

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at 6:00 P.M. on September 9, 2020 for their regular meeting in the Syracuse Public Library at 480 5th Street. 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, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. 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 19th, 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 reimbursement to Operating Account from Utilities Fund for JEO invoice for well-field project expense. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained the request is to transfer \$42,954.00 is for the Well Field/Transmission Main project. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve to transfer the funds, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports. Todd Blome of BMG present. BMG has sent the August 2020 report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome reported all accounts and transactions have been tied out. The statements show eleven months of data for the current budget year. He will be visiting about the year in review at a future meeting in anticipation of the City's annual audit.

Mayor Ortiz opened the budget public hearing and led the discussion on approval of the 2020-2021 Budget and approval of additional 1.0% increase in restricted funds. Blome explained the budget documents prepared by BMG, answering questions from the Mayor and City Council. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve the additional 1.0 % increase in restricted funds and the 2020-2021 Budget, Orv Gigstad second. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Ordinance No. 1079 on hearing, support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to proposed 2020-2021 Budget. No opposition of the budget documents. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved 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. 1079 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1079, Deb Dettmer seconded. Mayor Ortiz stated the question, "Shall Ordinance No. 1079 be passed and adopted" and requested roll call vote. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Resolution No. 20-33 on hearing, support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request. No opposition of the property tax levy. Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-33, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the August Treasurer's Report and pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Todd Aksamit 1054.43, Adam Badberg 1134.47, Tyler Collin 1016.16, Jill Crook 1027.54, Kelly Farmer 1304.88, Jessica Meyer 2174.05, Ian Mitchell 1112.11, Cody Pester 326.57, Julie Slafter 942.70, Curtis Stanberry 1241.56, Brent Teten 1355.02, Nathan True 561.16, Brian Vodicka 837.59, Jeff Vogt 1649.65, Nicole Vonderschmidt 926.56, Municode 950.00, NE Public Health Environmental Lab 514.00, Wesco 7044.98, Echo Group 105.84, Border States \$10,434.68, Syracuse Do It Best 474.96, Aflac 183.60, Martin Marietta 2773.77, Capital Business Systems 236.85, Shaffer Communications 116.04, League of NE Municipalities 1227.00, Bound Tree 999.60, Culligan 28.90, City of Syracuse 1764.06, US Post Svc 309.89, Susan Antes 1720.05, Carolyn Bremer 184.70, Deb Dettmer 184.70, Leah Ganzel 329.50, Orv Gigstad 184.70, Bruce Neemann 859.01, Casandra Oestmann 139.64, Tomas Ortiz 461.75, Sharon VanHousen 104.72, Jerry Werner 184.70, Laramie Werner 138.52, Richard Halama 200.00, Kan Equip 337.76, Eakes 1056.29, Bill Schultz 303.24, Aaron & Danielle Bader 348.96, Chase Carlson 78.54, Stephen & Danielle Owens 153.75, Chris Richardson 101.49, Jacob & Kali Manley 284.40, Helen Henke 167.18, Adam Krecklow 93.23, Kurt & Jackie Meyer 193.08, Francis Milder 95.89, Scott Morris 133.70, Steph Oelke 69.49, Kim Bellinder 25.50, Verda Ritter 63.46, Kristi Skiles 37.62, Diane Teten 12.78, Baragary Constr. 574.00, Pioneer Underground Sprinklers 6204.00, DTS Tech 34.66, Syracuse Motor Supply 392.09, Syracuse Lumber Co. 39.79, Gatehouse Media 328.81, Jessica Meyer 60.00, Unite Private Networks 2306.32, Stock Seed Farms 705.00, Five Nines \$2398.25, Micro Marketing 80.06, Demco 372.64, Cleaning Authority 690.31, Sporhase 75.55, Simple Solutions 46.10, Frontier COOP 644.55, One Call Concepts 56.53, Brian Vodicka 40.83, Otoe County Sheriff 15,000.00, RP Returns 150.00, Syracuse Do It Best 17.16, Stryker 1316.92, Verizon 196.44, Bound Tree 402.95, Speramus 29.99, Terry's 134.53, Midwest Labs 140.28, Mike's Window Svc 123.80, Beacon Athletics 809.00, Brandon Damme 35.00, Matheson 104.34, Quick Med Claims 2484.42, Nebraska City Util. 255.44, Feld Fire 7100.00, BMG 5000.00, Hawkins 254.93, Syracuse Iron Works 4.41, Business Radio Licensing 95.00, Don Woods 288.55, Countryside Bank 3186.20, Kelly Farmer 38.63, Great America Fin. Svcs. 1572.82, Ingram Library Svcs 411.27, Creative Sites 3188.00, Stryker 9731.22, Brandt Horan Hallstrom Stilmock 1307.00.

No one for Hearing of Those Present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported 94 calls in Syracuse, 58 drew incident reports from deputies (required attention). Caudill explained three deputies are currently in training; the department will be full-staff upon the completion of the training. The department's report showed 11 traffic stops (nine warnings and two citations), traffic crashes are down significantly with only two, one death, two theft of property or services as well as various other nature of incidents.

A pursuit ended in with the person being arrested. Caudill reported about a question on eight suspicious person/vehicle/circulating. He explained many times the dispatcher relays calls as suspicious if the caller inquires on a person or vehicle they don't recognize. There are many out of town workers currently in the area, this sometimes does result in an increase of these types of calls but nothing significant came out of the eight incident calls.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-34 on approval of Interlocal Agreement between City of Syracuse and Otoe County Sheriff's Department. Jerry Stilmock explained negotiations resulted in an agreement to be drafted. One of the changes is an increase of the annual amount paid from \$180,000.00 to \$195,000.00. Stilmock also explained the Mayor's concern about what happens if and when law enforcement doesn't meet the required hours. If there is a month when there were less than 347 hours provided service to Syracuse, then the City would receive a credit using a formula. Caudill worked on the agreement to ensure the City knows exactly what it's paying for. Ortiz commended Caudill on the department and the communication has been very open since he has become Otoe County Sheriff. Council Member Gigstad mentioned how nice it is to have so many of the deputies living in the Syracuse community and area. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-34, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes present; the report for the month of August was distributed prior to the meeting. Circulation is back to where it should be since prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Pre-school Storytime has 30 three year-olds in the class; all thirty children are wearing masks currently. Book clubs are rolling along. Antes and the Library Board are working on accreditation hours. Antes mentioned she would like the Council to look at the Library's water bill as it has been significantly high compared to previous billings. Mayor Ortiz would like Superintendent Jeff Vogt to look into it.

ZONING REPORT – Building and Zoning Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion updating the City's Building, Residential and existing Building Codes as well as adopting additional International Code Council codes. Neemann explained he would like to update to the 2019 Codes; the State uses the 2018. He would also like to adopt additional codes such as the Mechanical Code, Energy Code, and International Swimming Pool Code along with sprinkler requirements and nuisance properties as well. The item was tabled to allow for Neemann to work with Jessica Meyer and Jerry Stilmock. Gigstad asked when the state has a requirement does the City have to follow that. Stilmock explained the City cannot do less than what the state has mandated but they can be more strict. He is seeking an explanation from the state in regards to enforcement.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on City Ordinance Section 6-70 regarding electrical permits. Additionally, Neemann would like to move forward with codes regarding hose bibs. The requests will be tabled to allow Neemann to work with Jessica Meyer and Jerry Stilmock.

Mayor Ortiz announced the recognition of Bruce Neemann and his 32 years as SVFD Fire Chief, presenting a plaque to Neemann. Various SVFD Members were present. Caudill told Neemann during the Sheriff's report he has been one of the most professional people he has ever worked with.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and approval of lift station rebuild in current budget; Vogt is removing this item. No action needed.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and resolution on Streambank Stability Assessment Update between City of Syracuse and JEO, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jacob Miriovsky and Dennis Stille of JEO present. The Bank Stabilization project at 17th & Cheryl Drive has just been completed. Additional grading resulted in an additional \$1600.00 to be added to project scope; the project was originally approved for \$116,000.00 therefore the project is still under that amount. JEO explained they had been approached to look at Williams Park where the bank is deteriorating and approaching sidewalks and bridges. They mentioned the 2011 Streambank Stability Plan; these are all areas being looked at currently. After almost ten years, the projects need to be re-evaluated; one of the 14 items on the 2011 plan has completed. Stilmock mentioned JEO also looking at the retention pond placed at the new hospital site as this was not on the 2011 plan. The Mayor requested the item to be tabled and would like the entire City to be scoped and for JEO to help the City plan for the future so that these projects get done, working with other JEO staff.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing and Resolution No. 20-35 on 2020-2021 One & Six Year Street Plan; Evan Wickersham of JEO not present. The plan was reviewed and discussed at the August City Council meeting, no revisions needed. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-35, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Vogt also reported the electrical loop to the hospital will be starting within the next couple weeks and the GIS Phase 2 mapping project of water and sewer lines is moving along.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion to take action as described below on the following-described real estate: Lot 7 Block 21 Zahn Meadows, a tract located in the NE ¼ of Section 15, Township 8 N, Range 11 E of the 6th P.M. Otoe County Nebraska; Ron and Barb Zahn present.

a) Ordinance No. 1080 to amend the Future Land Use and Transportation Maps from Transitional Ag (TA-1) to Low Density Residential (LDR). Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1080 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1080 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of the ordinance, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

b) Ordinance No. 1081 to amend the Zoning Map from Transitional Ag (TA-1) to Low Density Residential (R-1). Mayor Ortiz closed the public hearing. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1081 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb

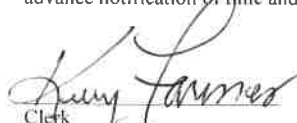
Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1081 by title. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved for final passage of the ordinance, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz opened the public hearing, discussion and action on Ordinance for Application for Small Tract Subdivision of the following-described real estate: Lot 2 in NW ¼ 2.26 Acres Syracuse Annes 22-8-11 City of Syracuse Otoe County, Nebraska; Kelly McIntosh not present. Mayor Ortiz explained the item is not yet ready and the public hearing is requesting to be continued until Wednesday October 14th at 6:00 P.M. at the next City Council meeting. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to continue the public hearing, noting the specified date, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on approval of Electricians and Plumbers licensed as presented by Clerk Farmer. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve Hans Electric, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn at 7:35 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie 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

