

SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

August 19, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at the Public Library located at 480 5<sup>th</sup> Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:00 P.M. on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for their regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places. Mayor Ortiz was present and requested roll call; present were Council members Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, and Jerry Werner; Council Member Laramie Werner was absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Ortiz noted the Open Meetings Act was posted. Minutes for the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 discussion on the July Financial Report and approval of claims; Todd Blome of BMG present via telephone. Blome reported all bank accounts have been reconciled. The City is ten months into the year for the current budget. Larger variances include on the income side, Ambulance income is up \$38K. In July, the SRS received Covid assistance. On the expense side, electric operations and maintenance show a larger payment for electrical materials ordered from Border States. Electric Capital Outlay is up due to the electrical distribution loop project; materials for the project are from Wesco; a payment for Field Ford was paid for a new truck. JEO expenses for the well-field project continue to be paid out of the water budget. Ambulance expenses are up due to the new ambulance purchase and stocking the rig. Roof and chimney repair to Eco-Green were paid out of the Building budget; Parks and Street expenses are up as well. Blome inquired on the plan for the well-field project. Mayor Ortiz explained the City implemented a 3-year water rate increase to help offset the costs. The City is currently using cash reserves to pay for those big-ticket items. Clerk Farmer explained the City is using two loans and grant funds from DWSRF. The first loan is \$1 Million dollars, the City does not have a dollar amount for the second loan. Farmer will send Blome the documents associated with the approved ordinance and documentation explaining the loan versus grant funds. Blome inquired on future budget larger ticket items and projects. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the July Treasurer Report and to pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Todd Aksamit 1054.44, Adam Badberg 975.96, Tyler Collin 1016.16, Jill Crook 1143.83, Kelly Farmer 1304.88, Jessica Meyer 2174.05, Ian Mitchell 1112.08, Cody Pester 326.57, Julie Slafter 942.70, Curtis Stanberry 1305.70, Brent Teten 1332.97, Brian Vodicka 895.03, Jeff Vogt 1675.08, Nicole Vonderschmidt 926.56, Gregg Wiebusch 233.16, Municode 950.00, WAPA 2662.14, Jason Serie 1490.00, B&B Pump N Go 1371.93, Border States 312.40, Quick Med Claims 2009.08, Power Review Board 264.68, OPPD 161,605.84, ET's Lawn & Leisure 124.37, Echo 695.35, Johnson Service Co. 19,759.50, Midwest Labs 140.28, Adam Badberg 152.75, Nebraska City Utilities 245.59, Gottula Propane 48.00, Simple Solutions 46.10, City of Syracuse 567.57, Capital Business Systems 43.10, Pacific Magazine 49.95, Ingram 520.22, Nebraska City Utilities 48.87, Verizon 357.48, Linpecco 266.00, Gatehouse Media 154.96, Martin Marietta 2828.88, Hawkins 123.09, Kan Equip 24.61, BMG 2500.00, Great America Financial 1572.82, Ameritas Life Insur. 89.12, Syracuse Area Health 950.00, Subsurface Solutions 177.53, Five Nines 1311.08, Rec Supply 459.29, Awards Unlimited 95.36, Cardmember Services 3689.00, JEO 16,000.00, Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom, Stilmock 2364.00, Allied Benefit Systems 7761.52, Synchrony Bank/Amazon 398.88, Brown Glass 985.33, United Healthcare 108.00, Verizon 499.70, Frontier 501.29, Bound Tree 567.35, Eco-Green Constr. 14,342.00, Emergency Repair Service 1400.00, Sandry Fire Supply 426.25, Robert Hallstrom Jr. 191.94, JEO 42,954.00.

No one for Hearing of Those Present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 62 calls in Syracuse, 44 drew incident reports from deputies (required attention). Three arrests were made from warrants issued. Three individuals will be coming out of the academy at the end of August; COVID hindered the process. Caudill reported he placed deputies at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> and Mohawk over several days to document traffic and speed. The deputies tracked 184 vehicles with only one going over 28 mph. This item is later on the agenda in Old Business. He does not recommend placing a stop sign at the intersection and a higher noise level would come from it if one is placed.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes not present; the report for the month of July was distributed prior to the meeting. No further discussion was had. The report discussed continuing education sites for ongoing accreditation are opening up with the help of the Nebraska Library Commission along with the Southeast Library System. Pre-school storytime has started and book clubs will be starting soon.

FIRE REPORT – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on Engine 736 repairs; Chief Eric Fass present. Fass explained the repairs have been made to the truck that did not pass the pumper inspection a couple months ago. No further discussion was had.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Manager Jill Crook not present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on quotes for a pool basketball hoop. Bids on portable and stationary hoops were presented. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid for the portable structure at \$1301.69 from Rec Supply, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and resolution to approve License Agreement between City of Syracuse and Pepsi. The Mayor and Council would like to see what Coca-Cola has to offer the City to compare with Pepsi. The item will be tabled until a future meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion Sheriff Caudill discussed during his report regarding the tabled item concerning a change at intersection of Mohawk & 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. Based on Caudill's research the City will not be placing stop signs at the intersection. Vogt will speak with the concerned parties and let them know.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-32 on approval of water tower maintenance contract, authorizing Mayor's signature. Vogt explained he would recommend Viking. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the contract with Viking, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and review of the proposed One & Six Year Street Plan for fiscal year 2020-2021; Evan Wickersham not present. No questions or revisions were discussed. The public hearing for the plan will be held at the September City Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – The agenda items were tabled until the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1078 for Application by Richard Halama, DBA Rich Harvest Winery, to amend Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.05.03 to allow outdoor live entertainment at the following-described real estate: 3-8-11, 11.35 acres Tract in 3-1 part of NW ¼ Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Halama present. Planning Commission recommended approval at their August meeting. Halama discussed the outdoor entertainment has allowed them to stay open during the Covid pandemic. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 1078 and moved the statutory reading required on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. Clerk Farmer read Ordinance 1078 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and resolution regarding renewal options for LARM 2020-2021 Pool Year. The Council did not move for adoption. The City signed a two-year agreement with LARM in 2019 therefore there is still one year left; the City will need to give 180-day notice to LARM prior to the expiration on September 30, 2021.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Manager Application for liquor license at Love's Travel Stop #676. No further discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the application, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

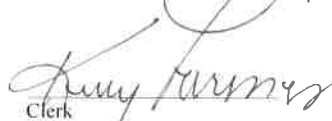
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Electricians and Plumbers licenses; Clerk Farmer provided a list prior to the meeting. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve those on the list, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

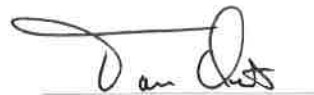
Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of Cleaning Authority Service Agreement, authorizing Mayor's signature. The service would clean City Hall and Utilities Shop buildings. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the agreement, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS Continued – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of department budgets including wages for 2020-2021 Budget year. The Mayor and Council have met twice for Budget meetings. No changes were made to previously discussed department budgets. City Administrator Meyer had put together a spreadsheet including current and proposed wages, employee benefits as well as comparisons with other towns our size. Meyer had previously met with the department heads regarding employee evaluations and proposed hourly wage increases. The Council approved the proposed wages starting October 1, 2020. Moving to salaries for the department heads was discussed and decided to wait until next year to allow to research more over the next year. Other recommendations for next year's process included broadening our research state-wide for towns comparable to Syracuse as well as evaluations being held quarterly instead of only once a year. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the 2020-2021 Budgets and wages, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn at 7:39 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. 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

