

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

March 10, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at the Syracuse Public Library located at 480 5<sup>th</sup> Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:00 P.M. on March 10, 2021 for their regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places. Mayor Dettmer requested roll call; present were Mayor Dettmer and Council members Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner; Jerry Werner was absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the February 10, 2021 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 Dettmer recognized members of the Park Hill Cemetery Board for their years of service to the City of Syracuse. "Board Members have served the City by overseeing improvements to Park Hill Cemetery and guiding families through difficult times." Dettmer presented framed certificates to Robert Volker, Jim Peterson, Linda Sutton, Leonard Buchholz, Chuck Bjork.

Mayor Dettmer also recognized Office Clerk Julie Slafter with an award for her 20 years of service to the City on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A lunch was previously held at City Hall for Julie; members of the City staff were able to attend.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG not present. Blome sent the February 2021 Financials along with some highlights read by Clerk Farmer. A few of the highlights include all accounts are reconciled and tied out, Julie Bauman's audit entries have been entered and tied in, water revenue is up, and "Personal Property Tax Credit" is a new revenue this year coming from the State Treasurer. City Administrator Jessica Meyer discussed transfers to be made from the Aqua Center Bathhouse Fund, Ambulance Fund and the Utilities Fund for capital project payments; these transfers will go into the main operating account to reimburse for the payments to be approved. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the report and pay the claims, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

AFLAC - 506.40, AKRS - 326.71, ALLISON BEERS & DREW BEERS TRUSTEES - 4600.00, AMEER PINTO - 805.64, AWARDS UNLIMITED, INC. - 18.77, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1166.32, B & D DIAMOND PRO, INC. - 509.00, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 5780.00, BMG CPA'S - 2500.00, BOHL PLUMBING & HEATING - 796.46, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 710.82, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 1943.63, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 6129.00, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, BTE CORPORATION - 2650.00, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 42.26, 269.97, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 321.76, 276.92, CULLIGAN WATER - 18.95, DAN & LIZA MASTERS - 2480.00, DAN'S TIRE & REPAIR - 599.02, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO. - 170.00, DARRELL HILLMAN - 100.00, DHHS - 240.00, DOUNAM LLC - 1090.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 45.83, ECHO GROUP INC. - 2444.67, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 925.00, ET'S LAWN & LEISURE - 18011.69, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 587.00, 2414.25, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 449.99, GLORIA & TERRY SUDMAN - 5840.00, GPM - 412.00, GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL SVCS. - 1572.82, HEMJE PLBG., HTG. AND AIR COND - 245.50, 98.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 336.58, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 14652.17, 15142.50, 257.00, 1943.75, JORDAN JENNINGS - 35.00, JULIE D. BAUMAN, CPA, P.C. - 12450.00, JULIE SLAFTER - 1710.87, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 151.64, MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC - 154.42, MATTICE LOCK & SAFE - 532.00, MCGRATH / NORTH ATTORNEYS - 2880.00, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 60.26, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 93.00, MIDWEST ALARM SERVICES - 708.48, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 88.70, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 511.34, 339.80, NE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY - 40.00, NEBRASKA CITY NEWSPRESS - 313.60, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 291.93, 1987.50, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS - 2726.50, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 80.00, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 4028.79, OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - 124571.93, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 16.15, OTOE COUNTY - 16500.00, PETTY CASH - 3000.00, 210.00, 490.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 2155.19, RODNEY NINCEHELSE - 625.00, RON ROSENTHAL - 625.00, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 523.09, SCHEELE-KAYTON CONSTRUCTION - 13104.00, 18493.20, SHAFER COMMUNICATIONS - 575.54, SHANTELE DUNSTER - 30.00, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 46.10, SOUTHEASTERN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE - 1260.00, SYRACUSE AREA HEALTH - 224.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1004.41, 310.04, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 315.03, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 1299.82, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 29.99, 19650.00, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 52.98, TRAFFIC SAFETY STORE - 1500.00, TRUGREEN COMMERCIAL - 980.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2322.04, VERIZON WIRELESS - 736.75, WESSELS TRUCKING - 591.60, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2788.82

No one present for Hearing of Those Present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present – Happy Birthday to Sheriff Caudill! Total incidents for February 2021 were 28 out of 42 calls for service; six of those were traffic stops, two traffic crashes with damages, one DUI Alcohol or Drugs to name a few. Electronic Data Download is a new Nature of Incident that will be included in the report now. Caudill reported on a dog recovered by social media using cell phone forensics. Hours are where they are supposed to be.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes not present. The Library monthly report had been distributed to the Mayor and Council; no discussion was had.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Jill Crook present.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to purchase all bathhouse amenities and furnishings; Jessica Meyer explained. Meyer went over the types of amenity items that are included in the Opinion of Probable Cost that Jill Crook would be purchasing for the new bathhouse. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the purchase of the amenities and furnishings, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of temporary street closure for Chestnut Street from pool property north to Williams Park turning east onto 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Education Drive; Crook explained. Scheele-Kayton has requested they be allowed to park their equipment and place supplies in this area during the construction. The City will talk to Scheele-Kayton about fencing since the construction is happening so close to the park and playground. It was also suggested that temporary signage be placed during the time of the street closing. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closure of all of Chestnut Street so people are not turned around in the Ortiz's driveway as well as 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Mark Easter of Easter and Associates present. He suggested the City send a list of amenities so that they are covered by the City's insurance. Jerry Stilmock asked City staff ensure builders risk is on the contractor.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of sidewalk at Williams Park Shelter restrooms, Jessica Meyer explained. The existing sidewalk at the park would be extended to the shelter restrooms. This initially came up if patrons at the pool would be using these bathrooms and to prevent bringing grass and dirt back to the pool. Laramie Werner asked to see if the concrete extending from the current sidewalk could run along the concrete at the picnic shelter; Crook will check into this. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the bid for \$3000.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Crook also reported the Parks staff is very busy with spring and summer duties.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-14 to approve Certificate of Completion for Replacement of Regulatory and Warning Signs, authorizing Mayor's signature; Vogt explained. This program started a few years ago to replace all the stop signs in town. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-14, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-15 to approve Railroad Crossing Agreement between OPPD and City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jerry Stilmock explained. The document is for the water line to go under OPPD's railroad tracks. The document is extensive and gives Stilmock direction on how the City may consider going forward with its right-of-way agreements. The City does need to pay a \$1250.00 fee and if flag people are needed due to insurance requirements or other requirements are needed, City staff will need to make sure JEO is aware of these and will move forward as directed. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-15, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and recommendation on State of Nebraska Drinking Water SRF loan and proceeding with proposed water system improvements; Dane Simonsen of JEO and Steve McNulty of SRF present via virtual meeting. Simonsen went thru the nine items in the Alternative Council Summary. He prepared a map to help visualize the recommended projects. These include creek crossings, replacing pipe in various areas along the main and bottlenecks in the system, exposed areas, constructing loop systems at dead ends in the northwest and southeast parts of town, as well as miscellaneous items such as fire hydrants and valves. McNulty explained the financial changes that have happened in the past few months have caused the program to drop rates to 0% for rates and interest for all communities as well as 20% forgiveness. Updated amortization schedules were distributed to the Mayor and Council. The purpose is because communities which had projects going or planned for the future would still be able to move forward during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City would only owe on the amount of loan we draw from. McNulty explained Bond Council Tim Moll needs to know the "up-to amount"; he can frame the maximum amount of possible to borrow. The ordinance will take up to one to two months. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the maximum amount available, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-16 to amend existing water rate ordinance to terminate third and final rate increase. Randy Hellbusch of Nebraska Rural Water looked at the City's water numbers and concluded that even with the projected expenses and loan amount previously discussed in the last agenda item, the City does not need to proceed with the original three step rate increase approved a few years ago. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-16, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion, and Ordinance No. 1095 for Application for Small Tract Subdivision of the following-described real estate: Hansen

2<sup>nd</sup> Subdivision, a tract of land located in the South ½ of the S.E. ¼ of Section 9, Tract 8 North, Range 11 East of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.; Mark Easter of Easter and Associates present. Easter explained there has been discussion on drainage running along the east side of the property. JEO suggested an easement be placed to follow along the sewer line easement which runs along the drainage ditch that runs in between the Hansen and Syracuse Business Center properties. Stilmock explained the sewer easement is there because of Love's. The plat will be revised by Dave Schmitz then will be ready for signatures upon the Council's approval. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Orv Gigstad moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1095 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1095 by title. Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1096 to amend Code of Ordinances of the City of Syracuse Section 10-20 Sexton, appointment and duties, Section 10-21 Digging graves, Section 10-21 Park Hill Cemetery Operation, Section 10-22 Official plat; lots; prices, Section 10-23 Perpetual care endowments, Section 10-24 Funds created; donations, Section 10-25 Deeds; certificates of purchase, Section 10-26 Care of lots, Repeal Section 10-56 Established; Composition; Repeal Section 10-58 Organization, Repeal Section 10-59 Labor, purchase of equipment, Repeal Section 10-60 Surveys, subdivision, Repeal Section 10-61 Miscellaneous regulations, rules, Repeal Section 10-62 Salary of secretary, Repeal Section 10-63 Free burial space. Jessica Meyer explained the ordinance reflects what had previously been discussed regarding the dissolving of the Cemetery Board. The maintenance will be the responsibility of the Parks department and whatever the Cemetery Board was in charge of prior, the City Council will make the decisions for. Laramie Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1096 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1096 by title. Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-17 to approve amendment to City's Deferred Compensation Eligible 457(b) Plan, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jerry Stilmock explained. The Adoption Agreement and Amendment No. one (for 2019) were presented. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-17, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-18 to approve Right of Way Permit Agreement between Windstream and City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jerry Stilmock explained. \$100.00 fee charge was noted for Section #8 of the agreement. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-18, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval for use of Williams Park for the '21 Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Katie Tonkin present. The event will be from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. sponsored by the Syracuse Snoflakers and Chamber of Commerce. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the use of the park for the egg hunt, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on request for SDL for use at the Fair Center for the dates of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 from 4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. and May 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to Midnight; Vanessa & Mike Rudolph of Otoe County Ag Society not present. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the SDL request, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on purchase of Multi-Factor Authentication for layer of security for City network, emails and applications; Five Nines not present. Clerk Farmer explained this is a secondary authorization for when logging into systems whether it be at the offices or remotely working. There is room in the Building budget for this expense. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the Duo Option at \$2831.00 annually, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

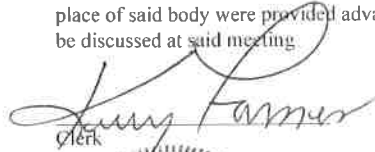
Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-19 to approve Medica Administrative Services Agreement, Medica Stop Loss Insurance Agreement, Mid-America Benefits Business Associate Agreement, Mid-America Benefits Administrative Services Agreement and Inspiro Business Associate Agreement all with the City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jerry Stilmock explained. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution 21-19, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Before adjourning Mayor Dettmer read: "Before we adjourn, I wanted to remind everyone about the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. Eligible homeowners may receive assistance to make structural, mechanical, electrical, weatherization and plumbing improvements to their homes. Applications are available on our website or can be picked up at City Hall. The applications are due by April 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for the City of Syracuse so please share with others in our community."

Laramie Werner thanked Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Vogt for the City's job with the snow removal this season.

Mayor Dettmer asked a Council Member to motion to adjourn. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, 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

