

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

May 8, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on May 8, 2019 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 Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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 approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG present. BMG has sent the April financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome explained all bank accounts and cash transactions have been reconciled and tie out. The income statement shows seven months in for the City's budget year. Blome was surprised to see the property tax collections are down by 9% at this time but he explained this could be timing issue; \$148,000.00 have been received to date from property taxes. The City's long-term debt is currently at 3.1 Million; these are bonds. A discussion was had regarding when is a good time to bond a project. Blome suggested looking at the board minutes from 2001 -2002 for information regarding a vote on a sales tax increase at the time. Attorney Stilmock will look at the sales tax collections from past years and what it was supposed to go towards. Blome spoke about the utilities salaries and how the hours are paid out of. For example, the sewer department's salary wages are up 35% but the salary wages for the water department are down 9%. Overall, salary wages for all the utilities are up. General expenses are up; postings accounting for the increase are claims for work done at the 324 6<sup>th</sup> Street City property as well as IT expenses. Street expenses are double what they were last year from the lawn and leaf pile contract with Backer Acres. as well as a purchase of a lawn mower. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the April Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. The list of claims approved is attached to these minutes

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of transfer of Sewer bond reserve to Utilities Fund; Blome present for the discussion. A sewer bond was paid off during the month of April, Clerk Farmer and John Trecek of Ameritas had discussed what is to happen with the \$19,000.00 in reserve funds currently held in a separate City of Syracuse account. Blome explained the purpose of the reserve and saw no issue in moving the money out of the reserve. Mayor Ortiz asked what happens if a City wants to pay off a bond sooner than scheduled. Blome explained it doesn't help to pay off a bond early as the City's liability is locked in with the bond holders who have made an investment. Council Member Jerry Werner approved to transfer the \$19,000.00 out of the reserve account to the Utilities Fund, Sewer account; this is a separate account from the General Fund account claims are paid out of, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes present; the report for April 2019 was circulated to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting. Antes discussed circulation was good for the month; 52 people are signed up for the Summer Reading program. The Friends of the Library group will be funding Summer Reading. The four book clubs will resume in September. The meeting room had 18 usages in April. The Syracuse Foundation is hosting its Summer Blast from June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported during the month of April Otoe County reported to 467 calls total, 50 of those were for Syracuse. Progress on the two new deputies is good; night and day shifts are moving some deputies around to account for any shortages. Mayor Ortiz would like to see the locations of the incidents listed on the report such as traffic stops; Caudill would look into adding these on the report. Mayor Ortiz explained discussion has been had regarding enforcement of citations. A waiver fine schedule will be established and brought forward at a future Council meeting.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT – Park Hill Cemetery Board Member Bob Volker present. No suggestions were made for a replacement of previous Board Member and Chairman Jim Pfeiffer; the discussion on the new member will be discussed at a future meeting. Volker explained two stones will

be set in the future. Cemetery Board meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on acquiring property adjacent to Park Hill Cemetery. Attorney Stilmock explained he is currently waiting on listing information from Bob Keim. The property has not been sold at this time.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on second ambulance purchase; Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Wilson explained the estimate for the rig is at \$247,224.00; the new rig purchased last year was \$225,620.00. A chassis has been reserved; it is currently in New Jersey. Wilson explained the rescue service currently has \$95,000.00 in the Ambulance Fund plus another \$15,000.00. The squad is planning to keep \$20,000.00 of that back as a cushion. Peter Kiewitt accounts for \$50,000.00 meaning \$107,000.00 will come from budgeted funds from the Rescue Squad's City budget; initially Tim budgeted \$290,000.00 for the rig. Wilson explained this rig has to be factory direct. Useful life of the new rig will be around 15 years. Wilson has submitted an application for an additional grant for a new cot. The grant is through Firehouse Subs Sandwich Shop. The cost of a cot is around \$20,400.00.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-10 to amend EMS billing rates. Wilson proposes for 2019 there not be an increase. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the EMS billing rates, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and update on Aqua Center Bathhouse and Planning Study; Carolyn Gigstad and Jamy Prokopec present. Gigstad explained JEO is currently in process of the design phase; the proposed Planning Study will be on the agenda for the June City Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on date change for Kickball Tournament at Sports Complex; Aqua Center Bathhouse Committee members present. The Parks and Rec department is fine with the new date of July 14<sup>th</sup>; this will include the use of the picnic shelter and concessions building but not including any food from the concessions as they will provide their own.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Back to School Bash at Aqua Center and street closure request for August 10, 2019 for 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Chestnut and Education Drive and Chestnut from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Stop sign; Aqua Center Bathhouse Committee members explained. Vendors will be present along with a cornhole tournament as well as other activities; donation boxes will be present. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the Back to School Bash and street closure requests, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Gigstad explained in September the City will be asked to formerly give approval for the Game and Parks grant; JEO will assist with writing this grant at no additional charge. This grant is a 50/50 match.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on bleachers at Sports Complex; Manager Crook explained. The Otoe County Fair Board approached Crook to let her know five sets of bleachers currently at the Sports Complex belong to the fair board and the board will be moving the bleachers from the complex to the fair grounds for use at the Otoe County Fair held in late July. Crook received bids for replacement of these bleachers as this will greatly hurt the seating at the complex. With Syracuse hosting a state tournament this year as well as multiple tournaments the complex needs the seating as soon as possible. Bleachers were not budgeted for the 18-19 budget year. Crook also explained the bleachers will need to be put together and this is going to take a lot of time away from the daily duties of the Parks staff so the sooner the bleachers are received the better to allow for time to construct. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the purchase of four sets of 10-row 33' bleachers to be paid out of City Keno funds for the amount of \$44,200.00 from The Park and Facilities company out of Delray Beach, FL. Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion and resolution for approval of Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature. Questions were asked regarding details in the proposed agreement such as when payment should be

made to Derek Harms who recently won the bid for the project as well as agreement start and end dates. The agreement discussion will be tabled until a future Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Ordinance No. 1045 regarding emergency snow removal; Attorney Stilmock explained. Superintendent Vogt recently coordinated with Syracuse Fire and Rescue Squads regarding which streets were high priority for emergency vehicle usage. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1045 and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1045, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on future of City property at 324 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Vogt explained the bid received from the adjacent property owners was \$500.00. The Mayor and Council agree the City does not expect to recoup the expenses the City has put into the property but at this time they will reject the \$500.00. Vogt was directed to receive a hard bid from Baragary for the sidewalk construction as well as reach out to Alan Britton who neighbors the property. He will also receive a bid for dirt work.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and approval of Letter of Conditions from USDA. Clerk Farmer explained the Letter of Conditions provided by USDA recently was only a draft; Dane Simonsen of JEO suggests the City wait for the final document. Questions regarding the draft can be asked by the Mayor and Council in the meantime.

Vogt also reported the conduit for the additional power at the Sports Complex and concert ground has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing for Old Business on agenda.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led discussion and request for Special Designated Liquor License and beer garden as presented on map from 6:30 P.M. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to 2:00 A.M. on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Anthony Hensley of B&J's present. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the SDL B&J's for the dates and times as previously stated, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-11 to establish deadline for submitting agenda items. The deadline will be seven days prior to a meeting date to submit items for a meeting agenda. Attorney Stilmock explained how the resolution breaks down required deadlines if an item needs to be published as a public hearing. This will allow the Mayor, City Council and Attorney Stilmock adequate time to review the information distributed for the upcoming meeting. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution 19-11, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

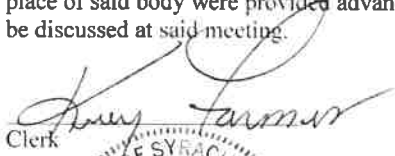
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of electrician and plumber licenses; Clerk Farmer recently distributed a list of those applicable. Superintendent Vogt had no issues with any of those on the list. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the licenses for the electrician and plumbers, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz announced the next regular meeting date of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 will not work as he will be out of town. It was confirmed the next regular City Council meeting will be on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Mayor Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. 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

