

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

December 20, 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 7:30 P.M. on December 20, 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 Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad; 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 November 10, 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 discussion and consideration to utilize Public Safety Bond to finance purchase of new fire truck; Jay Spearman of Piper Sandler present. Spearman discussed cities in the State of Nebraska have the ability to levy up to five cents and financing with a public safety bond can provide 90% of that five cents but does not limit the number of years of the bond. Spearman reviewed different options based on time period including costs of issuance for each at the varying average interest rates. The City does have the ability to take the bonds out now even though we do not have the fire truck yet. Mayor Dettmer asked about paying off a bond sooner than what the time period the bond is originally issued at. Spearman explained after five years the city can call the bond and refinance at a lower time period with the interest rate at that time if there is potential savings for the City. Council Member Jerry Werner asked if other items could be included in the public safety bond, such as the recent purchase of the Midland Street property for a new Fire/Rescue building. Spearman explained he did not think this would be possible due to restrictions of a public safety bond but he would like to look into it further and let us know. The Mayor and Council tabled the discussion until the January Council meeting to allow for additional questions to be researched.

Mayor Dettmer opened the discussion on City Appointments and nomination and election of Council President. Dettmer explained she is asking two City Council member to agree to be on the Finance Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee will be to allow the department heads and employees to meet with the two Council members, Mayor, City Administrator and City Clerk during the day in the form of a budget workshop to thoroughly work through each department's budget. The goal is to reduce the length of the City Council Budget meetings by working through the spreadsheets at the City Council Budget meeting. Council Members Jerry Werner and Wesley Halvorsen volunteered to be the Finance Committee for 2022. Mayor Dettmer led the appointments as follows: City Clerk – Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works – Jeff Vogt, Building and Zoning Inspector – Bruce Neemann, City Attorney – Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom and Stilmock consisting of Jerry Stilmock, Bob Hallstrom and Ryan McIntosh, City Treasurer – Kelly Farmer, City Street Superintendent – Justin Stark, City Engineer – Olsson, and Finance Committee – Jerry Werner and Wesley Halvorsen. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the 2022 appointments as listed, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer asked for a nomination of City Council President. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to nominate Orv Gigstad as 2022 City Council President, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

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. Sales tax collections are up this year, Ambulance income is down, and audit materials were submitted to Auditor Julie Baumann in early November. Capital expenditure payments for the Water, Sewer and Fire departments were made for projects and equipment in those departments. Clerk Farmer announced the audit was performed on December 3rd; Baumann will be present at the January meeting to present. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to pay the claims, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

AKRS - 2.68, 70.65, AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION - 338.00, AMSTERDAM PRINTING AND LITHO - 425.74, B & B PUMP-N-GO, INC. - 1176.67, B & D DIAMOND PRO, INC. - 758.00, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 1116.40, BMG CPA'S - 3250.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1096.20, 115.02, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 57.38, 89.50, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2299.00, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 102.32, 4.52, CARDMEMBER SERVICE - 4040.28, CHRIS LUTJEMEYER - 150.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 159.76, 138.46, 239.64, 207.70, COLBY RIDGE POPCORN - 262.50, CRAIG BOLDT - 150.00, CREIGHTON - 105.00, CULLIGAN WATER - 9.00, CUSTOM BLINDS AND DESIGN - 567.40, DANA ANDERSON - 1100.00, DAVID SABATKA - 150.00, DELWIN ANTHOLZ - 1500.00, DEMCO, INC. - 68.27, DEREK HARMS - 4625.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 191.56, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 32.76, ECHO GROUP INC. - 186.46, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 540.00, FIRSTBANK OF NEBRASKA - 19582.25, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2570.25, GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA HOLDINGS, INC. - 79.00, 12.78, GERALD ERISMAN - 100.00, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING - 24.97, GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS - 1290.52, GRNE SOLAR - 200.00, HACO ELECTRIC - 44200.00, HEMJE PLBG., HTG. AND AIR COND - 45.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 683.38, JEN STAACK - 125.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 330.00, 20699.25, 1035.00, 25372.50, JERRY STILMOCK - 35.00, JESSICA MEYER - 98.00, JODY BRUNS - 125.00, JOHN STAACK - 400.00, KAVL SYSTEMS LLC - 410.00, KRIS GOERING - 35.00, LAMSON, DUGAN &

MURRAY - 400.00, LOSEKE IRRIGATION - 792.00, LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH - 35.00, MARCIA SCHEINOST - 200.00, MEYER'S BODY SHOP - 344.93, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 32.38, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 93.00, MIDAMERICA BOOKS - 171.27, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 55.75, MIKE'S WINDOW SERVICE, LLC - 48.72, 75.08, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC. OF NE - 3733.33, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 4604.49, MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO. - 571.13, NEBRASKA CITY NEWSPRESS - 232.65, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 86.39, 629.83, 103.92, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - 17302.08, NEBRASKA LIFE MAGAZINE - 25.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 48.00, 277.00, NMC EXCHANGE LLC - 2333.74, NMPP - 5911.00, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 32.70, OPPD - 112974.01, OTOE CTY - 16250.00, PAULINE PETERSON - 100.00, PAYDEN ANDERA - 150.00, PETTY CASH - 146.10, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 1795.55, RANDY DUNSTER - 35.00, ROBERT GEARHART - 118.29, SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, INC. - 615.50, 79387.25, 821.50, SCHEELE-KAYTON CONSTRUCTION - 8168.33, SE AREA CLERKS ASSOCIATION - 10.00, SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC. - 177.58, SID DILLON - 8000.00, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 46.10, JH SPORHASE LLC - 256.40, STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSUR. - 748.00, SUPREME SPA & POOL - 35.00, SYNCHRONY BANK/AMAZON - 488.78, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 318.45, 1399.00, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 476.72, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 92.06, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 30.30, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 144.47, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 59.98, SYRACUSE U-SAVE PHARMACY - 30.00, TAMI ANDERA - 200.00, TASTE OF HOME - 10.00, TEMPLE DISPLAY LTC - 3138.28, TERRY'S FAMILY FOODS - 15.78, THIELE GEOTECH, INC. - 155.00, TIM WILSON - 200.00, U.S. POST OFFICE - 378.08, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2319.94, VAN KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION - 23904.22, 337274.63, VERIZON WIRELESS - 599.30, 272.51, 651.77, VIKING INDUSTRIAL PAINTING - 22990.00, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. - 341.06, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2687.33, WOMAN'S WORLD - 19.99, ZOLL - 111.83, TODD AKSAMIT - 2254.39, ADAM BADGERG - 2753.03, TYLER COLLIN - 2564.52, JILL CROOK - 2725.10, KELLY FARMER - 3285.92, JESSICA MEYER - 5243.26, IAN MITCHELL - 2566.94, JULIE SLAFTER - 2135.80, CURTIS STANBERRY - 3340.23, BRIAN VODICKA - 2659.14, JEFF VOGT - 3513.78, NICOLE VONDERSCHMIDT - 2304.26

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Sheriff Caudill present. Caudill reported details from the November Incident Report distributed prior to the meeting. Hours were typical; 127 calls for service, 69 were in town with 58 being reportable incidents. Caudill discussed recent scams in the area such as one having to do with Publishers Clearing House or suspicious emails. He mentioned one of his goals is to educate the public and kids about technical crimes; the department has a Technical Crimes group.

RESCUE REPORT – Rescue Chief, Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of new members to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Wilson named Hilary Wiebush, Casey Porter and Kelsey Hoffman as interested in volunteering for the squad. Council Member Orv Gigstad approved the three new members, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on billing service. Wilson explained about a year ago EMS Billing Services was taken over by Quick Med Claims. Wilson has noticed some issues such as patient refund requests being very late, claims possibly not getting billed out for two to three months, as well as some credit reporting discrepancies. Wilson would like to do more research and come back to discuss with Council at a later date.

Mayor Dettmer jumped to Agenda Item 14-F in Public Works and led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-47 to approve Agreement for Net Metering Services between NMPP and City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature; Matt Reed of NMPP present. Reed discussed Superintendent Jeff Vogt had reached out to him to discuss the net metering program as the need is becoming apparent in town with solar panel usage. The software works in conjunction with the City's billing software, Power Manager. The document acts as an application and includes a processing fee depending on the size. Other municipalities who use the same type of agreement are Nebraska City, Falls City, Alliance and Goering. The agreement contains policies and language the City can use for adopting its own ordinances and policies; the cost is \$250.00 one-time fee. Superintendent Jeff Vogt was named as the contact person for the agreement. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-47, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

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

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and appointments of Library Board Members; City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained. The appointments included Carol Graham, Jacque Wallman, Ronda Sweat, Pat Apel, and Hilarie Seelhoff. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the Library Board members, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

BUILDING & ZONING REPORT – Inspector Bruce Neemann present. Mayor Dettmer tabled the discussion and ordinance on Vacant Property Registration Act.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Director Jill Crook not present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of snowplow for Parks truck; Jessica Meyer explained. Bids from

TCA Outdoor Power and Ty's Outdoor Power and Service were provided by Crook. Council Member Jerry Werner asked if there are any issues with stainless steel; Jeff Vogt said the only problem typically is that you cannot weld on it. There were additional questions on if the plow bid for TCA Outdoor Power at \$8054.21 is all-inclusive. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid from TCA Outdoor Power at \$8054.21 as long as the bid price is for all-inclusive and covers installation of equipment and if this bid does not then the Parks Department shall go with the bid from Ty's Outdoor Power and Service for \$8589.44. Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-48 to approve Master Agreement Work Orders for 3 & 4 for Professional Services with Justin Stark of Olsson, authorizing Mayor's signature; Justin Stark present. Stark explained the scope of services of the work orders for the various services. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-48, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-49 to approve Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent, authorizing Mayor's signature. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained this is a certification required annually by the state. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-49, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and resolution to approve Master Agreement Work Order for Walnut Street Bridge crossing and 11th Street low-water crossing, authorizing Mayor's signature; Justin Stark present. The Walnut Street Bridge is the crossing on the county road going out to the sewer plant and lawn and leaf piles and the 11th Street crossing is the low-water crossing in Williams Park. The resolution was tabled until a future meeting to allow for discussion with Otoe County.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Interlocal Agreement with Otoe County Department of Roads regarding Walnut Street Bridge Crossing located at County Road 29 southwest corner of Syracuse. This item also tabled since the previous discussion was.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 21-50 to approve Master Agreement Work Order Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan, authorizing Mayor's signature; Justin Stark explained. Stark explained the work order will assist with data collection, equipment maintenance and life expectancy, plans for any upgrades and maintenance, improvements and how to budget for expenses. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-50, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to proceed with construction of utility building; Jeff Vogt explained. Vogt explained the purpose of the building would be storage basically. The building would not be insulated or require plumbing; the Utilities Department will do the power. The total bid including the door bid from Langfeldt is \$91,050.00. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid from WJH Construction to include Langfeldt door bid, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer the discussion to consider a motion to ratify all actions of City Administrator Jessica Meyer, our LARM representative, identified in the minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting of the League Association of Risk Management September 22, 2021, including the election of nominees to the LARM Board of Directors. Council Member Orv Gigstad motioned to confirm ratified actions of LARM representative, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Council Member Wesley Halvorsen asked for a motion to go into Closed Session at 9:15 P.M. for the purpose of update and action items for Water Improvement Project, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Jessica Meyer, Kelly Farmer and Jerry Stilmock were invited to stay.

Council Member Jerry Werner motioned to come out of Closed Session at 9:17 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adjourn at 9:18 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, 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.

Kuy Larmer
Clerk

Deb Dettmer
Mayor

