

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at the Public Library located at 480 5th Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:00 P.M. on July 8th, 2020 for their regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places. Mayor Ortiz was not able to attend the meeting therefore Council President Orv Gigstad led the meeting. President Gigstad requested roll call, present were Gigstad and Council members Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, and Jerry Werner. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Gigstad noted the Open Meetings Act was posted.

Minutes for the June 10th, 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.

President Gigstad led the approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports. Todd Blome of BMG present telephonically. BMG has sent the June 2020 financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome explained all bank accounts and statements have been reconciled and accounted for. Account 6029 on the Treasurer's Report showed \$47,000.00 paid to JEO in June, Account 6060, Cemetery General, \$1700.00 paid to Martin Marietta for rock at Park Hill; others noted were payments out of Park budget to Baragary Construction for concrete work at the dog park and three large payments out of the Street budget. Year to date expenses exceed revenue by \$55,000.00; \$280,000.00 was transferred from the Utilities Fund to reimburse the General Operating Fund for well field/transmission main project invoices from JEO, this was approved at the June Council meeting. Also approved at the June meeting was a transfer from the AquaCenter Fund to reimburse the General Operating Fund \$36,000.00 for bathhouse invoices from JEO. Discussion was had on moving funds from the Street Fund for two purchases made out of the Street budget for a new dump truck and street sweeper; these invoices have been paid out of the General Operating Account. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to transfer \$76,033.72 from the Street Fund to reimburse the Operating Fund, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad Nays: none. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the June Treasurer's report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Unum 127.36, Ron's Auto & Tire Repair 394.02, Petty Cash 145.91, Allied Benefits 7761.52, Syracuse Tow & Tire 28.85, Martin Marietta 1308.67, Pioneer Underground Sprinklers 1415.00, Akrs 57.53, Wesco Distribution 56,471.73, Synchrony Bank/Amazon 531.32, JEO 74,838.00, Verizon 545.63, Municipal Supply, Inc. 1376.92, Ameritas 89.12, NE Public Health Environmental Lab 66.00, Baragary Construction 890.00, United Healthcare 126.00, Bockmann Inc 3405.00, Border States 3895.51, Municipal Service & Supply Co. 423.72, Sporhase 347.48, Big Red Drainage 151.10, Dentegra 303.06, Ascap 11.00, Municode 1396.00, Syracuse Do It Best 855.49, Todd Aksamit 2145.84, Adam Badberg 2162.49, Tyler Collin 2032.29, Jill Crook 2447.49, Kelly Farmer 2726.65, Jessica Meyer 4348.12, Ian Mitchell 2224.21, Cody Pester 1218.03, Sam Pester 520.09, Julie Slafter 1697.42, Curtis Stanberry 2547.36, Brent Teten, 2643.66, Jon VanHousen 17.93, Brian Vodicka 1888.77, Jeff Vogt 5110.12, Nicole Vonderschmidt 1856.76, Gregg Wiebusch 1325.52, Connie Kershner 100.00, Larry Grundman 100.00, Capital Business Systems 176.32, Carol Linquist 400.00, Jody Bruns 205.00, Marcia Scheinost 285.00, Susan Obermeyer 200.00, Tami Andera 180.00, Tim Wilson 950.00, Chris Lutjemeyer 150.00, David Sabatka 150.00, Craig Boldt 150.00, Bruce Neemann 500.00, Dana Anderson 1050.00, Midwest Farmers Coop 150.00, Otoe County Sheriff 15,000.00, Mike's Window Svc 107.83, Culligan 28.90, Susan Antes 1682.81, Carolyn Bremer 184.70, Deb Dettmer 161.61, Leah Ganzel 556.16, Orv Gigstad 161.61, Bruce Neemann 836.47, Tomas Ortiz 461.75, Sharon VanHousen 104.732, Jerry Werner 161.61, Laramie Werner 161.61, A-1 Locksmith 1018.00, City of Syracuse 1583.00, Eco Green Constr. 15,030.00, Echo Electric Supply 255.23, U.S Postal Svc 307.02, NWEA 20.00, Border States 374.72, Syracuse Iron Works 23.78, Simple Solutions Computer Group 25.00, Gatehouse Media 22.72, Kan Equip 2954.36, Aflac 183.60, Jess Dowling 35.00, Ryan Beach 15.00, Lacy Johnson 15.00, One Call Concepts 39.57, Nicole Keslar 15.00, Mandy Rohrig 15.00, Kelly Jording 15.00, Chantelle Schroeder 15.00, Tracy Ensor 15.00, Laura Lessmann 15.00, Elle Foley 15.00, Caitlin Falcone 30.00, Nikki Wenzel 15.00, Rachel Anderson 30.00, Jill Janssen 15.00, Annie Prater 15.00, Melissa Juilfs 15.00, Alissa Hanssen 15.00, Shantelle Dunster 15.00, Kayla Wiebusch 15.00, Maggie Johnson 15.00, Brandi Brinkman 15.00, Stephen Owens 15.00, Christa Reisdorff 15.00, Brianne Wilhelm 15.00, Syracuse

Lumber Co. 121.15, Syracuse Motor Supply 375.656, Brian Vodicka 148.06, Unite Private Networks 2306.32, Talia Goes 15.00, Five Nines 2398.25, Jason Serie 540.00, Nebraska City Util. 303.47, Terry's 119.95, Frontier Coop 688.46, Midwest Labs 683.28, Bound Tree 2030.74, Verizon 197.08, Ingram Libr. Svc 319.84, Micro Marketing 47.67, Sue Antes 24.99, Demco 67.11, Windstream 7.99, Matheson 137.12, Syracuse Do It Best 33.73, Kim Bellinder 120.00, Andy Brace 280.00, Kody Cardinal 60.00, Christa Reisdorff 50.00, Joe Reisdorff 200.00, Jen Staack 40.00, Jen Wallman 120.00, Laramie Werner 200.00, Phillips Healthcare 853.83, Gregg Zahn 35.00, Dan's Tire 35.00, B&B 1518.51, Great America 1572.82

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – no one present.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 71 total incidents for Syracuse. 37 were general incoming calls. Eight were traffic stops, six suspicious persons/vehicles Caudill noted nothing major and two traffic crashes with damage. Average weekly hours for the month of June were 88.55. The department is having some issues with systems recording citations and violations. Caudill also reported on a theft in Syracuse. All parties were apprehended and property recovered within an hour of the call.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Neemann present. President Gigstad led the discussion and approval to purchase up to five sets of new bunker gear. Neemann explained the Rural Fire will match what SVFD purchases. A price for coat and pants is \$8975.00 for five sets; this is currently in the budget. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the purchase five sets of bunker gear at \$8975.00, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Neemann also reported the roof is still leaking at the Fire Barn. He proposed using budgeted funds for new restrooms at the barn go toward fixing the roof; \$15,000.00 had been budgeted for the restrooms. The restrooms project will go on the 20-21 proposed budget. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve to sub the roof repair project in place of the restrooms project, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. One pumper truck did not pass inspection recently due to an air leak; Neemann explained this wouldn't be an issue as long as they use the truck in the City where they can hook onto a hydrant.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes present. Antes started off by thanking City Administrator Jessica Meyer for being so helpful with the Covid 19 protocol and for getting the Library back opened. Book turnaround after disinfection is 24 to 48 hours. Library circulation is about 80%; kids are not coming in as expected. Antes reported of a higher water bill the last month due to issues with the sprinkler heads. The interior painting of the Library was completed during the Covid shutdown. Summer Blast classes are almost full and as of now the Library will be offering preschool storytime.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook not present; City Administrator Jessica Meyer reported on behalf of Crook. President Gigstad led the discussion on purchase of new mower. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve purchase of X-Mark mower from Kan Equip for \$10,250.00, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt not present. President Gigstad led the discussion on request concerning a change at intersection of Mohawk & 9th Street; Fred and Phyllis Erkes present. Erkes explained the street seems like a racetrack at times and she is concerned as there are younger children that live along Mohawk Street. She explained they would like to see a stop sign placed at the intersection; she feels this would make the traffic slow down. She explained she has requested from the Sheriff's Dept. a deputy sit at the thrift store but she has not seen one. The Council instructed Superintendent Vogt to look into and report back at a future meeting. City Attorney Jerry Stillmock will prepare a document for vote at the next regular meeting based on Vogt's documentation. Erkes would like the intersection to be a four-way stop if possible.

President Gigstad led discussion and review of water tower maintenance contract proposals. Jake from Maquire Iron presented first, Brandon of Viking Industrial stepped out during the presentation. Jake explained he worked for Utility Service Co. when the City signed their current contract. The company was bought out and he felt the service had gone down therefore he moved to Maquire. Jake explained there is not a long-term contract as the City is used to. Maquire does annual contracts with an annual adjustment of no more than 5% increase or decrease. Brandon of Viking explained during his

presentation their contracts are for three-years. Both Jake and Brandon showed pics of City's tower noting various items needing attention as well as a timeline for painting and other maintenance. Both companies would be providing essentially same service while going through assessment checklists for DHHS, OSHA, American Water Works Association. The proposals will be voted on at the next regular City Council meeting.

President Gigstad led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-25 to update utility service policies and reconnection fees for customers receiving utilities, authorizing Gigstad's signature. Administrator Meyer explained reconnection fees are proposed to increase by \$25.00; this has not been done in 8 to 10 years. The department is also proposing to increase the homeowner deposit from \$75.00 to \$100.00. It was also discussed that when a utility customer has been disconnected due to non-payment they will need to pay with cash or cashier's check when paying to reconnect services. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-25. Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – President Gigstad led the discussions and ordinance to approve Franchise between City and Spiral Communications as well as the resolution to approve a pole attachment agreement between the two parties. Attorney Stilmock explained he is very close at finalizing the agreements and feels the item can be continued and finalized at the next special or regular Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – President Gigstad led the discussion and consideration to waive full-width slip form paving for street construction for Zahn Meadows; Ron Zahn present. Zahn explained three of the four contractors he's received bids from can pour curbs first, then street; otherwise, the project will be prolonged if he will need to pour entire street all at once. Street Superintendent Evan Wickersham explained in his report the preferred method is to pour full street but isn't out of the question to be waived. Linden View area is an example of a location where they poured the curbs first. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the waiving of the full-width slip form paving for the street construction at Zahn Meadows, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

President Gigstad led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-26 approving form for use for Board of Adjustments. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution 20-26, approving the form, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

President Gigstad led the discussion and approval of Electricians and Plumbers license applications. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve those listed, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

President Gigstad led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-27 to amend Resolution No. 94-5 pursuant to the local government miscellaneous expenditure act. Council Member Laramie Moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-27, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

President Gigstad led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-28 to amend Resolution No. 94-4 for expenditure of public funds for plaques, certificates of achievement, or items of value to be awarded to elected or appointed officials, employees or volunteers, after public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-28 capping the amount at \$250.00, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

President Gigstad led the discussion and resolution on update to Master Fee Schedule on payment of engineering fees by developer, authorizing signature. The item was tabled until a future meeting.

President Gigstad led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-29 to approve Engagement Agreement for legal services between City and Cline Williams. Cline Williams will review, make recommendations and prepare updated Employee Handbook. Council Member Deb Dettmer to adopt Resolution No. 20-29. Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn at 8:25 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.

Danny Farmer

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Mayor

