

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

May 12, 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 May 12, 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 arrived at 6:17 P.M. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the April 14, 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 the approval of claims and Treasurer's Reports, Todd Blome of BMG not present. Blome sent the April 2021 Financials along with some highlights. Mayor Dettmer read comments provided by Blome; no further discussion was had. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the report and pay the claims, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

AARON GASTON - 105.00, AKRS - 20.00, ALL ROADS BARRICADE, INC - 357.30, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1240.47, ARBOR COUNTRY CLEANING & RESTORATION, IN - 285.00, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1630.05, BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS - 930.89, BENEFIT PLANS INC. - 310.00, BILL SALES - 100.00, BMG CPA'S - 2500.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 14141.10, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 1081.14, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2791.50, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 46.97, 633.21, CARDMEMBER SERVICE - 2179.74, CHRIS LUTJEMEYER - 150.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 239.64, 207.69, CORE-MARK MIDCONTINENT, INC. - 1131.92, COUNTRY MAGAZINE - 15.00, CRAIG BOLDT - 150.00, CULLIGAN WATER - 83.53, DAKTRONICS - 250.00, DARCI SMITH - 35.00, DAVID SABATKA - 150.00, DENNIS SEELHOFF - 35.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, EMPIRE ELECTRIC, INC. - 50.00, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 416.00, FIELD FORD, INC. - 35005.00, FIREGUARD, INC. - 273.51, 292.01, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 1035.62, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 58.97, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 1222.53, GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL SVCS. - 1572.82, HANK'S GARAGE - 96.22, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 596.89, INT. INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS - 200.00, JAKE JOHNSON - 35.00, JEN STAACK - 125.00, JFO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 9705.00, 56742.53, 4230.00, 510.00, JODY BRUNS - 125.00, KANEQUIP, INC. - 1450.00, LAERDAL MEDICAL CORPORATION - 697.65, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 131.59, 92.29, MARCIA SCHEINOST - 200.00, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 503.92, MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC - 157.70, MEDICA - 9682.32, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 46.77, MID AMERICA BOOKS - 72.80, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 93.00, MIDWEST FARMERS COOP - 150.00, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 229.03, MIDWEST TURF & IRRIGATION - 93019.00, MIDWEST WALLS & LANDSCAPES, INC. - 900.00, MIKE'S WINDOW SERVICE, LLC - 75.08, 48.72, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 751.26, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 90.69, 634.66, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 530.00, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. - 75.00, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 7450.96, 1279.63, OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - 101224.56, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 29.23, OTOE COUNTY - 16500.00, PAYDEN ANDERA - 150.00, PEPSI COLA OF LINCOLN - 2182.50, PETTY CASH - 142.45, PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. - 485.20, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 3755.73, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 13533.27, SAM PESTER - 105.00, SCHEELE-KAYTON CONSTRUCTION - 208192.06, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 34.50, SYNCHRONY BANK/AMAZON - 378.25, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1096.29, 311.37, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 408.00, SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT - 198.98, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 3432.60, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 31.70, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 239.38, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 29.99, SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE - 146.79, TAMI ANDERA - 200.00, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 1202.95, THE NEBRASKA MED CENTER - 1250.00, TIM WILSON - 200.00, TORI WARD - 2100.00, U.S. POST OFFICE - 245.00, 312.78, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2322.04, VERIZON WIRELESS - 177.37, 625.82, 135.17, VIKING INDUSTRIAL PAINTING - 22990.00, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2583.20, WRITE TIME COMMUNICATIONS - 157.14.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT = Wendy Werner of Syracuse Chamber of Commerce present. Werner updated the Mayor and City Council on 2021 Germanfest to be held Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>. Planning is moving forward with events such as a pancake feed in the morning and traditional activities throughout the day.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Total incidents for March 2021 were 62 out of 73 calls for service; 22 of those were traffic stops, six suspicious person/vehicle, and one traffic crash with damage to name a few. The Department will be fully staffed very soon. Hours are where they are supposed to be. Caudill discussed the upcoming fireworks season and how the department addresses complaints as there is not an ordinance stating when fireworks can be let off.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes not present. The Library monthly report had been distributed to the Mayor and Council; nothing to compare with this time last year as the Library was closed due to Covid-19. The book sale made \$70.00; this is going toward the Summer Reading Program. The Library received \$963.00 for State Accreditation. There is currently \$766.00 in petty cash plus the \$70.00 from the book sale, Antes asked if this could be used toward the Summer Reading Program. Currently there are 77 enrolled. Antes explained there is an 8” crack in one of the large windows on the south side of the building; window cleaners do not think the crack will spread. Book Club 2 will be starting soon. The meeting room had 21 usages.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Coordinator Jill Crook is present. Carolyn Gigstad and the Build a Bathhouse Committee presented a check to the City for \$225,000.00 for the construction of the new Aqua Center bathhouse. Carolyn presented Becky Neemann, Julie Beach, Katie Biehl, Joe Weiler, Jen Foley, herself and the founder of the committee, Jamy Prokopec. Gigstad thanked past and present City Mayors and Administration, City staff and the community for all their hard work. As of today, the committee has raised \$234,299.56.

**BUILDING & ZONING REPORT** – Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and ordinance on Syracuse Municipal Code Sections 18-25, 18-26, 18-27, 18-28 & 18-29. Stilmock explained this item was brought forward by Neemann stemming from a request to allow someone to reside in a camper in Transitional Ag Zoning District while a house was built on the same property. The item was tabled until a future meeting. Jerry Stilmock is preparing ordinances for the Council to review and vote on.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Syracuse Municipal Code Sections 30-89 & 30-91. The item was tabled until a future meeting so Bruce, Jerry Stilmock and Jerry Werner can work on.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1101 to approve Loan Agreement No. D311658 between NDEE and City for Water Supply Improvement Project. This is the loan #2 for this project and has a length of 30 years. Due to the significant savings in interest rate and fees at this time, additional projects have been added to the loan amount making the loan \$11,254,000.00. Council Member Jerry Werner moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1101 by title. Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of the ordinance, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on dead end of White Pine Street; Ron Zahn present. Zahn explained on the south end of the White Pine for phase one he would like to see if it would be acceptable to rock in for one to two years until the following phases can be completed. The Council said \$10,000.00 in escrow funds would need to be retained to protect the City. Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve allowing rock turnaround at White Pine Street for a period of one & half years from May 1, 2021, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on purchasing electrical service from Nebraska City Utilities; Matt Kalin of JEO present via virtual Teams Meeting. Kalin explained Keim Farm Equipment is looking at doing an expansion of one of their existing buildings. The Keim service, residence and Johns residence are three places within the City's jurisdiction that is currently being serviced by Nebraska City Utilities. Per the Nebraska State Statutes, the City will be required to pay 2 ½ times the annual revenue those customers pay Nebraska City Utilities; this would equal \$23,360.30. Time frame was discussed. Kalin is waiting on additional information from Nebraska City Utilities; Keim's is eager to get the building built. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to direct JEO to move forward with acquiring of full electrical services from Nebraska City Utilities for the three accounts, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and appointment of new member, Rachel Zahn, to the Planning Commission. Laramie Werner moved to approve the appointment of Rachel Zahn to the Planning Commission, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on letter to Zito Media regarding Franchise Renewal Agreement with the City. Notice has to be sent out in June notifying Zito the City is not renewing the agreement with them. Service by Zito within the City ceases after September 30, 2021. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to sent out notice to Zito, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on moving monthly meeting day for Planning Commission meetings. This item tabled until staff receives responses from all Planning Commission Members.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on using same members for Board of Appeals and Board of Adjustments. The Mayor and Council directed Jerry Stilmock to move forward with combing the boards and using same current members.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on American Rescue Act Plan funds. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained funds provided can be used in various ways but this will need to be discussed as the City will be receiving further information on how much, what they can be used for and if there is a timeline the funds need to be used within. Some communities have spoke about infrastructure and community needs such as daycares.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of electrician and plumbers licenses; a list was distributed by City Clerk Farmer. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to the licenses, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and presentation of Rural Workforce Housing Program; Tom Bliss of SENDD present virtually via Teams Meeting. The program would require the City invest/match significant funds into a pool. Various communities have benefitted from this program. The City has not had good experiences with county-wide projects such as this; Bliss

explained SENDD has worked hard to ensure the issues had before do not take place again. The City is not guaranteed the funds if they participate in the program. The Mayor and Council declined to participate in the program because of various uncertainties. Mayor Dettmer thanked Tom Bliss for the presentation.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on forming a focus group for Downtown Revitalization Grant Program. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained the initial step is to ask for business owners to complete a survey; the next step is a focus group is to work on gathering the data from the community. Wesley Halvorsen and Laramie Werner volunteered to participate in the focus group.

Mayor Dettmer asked for a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to go into Closed Session at 8:04 P.M. for the purpose of discussing action to approve compensation for easements inviting Clerk Farmer. City Administrator Meyer, Dane Simonsen, Jim Abbott and Jerry Stilmock to stay, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Jessica Meyer explained Jim Abbott was no longer available virtually therefore the closed session was postponed. Dates were discussed to hold the Special Meeting; Jessica Meyer will reach out to Abbott to see what he is available for. Wesley Halvorsen motioned to move out of Closed Session at 8:15, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adjourn at 8:16 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, 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

