

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on June 5, 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 May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of claims. No discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve to pay the claims, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Abby Beach	175.00
All Roads Barricades	157.80
Aqua Chem, Inc.	6622.45
Ben Leseberg	210.00
B&D Diamond Pro	9500.00
BMG	2500.00
Baragary Construction Inc.	2000.00
Border States	8006.28
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	3957.30
Cardmember Service – Elan	5500.98
CoPro	105.39
City of Nebraska City	1034.28
Culligan	54.28
DHHS	430.00
ET's Lawn & Leisure	83.07
Farner Bocken Co.	547.70
Five Nines	2485.71
Fire Guard	19.03
Gatehouse Media	21.89
Gloria Richman	175.00
GPM	412.00
Hank's Garage	232.96
Hawkins	62.54
Hemje Plumbing and Htg.	528.00
Interstate All Battery Center	56.70
JEO	5734.50
Kay Bremer	181.70
Maddie Werner	745.00
Martin Marietta	861.94
Matt Tuxhorn	90.00
Melissa Nelson	30.00
Municipal Service	180.00
Nebraska City Utilities	322.34
NE Public Health Environmental Labs	30.00
One Call Concepts	46.60
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00
Pepsi of Lincoln	1944.00
Pioneer Underground	996.00
Rec Supply	1024.33
Sandry Fire Supply	114.00
Scott Crook	70.00
Sue Antes	1842.69
Synchrony Amazon	570.70
SVFD	793.50

Staack Furniture	185.00
Stutheit Implement	344.65
Syracuse Lumber Co.	251.54
Syracuse Do It Best	758.84
Syracuse Motor Supply	159.44
Tennant	3095.41
Terry's Family Foods	1616.93
The Park Catalog	37,532.00
Unite Private Network	2306.32
Unum	82.65
UECO	1379.90
U.S. Post Office	430.87
Verizon	210.62
Writetime Communication	297.20
Windstream	300.67
Todd Aksamit	1021.38
Kelly Farmer	1106.83
Derek Harms	1223.83
Mark Moerer	1052.61
Julie Slafter	900.66
Jeffrey Vogt	1577.46
Brian Vodicka	831.42
Brent Teten	1323.39
Nicole Vonderschmidt	884.87
Jill Crook	1131.94
Cody Pester	988.25
Tyler Collin	899.27
Tim Wilson	200.00
Marcia Scheinost	125.00
Jody Bruns	125.00
Carol Linqvist	200.00
Susan Obermeyer	200.00
David Sabatka	150.00
Chris Lutjemeyer	150.00
Craig Boldt	185.00
Laramie Werner	181.70
Jerry Werner	204.41
Sharon Vanhousen	196.24
Tomas Ortiz	454.25
Deb Dettmer	204.41
Orv Gigstad	204.41
Leah Ganzel	248.41
Bruce Neemann	449.70
Tami Andera	150.00
Kayla Arnold	69.33
August Levenhagen	123.87
Samantha Pester	331.69
Jamy Prokopec	380.44
Kirsten Bischoff	155.00
Alma Buco	38.99
Emily Hillman	180.00
Lindsey Moss	160.00
Kamden Stanley	160.00
Kahner Woods	370.00
Sarah Damme	240.00
Chris Armknecht	105.00
Naudia Flores	60.00
Perceptor Tau	688.35
Syracuse Cheer	1310.91
North Branch Rancheros	87.44
Better Ba-C's 4-H Club	525.93

Lilly Windhorst-SDA Dance	61.74
Leah Levenhagen-SDA Dance	29.88
Jennifer Deharsh-SDA Dance	29.87
Klarysa Throckmorton-SDA Dance	31.86
Madison Kreifels-SDA Dance	31.87

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 58 total incidents within the City of Syracuse for the month of May 2019. A narcotics search warrant was served resulting in two arrests. The consensus on use of air-compression breaks is that violations are down overall. There were sixteen traffic stops, two assault calls, and five traffic complaints among the 58 incidents. After the first week in May manpower hours were up as a result of bringing additional deputies on day shift; the Mayor has noticed an increased presence in town lately.

The Waiverable Fine Schedule to be discussed later on the agenda was discussed while Sheriff Caudill present. This fine schedule will be used to allow for the deputies to write tickets while not bogging down the courts with hearings as well as ticketing out of state violators without having to track them down to come back to Nebraska for court. The resolution needs to be completed with the dollar amounts for each of the line items and fines. The fine schedule discussion was tabled to allow Stilmock and Caudill to come up with amounts; the schedule will be placed on future agenda for Council approval. The scheduled will use state laws and fees if already in place therefore efforts will not be duplicated.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes present; the report for May 2019 was circulated to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting. Antes explained 130 children will be on site for summer reading. Antes had trouble last summer during the drop off and pick up times with busy traffic and kids everywhere. Caudill and Antes will discuss a plan to block off the area during these times on days of summer reading. Usually the month of May is the lowest month of the year and this year circulation was up. Syracuse Public Library received the silver accreditation for receipt of \$885.00 in State Aid.

FIRE REPORT – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion on approval of new member, Chuck Sieck, to the SVFD. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve Sieck to SVFD, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Neemann reported the pumper was recently serviced; the pumper is starting to show it's age.

ZONING/NUISANCE REPORT – Zoning and Nuisance Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion on 361 Locust Street. Neemann explained most things have been cleaned up at the property except for a mattress and part of a shed which had been torn down. Stilmock explained the County Attorney is no longer handling these issues therefore it would go through Jerry Stilmock and his office. Stilmock is suggesting file lawsuit against those parties ignoring Neemann's requests and communication. Neemann suggests working with them to continue to allow them for clean up as long as they are doing it. Mayor Ortiz explained he is tired of dealing with nuisance properties. It's not fair to those property owners and tenants that do follow the ordinances and maintain their properties. The violators know the City is not doing anything that will make a difference and feels the City needs to start getting tough on the violators. Jerry Werner agrees fining the violators will show the City is not going to put up with those not cleaning up their properties. The Mayor requested Stilmock put together a cheat sheet/flow chart for the Council to reference on how to handle nuisance properties. The procedure is in question whether the City employees clean up the properties then a lien is assessed or if the City fines the owners and/or tenants. Stilmock asks for a judge's order if the City will be going on property. Tickets can be written for small cases such as litter but a judge will be involved for larger problem cases; Neemann will be involved with the larger problems as well.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on 950 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Neemann explained he has been in communication with the owners. Notice was eventually served by Sheriff's office as receipt of certified letter sent by the City was not acknowledged by property owner. Neemann has been in communication with the owner; they will be cleaning up yard soon.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on 1413 Mohawk Street. Neemann stated the owners have been working on it but not yet completed.

Mayor Ortiz explained the cases continue to be stretched out and it's time to stop giving these people all this time. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to start lawsuit proceedings on properties located at 950 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 1413 Mohawk Street, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. The direction on 361 Locust is that Neemann will continue to work with Adkins to clean up the property. Mayor Ortiz thanked Neemann for the detailed reports.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Syracuse Rescue Squad members present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-14 recognizing Syracuse Volunteer Rescue Squad for EMS Week. Ortiz and Council Members thanked the members asking them to pass along those thank-you's to the rest of the squad. Stilmock read Resolution No. 19-14. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-14, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT – Park Hill Cemetery Board Member Bob Volker. Volker explained the Cemetery Board has not found a replacement yet for the open board member position. The last meeting was not a quorum therefore the discussion was not able to be had. There was recommendation by the Mayor and Council to publish notice of the open position on the City's website as well as in the paper; Deb Dettmer mentioned announcing it at church as well. Stilmock will work on putting together literature on what the responsibilities of a Park Hill Cemetery Board Member entail.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on acquiring property adjacent to Park Hill Cemetery. Stilmock has been reaching out to Bob Keim by phone message numerous times; Stilmock is waiting on response from the Keim family.

Volker explained the cemetery is looking pretty good except for weeds in the roads and potholes. There is a dead tree behind the canon that needs to come out along with the one next to it. The board would like to have them replaced with something. Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook will speak with the Parks workers regarding the roads and looking into removing the trees. Volker also mentioned moving two trees located by the north sign; the trees are blocking the sign. Dettmer suggests a manual or checklist be put together for those working at the cemetery.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and review of Bathhouse Planning Study. Carolyn Gigstad and Jamy Prokopec of AquaCenter Bathhouse Committee present along with Jared Meyer of JEO Consulting Group. Meyer explained JEO has been working with the committee putting together a bathhouse design based on needs and wants for the new bathhouse. Family changing rooms/restrooms are shown in the plans along with concession stand those inside the pool area as well as outside the pool fence. The entrance shows coming from the parking lot instead of the going out to the street. The cost shown does not include the demo of the current bathhouse. The chemical building is not included as part of the plans at this time. The concrete block for the building itself will be a color, not gray; the bottom half may have a texture. Gigstad explained that they do not know yet how the current bathhouse is connected to the water infrastructure; Prokopec explained the pumps are in the chemical building/room. Meyer explained the plans are bottom dollar. A second changing room was added as well as the bathroom being accessible from the pool area so that younger children do not need to actually go into the bathhouse. Mayor Ortiz is disappointed with the price of the project. Meyer explained a large part of the total price are the plumbing costs. Gigstad is working on large grants which will help pay at least half of the price tag. A planning study will need to be sent to the CCCFF grant committee within the next month; this grant will pay half of this planning study. The City previously approved to pay \$7500.00 towards this study with the grant covering the remaining half. The Mayor asked the Council to put together their questions to bring back to the committee and JEO. Gigstad announced a Game and Parks grant is due in September; the grant is a 50/50 match. All of what is fundraised at that time will be matched therefore this would be a large amount towards the total cost. Gigstad will prepare to bring this grant opportunity to the City Council at the next regular meeting.

Prokopec announced she has a band for the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 back to school bash and would like to discuss swapping out some lap swims for performing entertainment at the bash. Mayor Ortiz explained this would need to be on an agenda; the item will be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of end of probation for Parks Employee, Cody Pester, including a \$.25/hour pay increase. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve end of probation

for Cody Pester to include a \$.25/hour pay increase, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on electrical fees for vendors at Sports Complex. Mayor Ortiz explained there has been an interest in bringing additional vendors to the Sports Complex to offer a variety to the patrons. A prerequisite for the vendors is the need for them to be self-sufficient for power and utilities but this is not always the most realistic. Options have been discussed; one being requiring payment of a fee similar to what is done when someone is at a campground. Maximum cost to run full power for a 24-hour period on the City's current meter at the Sports Complex is a little over \$10.00. Crook discussed comparison of sales from the concession stand versus when an outside vendor is present; sales from the Sports Complex concession stand are up compared to years past. These vendors will not sell the same items as what the concession stand at the complex sells. The vendors are required to provide insurance and add the City as an additional insured to their policy. Stilmock does not anticipate any instances with not allowing a particular vendor to sell at the Sports Complex. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve to charge vendors a flat fee of \$15.00 a day and pay the City 10% of the gross sales for that day, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Included in the Parks and Rec report, Crook explained the pool has opened with 23 staff members. Swim lessons have started. Games at the complex have been rained out a lot but rescheduling is taking place. T-ball practices have begun and the parks workers are constructing the new bleachers purchased; this is a lot of time and work. Crook explained three sets of bleachers were purchased as four sets would've been over the amount approved by the Council at a previous meeting. These three will replace those going back to the Otoe County Ag Society plus add more seating. Bleachers will be moved to the pool for swim meets; Crook will follow-up with Jeff Vogt.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Superintendent Jeff Vogt not present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-15 for approval of Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature. Payment date will be between October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the City making payment to Harms on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 provided approval of the City. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution 19-15, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on future of City property at 324 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Jeff researched past City properties sold and at what the selling price was. Zoning information for the lot was provided. The city Council recently rejected a \$500.00 bid from the adjacent neighbor to this property; they asked what the City is asking for if \$500.00 isn't an option. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to offer to see the property for \$4000.00 to the Bechtold family, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. The buyer would be responsible for the dirtwork as well as the sidewalks on the property.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and resolution for approval of Rural Utility Service Bulletin Loan Resolution; USDA not present. The item will be tabled until a future meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and resolution approving Water and Waste System Grant Agreement; USDA not present. The item will be tabled until a future meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on request to purchase Poplar Street north of 11<sup>th</sup> Street; Rodney Nincehelser not present. The item will be tabled until Rodney can attend a meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing for Old Business on agenda.

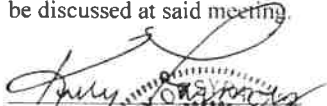
**NEW BUSINESS** – Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-16 on approval of 3-year agreement between City of Syracuse and Five Nines, authorizing Mayor's signature; Five Nines not present. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-16 approving the 3-year agreement, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.


Mayor Ortiz led discussion on request to sell food items separate from concession stand at Class C State Baseball Tournament in July and update on state tournament; Attorney Stilmock explained what has been brainstormed regarding food items provided and parking and admissions at the Sports Complex. The discussion will be tabled until the July City Council meeting.


Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of electrician and plumber licenses; Clerk Farmer has distributed a list. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the electrician and plumber licenses as presented, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. 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