

SPECIAL MEETING_BUDGET
CITY COUNCIL

July 31, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday July 31st, 2019 for a special budget 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, 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 July 17th, 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 Approval of Claims. No further discussion was had. A copy of the claims approved is attached to these minutes. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for approval of claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

DISCUSSION ON BUDGETS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Ambulance Budget; Chief Tim Wilson not present. Wilson budgeted \$75,000.00 for Capital Purchase of potential replacement of cardiac monitors with remainder to assist with generator purchase for fire and rescue. Council asked what is the “potential” status of the monitors; what is their life span? Regarding the budgeted funds for “Printing/Publishing”, it was suggested to place this in “Marketing Materials” instead. Fire Chief Bruce Neemann explained to the Mayor and Council the Fire and Rescue departments will be splitting the cost of the generator for the Fire/Rescue Barn. The Mayor and Council suggested Neemann reach out to OCEMA regarding any funding available since Syracuse is a back-up location in the event Nebraska City cannot operate. Council Member Gigstad mentioned he thought FEMA had helped with Nebraska City Fire Department’s generator. Other areas the Council would like to see Wilson reduce the budgeted amount in are Squad Yearly Reimbursement, EMS Billing Fees, Medical Supplies, Equipment, and Run Stipend. The Council is making these suggestions based on numbers from the Income Statement for the Ambulance department. Clerk Farmer will go over these comments with Chief Wilson.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Fire budget; Chief Bruce Neemann present. Neemann inquired on the annual premium amount suggested by LARM. The departments had budgeted an increase in the 18-19 budgets and the premium decreased by a lot; Neemann would like to know how it is possible the amount could go down so much? Clerk Farmer will look into an explanation from LARM for this to explain at the next budget meeting. Neemann budgeted for 23 CBA air bottles as well as replacement of bunker gear for Capital Outlay items and a generator for Capital Improvement.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Cemetery budget; Cemetery Chairperson Bob Volker present. Volker explained the Cemetery Board would like to see Purchase of Land added as a Capital Improvement item. Park Hill Cemetery would like to inquire on Keim property located to the northwest to add to the existing cemetery. The question is how much are the Keim’s asking for the property? With the Parks department doing all of the mowing and grounds maintenance at Park Hill, it was suggested a maintenance shed be added to the budget to keep cemetery grounds equipment in. This will improve on wasting time moving equipment back and forth to the cemetery from the Parks shed at the Sports Complex. Overseeding and fertilization was discussed and when this should be done. Volker said lot pins still need to be placed from the center road to the east. The north end of the cemetery has already been surveyed but the remainder of dirt still needs to be filled in.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Library budget; Librarian Sue Antes present. Antes discussed the proposed 19-20 Library budget. Some discussion was had on the IT expenses for monthly payments needed to be made to Great Plains, Five Nines as well as Unite Private Network. These are for the IT upgrade project itself finalized this year and support/maintenance agreements with Five Nines and Unite. Currently the departments only see the Great Plains lease payment come out of their departments; the General budget has been incurring the additional costs for the current budget year as those were not expected when the IT project was scoped. The Council and Mayor suggest instead of breaking up the three monthly payments by percentages for each applicable department, the entire cost of all three will come out of the General budget beginning with the 19-20 budgets. No further discussion was had regarding the Library budget.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Concessions budget; Concessions Manager Julie Slafter present. Council suggested Slafter bring the food/beverage/supplies line items for both the Complex Concessions as well as Pool Concessions down and add in a line for Gas/Oil as she makes many supply runs with the City van and incurs gas charges. Also suggested was to decrease the proposed budgeted amount for Ball Complex Maintenance Equipment. These are based on information given on the Income Statement for the Concessions department. Slafter will work with Clerk Farmer to change the budget line item names to match those on the Income Statement.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Street budget; Public Works Superintendent Vogt present. Street Superintendent Evan Wickersham works on the Street budget with Vogt. A Capital Outlay item presented was purchase of a street sweeper. There is a lease option where payments would be annually around \$40,000.00. Questions were brought up regarding budgeted amounts for the One and Six Year Street Plan projects for the 19-20 year; Vogt will look into these and report back at the next budget meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Electric budget, Public Works Superintendent Vogt present. Increased items include salaries, inventory, power purchases as well as the interest and principal payments for two bonds. A shed has been budgeted into each utility's budget to be placed by the Utility shop. There was a suggestion that instead of putting a shed up at the Utility Shop maybe funds proposed for this could actually help with a shed at Park Hill Cemetery. These departments do not budget for one another though. The Council suggested Vogt revisit the Power Purchases line item as the Electric Income Statement does not justify the proposed budget amount. Other Capital Outlay items included in the 19-20 budget include a gator (to be paid out of all utility departments as well as Street) and to replace Unit 22 Truck. Proposed Capital Improvement items include the second installment of \$135,000.00 for the electrical loop to the hospital west and \$40,000.00 for the red and purple phases for the 9th and Plum Street electrical hook.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Sewer budget; Vogt present. Overall expense items are consistent with Income Statement besides increases for the IT project and agreements but that will be moved over to General in the final budgets. Capital Outlay items include the gator (cost to be shared as mentioned prior) and a generator for the Utility Shop to be shared with the rest of the utility departments. Capital Improvement proposed items include a sinking fund in lieu of the sewer bond paid off as of this Spring as well as the removal of the 17th Street lift station at \$350,000.00. Vogt explained currently the utility workers are having to unplug this lift station. Council Members would like to see what the costs are for maintaining the lift station.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Water budget; Vogt present. Some increases proposed for the 19-20 budget include Salaries, Retirement, Maintenance-Customer Meters, and the principal and interest payments for the 2010 Combined Revenue Bond. Capital Improvement items include a shed at the Utility Shop (cost shared with other utility departments) and the Well Field and Transmission Line continued from the current budget at \$7.9 million dollars. Capital Outlay items include a pavement breaker for the backhoe and the gator with the cost shared between all utility departments and Street. No further discussion was had for Water budget.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Major Disaster Declaration USDA Grant for 17th & Cheryl Drive project. Vogt explained a wall and collapsed in the creek at Williams Park due to the amount of water flowing through this Spring. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve moving forward with the funding grant, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Parks budget; Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Crook proposed increases in wages for all full-time Parks employees as well as seasonal employees. Security cameras for the complex were discussed; it was suggested to reach out to Zito Media to see if they can run a hard line to the press box building at the complex for internet service. Crook had explained she looked into a device offered by Verizon called a Jet-Pack; the Council explained they didn't think this would be adequate for what is needed and suggested to take the Jet-Pack out of the budget. The bathrooms at Williams Park were discussed. Portable fencing for the complex was proposed; the Mayor and Council suggested Crook use current budget funds to purchase this. A walking bridge for the complex was discussed; Jill Crook is to research this and Mayor Ortiz will reach out to a donor previously interested in donating to a bridge. A water fountain for the Aqua Center will be pushed out

to Carolyn Gigstad for the new bathhouse planning design. Currently only \$7000.00 for a Dog Run is budgeted; Crook said it's going to take a lot more than that for the fencing alone. Crook was told to execute more of the current budget therefore possibly supplies for the dog run could be purchased yet this year. Crook's top proposed priorities for the Parks budget are a Capital Outlay package deal item for a skid loader, snow blower and mower, then another set of bleachers for the complex, third is the dog run, security cameras at the complex came in fourth and lastly was electrical hookups for camping at the Sports Complex. The Syracuse Soccer Club had recently reached out to Crook regarding projects they would like to see done at the Eagles Run Soccer Fields. The Mayor and Council asked Crook to reach out to club to see if they are planning to help with the costs of these projects. Other items suggested for the complex but may be able to come out of the current budget include bumper guards/parking blocks for the parking lot and pouring concrete in the handicap stalls. Crook is to follow up with Lead Parks Employee regarding fixing the low spots in the parking lots. A suggestion was made to think about placing the proposed dog run in another location in town. One area was to place the run at Williams Park by the current t-ball field and moving the t-ball field out to the Sports Complex. Another area mentioned was the green space east of the complex parking lot across from Syracuse IronWorks.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the Swimming Pool budget; Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. The Mayor and Council suggested bumping up the Aqua Center's seasonal workers wages up to at least minimum wage at \$9.00/hour for the 19-20 budget. All guards and office staff will make this wage except returning will make \$9.50 an hour. Clerk Farmer and Crook will revisit the pool's transaction journal for this budget year and look into how much has been spent each for training, CPR and staff suits.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Rec Programs budget; Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. The proposed budget is for the most part consistent with the current budget with an increase in umpire fees for softball as this has gone up. Basketball will no longer be in the Rec Programs budget for future budgets as this will no longer be a Parks and Rec sponsored activity. The Volleyball Referees/Supplies line item also increased by \$500.00. Costs yet to be determined include Sand Volleyball Pit items such as garbage receptacle and picnic tables.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on General budget; City Clerk Kelly Farmer presented. Per the Mayor and Council's request the payments for the IT project cost, support and maintenance will be removed from all other department's proposed budgets and placed only on the General departments. Clerk Farmer will revisit Treasurer and Audit Fees to make sure they proposed amount is correct. Capital Improvement was discussed; Clerk Farmer had proposed \$10,000.00. Council suggested this be sent to Todd Blome at BMG to inquire on a General Budget's Capital Improvement costs. A City Administrator has been talked about being brought on to the City staff; this will be discussed further at the next budget meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Building budget; City Clerk Kelly Farmer presented. Farmer added in a line item for Capital Outlay item Telephone System Upgrade and is currently waiting on bids for spray foam on roof of City Hall and waterproofing basement at City Hall to alleviate any further water in the south side; improvements and repairs to the buildings is included in Capital Improvements. In previous budgets \$30,000.00 was included under Maintenance; this will be moved to Capital Improvements keeping the Maintenance be for maintenance and minor repairs to the City Hall and Senior Center buildings.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Keno budget; City Clerk Kelly Farmer presented. The proposed budget shows a discrepancy in the balance line; Farmer will look into this and correct for the next budget meeting. Keno proceeds are showing to be steady based on the current year's quarterly earnings.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Sales Tax budget; City Clerk Kelly Farmer presented. Farmer increased sales tax proceeds for the 19-20 budget year based on current numbers shown for the 18-19 budget year.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Sheriff's budget; City Clerk Kelly Farmer presented. Minor changes were made such as Attorney Fees were included and Miscellaneous Operating Expenses were broken down to include Animal Boarding/Disposal. The Mayor and Council suggest starting negotiations a year out as the current Interlocal Agreement expires September 30, 2020.

The date for the next City Council Budget meeting was scheduled for Wednesday August 21st at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry 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.



 The seal is circular with a dotted border. Inside the border, the word "SEAL" is written in large, bold, capital letters. Below "SEAL", the words "CITY OF" are written in smaller capital letters. At the bottom of the seal, the words "OTOE COUNTY, NEBRASKA" are written in a curved path following the bottom edge of the circle. There is a small star on the left side of the seal. The seal is partially obscured by the handwritten signature of Jerry Werner.



 Mayor