

December 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 6:00 P.M. on December 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 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 November 28, 2022 meetings 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 acknowledgement and presentation of plaque to Laramie Werner for her service on the City Council. Werner served four years on the Syracuse City Council. Werner said being on the City Council was a good experience.

Mayor Dettmer asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adjourn at 6:02 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Mayor Dettmer led the Oaths of Office for Elected Council Members. Jerry Werner recited and signed the oath first, then Nate Patton.

Mayor Dettmer requested roll call; present were Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion of City Appointments and Nomination and Election of Council President. The appointments are as follows: City Clerk – Kelly Farmer, Superintendent of Public Works – Jeff Vogt, Building and Zoning Inspector – Bruce Neemann, City Attorney – Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock consisting of Jerry Stilmock, Bob Hallstrom and Ryan McIntosh, City Treasurer – Kelly Farmer, City Street Superintendent – Justin Stark, City Engineer – Olsson, Finance Committee: Two City Council Members. The purpose of the Finance Committee will be to work with the Mayor, City Clerk, City Administrator during budget time by participating in committee workshops discussing and reviewing individual budgets with the department heads. Jerry Werner and Wesley Halvorsen will be on the Finance Committee; both were also on this committee for 2022. Council Member moved to approve the appointments, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on nomination of City Council President. Orv Gigstad moved to nominate Jerry Werner as 2023 City Council Present, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Orv Gigstad was the Council President for 2022.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurers Report: Todd Blome of BMG present. The November Treasurers Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Blome reported he had received the journal entries from Auditor, Julie Baumann. Blome reported expenses are exceeding revenues for the first two months of the 22-23 Budget year due to capital expenses. The last reimbursement from the SRF loan was in October, another should be expected soon and will be a larger amount due to larger payments made in October, November and December. An electrical bond was paid off in December; this was for the electrical rebuild project. Larger expenses and disbursements included payments to AquaChem, Brinkman Brothers, Greenwade Tree Service, JEO, Municipal Supply of Omaha, Olsson Associates, Van Kirk Bros, Viking Industrial Painting, and a payment on the first SRF loan was made. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and to pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION - 1266.99, BMG CPA'S - 2750.00, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 1210.01, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 80.38, 108.91, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 21.61, 113.10, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 174.66, 153.36, CUBBY'S INC. - 1848.68, CURTIS STANBERRY - 100.00, DANA ANDERSON - 1100.00, DELWIN ANTHOLZ - 1500.00, DEREK HARMS - 4625.00, DOMINIC MARTACHO - 35.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.94, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 284.01, FIELD FORD, INC. - 30.45, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2904.76, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING - 29.97, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 1340.73, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 65.28, JD CONSTRUCTION - 200.00, 100.00, JESSE JEWELL - 100.00, JUDSON IRRIGATION INC. - 2570.00, JULIE D. BAUMAN, CPA, P.C. - 18400.00, LAMSON, DUGAN & MURRAY - 142.50, LEAGUE OF NEBR. MUN. - 115.00, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT - 768.92,

MEYER'S BODY SHOP - 83.62, MICHAEL JOHANSSON - 35.00, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 35.08, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 70.12, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC. OF NE - 4541.00, NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY - 234.00, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 119.14, 1056.45, NMC EXCHANGE LLC - 1012.09, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 31.00, OPPD - 118712.16, OTOE COUNTY CLERK - 111.72, OTOE COUNTY SHERIFF - 16250.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 317.85, ROBERT MANZEL - 35.00, SONNI GRAVES - 32.81, SYRACUSE AREA HEALTH - 257.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 414.03, 165.70, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 489.44, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 50.26, SYRACUSE MARKET LLC - 99.57, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 496.21, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2317.06, VERIZON WIRELESS - 245.68, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2687.33, ZOLL - 123.01

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of 2022 City Financial Audit; Julie Baumann present. Baumann explained the City had two audits this year, one for the regular City-wide audit and the second for the water project. The audit consists of Governmental Funds and Proprietary or Enterprise Funds as well as the component unit of the Municipal Facilities Corporation Bond for the Sports Complex; the Proprietary are the utilities. Government activities report highlights the opinions for all other aspects and funds for the City excluding the utilities. The City received a clean opinion. The net position of the City exceeds \$6.8 million dollars. Total revenues for all the combined utilities exceeded total expenses after depreciation. Baumann explained the single audit shows the City receiving a grant but it's not actually a grant but more a Federal loan with forgiveness. The opinions for the Proprietary and single audit also came out clean and good opinions. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the 2022 Audit, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the authorization for Mayor to sign Management Representation Letter for 2022 Audit. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve signing of the letter, Wesley Halvorsen. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present. Mayor Dettmer recognized Bruce Neemann for his organization of the Nebraska Floodplain Management Workshop at the Syracuse Public Library on October 25th. City staff received a phone call from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources recognizing Bruce for his organization and professionalism in hosting the workshop.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. Caudill reported 43 calls for service for November with 36 reported calls for service. Caudill explained various calls included multiple traffic stops, two parking complaints, and four welfare checks. Caudill commented Thanksgiving was quiet. Love's truck stop will see an influx during the winter of semi-trucks due to weather. Caudill explained when a wild animal such as a skunk is causing an issue on private property Game and Parks will need to be involved. The City should email or reach out to Caudill when a call comes in. The department doesn't react to calls regarding cats.

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-38 to approve Agreement for Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup, authorizing Mayor's signature. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock explained the agreement term is 3-years at \$10,500.00 per year. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-38, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1132 to establish new electrical rates and service charges; Dave Peterson of JEO not present. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained information from OPPD came out after the November City Council meeting notifying customers of an increase therefore Dave is suggesting a 3.6% increase in electrical rates effective January 1st, 2023. Council Member Orv Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 1132 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1132 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1132, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Neptune R900 AMI Water System proposal. Vogt explained this is for the water side of the utilities only. The system allows the Utility Department to monitor water usage on an hour by hour basis allowing the Billing

Clerk to access this information instead of having to send out utility personnel to troubleshoot. This will catch leaks and over-usage faster than having to wait until the meters are read once a month. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the project bid of \$58,050.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-39 to approve JEO Water Improvement Project Contract Amendment, authorizing Mayor's signature; Dane Simonsen and Tim Adams of JEO present. Simonsen explained the amendment to JEO's contract are to continue JEO's services as the project has gone past the original proposed timeline of July 2022 completion. The extension will go to July 2023; this creates documentation, coordination and meetings along with efficiency thus causing additional inspection time to be billed for. The inspection time still left will be used up before additional billing will be sent out. These can be shown on the statements as what is from the previous contract and what is new. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve Resolution No. 22-39, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and update regarding amendment to Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Loan Agreement to increase forgiveness amount. Jessica Meyer gave an update NDEE has been able to offer the City additional forgiveness based on additional funding. The forgiveness will now be 22.5% on the remaining cost of the project that has not been completed estimated at \$6,954,000.00 remaining. No motion needed.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of interior spray foam bid for new utility building. Two inches of foam will be distributed and then the paint on the foam was bid from three companies. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the BS quote of \$22,114.00, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-40 for approval to waive building and sign permit fees for applicants of the Syracuse Childcare Incentive Program, authorizing Mayor's signature. Jessica Meyer explained one application has been sent to the City raising the question of waiving the fees since the City is helping fund the building and/or sign improvements for childcare facilities. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-40, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the appointment of Council Member to participate in Library Director interviews. Dettmer designated Nate Patton to participate; Patton accepted the appointment. Item does not need a motion.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1133 to repeal Syracuse Code of Ordinances Sec. 4-6 Fowl Running at Large. Jessica Meyer explained previously the Council denied chickens to be allowed within City Limits. Currently some of the language in the current Code of Ordinances conflicts with the ruling. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to introduce Ordinance 1133 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: Wesley Halvorsen. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1133 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1133, Nate Patton seconded. Discussion was had by Wesley Halvorsen opposing the Code of Ordinances ruling not allowing chickens within the City limits. Other communities allowing chickens do not have problems. Halvorsen explained the difficulty of supplying eggs in stores currently should factor into the argument to allow chickens to be raised within the City limits as well as chickens helping with food waste cleanup. Jerry Werner clarified the ruling was already decided and the City Council is voting on cleaning up the current language. If the ruling should change in the future, the ordinance would be reinstated. Orv Gigstad suggested if there was a big push in town to allow chickens then maybe it would pass. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-41 to approve changes to Employee Handbook allowing employees to choose between City contribution to Employee Child or Employee Spouse health insurance premium. Jessica Meyer explained previously the City Council voted on the health insurance renewal. The resolution would allow the employee to choose the Employee + Child/Children rate or the Employee + Spouse rate. Council Member Nate Patton moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-41, Orv Gigstad seconded. Rates increased due to the amount of claims submitted in particular rates. This could shift in the future based on which rates are showing the most claims where the insurance is needing to be used more. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of ARPA proposed allocation of funds. Jessica Meyer explained a committee meeting was held to review survey results of where the community would like to see where the ARPA funds would be used. The proposal breaks down the funds as: \$40,000 Daycare, \$100,000 Parks and Rec, \$50,000 Fire and Rescue, \$150,000 Streambank Stability. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the proposed allocation of funds, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

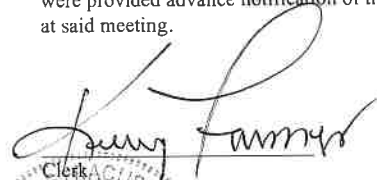
Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to go into Closed Session at 7:51 P.M. for the purpose of potential litigation inviting Jessica Meyer, Kelly Farmer, Jerry Stilmock, Dane Simonsen and Tim Adams to stay, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Council member Jerry Werner moved to come out of Closed Session at 8:44 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of authority for City Administrator to act regarding items discussed during Closed Session. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to give authority for City Administrator to act, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton.

Council Member Nate Patton moved to adjourn at 8:44 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. 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

