

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on January 14, 2020 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, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner; Deb Dettmer not yet present. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes.

Minutes for the December 18, 2019 meeting 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 approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG not present. BMG has sent the December 2019 report for the Mayor and Council to review. No further discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the December Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. 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 48 total incidents for Syracuse during the month of December 2019. Various calls consisted of 16 traffic stops, one suspicious person/veh/circ, two theft of property or services, and three remove subject requests. Week 2 of December consisted of the most hours at 140.4, 110.6 of those basic coverage hours. There was one shoplifting arrest and a citation was issued for dog running at large. Discussions are in the works regarding the Interlocal Agreement between the City and Otoe County Sheriff's Department. Deb Dettmer now present at meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes not present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. The report for December 2019 showed circulation down compared to this time last year. The meeting room had ten reservations. Scan cards on the front entry doors are not working; Antes has reached out to Johnson Hardware for repair. Santa's visit had 145 children present compared to 199 in 2018. 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.

FIRE REPORT – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of David Dennis and Trevor Clark as new members to SVFD. David is available for calls during the day. Clark was previously on the Syracuse Rescue Squad. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the two as new members, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Neemann announced the air bottles previously ordered have arrived. He explained the roof at the fire station continues to leak. He would like to receive bids for spray foam to fix the problem.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on potential pay increase in regards to CPO Certification for Tyler Collin, Ian Mitchell and Brian Vodicka. Crook explained this certification is important to keep the pool running. In the past utility certifications have been approved for a \$.50/hour pay raise. Ortiz does not recommend this pay increase as this certification is not something these employees use on a daily basis such as a waterworks employee does. Laramie Werner brought up past discussion on this being part of the employees' annual pay increase and evaluation. Dettmer feels this certification is needed especially as backup during the end of the season when we lose a lot of staff going back to school and these individuals are assets. Ortiz clarified he doesn't agree with the \$.50/hour pay increase for any employees. Crook mentioned an alternative may be a shift differential pay rate be given if and when any of the three individuals need to perform the duties of a Certified Pool Operator. Jerry Werner suggested job descriptions note certifications which could be accrued possibly including different grades for that particular job including possible shift differential be paid when applicable. Mayor Ortiz would like the City Administrator to work on annual evaluations and putting a system in place. He would also like to see the Parks

department be able to open and winterize the pool on their own without help from the Utilities department. The discussion was tabled.

Crook showed pics of a piece of land on the south end of Williams Park recently cleaned up by the Parks department. Neighbors of the property are very pleased to no longer have a jungle bordering their property. Crook announced the bathhouse committee is hoping to hear in a week or so from the Game and Parks grant committee; they are also working on other grants. 3-on-3 Basketball has started; they play on Sundays at SDA High School. The fence has been constructed at the dog park; Crook is working with the Hestermann family. Gates are to be placed soon.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Superintendent Jeff Vogt not present. Mayor Ortiz led opening, presentation and approval of Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup Bids for 2020. One bid was submitted for the job from Derek Harms at a bid of \$9,250.00/year. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept the bid proposing the agreement be a three-year agreement authorizing Mayor's signature, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. A resolution will be drafted for approval at the February Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-01 on approval of Electrical Distribution Loop Closure plans and specifications; Matt Kalin of JEO present. Kalin explained the project extending from the south side of NE Highway 2 up to the new Syracuse Area Health Med Center; easements have been signed. The project is split 50/50 between the 19-20 and 20-21 Electrical Budgets; payment to contractors will be made out of the 20-21 Budget; materials will be purchased from the 19-20 Budget. JEO will advertise for bids for the project; bids will be due March 4<sup>th</sup> and considered for approval at the March 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-01 approving the engineered cost estimate of \$165K and acceptance of plans and specs, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-02 on approval of Phase II Sanitary Sewer System GIS Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature; Joe Sather of JEO present to explain. Sather explained in 2018 the City was awarded this same \$10,000 grant allowing for Phase I of this project. Work will start with the utilities department doing the locates. Sather announced an upgraded resolution will be used for this phase. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-02, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-03 on approval of Phase II Water System GIS Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature; Joe Sather of JEO present. The details are the same as explained for Resolution 20-02 only this is for water lines, curb-stops and valves. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-03 to accept approval for the GIS Water System grant, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Mayor Ortiz explained the public hearings for current Old Business agenda items 12-A, 12-B & 12-C will be continued until the next City Council meeting to be held on Wednesday February 12<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.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City employee drug testing. Attorney Stilmock is currently working on the details but the idea is the tests will be random with 100% employee participation throughout the year with three to four employees randomly selected per quarter. In the event of an accident while on the clock and/or using City equipment, the said employee will immediately be tested at an assigned facility even if they have already had their test for that year. Approximate cost will be a \$250 annual fee, \$64.00 per person. The discussion will be continued at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Ortiz led update on employee health insurance. He explained the transition to the new insurance policy and Kohlmoegen Benefits has been a rocky start. Employees currently have temporary cards but are still not able to have insurance benefits for pharmaceuticals. It has been daily communication by

Mayor Ortiz and Clerk Farmer with Kyle Kohlmorgen and Marc Munford. At this time prescriptions are being paid for by Kohlmorgen Benefits company credit card. The company's errors and omissions have been retained if further action is needed. Mayor Ortiz have given direction to Kyle Kohlmorgen on how the transition could've been handled better.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and discussion on Ordinance No. 1065 for Conditional Use Permit for consideration of a free-standing sign at Lot 2 in Lot 4 except S 102 Degrees of Lot 2 and less Nebraska Highway 50 Right-of-Way Northwest Quarter, 4.83 Acres Syracuse Annex 22-8-11 City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska; property owner Kelly McIntosh present. McIntosh explained he is getting ready to construct storage units in the spring. Planning Commission recommended approval for the sign at the December Planning meeting. McIntosh is receiving documentation from NDOT since the property runs along NE Highway 50. The sign is one-sided parallel with the highway approximately 4' off the ground. Mayor Ortiz explained previous special conditions in regards to signs and the Council can make these if desired. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Clerk Farmer read Ordinance No. 1065 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Special Designated Liquor Licenses for Knights of Columbus fish fry's to be held at St. Paulinus Church on the dates of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 for the times of 4:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the SDL requests, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-04 on agreement with Unite Private Networks, authorizing Mayor's signature. Unite is providing fiber to Otoe County Extension Office off of first street and would like to use the City's utility right-of-way. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-04 accepting the Right-of-Way agreement, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on "No Parking" sign to be placed between driveways of 1013 and 1033 Mohawk Street properties; Robert Carman, Syracuse Resident present. Carman explained neighbors across Mohawk Street from his property make it difficult for him to get in and out of his driveway especially during slick conditions. He would like to see the area be made "No Parking". He also explained the vehicles sit for long periods of time without being moved. City ordinance requires vehicles be moved after 24-hours. Dettmer explained she has researched City of Springfield's ordinance requiring obtaining a permit to be allowed to park during overnight hours. She feels this may be an option rather than making it no-parking as well as helping during snow removal when snow removal equipment typically works around parked vehicles on the streets. Carman has reached out to the Sheriff's department; the issue is on-going. Laramie Werner is not opposed to the no-parking; all Council Members feel the street is very crowded with cars parked curbside. Jerry Werner mentioned time-span parking; the concern is the vehicles will only be swapped out. A precedence would be set and affect all areas of town; there was concern precedence is set either way the Council moves. Mayor Ortiz would like to discuss this with Sheriff Caudill and see what more needs to be done as this situation is just as much a neighbor issue and not such a parking issue. Gigstad mentioned making the entire side of the street no-parking but would like to see what the Sheriff can help with and bring Attorney Stilmock in on the discussion. Another item mentioned were potential lawsuits towards the City and properties feelings of being targeted. Direction was to speak with Sheriff Caudill and Attorney Stilmock.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-05 for Participating Members of LARM to ratify the elections of Members of the LARM Board Directors. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-05, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 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