

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

June 16, 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 June 16, 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 Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner; Laramie Werner arrived at 6:01 P.M. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the May 12th & May 19th, 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 and Kylie Hehn of BMG present. Blome sent the May 2021 Financials prior to the meeting. Todd discussed the financial statements explaining all accounts and cash activity has been reconciled and accounted for. Blome noted sales tax is up almost 60% from this time last year; building permit revenues are up due to higher construction volume this year. Expenses are up in the water and sewer departments due to well field expenses, mostly for JEO, as well as sewer capital outlay projects. Blome noted the Parks purchase of a new mower for roughly \$90,000.00. Ambulance income is up for the year as explained in previous months reports. Blome explained how the budget proceedings will go in the next couple of months. Clerk Farmer explained how the General Operating Fund account will be reimbursed by the applicable fund accounts for either the utilities and/or aqua center bathhouse fund. The City will be receiving grant funds for the bathhouse upon completion of the project. Jerry Werner had created a document with department budget comparisons; he gave a copy to Todd to look over. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen asked for clarification for attorney fees on the claim tracker for the Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock invoice. Halvorsen explained he was under the assumption the time for the Rescue Squad work, the time was volunteer. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained the attorney fees the City has been billed for is for time that was included on the May statement for billings in April 2021 but had been removed by City staff; Stilmock does not feel the hours are volunteer and should be billed. Halvorsen is satisfied with Stilmock's explanation. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the report and pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

4-H BARN BUMS - 477.39, A-1 LOCKSMITH - 174.00, ABC TERMITE & PEST CONTROL, INC. - 775.00, ADDISON GOEBEL - 246.80, ADKINS SIGNS - 144.00, AKRS - 273.25, ANDREA PAGE - 270.00, AQUA-CHEM, INC. - 970.32, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1976.27, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 4485.00, 32900.00, BEACH HOUSE DESIGNS - 132.08, 41.91, BEN LESEBERG - 350.00, BETTER BEEF PRODUCERS - 63.81, BMG CPAS - 2750.00, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 427.34, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 3789.50, BRIAN VODICKA - 40.83, BROOKE CARLSON - 385.00, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 194.26, 57.15, CAPITAL CITY LOCK & KEY - 1364.69, CHESSA TOMPKINS - 118.29, CLAYRE ROTHESCHILDS - 265.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 407.39, 479.28, CLINE WILLIAMS - 880.00, CORE-MARK MIDCONTINENT, INC. - 412.98, CULLIGAN WATER - 38.85, DAN'S TIRE & REPAIR - 105.00, DEMCO, INC. - 54.39, DEREK HARMS - 4625.00, DEVYN BUTORAC - 370.00, DHHS DRINKING WATER - 527.50, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, DUANE & EILEEN MURDOCH - 3860.00, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 74.54, ECHO GROUP INC. - 1010.30, ELECTRIC PUMP - 3850.44, ELIZA BENNETT - 138.54, ELIZABETH HODGES - 105.00, ERIN BETTI DESIGNS - 250.00, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2573.25, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 56.75, GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL SVCS. - 1572.82, HANNAH KNOX - 145.25, HAWKINS, INC. - 301.63, IMAGE 360 - 3500.60, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 476.52, JENNY HAAG - 97.76, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 1163.00, 27402.25, 17885.00, 18038.82, KAHNER WOODS - 35.00, KANEQUIP, INC. - 77.40, KLARYSA THROCKMORTON - 206.02, KNAKE TREE SVC, LLC - 1350.00, LDR - 297.68, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 152.59, LEAH LEVENHAGEN - 19.32, LILLY WINDHORST - 137.60, LIZ LEVENHAGEN-SDA DANCE - 19.32, LMC LUTHER LEAGUE - 157.07, LOGAN JORDING - 175.00, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT - 2132.78, MADELINE WERNER - 385.00, MAINSTREET BANK - 327.97, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 1674.10, MEYER'S BODY SHOP - 3805.29, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 16.19, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 93.00, MIDWEST BRAEPIING AIR SYSTEMS - 853.77, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 66.53, MUELLER TRENCHING - 500.00, MUNICIPAL SERVICE & SUPPLY - 3276.04, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 6979.85, NATE KALLARS - 35.00, NE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY - 13578.89, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 48.49, 52.34, 1207.24, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 48.00, NICHOLAS & ERIN MURDOCH - 3860.00, NMC EXCHANGE LLC - 99.20, NORTH BRANCH RANCHEROS 4H CLUB - 165.51, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 529.51, OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - 114279.57, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 23.82, OTOE COUNTY - 16500.00, OTOE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS - 22.00, PAVERS, INC. - 257.04, PAYTON BECKMANN - 440.00, PEPSI COLA OF LINCOLN - 2993.65, PIONEER UNDERGROUND SPRINKLER - 2793.25, PLATINUM POOLS - 22900.00, PRECEPTOR TAU - 707.44, PRECISION WELL SERVICE - 3350.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 1244.64, REINKE ACRES LLC - 16500.00, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 3246.74, SAM PESTER - 35.00, SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, INC. - 799.90, SCHEELE-KAYTON CONSTRUCTION - 77786.99, SDA CHEERLEADERS - 50.00, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP INC. - 46.10, JH SPORHASE LLC - 118.65, SYNCHRONY BANK/AMAZON - 607.34, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1724.06, 296.94, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 672.45, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 734.04, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 424.07, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 29.99, SYRACUSE TOW & TIRE LLC - 265.24, SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE - 116.09, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 1549.98, TP3 PEST MANAGEMENT SVCS. - 64.20, TYLER FARRELL - 250.00, U.S. POST OFFICE - 122.00, 313.01, U.S. TREASURY - 11.64, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2322.04, VAN KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION - 372843.16, VERIZON WIRELESS - 625.82, 153.60, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 1657.78, WILLIAM CORDONIER - 35.00, WINN RACK - 639.00, ZAHN CONSTRUCTION INC. - 200.00

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Wendy Werner, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce, present to speak about advertising. Wendy announced when the board meets and when Chamber member meetings are held.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill not present. Dettmer spotlighted details from Caudill's report distributed prior to the meeting. Total incidents for April 2021 were 64 out of 85 calls for service. No further discussion was had.

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. No further discussion was had.

BUILDING & ZONING REPORT – Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing and led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1102 on Application for a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 5.05.03 to allow to reside in recreational vehicles as a permitted conditional use in Transitional Ag Zoning District. Stilmock explained Planning Commission recommended approval based on the Council being able to set a time frame on a conditional basis and the words “mobile home” be stricken from the ordinance. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad introduced the ordinance 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. 1102 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of Ordinance 1102, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing and led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1103 on Application for a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Syracuse Municipal Zoning Code Section 2.02 Definitions to include recreational vehicles; Stilmock explained this will mirror what is currently in state statute. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Laramie Werner introduced the ordinance and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1103 by title. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of Ordinance 1103, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Coordinator Jill Crook is present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of new signage at Sports Complex and soccer fields. Crook presented bids from Writetime Communications breaking down separate signage for two-sided Entrance, one-sided Rules and two-sided Soccer/Dog Park. The bids price for black steel posts, this will help with the discoloration as well as an extra set of posts for the existing donor sign so it all matches. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the bid for the total of five signs at \$6,964.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on frisbee golf course at Williams Park; Boy Scout Nathaniel Cordray present to explain his idea for the course. Cordray explained this project would be for his Eagle Scout completion. He has noticed many families playing frisbees at the park. Cordray is fine with using metal or wooden posts. Crook mentioned she has had many people come to her with an idea of a frisbee golf course for the city. Crook mentioned another option may be the area west of the soccer fields, known as the “concert area”. She is seeking a tree grant and the trees could be placed there as a nice addition for the course. Laramie Werner likes the idea of it being at Williams Park so families have an option of other activities available to use at the same time. Cordray distributed a map showing an outline of the proposed course. The Mayor and Council suggested Cordray receive input from the SDA School as part of the course would be on their property as well as City staff to check with LARM, the City’s insurance for signage wording. The discussion was tabled to allow for Nathaniel to see additional input as directed. Cordray does not really have a deadline, just before winter.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Nebraska Sod estimate. The estimate is for replacement of the grass at the Library recently damaged. This project would be done the same day as the sod is being placed at the Aqua Center. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the bid of \$3,760.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Crook gave a timeline on the Aqua Center bathhouse/pool opening. Currently the date of opening is Monday June 28th with cookies and lemonade at 12:30, pool opening at 1:00 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-22 to approve Thiele Geotech, Inc. material testing proposal for the Well and Transmission Main project, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Dane Simonsen of JEO present. Simonsen announced the wells have been drilled, so far so good on those. The building sites are being prepared. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-22 for the proposal, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Streambank Stability Project Update, Kevin Kruse of JEO present via virtual Teams Meeting. The discussion was tabled until the July meeting. JEO has reopened the projects on the previous Streambank Stability and is looking at where those projects are currently including impact such as erosion. A few of the projects listed on the past study have been completed and can be crossed off the list. City Street Superintendent Justin Stark suggested he, Kruse and a small group discuss this further. The discussion was tabled until the July meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on additional pipe alternative for residential water lines. Vogt explained this particular “core” pipe was presented to him by contractors as it is less costly than copper. The pipe is 250 pound rated plastic water line and is used in Lincoln. Currently the pipe in question is roughly \$1.00/foot while copper is \$8.00/foot. A tracer wire would be laid with it for the line to be located. The Mayor and Council directed Jerry Stilmock to prepare an ordinance for the July meeting as the current code language is for copper only.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on allowing fowl within corporate limits; Randy Dunster present. Dunster provided a draft ordinance to the Mayor, Council and Jerry Stilmock prior to the meeting along with examples of what other towns are doing to allow fowl. Council Member Halvorsen discussed his definition of an “enclosure” and would be fine with the chickens running at large inside a fenced yard so long as they had a coop. Council Member Laramie Werner mentioned in previous discussions there was talk of the fowl not being allowed within so many feet of the neighboring property. Opposing arguments were present with concerns of smell from the fowl, having an issue with dog complaints because of dogs barking at fowl if the fence is chain-link not privacy, as well as additional nuisances such as raccoons, snakes and flies increasing as these things are attracted to fowl. Another concern is if the city starts allowing fowl, what is going to be next regarding allowing livestock within corporate limits. Mayor Dettmer reminded the audience to direct questions to the Council. Council Member Jerry Werner mentioned the policing of this would need to be self-policing. The item is for discussion only; the Mayor and Council directed Jerry Stilmock to draft an ordinance for the July meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on moving monthly meeting date for Planning Commission meetings. Clerk Farmer had recently asked the Planning Commission members which days of the first week of each month would work for a new day to hold the monthly meeting. The best day for all members was the first Wednesday of each month therefore any items that would be moved on for vote by City Council would be on the following City Council meeting agenda. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the Planning Commission meeting day to be moved to first Wednesday of each month, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-23 for consideration and declaration of an area of this City as blighted and substandard and in need of redevelopment pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law, authorizing Mayor’s signature: City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained. The City is seeking grant funds for the downtown area and this is part of the process to proceed with seeking grant funds; this does not remove anything from the previous blighted area study. Item 13-B of the agenda discussing Tax Increment Financing recertification coincides with Resolution No. 21-23. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-23, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on street closing request for 2021 Germanfest Parade for Saturday August 28th; Chamber Director Wendy Werner present. A map labeled Exhibit 1 is attached to these minutes. The barricades for the street closings will be placed on street corners the Friday prior by City Utility staff. The Germanfest Parade Committee will be responsible for placing the barricades at 10:00 a.m. Saturday in preparation for participant lineups as labeled on Exhibit 1. Stilmock reminded staff a certificate of insurance is required by the Chamber of Commerce for the parade event being held on City streets. Clerk Farmer will send the certificate to LARM prior to the event. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closing for the 21 Germanfest parade, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on street closing request for 2021 Germanfest events at Otoe County Fairgrounds for Saturday August 28th; Chamber Director Wendy Werner present. The map labeled Exhibit 1 attached to these minutes shows the area for the requested street closings. This includes 3rd Street from Plum to Midland as well as alley from 3rd to 1st streets starting at 5:00 p.m. Friday August 27th until noon Sunday August 29th. These are for compliance for the boundaries needed through the Nebraska Liquor Commission for the beer garden area. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closings of 3rd Street from Plum to Midland, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the street closing request for the alley running on the west side of the Fair Center from 3rd to 1st Streets from Thursday August 26th until noon Sunday August 29th, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on SDL request for 2021 Otoe County Fair beer garden for the times of noon to 1:00 a.m. on the days of Thursday July 22nd thru Saturday July 24th and for noon to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday July 25th; Vanessa Rudolph with Otoe County Ag Society not present. The beer garden area will be held in the same place as it has been in the past. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the SDL request, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on street closing request for 2021 Otoe County Fair Parade for Saturday July 24th at 1:00 p.m.; Vanessa Rudolph with Otoe County Ag Society not present. A map labeled Exhibit 2 is attached to these minutes; Clerk Farmer went over the map. The

barricades for the street closings will be placed on street corners the Friday prior by City Utility staff. The Germanfest Parade Committee will be responsible for placing the barricades at 1:00 p.m. Saturday in preparation for participant lineups. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closing for the 21 Fair parade starting at 1:00 p.m. until the completion of the parade. Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. The City has already received the certificate of insurance for using the city streets for the Fair parade. Clerk Farmer will forward to LARM.

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

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of door bids from Midwest Door and Hardware for City Hall building. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid for the upstairs exterior door at \$2,463.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. This bid includes refastening of door to the existing hinges and new lockset of the Building and Zoning Office door. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the basement exterior door bid at \$2,402.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Before adjourning Mayor Dettmer announced a special meeting will be held to discuss employee handbook updates and employee wages for the 21-22 Budget Year. The date for this meeting will be Monday June 28th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. The first budget meeting will be held Tuesday July 20th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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

