

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

December 11, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on December 11, 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 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.

Mayor Ortiz led the nomination and election of Council President and the appointments as follows: City Clerk – Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works – Jeff Vogt, Zoning Inspector – Bruce Neemann, City Attorney – Jerry Stilmock of Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom and Stilmock, City Treasurer – Kelly Farmer, City Street Superintendent – Evan Wickersham of JEO, City Engineer – JEO, and City Physician – Zak Templemeyer. Jerry Werner moved to nominate Orv Gigstad as City Council President, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Orv is currently the City Council President as well. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the appointments as listed, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. The Finance Committee is made up of the Council members.

Minutes for the November 13, 2019 meeting were approved as written with the correction of November 13, 2019 agenda item 11-B: remove “Laramie Werner seconded.” insert “Deb Dettmer seconded.”. 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 not present. BMG has sent the November 2019 report for the Mayor and Council to review. No further discussion was had. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the November Treasurer’s report and to pay the claims, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. The claims approved are attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

SHERIFF’S REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 56 total calls for Syracuse during the month of November. Calls consisted of 25 traffic stops, three suspicious person/veh/Circ, two traffic crash with damage, one with injury as well as multiple single incidents among the Nature of Incident categories. There were two fraud/ID theft calls; Caudill explained this is typically a seasonal matter where calls increase around the holidays. Caudill explained the Sheriff’s Department assisted with an investigation not regarding Otoe County’s jurisdiction therefore he is not at liberty to comment. Measures were in place; Caudill is happy with the way the investigation went down. He reached out to downtown Syracuse businesses following up the early morning distraction.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes not present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. The report for November 2019 showed circulation down compared to this time last year. The meeting room had ten reservations. The community room furnace was not functioning properly; turned out a nest needed to be removed and the furnace is working fine now. Antes provided the library’s annual Statistical Report for 2019. Project Response will be at the Library the fourth Monday of every month, offering support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Southeast Nebraska.

CEMETERY REPORT – Cemetery Chairperson Bob Volker, Sexton Kay Bremer and Board Member Leonard Buchholz present; P&R Manager Jill Crook assisted in the report. Mayor Ortiz explained the Cemetery Board met the week prior; the Mayor, Clerk Farmer, Crook and Parks Lead Worker Tyler Collin attended. Discussion was had on responsibilities of both the Cemetery Board and the Parks department and the unbalance that is occurring presently. Ordinances will need to be updated to be made logical and realistic. Mayor Ortiz apologized for not explaining the expectations and responsibilities of both parties when the City decided in 2018 for the Parks department to take over the maintenance of the cemetery instead of contracting the work out.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on revised bid for new building including size, located and demo of existing building. Discussion was had on the size, location, type of roof, a rough-in for potential and bathroom  
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and dirt work needed. Mayor Ortiz has asked Crook to post signs at the Cemetery reading “No Public Dumping” as dirt has been being dumped at the Cemetery. The item was tabled in order for all parties to go back and think about the use of the building and if there’s possibly another location to place the building where the dirt work may not be such a burden.

Discussion was also had as to who’s responsibility is it to fix damaged headstones? It was established this would go back on the families who are responsible for the headstones. Improvement of sink holes would be covered by Perpetual Care funds. Future discussion will be had on further uses of Perpetual Care funds.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City of Syracuse Park Hill Cemetery Foundation bank account. The account is a fund the City has not been made aware of in the past and consisted of funds from gifted money. Crook researched CD rates among the local banks; First Bank will match another bank’s CD rate. The Council would like to see the fund be placed in a 48-month CD at First Bank of Nebraska as First Bank was not included in the dividing up of Perpetual Care funds into CDs previously. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the funds amounting to approximately \$69,500.00 to a 48-month CD at First Bank of Nebraska, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on acceptance of leftover funds to increase potential LWCF award for Aqua Center Bathhouse, authorizing Mayor’s signature on acceptance letter; Carolyn Gigstad of Aqua Center Bathhouse Committee present. Gigstad explained the LWCF grant the City is applying for is offering an additional \$33,000.00 on top of the \$250,000.00 provided by the grant. The City would need to match this new amount. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the acceptance of the additional funds if approved, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Gigstad reported JEO has given her a timeline of construction documentation starting in January 2020 with bidding for work by the end of March, construction starting at end of the pool season 2020, with a new bathhouse by May 2021.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on end of probation for Lead Parks Maintenance Worker, Tyler Collin, including a \$.25 hourly pay increase and participation in retirement contribution. Crook explained Collin has actually worked for the City for almost a year but due to a position change mid-year he was required to start the 6-month probation period over. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the end of Collin’s probation, the hourly pay increase as well participation of the City’s retirement program, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Crook reported the fourth set of bleachers ordered is almost constructed, the Parks department has installed all of the parking blocks at the parking lot at the Sports Complex, the concrete for the handicap parking stalls has been completed at the Sports Complex, the Spruce trees at the cemetery have been limbed up and landscaping timbers have been placed in the parks. The Parks department received compliments regarding how nice the timbers look. Elkhorn Fence will be coming out to the dog park location in the next couple weeks to construct the fencing; people have been using the space already for running their dogs. Publications have been posted advertising for Aqua Center Pool Assistant Manger and Shift Managers for the 2020 pool season.

RESCUE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of payment for new ambulance. Wilson explained after the Kiewitt Foundation’s grant of \$50,000.00 as well as rescue funds raised, the balance left to pay out of the Rescue Department’s budget equals \$117,224.00. Council Member Jerry Werner approved payment for the new ambulance, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-31 on advertising for bids for SRS Rig #712. Wilson explained this is the squad’s oldest rig. Sealed bids will be due by February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.; the bid opening will be held at the February 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Clerk Farmer will look

into placing the ad on the League of Nebraska Municipalities website and/or monthly publication, the Nebraska clerk-net mass email. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve publicizing for  
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bids for the rig, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup Bids for 2020 Agreement. The Council would like to see the agreement be for a longer period of time than the previous one-year agreements. The sealed bids would be accepted until January 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. with the bid opening held on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. during the City Council's monthly meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-32 on 2020 Maintenance Agreement No. 45 Renewal and Certificate of Compliance between NE Dept. of Transportation and City, authorizing Mayor's signature. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-32 accepting the agreement renewal and certificate, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 19-33 on advertising for bids for two Taurus City vehicles. Vogt explained one is a 2003 and the other a 2005. Sealed bids would be accepted until February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 P.M. with the bid opening to be held at the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 City Council meeting at 6:00 P.M. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-33 to accept bids for the two cars, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Vogt explained Dane Simonsen is scheduling a well-field kick-off meeting soon. Alan Britton was previously stated while he was still on City Council to continue his work with the well-field project. Council Member Jerry Werner will also participate in the project attending the kick-off meeting. Vogt and Clerk Farmer will also attend the meeting. The meeting will be scheduled for Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led discussion on defined contributions for employee health insurance HSA plan option. Previously the applicable employees had a meeting with Kyle Kohlmorgen and Mark Munford of Kohlmorgen Benefits. The presentation went well but there was a question regarding the employee children enrollees premium; it was discovered while there is a lot of savings incurred by the City with the new plan it was actually going to end up costing those with one, two or three children on their plan costing those employees significantly more out of their paychecks. Kyle and Mark proposed new premium rates that would cost the City approximately \$616.00 more. The Mayor commended Kyle and Mark with coming up with a plan to accommodate each employee. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the adjusted premium rates and HSA contribution amount, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-34 on agreement with Great Plains Communication. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt the agreement with Great Plains, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz explained the public hearings for current agenda items 14-C, 14-D and 14-E will be continued until the next City Council meeting to be held on Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. These items are discussion and public hearing on Ordinance to amend Figure 23, Figure Land Use and Transportation Map of the Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan, discussion and public hearing on ordinance to amend and adopt a new Zoning Map of the City of Syracuse, and public hearing and discussion on ordinance on amendment to Syracuse Code of Ordinances, Appendix A Subdivision Article 4 Design Standards to allow non-paved streets and onsite sanitary waste facilities.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City employee drug testing. This item will be tabled until a future City Council meeting.

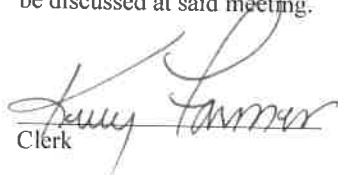
Mayor Ortiz led discussion on Park Hill Cemetery. This item was previously discussed during the Cemetery Board's Report.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 19-35 regarding meeting notices. Attorney Stilmock explained this would list all places where notification of a regular meeting is to be placed as well as  
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where notification would be placed for a special and/or emergency meeting. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt the resolution regarding meeting notices, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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