

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

July 17, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on July 17, 2019 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 5th Street. Notice of meeting was given by posting in three places. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call; present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the June 26th, 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 on Treasurer's Report and approval of claims; Todd Blome not present. The June financials were distributed prior to the meeting; no discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the June Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Aqua Chem, Inc.	1148.00
Aflac	338.30
B&B Pump N Go	1827.27
Better Ba-C's 4-H Club	130.00
BMG	2500.00
Bound Tree Medical Supplies	1231.27
Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock	3174.30
Brian Vodicka	40.90
Cardmember Service – Elan	5213.05
City of Nebraska City	532.80
City of Syracuse	35.26
Danko	458.73
Eakes	243.78
EMS Billing	1830.53
ET's Lawn & Leisure	767.87
Five Nines	2394.00
Gatehouse Media	42.40
Great America	1572.82
Hank's Garage	375.24
Jenny Haag	62.39
Henke Automotive	562.55
Ingram Library Services	560.59
Johnson Service Company	12,122.45
JEO	5250.00
Keim Farm Equipment	432.13
Klarysa Throckmorton – SDA Dance	79.05
Kyle Rohrig	65.00
My-Lor, Inc.	20.76
Madison Kreifels	16.67
Mallory Mueller	16.66
Martin Marietta	691.23
McKesson	216.09
Melissa Nelson	60.00
Micro Marketing	31.50
Midwest Walls and Landscape	372.00
Midwest Farmers COOP	222.00
Midwest Labs	228.68
Municipal Supply In.	2245.78
Nebraska City Utilities	1295.22
NE Power Review Board	256.96
North Branch Rancheros	584.62
One Call Concepts	30.20
Otoe County 4-H	121.00
Otoe County Sheriff	15,000.00

Papillion Sanitation	334.35
Perceptor Tau	693.33
Simple Solutions	534.57
OPPD	141,787.60
Quincey Swanson – SDA Dance	57.25
Sophie Sayer – SDA Dance	57.25
Spohrs Consulting	125.00
Sporhase Plumbing & Htg.	463.25
Subsurface Solutions	78.00
Suez	6236.00
Sue Antes	1559.00
Syracuse Motor Supply	587.60
Syracuse Lumber Yard	597.67
Stutheit Implement	129.84
Syracuse Cheer	1030.64
Syracuse Soccer Club	213.13
Syracuse Vet Service	62.34
Syracuse Do It Best	34.93
Terry's Family Foods	2804.47
Todd Bennett	35.00
United Healthcare	11,189.28
Unite Private Network	2306.32
Unum	82.65
U.S. Post Office	308.49
Verizon	121.46
Western Area Power Admin.	2488.65
Windstream	742.32
Todd Aksamit	1127.17
Kelly Farmer	1286.37
Derek Harms	1058.21
Mark Moerer	1135.06
Julie Shafter	900.66
Jeffrey Vogt	1722.71
Brian Vodicka	796.41
Brent Teten	1282.45
Nicole Vonderschmidt	884.87
Jill Crook	1182.29
Cody Pester	907.20
Tyler Collin	1005.67
Bruce Neemann	500.00
Tim Wilson	650.00
Marcia Scheinost	80.00
Jody Bruns	120.00
Carol Linqvist	400.00
Susan Obermeyer	150.00
Tami Andera	270.00
Kayla Arnold	509.93
August Levenhagen	358.78
Samantha Pester	192.22
Jamy Prokopec	193.05
Kirsten Bischoff	335.85
Alma Bucu	122.64
Emily Hillman (Wilkinson)	219.04
Lindsey Moss	352.37
Kamden Stanley	318.34
Kennedy Stanley	352.91
Naudia Flores	424.78
Lilly Windhorst	226.67
Broghan Behrends	200.50

Teja Farley	188.64
Shyanne Frederick	402.21
Hannah Hiller	41.75
Andy Brace	80.00
Aprille Johnson	436.14
Cassie Katen	951.78
Nicole Kimpel	248.47
Tyler Knake	269.09
Grace Kuenning	268.29
Liz Levenhagen	240.11
Mia Ortiz	70.87
Hunter Rumery	619.62
Suzanna Shanks	115.27
Natalie Thies	343.82
Camryn Tompkins	59.63
Greg Wiebusch	638.28
Kay Bremer	181.70
Deb Dettmer	181.70
Leah Ganzel	419.73
Orv Gigstad	181.70
Bruce Neemann	224.86
Kc Ortiz	454.25
Sharon VanHousen	98.12
Jerry Werner	181.70
Laramie Werner	181.70
Kody Cardinal	270.00
Kim Bellinder	40.00
Ken Halvorsen	40.00
Joe Reisdorf	60.00
Chris Richardson	100.00
Jen Staack	320.00
Laramie Werner	120.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 47 total calls within the Syracuse during June. Caudill reported Germanfest was fairly quiet as far as calls; any calls for this event do not show on the report. The street dance security hired by B&J's did a nice job and went smoothly. Caudill explained the department is still down two deputies. Council Member Gigstad asked Caudill to coordinate with Librarian Sue Antes regarding Summer Reading dates; Caudill explained he was not aware there were multiple dates. Antes would like to have traffic control for pick-up and drop-off times; there is one more date scheduled for Summer Reading. Attorney Stilmock thanked Sheriff Caudill for working with him on the waiverable fine schedule to be discussed later during this meeting. Jake-braking is down considerably. Ortiz is happy with the way Germanfest went.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes not present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. No discussion was had.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of 2019-2020 SVFD Officers. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the SVFD Officers, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of purchase up to five sets of bunker gear; Neemann explained this is the third year the department and rural are replacing bunker gear sets. The sets include coat and pants; four sets can be purchase for around \$6800.00; Rural Fire will match. Stilmock added washing these sets up and rotating them out has been documented to help reduce cancer caused by elements of firefighting. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the purchase of up to five sets of bunker gear. Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

CEMETERY REPORT – Interim Board Chairman Bob Volker present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on replacement of Cemetery Board member Jim Pfeiffer. Volker explained the Board would like to appoint Chuck Bjork as a new member of the Cemetery Board; Bjork present. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve Bjork to the Cemetery Board, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz also appointed Bob Volker as the Chairman of the Cemetery Board effective immediately.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on acquiring property adjacent to Park Hill Cemetery. Attorney Stilmock had sent an email with comments regarding the Keim property currently for sale to the Mayor and Council weeks prior; Clerk Farmer will distribute that email to the Cemetery Board. The discussion was tabled.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook not present; Lead Park Employee Tyler Collin present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval to purchase mower for use at Park Hill Cemetery; bids were distributed prior to the meeting. At the last meeting, the Mayor and Council asked Crook to have the Parks employees demo mowers to see what they liked. Collin explained the preferred mower was a 36" X-Mark rear discharge stand-up mower. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the purchase of the X-Mark mower at \$6500.00 from KanEquip, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of spray foam bid for Parks shop at Sports Complex; bids were distributed prior to the meeting from Eco-Green, Danner and Midwest Custom Coating. The parks department prefers the Eco-Green bid. The spray foam insulation will allow the shop to hold heat during the cold winter months. Equipment will not start if the shop is too cold. The Mayor and Council tabled the discussion and instructed Crook and Collin to reach out to two of the three bidders in order to obtain the same options if they are available; all three need to be given the same guidance. If one or more of them cannot offer the same services, this needs to be noted.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on '03 Taurus and putting up for bids. This Taurus was previously used by the Utilities department; the Utilities department took the '05 Taurus used by City Hall and passed on the '03 to the Parks department. The Mayor and Council suggested trading in both cars.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of updated Bathhouse Planning Study; Carolyn Gigstad of Aqua Center Bathhouse Committee and Corey Broderson and Jared Meyer of JEO present. Gigstad reported \$2300.00 was raised towards the Bathhouse over Germanfest weekend between kickball, sand volleyball, Dairy Chef, and t-shirt sales. A pitch tournament has been scheduled for October 10th, 2019 to be held at the Syracuse Country Club. A Back-To-School Bash will be held at Williams Park on August 10th, 2019; everything will be donated and will not be a cost to the patrons. A silent auction will be held on that day; the Committee hopes for the event to be a great fundraiser. Carolyn recently met one-on-one with Mayor Ortiz, each Council Member as well as Jill Crook. The plan was basically flipped from the last time the bathhouse drawing was presented to the Mayor and Council. Carolyn provided various documents regarding bathhouse funding, comparison with other community's bathhouses and an updated timeline. The goal for the bathhouse is approximately \$525,000.00. Regarding the updated drawing, Mayor Ortiz does not like there is no visibility to the outside of the pool. He sees with the concessions being expanded and separated from the admissions window will require additional staffing. The Mayor and Council feel the plans are 90% complete and would like to work for another month before approving something. Mayor Ortiz mentioned the current state the chemical building is in and needs to be considered. JEO mentioned usually chemical rooms need to be concrete block.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-17 for Game and Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund, authorizing Mayor's signature; Carolyn Gigstad explained. The current drawings can be submitted for this grant. Once this resolution is approved the plan needs to be sent to Nebraska Department of Economic Development CCCFF. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No 19-17, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution utilizing SRF funding for the Municipal Water Project, authorizing Mayor to sign and execute documents required to receive SRF financial assistance; Steve McNulty of DWSRF present as

well as Denise Meeks and Ken Shaw of USDA. USDA recently provided a revised funding proposal since interest rate changes went into effect July 1, 2019 bringing it down to 2.75%. The grant went from 1.6 to 2.2 million dollars with a 6.1 million dollar loan. A chart was prepared by USDA to show the differences between USDA and DWSRF. Some of the difference comes from costs in regards to using Davis-Bacon. Steve McNulty of DWSRF pointed out in the chart provided in the USDA information, a discrepancy of \$900,000.00. Dane Simonsen will need to go back and review notes from the discussion tonight before making any sort of recommendation. The Mayor and Council agreed to table the discussion in order to review thoroughly both options and come back to the August Council meeting to make a decision.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No 19-18 on approval of contract between City of Syracuse and Unite Private Networks, authorizing Mayor's signature; Charlene White of Unite Private Network present. Attorney Stilmock explained the pole attachment agreement will go until 2024. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-18. Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1054 renewing Franchise Fees regarding Unite Private Network; Charlene White of Unite present. Attorney Stilmock explained Unite will now pay a franchise fee to the City for the seven or eight commercial fiber customers within Syracuse. Deb Dettmer moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1054 and waive the three readings, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No 1054 by title. Jerry Werner moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1054, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Utility Employee Grade 4 Water Certification and \$.50 hourly wage increase. Vogt explained Brent Teten recently passed his Grade 4 Water test; in the past this certification has come with a \$.50 hourly pay increase. Jerry Werner approved to give Brent Teten \$.50 hourly wage increase, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on future of City property at 324 6th Street. Recently the City gave an asking price of \$4000.00 to Julie Bechtold; they have not responded to Vogt at this time. Mayor Ortiz asked Vogt to follow up with the Bechtold family. The item was tabled.

Vogt explained Well #1 had a leak inside the well house. General Excavating worked on repairing the leak but before that could be done Municipal Supply installed a 12" line stop in the main.

Vogt put in place a water restriction for lawn watering. Even addresses were allowed to water Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and odd addresses allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays with no one allowed on Sundays.

Gigstad asked about some street lights out on 5th Street downtown; Vogt is aware and the utility department is working on resolving the issue.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-19 establishing a waiverable fine schedule for ordinance violations, authorizing Mayor's signature; Attorney Stilmock explained. Sheriff Caudill and Stilmock worked collectively on the schedule. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution 19-19 approving the waiverable fine scheduled. Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. Jerry Werner asked about including go-karts to the existing ordinance in order to enforce the fine schedule for go-karts as well; Attorney Stilmock will work on this.

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 the Legion Committee is looking at fencing the complex parking lot to the east and south in order to allow entrance and exit only from the north driveway; the admission gate will be at the north entrance into the parking lot. Stilmock also requested having a second golf cart for transporting visitors into the complex as needed. A fence is also proposed to run along the north side of the complex by the county road to prevent people from parking in the ditch. A food item such as pulled pork and beans will be provided

by the Legion but it will be served and ran through the concessions stand. The tournament starts July 27th with seven out of town teams attending and Syracuse being the eighth team participating. A generator was suggested for electricity at the gate in order to allow the volunteers to use a fan. Deb Dettmer asked how the west parking lots will be handled if people park there to watch the game. Stilmock will look into running the fence already going along the north side of the complex down the west side as well; the gates on the west will be locked.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on street closing request for 2019 Otoe County Fair Parade as labeled on map provided for the date of Saturday July 27th from 1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; Mike Rudolph of Otoe County Fair Board not present. Jerry Werner moved to approve the street closure request, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on budget meeting dates. The date of July 31st was decided on; Clerk Farmer will send out to all involved to confirm.

Mayor Ortiz announced a couple of staffing changes. Cody Pester in the Parks department will be moving down to a seasonal Parks position as he is going back to college. Jamy Prokopec is no longer employed by the City for the Pool department. Crook will cover the shifts as needed.

Mayor Ortiz has received the information needed for the sales tax discussion in regards to the Pool Bathhouse discussion. He will meet with Syracuse Foundation President Barry Brandt to go over the facts. Included in the information were the ballot from the sales tax increase, the ordinance, swimming pool bond as well as a white paper explaining the use of sales tax funds over time. Todd Blome of BMG helped with obtaining and explaining information. After the pool bond is paid off, the sales tax does not go away; it will be used as for City projects as the City administration sees fit.

The fair board has removed their bleachers from the Sports Complex. The Parks department is working hard putting together the new bleachers purchased specifically for the complex. They are working to get this done for the State Legion tournament.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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.





Mayor