

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

November 9, 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 November 9, 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 Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the October 12th and October 17th, 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 approval of claims and Treasurers Report; Todd Blome not present. The October Treasurers Report and comments were distributed prior to the meeting. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and to pay the claims, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

AKRS - 106.05, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1824.89, AQUA-CHEM, INC. - 3629.80, AWARDS UNLIMITED, INC. - 58.09, DINAH INC. - 60.12, BAUER BUILT TIRE - 883.49, BMG CPA'S - 2750.00, BONNIE BOLDT - 32.50, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1921.61, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 411.13, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 4996.66, BRENT TETEN - 95.00, BRINKMAN BROS. - 5580.77, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 72.65, 19.04, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 73.25, CITY OF NEBRASKA CITY - 67.97, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 349.32, 306.72, CUBBY'S INC. - 2404.49, CULLIGAN WATER - 67.29, DECK DYNASTY - 35.00, DEMCO, INC. - 59.84, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 339.47, ECHO GROUP INC. - 72.61, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 30.00, FIREGUARD, INC. - 153.25, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 2664.19, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 567.00, GRAINGER - 43.51, GREENWADE TREE SERVICE - 3200.00, HAWKINS, INC. - 210.07, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES - 446.40, JACOB BURR - 35.00, JCI INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1652.00, JD CONSTRUCTION - 100.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 15136.00, 352.50, 812.50, JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD - 717.20, KANEQUIP, INC. - 1886.45, KEN PARDE - 35.00, LAMSON, DUGAN & MURRAY - 342.00, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 398.66, LIGHTNING BOLDT CONSTRUCTION - 3759.52, MAINELLI MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. - 2875.50, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 330.28, MICHAEL TODD & CO., INC. - 253.15, MICRO MARKETING ASSOC. - 50.37, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 100.75, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 113.62, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 9373.20, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 567.54, 25.00, 62.99, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 46.00, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. - 200.00, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 9432.25, 2056.94, 148.50, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 45.78, OPPD - 4299.00, 119641.55, OTOE COUNTY - 16250.00, OTOE COUNTY TREASURER - 112.57, PANHANDLE EMS EDUCATION, LLC - 900.00, PFEIFFER WELDING & MACHINE LLC - 682.50, PORT-A-JOHNS - 120.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 1650.45, RP RETURNS - 150.00, SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, INC. - 1284.75, SIMPLE SOLUTIONS COMPUTER GROUP, INC. - 55.60, JH SPORHASE LLC - 15.00, SUBSURFACE SOLUTIONS - 50.00, SWAINK MOTION PICTURES - 295.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1596.34, 535.91, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 837.18, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 109.20, SYRACUSE JOURNAL DEMOCRAT - 52.50, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 117.64, SYRACUSE MARKET LLC - 56.50, 17.74, 139.07, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 808.47, SYRACUSE TOW & TIRE LLC - 684.04, 224.95, THE NEBRASKA MED CENTER - 1250.00, TUFF SHEDS - 100.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2317.06, VAN KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION - 32097.00, VERIZON WIRELESS - 238.68, 674.26, VIKING INDUSTRIAL PAINTING - 22990.00, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 1410.45, WINDSTREAM - 52.53, TODD AKSAMIT - 1154.82, ADAM BADBERG - 1447.40, JARED BICKFORD - 1274.71, TYLER COLLIN - 1317.29, KELLY FARMER - 2138.31, SONNI GRAVES - 2036.80, JESSICA MEYER - 2730.92, IAN MITCHELL - 1424.94, SAM PESTER - 71.11, CURTIS STANBERRY - 1703.91, BRENT TETEN - 1677.99, JON VAN HOUSEN - 187.02, BRIAN VODICKA - 1320.36, JEFF VOGT - 1846.66, NICOLE VONDERSCHMIDT - 1295.87, GREGG WIEBUSCH - 258.58, SUE ANTES - 2397.88, DEB DETTMER - 597.69, LEAH GANZEL - 465.44, KRISTENE GERKING - 156.99, ORV GIGSTAD - 230.88, WES HALVORSEN - 253.35, BRUCE NEEMANN - 1157.44, SHARON VANHOUSEN - 387.87, JERRY WERNER - 253.36, LARAMIE WERNER - 230.82.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT - No one present. Mayor Dettmer welcomed the City's newly elected Council Member Nate Patton who was present in the crowd and congratulated Incumbent Jerry Werner for his re-election. Dettmer also thanked Laramie Werner for her work with the City Council; Laramie's final meeting will be the regular December meeting.

SHERIFF REPORT - Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. Caudill reported 77 calls for service for October with 54 reported calls for service. Caudill explained various calls included one death investigation still being worked on, four crashes, two fights, and one DUI/alcohol/drug arrest. The department's Technical Crimes Investigator recently visited SDA High School and talked about cyber security training. Two counterfeit \$100 dollar bills have been circulating in town. The department is still two deputies down, one dispatcher, and two in corrections. Two women have been hired for the two corrections

officer positions.

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 update and presentation of Project Playground; Julie Beach present to explain. Beach presented information and illustrations from Creative Sites for the new playground structures. The goal for the playground is \$550,000.00 due to possible cost increases, dirt work, and engineering for drainage. The playground will have two separate structures, one for older kids and the other for smaller children. So far, the committee has raised \$35,000.00; their goal is \$100,000.00 by the end of the year. The playground is proposed to be at the current playground site at Williams Park; the existing swings will stay but the rubber surface will be placed under the swings. The committee is requesting \$50,000.00 of Keno funds to help with the playground fundraiser. The completion date is set for summer of 2024. Jerry Werner explained the City could make a commitment of funds to allow for the Keno checking account to earn additional funds. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve a pledge of \$50,000.00 in Keno funds for Project Playground, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Beach announced the committee's next planned fundraising opportunity is a 5K Fun Run in March 2023.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and resolution to approve scope and fee for design of trail loop and basketball court at Williams Park; City Engineer Justin Stark of Olsson present. Stark explained the trail loop is out at the Sports Complex. Stark presented survey items and a conceptual idea of the design to give a better idea of what the different areas show. Placement of the trail is important due to drainage and water at the Sports Complex. At Williams Park the area for the proposed courts is the existing t-ball field. Graves spoke up regarding approximately \$9000.00 in budgeted funds left for engineering and if ARPA funds could possibly be utilized. Stark explained the scope is for both areas but it could possibly be broken up to focus on one versus the other. The Council is concerned as to where the money is going to come from. The item was tabled to allow for further discussion regarding possible use of ARPA funds and to discuss survey results. The scope and fee for both items is \$32,700.00. Stark explained the scope can be valid for the next few months if needed.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Sports Complex field grading; Jessica Meyer explained. Bids were received from Odey's, K&J Elite and Mid America Sports Construction. Lots of work has been done by the entire Parks and Rec staff as well as City Administrator Jessica Meyer. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid from K&J for \$32,680.00 for two different fields, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and award of bid for Lawn and Leaf Pile Cleanup. Jessica Meyer opened the one sealed bid received by the deadline. Meyer read the bid of \$10,500.00 per year from Derek Harms. Harms currently has the agreement with the City for this. The current agreement is for \$9,250.00 per year. Vogt commented Harms does a good job. Council Member Laramie Werner moved to accept the bid of \$10,500.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Laramie Werner. Nays: none. An agreement will be drawn up and voted on at the December City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 22-35 to approve signing of the Year End Certification of Street Superintendent for Determining Incentive Payment for January 1st thru December 31st, 2022 for the Nebraska Department of Transportation, authorizing Mayor's signature. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-35, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and summary on Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan; Justin Stark present to explain. Stark gave a summary of the comprehensive evaluation and presented results of the evaluation; a copy of the report is available for viewing upon request. Two pieces of equipment that limit the plant's capacity are UV disinfectant channels and final clarifiers. Stark explained peak flowrates due to rain events will cause the majority of issues at the treatment plant as well as what components have been replaced or effectively maintained over the years. There are a number of components that have reached or are nearing the end of their useful life. The report broke down recommendations into two categories, immediate and future. The item was tabled for future data collection.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and presentation on electrical rate review; Dave Peterson of

JEO present. Peterson presented a summary of the study conducted by JEO in order to assist the City in assessing the current electric rates and to develop new electric rates. Peterson explained the City's wholesale power cost has remained steady the past couple years. WAPA is planning for a 17% increase; an increase for OPPD is unknown at this time. The City has experienced increased losses over the past four year determining the cause be from the new hospital metering and a discrepancy happening from the meter to the City's accounting system. Based on the current study, JEO makes the following recommendations to the City: a 2% increase in order to maintain operations and maintenance expenses. If the City wants to pursue the AMI Metering Project, the City will need to look at an additional increase to fund the project. The City will table the item and return in December with a resolution for a rate increase.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Child Care Incentive Program; Dan Mauk of NCAEDC present. Mauk explained a committee has met to discuss the application process and guidelines to apply for the Syracuse Childcare Incentive Plan. The goal for the plan is to add quality, licensed childcare providers by providing funding through forgivable loans and childcare related materials. The plan is intended to assist with some of the costs to increase capacity for licensed providers or for current unlicensed providers to become licensed. The funding will be provided through forgivable loans via allocation of American Rescue Plan Act up to \$40,000.00. The application process consists of completing an application and submit to City of Syracuse where the application will be evaluated by the selection committee of persons designated by the Mayor and City Council. The finalists shall be submitted for approval or denial by the City Council. The recipient and a City official shall meet for execution of promissory note and receipt of forgivable loan proceeds. City Administrator Jessica Meyer spoke of the secured versus unsecured application process and the pros and cons of both. Laramie Werner inquired on different chances where the City puts forth the funding for a daycare at a rental property and then the tenant moves out of the rental. Mauk discussed it is difficult to foresee all of the different things that can happen but hopefully through the application process some of these issues may be addressed as needed. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the unsecured application process for the Syracuse Childcare Incentive Plan naming the selection committee of Jessica Meyer, Dan Mauk, and Tiffany Walker, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: Laramie Werner.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on request for closing of 5th Street from Plum to Mohawk Streets on Tuesday December 6th, 2022 from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. for Tannenbaum to include the side streets of Thorne and Midland north to 6th Street. Melissa Juilfs is the chairperson. Jessica Meyer explained the street closings are the same as the 2021 Tannenbaum celebration. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the street closings, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Laramie Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1130 for Application for Conditional Use Permit for a wall sign located on the east wall of the building at 535 Park Street for the following property: E 13' of the Lot 11 and all of Lot 12 Block 8 Gray's 1st Addition to Syracuse; Tri City Sign not present. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1130 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. Jessica Meyer read Ordinance No. 1130 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1130, Laramie Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Laramie Werner, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

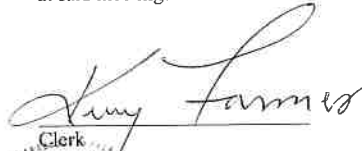
Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Holiday Lighting Contest and awards. Jessica Meyer explained the idea came about from a Clerk-Net email City Clerk Kelly Farmer received introducing the idea of a lighting contest and using an incentive to encourage more participants. The proposed incentive would be a credit towards their utility bill. There are two separate contests, one for residential and the other for any commercial businesses within the City limits. Voting will take place throughout the month of December with the winning display named on our Facebook page on December 22, 2022. No motion needed.

Council Member Jerry Werner moved to go into Closed Session at 7:41 P.M. for the purpose of potential litigation inviting Jessica Meyer and Kelly Farmer to stay, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Council member Jerry Werner moved to come out of Closed Session at 8:11 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. No motions needed.

Council Member Laramie Werner moved to adjourn at 8:12 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Laramie Werner, 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

