonathan Baugous	757.45
Brent Teten	1370.52
OPPD	121,433.64

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Chief Deputy Mike Holland present. The department is in week six of the system upgrade with six weeks to go. Holland went over the man hours and touched on the scare which affected the SDA School system; research showed the source of the internet threat was pinpointed back to California. Fortunately neither threat had to do with SDA School and the next morning strong presence was placed at the school buildings.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes present. Pat Apel will be helping will be helping with Pre-School storytime again; 33 children are currently enrolled. Antes inquired on what the Library is insured for, Clerk Farmer will send Antes that breakdown. Midwest Alarm Systems made their annual fire alarm inspection and recommend all fire extinguishers have yearly check. Britton explained the agreement between the City and Midwest should say what they are responsible for testing. Mayor Ortiz asked Sue to find what should be all included. Antes will speak with the Syracuse Library Foundation to see when they can meet with Kc. The annual Book Sale hosted by Friends of the Library will take place in the entryway of the library currently through March; all proceeds will go toward the Children's Summer Reading program. The meeting room had 11 bookings during the month of February.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Tim Wilson present to discuss Resolution 18-08 on Rescue Squad Patient Billing. Wilson had presented the revised charges at the February meeting, no further discussion was had. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-08, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none. Wilson explained the Medicare information he presented also at the February meeting. EMS Billing recommends the contact person for Medicare be Tim Wilson, Mayor Ortiz agrees with this. Wilson recieved approval from Keiwitt to submit an application for \$50,000 in funding.

ZONING REPORT – Zoning/Nuisance Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor led discussion and Resolution No. 18-09 appointing the Zoning Administrator as the authorized agent on behalf of the City under the Code of Ordinances for the City of Syracuse, no further discussion was had. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution 18-09, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Henke, Britton. Nays: none.

SWIMMING POOL & PROGRAMS & PARKS REPORTS – Rec Coordinator/Pool Manager Murrell is sick therefore Park Manager Baugous presented both. Baugous reported there are two more weeks of basketball, softball is currently in registration, batting cages are waiting for the weather to warm up to the concrete can be poured and Murrell will be approaching the Council regarding the sand volleyball pit at the April meeting.

Baugous reported for the Parks that the contract for the Williams Park pond is signed and just waiting for the weather to warm up, all mowers have been serviced, Baugous has spoken with Don Story of Diamond Pro to schedule application in April, signs have been ordered from Writetime Communications and the new full-time Park Employee, PJ Bryant has been offered the position at \$14.00 per hour. Council Member Britton moved to approve the pay rate of \$14.00/hour, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none. Baugous announced the chemical rep for the pool has visited to start the process of getting the pool up and going. Mayor Ortiz asked Baugous to keep up on the leaves at Williams Park; SDA track practice has started in the park.

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on electrical rate study, Dave Peterson of JEO present to report. Peterson explained there was a discrepancy with the way Clerk Farmer was distributing the utility revenues, those have since been corrected by using the numbers from the monthly Billing Statistics Reports. Another discrepancy was that Clerk Farmer was including taxes with the information being given to Dave where as he does not include the taxes; Farmer has adjusted these as well. Peterson sees the revenues are going to be short of what the expenses are for the current budget year. Peterson presented histories and explained how the loss percentage has increased where the City's system should be sitting around the 6% to 7%; Peterson had to use a 9% to calculate his numbers since our loss percentage is higher. Cause of losses could be meter upgrading, making sure multipliers are correct on larger power customers, tree trimming, over sizing of transformers as well as line losses. BMG documents numbers differently than Peterson which could cause a swing in the differences. Peterson sees the City running about \$100,000.00. Cost of power is going up, expenses are going up and the City is currently not selling as much power to its customers. A rate increase would go into effect starting of the new fiscal year, October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018. Peterson suggests the Utilities accounting process be re-evaluated to allow it to stand out from the other departments; this will help justify if a rate increase is required. The next step is to see how the accounting can get cleaned up as well as Jeff addressing those factors that can causes losses. Peterson will work on wrapping up the loop project phased in; this can be done as soon as it warms up a little.

Council Member Britton inquired on alternative options to acquire power. Peterson explained there are options that are significantly cheaper but feels it may not be a good fit for Syracuse Utilities; it is also more work. He mentioned that the City has many ties currently with OPPD. Britton suggests it would be good to inform the City of these alternatives to use for when contracts are renewed with OPPD; Peterson will work on this and be in touch.

#### OLD BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and possible action on infrastructure cost sharing for CMH project, Evan Wickersham present as well as Mike Harvey of Community Memorial Hospital. Note: Council Member Gigstad is now present at the meeting. Evan has reviewed the drawings presented by Olsson Associates; he is on track with the project. There is one item of discussion needed for the water main items on the City sharing in the cost of additional fire hydrants to run along Highway 50 as well as an 8 inch gate valve the City has requested be used. Evan agreed with the sanitary sewer and water detention plans. Council Member Britton moved to contribute this amount to the project and add \$5000.0 to total the City's amount of \$46, 454.00, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and opening of Request for Proposals for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services, discussion and intent to proceed with contract, Jerry Stilmock opened the one bid that was submitted this being from Papillion Sanitation; reps from Papillion Sanitation present. Paul of Papillion Sanitation went through the proposal; issues mentioned at previous Council meetings were addressed. Council member Gigstad moved to accept the proposal from Papillion Sanitation and begin negotiations, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-10 on items for bid from City Hall upstairs. Stilmock explained the items up for bid. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-10 and have the bids be required by 4:00 P.M. Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer, Britton. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on update on private streets zone development. Information presented by JEO is not clear; the discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and led the discussion and Ordinance on application for a Zoning Text Amendment pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Code Section 70.02.70 to amend definition of building setback line; Ron Zahn of ZCI Construction present. Zahn explained if he can use the 10-foot setbacks to the foundation and not the overhang, this will allow the additional space for a 3-car garage on a 70-foot lot that many people are wanting currently. Britton explained if we change the definition as this would do, it impacts all of the zoning and the setbacks. He recently visited Hickman's and Nebraska City's codes on this as well. Britton suggests the City change the setback rule for R-3 rather than move forward with the requested Zoning Text Amendment; this would require recommendation from the Planning Commission. The discussion will be tabled contingent on the Planning Commission's decision in April. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on SDL request for the The Beer Stein for use at the Green Room on Saturday, April 28th, 2018 from 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., Tim Collin, owner of The Beer Stein present. Council Member Britton moved to approve the SDL request, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Dettmer, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on SDL request for the The Beer Stein for use at the land west of the Syracuse Soccer Fields located on County Road J on Saturday, July 14th, 2018 from 3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., Tim Collin, owner of The Beer Stein present. Council Member Gigstad moved to approve the SDL request, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Dettmer, Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on notice to LARM the City's request for proposals and the City's Request for Proposal documentation. A letter needs to be sent to notify LARM of the City's decision to seek bids for the City's insurance. Stilmock also notified the Mayor and Council that the City will also need to notify all other members of LARM.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-11 on Release of Lien Assessment, Stilmock explained. Council Member Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-11, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Britton, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-12 for "participating members" of LARM to call for a special meeting of members and to select a voting representative and alternative. Council Member Britton moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-12 naming Mayor Ortiz as the City's voting rep and Clerk Farmer as the alternate, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Henke, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1034 for authorization, sale or distribution of food products or non-alcoholic beverages and establishing Occupation Tax, Stilmock explained the current City Code does not have this. This is a permit the City Clerk approves and will run on a calendar year duration. Council Member Henke moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1034 and move that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke, Britton. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1034 by title. Council Member Dettmer moved for Ordinance No. 1034 be passed and adopted, Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Henke, Gigstad, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-13 for Occupation Tax, authorizing Mayor's signature. This says the fee for the permit approved in Ordinance No. 1034 will be \$50.00. Council Member Henke moved to adopt Resolution 18-13, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Gigstad, Britton, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 18-14 adopting Vendor Permit Application Form, authorizing Mayor's signature. Hours of Operation will be added to form as directed by the Council. Council Member Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution 18-14, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Henke, Gigstad, Britton, Dettmer. Nays: none.

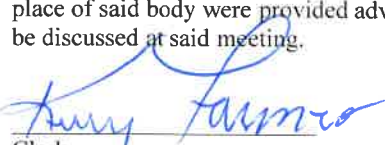
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-20. Council Member Britton moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$24,695.00, Henke seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Dettmer, Gigstad, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-10. Council Member Henkemoved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$7,395.00, Britton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Henke, Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for Otoe Countywide Housing Rehab Final Payment Request and Approval Form for Project 15-OTF-05. Council Member Henke moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$1,625.00, Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, Gigstad, Dettmer, Henke. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M., Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Britton, 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.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor