

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

August 14, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on August 14, 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, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner; Orv Gigstad was absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the July 31st, 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 present. The July financials were distributed prior to the meeting. Blome reported all accounts and transactions have been tied out. The statements show ten months of data for the current budget year. Blome pointed out water revenue is up, Highway Allocation funds from the state are down at this time, sales tax revenue is up, and Ambulance income is down. Clerk Farmer will reach out to Tim Wilson, Rescue Chief, regarding possible reasons for the income to be down compared to recent years at this time. Utility expenses are down as well as general expenses; park expenses are up compared to last year. Todd Blome pointed out budgeted expenses in the Treasurer's report showing where the departments have come in as far as their budgets go. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the July Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. The claims approved are attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Syracuse resident Kim Kreifels approached the Mayor and City Council regarding concern for stop signs needed at intersections at 9th & Poplar, 9th & Locust, as well as 4th & Locust. This area is a high traffic area for school traffic and kids walking as well as patrons going to the pool during the summer; there is no sidewalk for the block of 9th & Locust. Concern was also discussed at the northwest side of the intersection of 7th & Plum. Kids are being dropped off at this intersection and traffic starts to be backed up on the northwest side of Plum; it was suggested possibly placing No Parking signs on the west side of Plum north of the stop sign. Superintendent Vogt will do some assessments of the areas and reach out to Kreifels.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 39 total calls within the Syracuse during July. Caudill reported the County Fair was quiet as far as calls go. The department has been proactive in traffic stops. With the approval of the waiver fee schedule Caudill sees more fines being issued accordingly. The department is still two deputies down. Caudill spoke about the reports given to the City regarding manpower hours and how the reports are really not indicative on the amount of time actually spent behind the scenes work on cases. Mayor Ortiz feels the community needs to see this and are not able to make a fair assumption on the department and all the hours and time involved in working the City. Caudill will work on better clarification of manpower hours and working with Deputy Holland on what can be documented in the reports. There are some things Caudill cannot disclose and are more of a "need to know". Public awareness and education work by the department is not something the Mayor and Council feel is recognized by the community; this can be made more public.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. Antes reported circulation totals for July '19 are up compared to July '18. Summer Reading Program funded by Friends of the Library group had 135 kids enrolled with 12 SDA Junior High volunteers. Antes explained a key to the Library will be given to SDA Elementary in the event of an evacuation of the elementary school. The Mayor and Council are fine with this.

CEMETERY REPORT – Cemetery Board member Leonard Buchholz present. He reported the cemetery looks good; more rock can be added to the roads. Tree removal is in process and the concrete pad is complete.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on acquiring property adjacent to Park Hill Cemetery. Attorney Stilmock explained the Keim family is focusing on selling the larger agricultural areas first; the parcel the cemetery is looking at is not one of these ag pieces. Crook asked if funds will be in the 19-20 Cemetery budget in the event the parcel should come up for sale. Stilmock was not given a timeline. Mayor Ortiz suggested Buchholz ask the Cemetery Board how much of the 20-acre parcel is desired

when the time comes to purchase. Stilmock will reach out to the Keim family the first part of September to see if there are any updates.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of new member to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Wilson presented Desere' Dovel as a new member. Council member Deb Dettmer moved to approve Dovel to the SRS, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Wilson also reported the purchase is moving forward with the new ambulance. Medication prices are continuing to fluctuate for the department and there are heavy national shortages. Wilson is lacking some medications due to this shortage. The SRS is trying to compensate as much as they can. The FDA is changing the way resellers can sell meds having to do with the packaging. Some of the meds needed for the SRS are now only provided in higher quantities; Wilson is checking with Nebraska City as well as area squads to see if something can be worked out.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present.

Carolyn Gigstad present to give update on Bathhouse Fundraising. The Back to School Bash brought in \$16,000.00. To date the committee has raised about \$97,000.00 not including any expenses still needing to be accounted for or the \$7500.00 invoice from JEO for half of the Planning Study. A \$25,000 Abel Foundation Grant application has been submitted. The LWCF grant application is due by September 13th, 2019. A pitch tournament is scheduled for October 12th to be held at the Syracuse Country Club.

Gigstad along with Corey Broderson of JEO presented an updated version of the Bathhouse floor plan. Panel access has been added, along with shelving and storage and a partial wall has been put in place to allow for better vision between office and concession areas. The drinking fountain has been placed on the outside. Gigstad explained the family bathrooms need to accommodate the caretaker be able to use a private family dressing room to change the disabled person on adequate equipment, not the floor of the bathhouse as people are needing to do currently. Two family bathrooms are in the plan. Lockers have been moved to the outside under the eaves for visibility purposes. Block walls have been placed to allow for more natural light. It was suggested the showers be left in the family bathrooms and have a shower head nozzle. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the final draft of Bathhouse Planning Study, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Gigstad explained they will be going to phase 2 now; the letter for the grant will be on the agenda in September. JEO will need a point of contact with the City regarding bathhouse details; this will be Jill Crook

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of spray foam bids for Parks shop at Sports Complex; bids have been distributed from Midwest Custom Coating, EcoGreen and Danner Spray Coating. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid from Danner Spray Coating to include the Elastomeric Coating option, Laramie Werner. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on security cameras at complex, utilizing pool funds. Crook explained she is still working on options of what can be done. Information has been obtained from Unite Private Networks for their fiber/internet services; Zito Media said they will not be able to run a hard line to the complex. Mayor Ortiz explained the water tower point to point option may still be on the table.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on placement of dog park and purchase of dog park supplies. Crook explained she currently has \$5000.00 in the budget for the dog park. The fence alone would be just under \$30,000.00. At a recent meeting, it was suggested the t-ball field at Williams Park be moved out to the Sports Complex and the dog park be placed at Williams Park in its place. Crook said she does not feel it would be ideal to remove a field as all fields are booked up when it comes to practices for softball and baseball; the construction of a t-ball at the complex would probably be during this busy time. Crook suggested the south half of the acreage west of the soccer fields where the concert site has been; Mayor Ortiz does not feel this is ideal. Another option would be on Mohawk Street; Dettmer feels it needs to stay within city limits. Another option was across the street from IronWorks to the west but that is flood plain. It was suggested if brush piles up against the fence a power washer be used to spray off. Mayor Ortiz suggested using the strip of park across the street to the north of the pool. Dettmer asked if this can be allowed because of the trees. Crook will research using this area of Williams Park and give update at a future meeting. Crook presented supplies to purchase of benches, signage, and trash

receptacles. Council Member Laramie Werner move to approve the bid of \$4893.17 for dog park supplies, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Attorney Stilmock added to the Parks and Rec report the State Legion tournament held at the Sports Complex went very well and thanked Jill Crook and the parks staff for all their hard work.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion on NE State Revolving Fund funding option for Syracuse Municipal Water Project. Funding options have been considered by USDA and DWSRF. Dane Simonsen of JEO present to explain both funding options. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve moving forward with DWSRF option, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No 19-20 utilizing SRF funding for the Municipal Water Project, authorizing Mayor to sign and execute documents required to receive SRF financial assistance. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-20, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the Public Hearing and discussion on the 2018 Well Field Master Plan; no further discussion had. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the 2018 Well Field Master Plan, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Dane Simonsen of JEO will reach out to both USDA and DWSRF to inform them of the City's decision. Simonsen explained the next step is for paperwork to keep moving regarding agreements.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on future of City property at 324 6th Street. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve to use the property as a green space/park, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. The property owners to the north would like to donate \$2000.00 if the City turns it into a park. Sidewalks and grading will need to be completed first by Utilities/Street using Capital Improvement funds, then Tyler Collin will take over to complete the design and landscaping.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on approval to apply for Public Water System Security Subgrant, authorizing Mayor's signature; Andy Kahle of NE DHHS not present. Vogt explained this is for the mapping grant the City was awarded last year for mapping of the water lines in the south half of the City. This grant would allow the City to map the north half of the town. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the City to apply for the grant, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and review of proposed 2019-2020 One & Six Year Street Plan; Evan Wickersham of JEO not present. No changes are proposed for the plan. The public hearing for the plan will be at the September Council meeting.

Vogt explained he has contacted Department of Roads regarding the damage to the guardrail at Highway 50; Mayor Ortiz pointed out another area damaged to the east of Dairy Chef along the old Highway 2.

OLD BUSINESS – nothing on the agenda for Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on notice of termination of Interlocal Agreement with Nebraska City for Building Inspector services. The City would like to end the agreement to coincide with the budget year thus the last day of the agreement being September 30th, 2019. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the notice to be given to City of Nebraska City, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on request for Oak Street closure from 1075 Oak Street south to dead-end on Saturday September 21st, 2019 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. Sunday September 22nd, 2019 for the purpose of a block party; Justin Stark not present. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the street closure, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and approval of proposed draft of Financial Statements from Julie Bauman, CPA, authorizing Mayor's signature; Julie Bauman not present. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve Mayor's signature on proposed draft, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and action on Ordinance No. _____ to amend Syracuse Code of Ordinances Section 4-1 to prohibit person keeping rabbits within City limits. Bruce Neemann had previously been approached regarding raising rabbits. Discussion was had if the number of rabbits be allowed be discussed and stated in an ordinance. The item will be tabled to allow Bruce Neemann to explain.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: 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