

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

December 9, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met via video and teleconference at 6:00 P.M. on December 9, 2020 for their regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places including directions on how to participate in the meeting by video and telephone. Mayor Ortiz requested roll call, present were Mayor Ortiz and Council members Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the November 18, 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 Kylie Hehn of BMG present. BMG has sent the November financial report for the Mayor and Council to review. Blome noted department fluctuations and comparisons to the November 2019 Financial Report. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the November Financial Report and pay the claims, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

AFLAC - 183.60, AMERITAS LIFE INSUR. CORP. - 89.12, ANNE M BAUER - 1625.50, AWARDS UNLIMITED, INC. - 61.37, 82.01, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 786.45, BMG CPA'S - 2500.00, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 932.26, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, BROWN GLASS CO., INC. - 238.00, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 50.18, 179.93, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 241.32, 207.69, CULLIGAN WATER - 28.90, DANA ANDERSON - 1100.00, DELWIN ANTHOLZ - 1500.00, DENNIS ESSINK - 200.00, DENTEGRA INSURANCE COMPANY - 303.06, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, DWAYNE WITT - 35.00, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 28.71, EASTER & ASSOCIATES - 1000.00, ECHO GROUP INC. - 544.66, FARMHOUSE STYLE MAGAZINE - 19.98, FIELD FORD, INC. - 64.45, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2398.25, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 26.41, GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL SVCS. - 1572.82, IAN MITCHELL - 100.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 507.48, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 3000.00, 4301.98, JESSICA MEYER - 22.54, KEIM FARM EQUIPMENT - 10.08, KELLY FARMER - 525.55, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR - 13.86, MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC - 183.09, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 33.28, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 129.50, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 5146.79, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 66.00, NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL POWER POOL - 5051.00, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 26.53, OTOE COUNTY - 16500.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 1142.33, REMINISCE - 18.00, SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, INC. - 849.00, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 46.10, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1031.08, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 248.77, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 29.99, SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE - 62.34, TASTE OF HOME - 18.00, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 36.54, TYLER COLLIN - 337.10, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2395.63, VERIZON WIRELESS - 175.73, 21.08

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Ortiz led the discussion, consideration, and award of bid for Aqua Center Bathhouse Construction; Jarred Meyer and Corey Broderson of JEO present. JEO explained the bid opening showed Scheele-Kayton Construction coming in at the low bid of \$658,000.00. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to award the bid to Scheele-Kayton, Deb Dettmer seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Deb Dettmer, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-43 on Streambank Stability Assessment Update Agreement between City of Syracuse and JEO, authorizing Mayor's signature; Evan Wickersham and Kevin Kruse of JEO present. Discussion was had on taking into consideration future development when assessing. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to approve Resolution No. 20-43, addressing future development in the project and recommended pulling from the Utilities Fund to pay for, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Deb Dettmer. Nays: none.

Mayor Ortiz led the discussion and ordinance to repeal Syracuse Municipal Code Article II, Division I, Sections 10-20 thru 10-26 and Division 2, Park Hill Cemetery Board. Mayor Ortiz recommended moving forward with dissolving the board. Additional work needs to be done on the proposed ordinance therefore the item was tabled until a future City Council meeting.

PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION PLAQUES – Mayor Ortiz announced this is the last meeting for Deb Dettmer as a Council Member before she takes her seat as Mayor. Ortiz presented Dettmer with a plaque for her years of service on the City Council.

Mayor Ortiz recognized Superintendent Jeff Vogt for 25 years with the City of Syracuse; an engraved desk/clock set was presented.

Deb Dettmer led the presentation of plaque and gift to Mayor Ortiz for his eight years of service as the Mayor of Syracuse. Dettmer thanked Ortiz for his hands-on work as the Mayor acknowledging various projects and upgrades led by the Mayor during his two terms. Mayor Ortiz thanked the administration and staff for their hard work under his leadership.

Mayor Ortiz asked for a Council member to make a motion to adjourn as the Old Business pertaining to the outgoing administration has concluded. Council Member Deb Dettmer moved to adjourn at 6:53 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Deb Dettmer, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer called the meeting to order at 6:55 P.M. and asked City Attorney Jerry Stilmock to lead the Oath of Office for Dettmer as Mayor and Incumbent Orv Gigstad and new City Council member Wesley Halvorsen. The Oaths will be signed by the incoming Council Members and Mayor as well as notarized at time of signature. Mayor Dettmer requested roll call; present were Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen.

Mayor Dettmer led the nomination and election of Council President and the appointments as follows: City Clerk – Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works – Jeff Vogt, Building & Zoning Inspector – Bruce Neemann, City Attorney – Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom and Stilmock consisting of Jerry Stilmock, Bob Hallstrom and Ryan McIntosh, City Treasurer – Kelly Farmer, City Street Superintendent – Justin Stark of Olsson Associates, City Engineer – Justin Stark of Olsson Associates, and Finance Committee consisting of City Council Members. Mayor Dettmer opened the discussion on the proposed appointed positions and asked for a nomination for Council President. Council Member Jerry Werner motioned nomination for Orv Gigstad as City Council President, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: None. Orv Gigstad moved to approve the appointments except City Engineer and Street Superintendent as those need further discussion, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Mayor Ortiz led the discussion on the City Engineer and Street Superintendent appointments; Justin Stark of Olsson Associates and Evan Wickersham of JEO present. Evan Wickersham and JEO have been the City's appointed Street Superintendent and Engineer for many years. It was mentioned that JEO may be the best fit due to their history and knowledge of the City's growth and past projects. Wesley Halvorsen mentioned the appointments are for one year so if the City would like to move a different direction next year they will have the chance. Both Stark and Wickersham presented their services and how they could benefit the City. After discussion was had Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve Justin Stark as City Engineer and Street Superintendent, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. With a vote of two yeas and two nays, the Mayor is required to be the deciding vote. Mayor Dettmer voted yea, motion passed.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. He reported 46 total calls for service, 25 of those generated an incident report. Caudill explained as the colder weather comes the number of calls typically decreases. Of the 25 calls, five were traffic stops, two were traffic crashes with damage, one theft of property or services and one trespassing to name a few.

LIBRARY REPORT – Sue Antes not present; a report had been distributed to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting. No discussion had.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Rescue Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of new members to SRS. Kaleb Staack and Paden Andera are two younger Syracuse residents that have expressed an interest in joining the squad. Due to their age they will have to be non-patient care members and will be supervised by Tim Wilson or another officer while in the Rescue Barn. City Administrator Jessica Meyer contacted LARM to make sure there is not an issue with this and there are not any issues. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the two as new members to SRS, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook not present; City Administrator Meyer presented for her. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on bids for a new Parks truck. Parks Lead Worker Tyler Collin had received bids from Field Ford, Meyer Earp, Larson Motors and Brinkman Brothers. Council Member Jerry Werner motioned to accept the bid from Field Ford for a 2021 Ford truck for \$35,005.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and resolution to update utility policies. The item along with agenda Items B & C will be tabled until a future Council meeting; these both have to do with updating utility policies also.

Mayor Dettmer led the opening, discussion and award of cash rent bid for Farm Lease Agreement; Jerry Stilmock opened the three bids submitted from Teten Farms, Luetchens Land Company and Derek Harms. Of the three, Luetchens came in as high bid at \$205.00 per cropland acre. Luetchens currently holds the lease agreement with the City which expires at the end of February 2021. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept the bid from Luetchens Land Company for the new lease agreement, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and resolution on JEO Project Scope and Agreement for 17<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station Rebuild; Dane Simonsen of JEO present. Simonsen explained there are two solutions to resolve the issues with the current 17<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station. The project scope discusses replacing piping and installing grinder pumps; the design and construction services of this are included in the proposed agreement. The second solution would be to eliminate the lift station and install a gravity sewer. The Council would like to think about the two options and table until a future Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 20-44 on 2021 Maintenance Agreement No. 45 Renewal and Certificate of Compliance between NE Department of Transportation and City, authorizing Mayor's signature. This is an annual agreement regarding highway snow removal. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-44, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion for authorization to advertise and open bids for the 2020 Water System Improvement Project; Tim Adams and Dane Simonsen of JEO present. Jerry Stilmock explained this item would need to be separated into two motions, one to approve the opinion of cost and the second to approve and proceed with bid advertisement and opening. Simonsen is currently working on the land acquisition; he is expecting there may be some questions regarding the main transmission. Tim Adams explained the construction permits are done but is still waiting on ancillary permit applications. The bids will be advertised in the Journal-Democrat for three consecutive weeks. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the opinion of cost of \$7,329,000.00, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Jerry Werner moved to approve and proceed with advertising and opening of bids, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearings and discussion on ordinance to amend Figure 23, Future Land Use and Transportation Map of the Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan. This public hearing and that for agenda Item B are to be continued until the January 13, 2021 City Council meeting after the Planning Commission meets on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion to appoint Planning Commission Members: Carolyn Gigstad, Pat Chaney, Charley McWilliams, Ron Apel, Eldon Mannschreck and Andy Brace; one seat needs to be replaced. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the appointments as listed and table the open seat until a future Council meeting, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock asked the Mayor and Council to pass along any recommendations or questions to City Administrator Jessica Meyer and/or City Clerk Kelly Farmer.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion for Board of Appeals and Board of Adjustments appointments. Both of these boards meet as needed and rarely meet. Along with the Planning Commission seat, Mayor and

Council Members are to make recommendations to the City Administrator and/or City Clerk for both of these boards; this item tabled until a future Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on response to Zito Media Cable Franchise Agreement renewal. Zito had recently sent a letter to the City of Syracuse regarding renewal of their agreement for cable and internet services for City of Syracuse residents. The current agreement expires September 30, 2021. Orv Gigstad moved to renew the agreement for one year only which would expire on September 30, 2022, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on renewal of Syracuse Country Club Agreement. Superintendent Vogt explained the agreement; Jerry Stilmock will prepare an agreement for the January Council meeting. The item will be tabled until the January Council meeting.

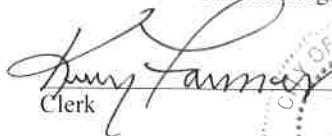
Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on updates to Employee Handbook and requested formation of a sub-committee to meet and thoroughly review the changes and to make a recommendation to the Council during the January meeting. Council Members Jerry Werner and Wesley Halvorsen volunteered to be on the sub-committee to review the handbook revisions with City Administrator Meyer.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and recommendation on Employee Spouse health insurance premiums contribution; City Administrator Meyer explained. One employee currently has their spouse fully covered on the health insurance benefit plan. Currently if an employee wants to add their spouse they would be required to pay the spouse's premium at 100%. In order to make this benefit fair to all eligible employees, the recommendation to give the employee an hourly pay increase to offset the cost they will now be responsible for in order to have their spouse covered by the City's insurance. The amount of the increase was proposed at \$2.68 per hour on top of their current hourly pay, to be effective January 1, 2021. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the pay increase for the one employee, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

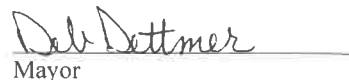
Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and recommendation on Administrative pay for incoming and outgoing elected officials; Clerk Farmer explained. Mayor Ortiz will be paid for Mayor salary for the month of December but Deb Dettmer should also receive the Mayor salary along with City Council pay for her work during the first part of this meeting. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve Deb Dettmer be paid for her work serving the two capacities and former Mayor Ortiz be paid for his services for December, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 P.M., Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry 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