

September 14, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at Syracuse City Council Chambers located at 495 Midland Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:30 P.M. on September 14, 2022 for a regular meeting. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places. Mayor Dettmer requested roll call; present were Mayor Dettmer and Council members Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the August 31, 2022 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 Treasurers Report; Todd Blome present. The August Treasurers Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Blome included a list of significant expenses over \$3000.00 for August as a reminder of some of the bigger items the City is spending money on. The City should be expecting another reimbursement from the SRF. All accounts have been reconciled. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and to pay the claims, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

AFLAC - 183.60, AKRS - 2396.94, DINAH INC. - 3171.80, B & D DIAMOND PRO, INC. - 988.00, BLACKBURN MFG. CO. - 559.00, BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING - 1300.00, BMG CPA'S - 5500.00, BOHL PLUMBING & HEATING - 169.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 29.48, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 112.19, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 3665.50, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 88.79, 59.35, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 27.93, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 137.39, 174.66, CULLIGAN WATER - 163.03, DAMME APPLIANCE LLC - 1800.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 934.89, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2734.05, HAWKINS, INC. - 246.55, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 341.69, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 2115.00, JESSICA MEYER - 35.72, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 49.72, LEAGUE OF NEBR. MUN. - 55.00, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 31.48, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 69.15, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 1260.37, NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOC. - 100.00, NEBRASKA'S BEST CARPET CLEANING - 455.00, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 47.38, OPPD - 164775.32, PETERS ELECTRIC INC. - 984.50, R-F-D SALES CO. - 4106.55, RICK NORDHUES - 200.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 695.09, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 39.22, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 315.79, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 3380.42, SYRACUSE MARKET LLC - 646.02, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 268.23, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 370.00, SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE - 175.00, TOUGH OUTLET - 2730.48, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2317.06, VERIZON WIRELESS - 186.77, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. 97 calls for service, 53 of those were reportable; 22 of those were traffic stops. Currently the department is two officers down. Overall, Syracuse has been quiet.

LIBRARY REPORT – Librarian Sue Antes not present; the report has been distributed. No discussion had.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Parks and Rec Manager Sonni Graves present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and review of draft Park Master Plan; City Engineer Justin Stark explained. The City currently does not have a master plan for the parks areas. The goal is to provide a start to a road map for future improvements to the City's parks facilities. Three key areas were looked at for the draft, the Sports Complex, Williams Park as well as trail connection between the two. The process began with envisioning multiple ideas and the potential for the existing space. Aerial views have been used in order to see the layout of the areas better. Priorities include the water service to the water fountain in the dog park, some sort of trail connecting the parks, camping pads at the Sports Complex as well as additional miscellaneous items such as potential restrooms at the Soccer Fields, a t-ball field and possibly football fields at the Sports Complex and a pedestrian bridge. Plan sheets were drafted to illustrate how these items could potentially be placed. A Plan Sheet was also done for Williams Park to include a possible splash pad, basketball court, and tennis court. The existing t-ball field would be removed for some of these items and relocated to the Sports Complex. Parking expansion opportunities were discussed; additional grading would need to be done. The last sheet shows a potential pathway to connect Williams Park and the Sports Complex. The length of the connection is around 5700 feet. The contingency of all of these is 35%. The priority items come in around 1.4 Million in cost with the additional miscellaneous items adding up to around \$800,000. No motion needed at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-31 to approve Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance, authorizing Mayor's signature. This is an annual certification. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-31, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on wastewater scada system; Jeff Vogt explained they are still working on getting some questions answered. The item was tabled until a future meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup Bids for 2023 Agreement. This is the approval to proceed to go out for bids. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve advertising for bids, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. The current agreement expires December 31, 2022. Sealed bids are due by October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 by 4:00 P.M. to City Hall. The bid will be awarded at the November 2022 Council meeting and then the agreement being approved at the December 2022 meeting.

Vogt discussed a recent water main break at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Mohawk. The water tower lost 18 feet of water and levels were significantly low. Vogt explained the scada system keeps track of low water flow but Vogt is working on installing a hydro alarm to indicate a problem sooner.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on ARPA Funds and explained the City has received the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche of the State and Local Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act; combined the City has received \$346,895.98 in SLFRF from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Mayor asked for feedback on the direction the City Council would like to explore for potential use of ARPA funds given. Potential uses for ARPA Funds include: daycare facilities, programs, incentives; school/education services; housing; downtown updates; parks update (trail, basketball courts, pickleball courts); financial aid to local businesses; community programs; premium pay for daycare, teachers, healthcare, essential workers; Williams Park playground; infrastructure; fire and rescue. Mayor Dettmer explained the Council is not limited to the categories listed if they have additional proposals. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained how other communities are spending their funds. The funds need to be committed by December 2024. The Council liked the idea of conducting an online survey and then a committee discuss the results. No motion needed at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion of proposal to match ARPA funds with Community For Kids funds for purpose of child care expansion; Dan Mauk of NCAEDC present to explain. Mauk began his discussion with childcare and the trickle affect of not having adequate childcare and how he became aware of the problem as an Economic Developer shortly after moving to Nebraska City eight years ago. A town hall meeting of 61 people present, and 23 following on Facebook live was had discussing the childcare issues in the Syracuse area. Tiffany Walker present with Mauk discussing the multiple daycare providers retiring and the upcoming generations. Multiple families are on multiple waitlists currently. Mauk discussed what steps Nebraska City has taken to help with the daycare shortage. Funds would be used for things such as placing wired smoke detectors, modifications to homes to accommodate children, fencing for backyards, as well as additional barriers that may be preventing individuals from being able to operate a daycare facility. They cannot give out cash but they can give out furnishings, books, reimburse licensing fees, etc.. \$40,000 from City ARPA funds and a \$20,000.00 match from NCAEDC would provide five or six in-home twos which would provide for approximately 60 children. The difference between and in-home one and in-home two include space per child, two requires more; this also includes being licensed versus not licensed. Direction was given for a committee consisting of Jerry Werner and Wesley Halvorsen will meet with Jerry Stilmock and Jessica Meyer to draft an agreement to be presented to City Council at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and consideration of Ordinance for Application for Conditional Use Permit for consideration of a free-standing sign at the following-described real estate: Lot 2 Block 2 Syracuse Business Center in Pt. SE ¼ of SE ¼ 9-8-11 City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska. Jerry Stilmock explained Planning Commission recommended approval of the sign at U-Save Pharmacy. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1128 and the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1128 by title. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1128, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on City's commitment to match \$1300.00 annual contribution for 22-23 Budget year. Clerk Farmer explained this is the annual amount Blue River's asks for the City's match. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the match request, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on vacating Hazel Road for the purpose of future development of Headwind Consumer Products at 2903 Hazel Road; Alex Carlson of Craft Development Group present to explain. Carlson is working with Headwind to expand their existing warehouse capacity at the location by approximately 55 to 60 thousand square feet. They are asking to vacate Old Highway 2 in order to allow Headwind to acquire the parcel, then replat, request a change of zoning and move forward with their expansion. NDOT would require the City to deed the parcel back to NDOT. Stilmock explained the area. Jerry Werner's concern is the area has the potential to be the main corridor for possible developments for the north side of town. If the road would be vacated, a different traffic pattern would need to be created in areas that were not prepped to take higher volumes of traffic. Justin Stark spoke of the impact on future development of the cemetery as well. Jerry Stilmock will have a conversation with the state and report back.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on employee handbook; Jeff Vogt explained August of 2021 the Employee Handbook revised the overtime policy to go by a 40-hour work week instead of an eight hour workday. Vogt cited the handbook for overtime in relation to an emergency event. This does not pertain if an individual does not work a 40-hour work week. With the recent water main break as well as an electrical emergency, the utility employees did not receive overtime due to the break happening in a week with a holiday day. The department would like for the City to consider going back to the previous policy in place prior to August 2021. Adam Badberg has been made the spokesperson for the utility department. Badberg read a letter explaining the department's justification for going back to overtime being applicable after an eight hour workday. Jerry Werner would like for he and Wesley Halvorsen who were both on the handbook committee to meet with the utilities department within the next week to discuss some of the things Badberg explained in his letter.

Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adjourn at 8:09 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie 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.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor



SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 Midland Street at 6:00 P.M. on September 14, 2022 for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on it proposed 2022-2023 Budget Statement. The meeting was open to the public and notice of meeting was given by posting in five places: Syracuse City Hall lobby, First Bank of Nebraska lobby, Countryside Bank, U.S. Post Office lobby and Syracuse Market window. Proof of publication in Syracuse Journal Democrat September 9, 2022 Edition was shown. Mayor Dettmer was present and requested roll call; present were Council members Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, and Laramie Werner. A copy of the publication notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Dettmer noted the Open Meetings Act was posted. 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 opened the budget public hearing and discussion on 2022-2023 Budget and approval of additional 1.0% increase in restricted funds. Three copies of the proposed budget statement were present and available to the public; Todd Blome of BMG CPA's present to explain. Blome explained the proposed budget and key provisions answering questions from the Mayor and City Council. Blome provided a worksheet he created explaining how the City's valuation and tax request coincide currently and historically; the City's valuation increased 2.16%. Comparisons and contrasts were reviewed between the 22-23 proposed budget and current and past budgets; the 22-23 Budget increased by 8.63%. Blome discussed the LB644 Joint Public Tax Request Hearing required for entities with an increase of valuation of at least 2%; City Administrator, Jessica Meyer and City Clerk, Kelly Farmer plan to attend the hearing to be held on September 26th. Mayor Dettmer asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. No further discussion was had. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the additional 1.0 % increase in restricted funds and the 2022-2023 Budget, Orv Gigstad second. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.


Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing and Ordinance No. 1127 on hearing, support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to proposed 2022-2023 Budget. Mayor Dettmer asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition or criticism. No further discussion was had. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen introduced Ordinance No. 1127 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. Attorney Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1127 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1127, Jerry Werner seconded. Mayor Dettmer stated the question, "Shall Ordinance No. 1127 be passed and adopted" and requested roll call vote. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing on hearing, support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request. Mayor Dettmer asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the property tax levy. No opposition of the levy. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. No motion needed. The resolution will be voted on at the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 City Council meeting.

Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adjourn at 6:27 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Laramie 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.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor

