

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

April 14, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at the Syracuse Public Library located at 480 5th Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:00 P.M. on April 14, 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, Jerry Werner; Laramie Werner was absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the March 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 led Recognition of Bruce Neemann; SVFD Chief Eric Fass presented. Fass explained the history of the Nebraska Admiral award, Nebraska's highest honor, which Neemann has been awarded by Nebraska Governor Ricketts.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG not present. Blome sent the March 2021 Financials along with some highlights. No discussion was had. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the report and pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

AKRS - 19.67, ALL ROADS BARRICADE, INC - 1621.64, ANDY BRACE - 240.00, ARTHUR & SHILAH MARTIN - 1400.00, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1511.36, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 3730.00, 3000.00, 1285.00, BARRY & JENIFFER JANSSEN - 3570.00, BEACON ATHLETICS - 207.64, BERNARD & GAIL WHITE - 2120.00, BILL GOERING - 200.00, BMG CPA'S - 2500.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 20765.05, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 441.19, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2246.40, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, BROAD REACH - 151.23, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 51.46, CAROL LINQUIST - 100.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 399.40, 346.15, CLINE WILLIAMS - 330.00, CREATIVE SITES - 1499.00, DANIEL HILLMAN - 100.00, DANNER CONSTRUCTION - 35.00, DAVID DEMELLO - 35.00, DOROTHY HALVORSEN - 40.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 1180.83, EASTER & ASSOCIATES - 1090.00, ECHO GROUP INC. - 655.01, 1314.22, ELECTRIC PUMP - 22022.00, EQUITY TRUST CO. 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DIVISION - 200.00, STEVEN RUENHOLL - 100.00, STEVEN WELLMAN TRUST - 8425.00, STOCK SEED FARMS, INC. - 705.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1402.09, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 316.42, 21.04, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 13.10, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 122.48, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 80.52, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 123.66, 29.99, 249.74, TAMI ANDERA - 120.00, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 678.53, THE MOSS BROS FARM TRUST - 5150.00, TIM FARLEY - 35.00, TIM WILSON - 800.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2322.04, VERIZON WIRELESS - 176.98, 624.80, WAYFAIR LLC - 5038.50, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2892.79, Total - 449077.73 AKRS - 19.67, ALL ROADS BARRICADE, INC - 1621.64, ANDY BRACE - 240.00, ARTHUR & SHILAH MARTIN - 1400.00, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1511.36, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 3730.00, 3000.00, 1285.00, BARRY & JENIFFER JANSSEN - 3570.00, BEACON ATHLETICS - 207.64, BERNARD & GAIL WHITE - 2120.00, BILL GOERING - 200.00, BMG CPA'S - 2500.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 20765.05, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 441.19, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2246.40, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, BROAD REACH - 151.23, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 51.46, CAROL LINQUIST - 100.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 399.40, 346.15, CLINE WILLIAMS - 330.00, CREATIVE SITES - 1499.00, DANIEL HILLMAN - 100.00, DANNER CONSTRUCTION - 35.00, DAVID DEMELLO - 35.00, DOROTHY HALVORSEN - 40.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 1180.83, EASTER & ASSOCIATES - 1090.00, ECHO GROUP INC. - 655.01, 1314.22, ELECTRIC PUMP - 22022.00, EQUITY TRUST CO. 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No one present for Hearing of Those Present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Total incidents for March 2021 were 39 out of 65 calls for service; 14 of those were traffic stops, two traffic crashes with damages, four welfare check calls, and one fireworks complaint to name a few. The Department will have presence at the high school for prom and to conduct alcohol testing prior to the kids leaving for post prom. 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.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Eric Fass present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to send SVFD members to fire school. Fass explained Bruce Neemann and Eric Fass would be attending. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve sending two SVFD members to Fire School, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

RESCUE REPORT – Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of new members to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Wilson explained pending vote at their monthly meeting on April 19th, he would like to present Joshua Medeiros, Wesley Halvorsen and Stephanie Grant for approval to the squad. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the three new members pending SRS vote, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. City Attorney Stilmock explained a committee has been formed to work with Wilson and the SRS to focus on obtaining more volunteers for the squad.

BUILDING & ZONING REPORT – Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Syracuse Municipal Code Sections 18-25, 18-26, 18-27, 18-28 & 18-29. The Council directed City Attorney Jerry Stilmock to prepare ordinances for next City Council meeting for vote. This item stemmed from someone asking if they would be allowed to park a camper on a lot he is planning to build a home on located in Transitional Ag Zoning District; he would live in the camper while his house is being built. Neemann also drafted an application in anticipation of the approval. Stilmock explained the zoning allows trailer homes to only be allowed in a designated trailer park. A camper falls in the definition of a trailer home. Discussion was had to drop the conflicting ordinances to alleviate confusion. Stilmock explained if this parking is allowed, this would require more policing by City Staff to ensure the parking has been applied for and the time limit has not been exceeded. Council & Mayor directed Stilmock to prepare the ordinances to for next City Council meeting to go for vote.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Coordinator Jill Crook present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of new signage at the Sports Complex and soccer fields. Crook is still waiting on bids for the signage; this item tabled.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of monthly salary increase for Park Hill Cemetery Sexton, Carolyn Bremer. Currently the Sexton position pays \$300.00 monthly. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained the staking fees had been being paid to Bremer directly but are required to be paid directly to the City. With Bremer not acquiring those fees for that work performed a pay increase would supplement for those fees no longer being collected by her. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve to increase the Sexton monthly salary to \$500.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-19 to approve Change Order #003 for Aqua Center Bathhouse, authorizing Mayor's signature; JEO not present. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained the change order details pertain to moving an existing 6" sewer pipe located during construction. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the Change Order #003 from Scheele-Kayton for the bathhouse construction, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on North Water Main Loop and request to add to SRF loan; Dane Simonsen of JEO present. The projects included in the loan have a three-year clock from the time the loan is signed. Simonsen discussed the north water loop in detail; the City can decide to go forward with it or not to go forward with it, this is just giving the City the possibility to move forward and have it funded

through the loan. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the loan to include the maximum amount, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution to approve Loan Agreement No. D3116598 between NDEE and City for Water Supply Improvement Project. With the loan details changing this resolution will be tabled until the May meeting after the revised loan has been approved.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution 21-20 to approve contract between Van Kirk Bros. and City for Water Supply Improvement Project, authorizing Mayor's signature; Dane Simonsen present. Simonsen explained the contract is for the construction of the new well and transmission main for the City's water supply. Stilmock read over key details of the contract. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to Resolution 21-20, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-21 to approve Electrical Rate Review Agreement between JEO and City, authorizing Mayor's signature; Matt Kalin of JEO present. Kalin explained it has been a few years since the City's rates have been evaluated. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-21, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the continued public hearing, discussion, and Ordinance No. 1097 to amend Figure 23, Future Land Use and Transportation Map of the Syracuse Comprehensive Development Plan as well as Ordinance No. 1098 to amend and adopt a new Zoning Map of the City of Syracuse. Jerry Stilmock explained the new maps include more detail in undeveloped areas and streets as well as the ridgeline determining where roads need to be paved among other zoning regulations may differ for properties outside of the ridgeline. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearings. Laramie Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1097 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1097 by title. Jerry Werner moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Orv Gigstad moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1098 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1098 by title. Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Franchise Renewal Agreement between City and Zito Media. City Administrator Jessica Meyer discussed issues Syracuse residents have had with their service with Zito. Stilmock explained the City would need to supply info for residents for alternative cable/streaming or internet. The Mayor and Council asked Stilmock to prepare a letter to Zito to vote on in May.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1099 for Application for Small Tract Subdivision of the following-described real estate: Cubby's Subdivision, a replat of Lot B, Zahn 2nd Subdivision Replat located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 10, Tract .8 North, Range 11 East of the 6th P.M.; Tom Giffie of El Portal present. Giffie explained they are seeking to purchase the lot currently owned by Cubby's to incorporate into their plat where a restaurant will be constructed in the future. Stilmock explained Lots 3A and B2 will be done by administrative plat but Cubby's will need to pay the taxes before Giffie can purchase. Giffie understands he needs to put in or connect to an existing detention cell for drainage. Planning Commission recommended approval by City Council at their April meeting. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner introduced Ordinance No. 1099 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1099 by title. Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none

Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1100 for Zoning Text Amendment to amend Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 2.02.70 to amend building setback line; Ron Zahn present. Zahn explained a couple years ago the setbacks were adjusted due to narrow lots. In the new development there are bigger lots and would like to utilize as much of the lot as possible therefore they would like to allow the setback to be measured to the structure contingent on the overhang be two feet or under. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner introduced Ordinance No. 1100, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 100 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of the ordinance, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and acceptance of Carolyn Gigstad's resignation from Planning Commission. Gigstad has been on the board for 20 years. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept Gigstad's resignation, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and appointment of new member to Planning Commission. City Administrator Meyer is waiting for response; the item was tabled until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on allowing fowl within corporate limits; Syracuse resident Randy Dunster present. Dunster explained through his work as City Clerk of Nebraska City he has worked on allowing fowl within corporate limits. The City has had a couple other inquiries on this as well. Dunster proposed allowing fowl such as hens, quail, and pheasants within certain quantities; no noisy fowl such as roosters. The ordinance would need to state how many feet the fowl would need to be kept away from the neighboring dwelling. A few of Dunster's children were present to explain their desire to be allowed to keep fowl at their property in Syracuse. They mentioned how fresh eggs are better than store bought eggs and they enjoy taking care of them and their chicks. Dunster said Nebraska City has not had any complaints regarding the four properties that hold fowl since the Ordinance was passed. Council and Mayor directed Stilmock to prepare ordinance for next City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of electrician and plumbers licenses; a list was distributed by City Clerk Farmer. 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 on City's commitment to match \$1300.00 annual contribution for 21-22 Budget year for Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging. Clerk Farmer explained this commitment would be confirmed in a letter to Blue Rivers upon the Council's approval. The \$1300.00 amount is the annual contribution made by the City in the past. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the contribution commitment, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on short-term and long-term disability policies for City employees. City Administrator Meyer explained options have been discussed with our current insurance carriers, Inspro, as well as how to incorporate into our employee handbook we are currently updating. Nolan Day of Inspro summarized both the long-term and short-term options. The Council will look over the information distributed and revisit at a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer asked for a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to go into Closed Session at 8:07 P.M. for the purpose of discussing action to approve compensation for easements inviting Clerk Farmer, City Administrator Meyer, Dane Simonsen, and Jerry Stilmock to stay, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. 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.

Mayor Dettmer moved the meeting back into Open Session at 9:07 P.M. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve counter offers for Tracts 1, 5, 14 & 15 and to make counter offers to Tracts 7 at \$6,180.00 and Tract 22 at \$12,000.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adjourn at 9:09 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. 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.



Del Dettmer
Mayor