

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

March 11, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on March 11, 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, Deb Dettmer, 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 February 12, 2020 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 February 2020 financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Jerry Werner inquired on the decrease of property taxes compared to this time last year; this item is located on page 9 under General Income. Council Member moved to approve the February Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. The claims approved are attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Antes present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. The report for February 2020 showed circulation down compared to this time last year. The meeting room had eleven reservations. Antes announced the Library Foundation will pay for the re-painting of the library, meeting room, and restrooms along with eight computer chairs and eight new public sitting chairs in the adult and teen area. Gary Ganger will be doing the painting anticipated to be done and completed by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Antes will advertise the Library will be closed from May 29<sup>th</sup> thru June 8<sup>th</sup> to allow for the completion of the painting. 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.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 37 total incidents for Syracuse during the month of February 2020. Various calls consisted of 13 traffic stops, six parking complaints resulting with one car being towed, two driving under suspicion and five total arrest or search warrants. Caudill reported deputies are keeping an eye on suspicious activity at Love's Travel Stop. There weren't any issues at the MMA fight held at the Kimmel Building. Commission Sorenson has reached out to Mayor Ortiz would like to meet regarding contract negotiations. Caudill explained the department is not full staff at this time. Two are currently going through testing in order to make it to the academy.

FIRE REPORT – Fire Chief Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval for fire department to purchase a battery powered ventilation fan. The price is \$3,457.00 from Danko; Neemann explained the funds would come from capital outlay budgeted for. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the purchase of the fan, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Neemann reported the new lockers have all been received. Parks and Rec have been able to put some of the old ones to use.

Neemann reported on the nuisance tracker he has updated as the Nuisance Inspector. There are currently 12 nuisance cases listed on the report from a perpetual junk yard, stacked tires, down fencing, household items such as old mattresses and batteries being stored outside of property, as well as non-functioning or unlicensed vehicles. Neemann has tried to stop and talk to the property owners as well as sending certified letters. Mayor Ortiz encouraged Neemann to stay on it and reach out for guidance as needed.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion and Resolution No. 20-08 on Quick Med Claims billing agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature. Attorney Stillmock explained this company was operated as EMS Billing Services previously. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-08, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Wilson also reported he and the other SRS officers recently met to discuss action plan for COVID-19. They are planning on utilizing

one rig just for potential COVID-19 positive patients. He explained the PPV items are on backorder nationwide; they do have a stock at the Rescue Barn but they will be hard to find if supply runs low. Orv Gigstad commended the Syracuse Rescue Squad on a recent personal experience he and Carolyn had with the service.

**PARKS & REC REPORT** – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook not present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Back to School Bash and date; Julie Beach present. Julie explained last year was a success and they would like to have the event on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, maybe coinciding with closing day. They would like to use Williams Park, enclosed shelter and pool; they also request barricading Chestnut from 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Education Drive. This raises money for the Aqua Center Bathhouse renovation project. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the event, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Aqua Center Bathhouse, Carolyn Gigstad presented an updated report. Gigstad announced \$52,280.15 has been raised in the last two weeks. Mayor Ortiz would like to start getting the timeline of the construction out; he recently spoke with SDA administration regarding school drop off and pickup traffic. Clerk Farmer will reach out to Jill Crook regarding asbestos testing and reaching out to former Parks and Rec Directors.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and approval to apply for a grant for 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project. Bob Brandt has volunteered his time to assist Crook with the plan and design. The grant covers plants for use at the site. The Mayor and Council would like to see a plan to distribute for possible donors. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve a full-truck valued at \$1600 to \$1800 with the City matching for April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as a backup, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led discussion on truck bids. Vogt recommended the lowest bid of \$29, 850.00 from Field Ford out of the three bids presented including Brinkman Bros and Meyer-Earp Chevrolet. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid from Field Ford, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on welder bid. Recent utility hire, Adam Badberg is a certified welder. The welder the utilities department currently has is an arc welder and is out-dated. The bid from Matheson came from a suggestion by Badberg. Vogt explained the department can save money on laboring out welding jobs by doing some of the work themselves. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the bid of \$3,165.72 for the Millermatic Welder, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion, review, and approval of bid for hospital loop closure; Matt Kalin of JEO present. The bid opening for the project was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> with three bids being submitted. Overall the bids were very competitive. Kalin recently sent material bids to Vogt; the material will come out of the 19-20 budget with the labor coming out of the 20-21 budget. In the next couple of months, JEO will work on getting materials ordered. This could leave approximately \$70,000.00 left over to assist with labor costs in the 20-21 budget; Clerk Farmer will speak with Todd Blome regarding utilizing something like a sinking fund for the \$70,000.00 to be transferred from the current budget to the next. Kalin explained this loop will feed future developments around the area of Syracuse Area Health. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept the Wesco bid of \$65,682.09, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept the Valley bid of \$167,426.18 for the hospital loop, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Vogt reported the Chamber of Commerce donated \$200.00 to help with Christmas light costs; the 6<sup>th</sup> Street lot has been seeded and passed onto the Parks department.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1066 to amend Figure 23, Future Land Use and Transportation Map of the Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan, Jeff Ray of JEO not present. Attorney Stilmock explained this is the update primarily establishing the ridgeline. This applies to the requests to build without having to place

concrete streets. The property owner or developer would come to the City to ask permission to do these things but the consideration will be heard as they have not been before in the Transitional Ag zoning district. This would not be a Conditional Use strategy. No further discussion was had; Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1066 and move that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1066 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1067 to amend and adopt a new Zoning Map of the City of Syracuse. Attorney Stilmock explained the Future Land Use Map needs to correspond with the Zoning Map. The same ridgeline is shown. No further discussion was had; Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1067 and move that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1067 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of the ordinance, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearings, discussion and Ordinance No. 1068 on amendment to Syracuse Code of Ordinances, Appendix A Subdivision Article 4 Design Standards to allow non-paved streets and onsite sanitary waste facilities and amendment to Syracuse Code of Ordinances, Appendix A Subdivision Article 5 reduce size of sidewalks. Attorney Stilmock explained Article 4 allows for the rural acreage road design and follows guidelines for rural roads and shoulders; onsite water is permissible upon approval by the City, this also includes onsite sanitary sewer. Article 5 discusses road signage and sidewalks. No further discussion was had; Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1068 and move that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1068 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion, consideration, and Resolution No. 20-09 calling for redemption of certain maturities of the City's outstanding Series 2013 Combined Revenue Bonds; Jay Spearman of Piper Sandler & Co. present. Spearman explained re-issuance of the bonds could save the City ultimately \$27,790.16. This bond is less than 10 years to final maturity. Spearman discussed the compliance officer and the roles of the officer. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-09, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion, consideration to take necessary action to adopt Ordinance No. 1069 authorizing the issuance of Series 2020 Combined Revenue Utility Refunding Bonds; Jay Spearman explain. The estimated amortization schedule is effective after the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 payment made. Currently the trustee First National Bank is getting out of the business; BKOF has been named as the new trustee. Savings to the City by re-issuing is estimated at \$46,997.50. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve Ordinance No. 1069 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1069 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1069, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion, consideration, and Resolution No. 20-10 calling for redemption of certain maturities of the City's outstanding Municipal Facilities Bonds Series 2012; Jay Spearman explain. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-10, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion, consideration to take necessary action to adopt Ordinance No. 1070 authorizing the issuance of Series 2020 Municipal Facilities Corp Lease Refunding Bonds; Jay Spearman present. Attorney Stilmock explained the non-profit corporation of the three board members

will sign off on the agreement. Mayor Ortiz asked if the three board members would need to be re-appointed; Stilmock explained as long as they want to stay on the board their role perpetuates as long as the City has the lease bonds with the corporation. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve Ordinance No. 1070 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1070 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1070, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion on airbnb's. The discussion was tabled.

Mayor Ortiz led discussion and ordinance on proposed parking regulations. Jerry Stilmock and Jerry Werner are currently working on. The ordinance and discussion were tabled.


Mayor Ortiz led discussion on City employee drug testing. The discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on forgiveness of April thru June 2020 Senior Center rent payment by Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging. Carla Frase reached out to the City discussing some of the challenges the organization is currently facing with \$23,000.00 in monthly cuts. Mayor Ortiz would like to see what the county is contributing to Blue Rivers. Blue Rivers is currently funding 21 centers; they have recently closed the Dunbar, Dunbar and Thayer County facilities. Mayor Ortiz would like to gather additional information in order for the Council to make a decision on rent forgiveness. The City provides the space, makes an annual contribution of \$1500.00 average for the Handy-Bus, and pays the utilities as well as any repairs needed for the Senior Center. The monthly rent paid to the City is \$600.00 for a total forgiveness of \$1800.00. The item was tabled.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. The next City Council meeting will be on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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