

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

November 10, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at Syracuse Public Library located at 480 5th Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:00 P.M. on November 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, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the October 13, 2021 regular 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. The report had been distributed prior to the meeting along with comments from Blome. His comments included all cash activity was included and all bank accounts and bonds reconciled. Final payment for the 2012 Municipal Facilities Corp bond was made. The City received \$816,000.00 in reimbursement funds for the State Revolving Fund loan funding the Water Improvement Project. BMG will be submitting their audit documentation to City Auditor Julie Bauman within the next week. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

A-1 LOCKSMITH - 113.00, ADAM BADBERG - 233.00, AFLAC - 183.60, ALL ROADS BARRICADE, INC - 232.82, ARBOR VALLEY ANIMAL CLINIC - 53.50, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1446.67, BMG CPA'S - 2750.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 3804.98, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 1277.68, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2332.00, BC MEYER HOMES - 200.00, CANON FINANCIAL - 101.06, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 81.74, 4.97, 68.96, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 276.92, 319.52, CODY MUNSTERMANN - 200.00, COUNTRY SAMPLER FARMHOUSE STYLE - 13.31, CULLIGAN WATER - 18.95, CUSTOM BLINDS AND DESIGN - 1499.00, DELORES POST - 83.34, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, ESRI - 426.00, FIRST WIRELESS, INC. - 174.06, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2570.25, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 38.08, GOTTLA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 72.00, GREG THUMANN - 35.00, GUTTERS PLUS - 250.00, HACH - 627.95, HANK'S GARAGE - 122.89, HAWKINS, INC. - 223.46, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 626.33, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 1515.00, 34806.25, KAY ANDERSON - 200.00, KERNS EXCAVATING - 32740.00, KURT KASTENS - 1361.75, LAMSON, DUGAN & MURRAY - 2875.00, LEAGUE OF NEBR. MUN. - 100.00, LOSEKE IRRIGATION - 1178.54, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 532.74, MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC. - 140.21, MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL INC. - 388.04, MEDICA - 10145.38, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 50.37, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 93.00, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 125.25, MIDWEST WALLS & LANDSCAPES, INC. - 645.00, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 25.00, 357.25, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - 115.00, 115.00, 115.00, 115.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 378.00, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. - 200.00, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM - 2457.52, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 8058.67, OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - 247005.65, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 66.94, OTOE COUNTY SHERIFF - 16250.00, PANHANDLE EMS EDUCATION, LLC - 1100.00, PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. - 953.79, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 883.45, ROXANNE SMITH - 16.66, SHANNON BEER - 35.00, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 46.10, SKARSHAUG TEST LAB, INC. - 118.06, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1634.00, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 375.59, SYRACUSE JOURNAL DEMOCRAT - 52.50, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 62.86, SYRACUSE SUPPLY - 419.25, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 17.61, THE NEBRASKA MED CENTER - 1250.00, THIELE GEOTECH, INC. - 4450.50, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2319.94, VAN KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION - 265605.39, VERIZON WIRELESS - 599.30, 272.51, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 1410.45, TODD AKSAMIT - 2254.40, ADAM BADGERG - 2775.76, TYLER COLLIN - 2564.51, JILL CROOK - 2725.12, KELLY FARMER - 3285.92, JESSICA MEYER - 5243.26, IAN MITCHELL - 2566.95, JULIE SLAFTER - 2135.80, CURTIS STANBERRY - 3236.58, BRIAN VODICKA - 2551.12, JEFF VOGT - 3513.78, NICOLE VONDERSCHMIDT - 225.36

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT - No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT - Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported details from the October Incident Report distributed prior to the meeting. Hours were typical; total incidents were 56 calls for service. Activity included 27 traffic stops, six traffic crashes with damages, two arrests on warrant and various other calls.

LIBRARY REPORT - Librarian Sue Antes not present; her report was distributed prior to the meeting. No further discussion was had.

PARKS AND REC REPORT - Parks and Rec Director Jill Crook present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of epoxy flooring at the Williams Park Shelter and restrooms and sports complex concession stand. Crook submitted three bids for the flooring project. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the bid from Garage Force at \$6350.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

FIRE REPORT - Bruce Neemann and Keith McWilliams present on behalf of Chief Eric Fass. Mayor Dettmer introduced McWilliams as the new Interim Fire Chief and thanked Neemann for his time as Interim Chief since the time of Eric's accident this summer.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on replacing a fire truck. Neemann discussed the need for a new truck and also discussed the purchase of air packs recently approved by the Council. City Administrator Jessica Meyer has been shopping financing rates for possibly incorporating the cost of a new truck as well as assisting the payment of the air packs into a loan if rates are good. The

SVFD has been putting together a spec sheet for the new truck to receive prices. Currently the Fire Savings has funds but the air packs were scheduled to be paid out of those funds; there would be some left over. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock discussed different options for direct borrowing and what a municipality is allowed. Further discussion and research will be had on options to fund the various Fire needs.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of job posting and hourly pay range for additional utility employee. Vogt suggested the new employee start in the hourly pay range of \$18.00 to \$21.00. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve to move forward with advertising for the additional Public Works employee starting at \$18 to \$21 hourly wage, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to proceed with construction of utility building. Vogt is looking to receive additional bids and requested to table the item until a future Council meeting. The question was brought up if the current Fire/Rescue building may replace the need for a additional building to be built at the Utility building property. Mayor Dettmer explained she would like to repurpose the building for City purposes but nothing has been set in stone.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on city buy-back of solar power; Jeff Vogt and Bruce Neemann explained. A few people have inquired on placing solar panels on their homes. Net-metering would allow the buy-back of excess power generated by the solar panel but would require special meters. Currently the City does not have any ordinances on solar power including the buy-back of excess power generated. Bruce and Jeff will work together to continue to reach out to other communities and utility companies for more information and options. The Mayor and Council feel solar power usage is going to increase therefore these discussions need to be had. Neemann explained the Residential Code addresses the placement of solar panels on building roofs. He would like the Council to think about if these panels will be allowed to be placed in yards and not on buildings if so desired.

Mayor Dettmer opened the discussion and Resolution No. 21-42 to approve agreement between Van Kirk Bros. Construction and City of Syracuse for 17th Street Lift Station Removal and Gravity Sewer Connection, authorizing Mayor's signature. Justin Stark of Olsson presented the resolution and agreement. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock reviewed the agreement noting liability insurance and feels the document is ready for vote by the Council. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-42, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer the discussion and action on Ordinance No. 1116 extending the Franchise Agreement between Zito and City of Syracuse; City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained. Stilmock discussed various terms of the agreement including the expiration date of November 30th, 2026 and notices required by both parties. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen introduced Ordinance No. 1116 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance 1116 by title. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1116, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer the discussion and action on Resolution No. 21-43 extending the Pole Attachment Agreement between Zito and City of Syracuse; City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained various terms of the Pole Attachment agreement. Orv Gigstad moved for passage of Resolution No. 21-43, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-44 to accept dedication of infrastructure improvements to Zahn Meadows Subdivision, authorizing Mayor's signature; Ron and Barb Zahn present. Stilmock explained the title of the property and the dedication of the plat were signed two different ways therefore the items need to be re-signed along with finalizing the resolution for the dedication of the infrastructure improvements. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-44. It was noted Ron Zahn will continue to keep the turnaround maintained. Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution on eIRA Agreement between Benefit Plans Inc. and the City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature. The item was tabled until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and ordinance on Syracuse Municipal Code Section 4-1(b) (2), 4-32 (a)(2)(b), 4-72 (a)(2)(b). Stilmock explained this section refers to animals and livestock within corporate limits. He asked the ordinance be tabled until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Otoe County ARPA Funds Housing Program; Dan Mauk of Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation present. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained Mauk had recently approached her about proposed ideas by the County for

housing. Mauk explained the purpose is to stimulate additional single family and townhouse/duplex development to meet a critical shortage of workforce housing in Otoe County. Funds from the Otoe County's allotment of ARPA funds would be used and based on population of the County's incorporated cities and villages. The goal is to add 111 new housing units in Otoe County by October 2023.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on the bridge located on County Road 29 in southwest corner of Syracuse; Jon Brinkman and Dan Crownover present to explain. Brinkman explained concerns have been voiced regarding the bridge and the safety of the bridge. The bulk of the materials are on hand to make the repairs. The County is interested in partnering with the City to take out the bridge and replace it with a culvert; no definitive price has been established yet. The timeline for this project may be a year from now or possibly the spring of 2023. A hydraulic analysis needs to be done, Justin Stark will work on this. In the meantime, the County will make temporary repairs. A plus with the culvert option is that there may be an opportunity for a trail. An interlocal agreement between the County and the City would need to be considered. Brinkman explained an option would be the City buy the materials and the County install and maintain. Brinkman will need to visit with the rest of the commissioners. The water standing at the site was also discussed and what can be done with that water.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request to close 5th Street from Plum to Mohawk Streets on Tuesday December 7th, 2021 from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. for Tannenbaum to include the side streets of Thorne and Midland north to 6th Street. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the street closing for Tannenbaum., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on employee health insurance renewal for January 1, 2022; Inspiro not present. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained the renewal documents and premiums for the January 1, 2022 renewal. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the insurance renewal through Inspiro, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to trade in City minivan and purchase of new City vehicle; City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained. Various departments have funds to put toward the purchase as it is used for multiple departments; \$5500.00 from General, \$1500.00 from Concessions, \$2000.00 from leftover Concessions budgeted for flooring. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to approve the purchase of a different City vehicle at trade-in plus \$9000.00 totaling \$20,000.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request for Special Designated Liquor License for use at the St. Paulinus trivia night on December 11th 2021 from 6:00 P.M. to Midnight.; Adam Holz not present. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the SDL request, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-45 to approve Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Program Guidelines, authorizing Mayor's signature; Jim Warrelmann of SENDD not present. City Administrator Jessica Meyer discussed the guidelines and standards of the document including what the homeowners responsibilities will be and application process. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve Resolution No. 21-45 approving the guidelines, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-46 to approve Windstream Right-of-Way request, authorizing Mayor's signature. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained the ROW request. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve Resolution No. 21-46, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adjourn at 7:29 P.M., Laramie Werner seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, 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.

Kerry Farmers
Clerk

Deb Dettmer
Mayor

