

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met via teleconference at 6:15 P.M. on May 13, 2020 for their regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places including directions on how to participate in the meeting telephonically. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Mayor Ortiz noted the Open Meetings Act was posted in the City Hall Council Chambers and this meeting was being held via teleconference due the current Covid-19 pandemic pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-03 in consideration of the public health and safety.

Minutes for the April 29, 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 and Lisa Steffensmeier of BMG present. BMG has sent the April 2020 financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome explained all bank accounts and statements have been reconciled and accounted for. There are six different long-term bonds that have also been reconciled. Blome discusses a couple of items that have changed over the last couple of months. Electric revenue appears down but that is because of a transformer revenue last year; account #4290, Ambulance income, shows a \$4000.00 stimulus item but generally the claims have been higher. Ambulance expenses are up for the daily operations but largely in part is for a purchase of a new and fitting that rig. Water expenses, Capital Outlay, expenses are up due to JEO payments for the well field/transmission main project. Payments have also been made for basement waterproofing at City Hall, a new garage at Park Hill Cemetery, as well as a new dump truck for the Street department. Blome pointed out the Ambulance separate bank account has a large amount of money in that account; he suggested transferring funds from this account to the general checking account to help pay for these large purchases for the Ambulance department. Clerk Farmer mentioned she had recently spoke with Tim Wilson about transferring funds; that transfer will show up in the May financials. The Street fund also has additional money in it that could be transferred to help pay for some of the street expenses. The Improvement and Extension bank fund may have additional funds that can be transferred over to the general checking account; Clerk Farmer will follow up with Todd Blome regarding this account. Jerry Werner commented the projects the departments had budgeted for have been executed already in the year versus in the past these may have happened to show up later in the budget year. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the April Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, 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 30 total incidents for Syracuse, but total calls for Syracuse were 59. Many of these were dogs running as well as suspicious persons complaints. Caudill reported on the soccer fields being torn up; the individuals were apprehended. Use of the County's drone helped with determining the amount of the damage. Crook reported grass seed has been applied to the areas as was directed. Attorney Stilmock suggested notifying LARM so they can report the incident as needed. There were a couple of arrests for DUI. Mayor Ortiz asked about the four traffic crashes on the incident report; he thought that seemed a little high. Caudill reported these are mostly from minor semi-trucks fender benders at Love's Truck Stop.

PARKS & REC REPORT -- Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval to proceed with soliciting bids from general contractors for the Aqua Center Bathhouse Construction; Jarred Meyer of JEO present. Drawings and specifications are 99.9% complete; report from Thiele for the Geotechnical Exploration still need to be received. Laramie Werner moved to accept the engineer's cost of opinion of \$570,000.00 for construction cost, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. This breaks down with \$495,000.00 with 15% contingency coming in just under the \$570K. Mayor Ortiz explained the Parks and Rec department have been working on receiving bids for the demolition of the existing bathhouse therefore the discussion on the demo was tabled. Additional discussion is shown in the

following paragraph. Deb Dettmer moved to approve authorization to proceed with soliciting bids for general contractors for construction, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Crook explained Randy Peterson has decided not to proceed with helping with the demo; instead he would like to make a donation. Gana Trucking & Excavating and Barrett Construction Co. turned in bids to the City for the job; both came in between \$18,000.00 to \$19,000.00. Gana's did not include a cost for dirt replacement; it was understood this would be separate. Meyer of JEO reported Gana has worked with JEO on a number of projects without any issues; JEO has not had any experience with Barrett. Jarred Meyer suggested reaching out to Gana regarding adding in replacement of suitable soil in order to compare better with the Barrett bid; this would include compaction and leveling also. Fencing was also not included in Gana's. Crook reached out to the City's insurance company, LARM, and they said orange snow fencing would suffice to use during the demo process. Barrett's quote could be cheaper if they remove the portion designated for the fence. JEO was told initially in the bathhouse project demo would be taken care of separately by the City. Jarred Meyer explained the project could be added to the scope of the current bathhouse project providing an amendment would need to be approved for the additional cost. Jerry Werner asked about if a bond would be required; Attorney Stilmock explained a bond would need to be secured. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to accept the bid from Gana Trucking for the demo services of the existing bathhouse at \$18,110.00, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad. Nays: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Motion failed. Mayor Ortiz recommended taking a step back and asking JEO to add the demo portion to their project scope.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of walk path for 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project. The item was tabled in order to seek additional bids for estimates and plans.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Quick Meds Claims Rates. Wilson is not requesting a change of the squad's current rates. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to accept Resolution No. 20-18, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on acceptance of Cares Stimulus Funding. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to accept the Cares Stimulus Funding, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Letters have been sent to Highway 50 land owners in regards to well field and transmission main project; the letter focuses on surveying of the land the transmission main will be placed on. Unit 5 Dump Truck has been turned over to Parks; the Street department's new dump truck is complete.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and resolution authorizing sale of City of Syracuse real estate legally described as follows: The West Sixteen and One Half Feet (16 ½) of Lot Seven (7) and West Sixteen and one Half Feet (16 ½) of the South Forty Three (43) of Lot Eight (8), all in Block Four (4), Williams Addition to the City of Syracuse Otoe County, Nebraska; Kc Ortiz present. Ortiz pulled the item from the agenda.

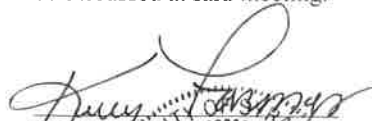
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on parking ordinance to amend Ordinance Sections 30-80 thru 30-82 and 30-84 thru 30-90; amendments to Section 30-83 were approved previously at the April City Council meeting. Attorney Stilmock has worked with Jerry Werner on amendments needed. Laramie Werner asked about parking around the Rescue Barn; Jerry Werner explained that was in Section 30-83 approved previously and is directly off of state statute. Laramie Werner explained when volunteers report for fire or rescue calls they park in various places around the Rescue/Fire Barn. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1074 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended; Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1074. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1074, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.


NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Electricians and Plumbers licenses; Clerk Farmer distributed a list of those for discussion. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve

those on the list, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, 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