

March 8, 2023

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 March 8, 2023 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 Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the February 8th, 2023 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 of BMG not present. The February Treasurer's Report was distributed prior to the meeting along with Blome's comments. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and to pay the claims, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

B5 CONSTRUCTION - 22114.00, BMG CPA'S - 2750.00, 2750.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 808.98, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 4526.22, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 3298.00, BRIAN VODICKA - 50.00, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 122.14, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 334.38, CHERYL SCHELL - 200.00, CHRISTIANSEN TREE SVC. INC. - 3490.00, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 349.32, 306.72, CUBBY'S INC. - 2002.77, CULLIGAN WATER - 50.69, DUMPSTER EXPRESS - 691.00, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 1320.90, ECHO GROUP INC. - 2296.90, FIELD FORD, INC. - 130.56, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 499.98, 2912.56, HAWKINS, INC. - 317.47, INVOICE CLOUD INC - 341.05, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 5115.00, 7952.50, JILL HOLLE - 40.00, JOHNSON HARDWARE COMPANY - 399.38, KURT KASTENS - 243.47, LAMSON, DUGAN & MURRAY - 883.50, 142.50, LEAGUE OF NEBR. MUN. - 26.00, M & R FENCE CO. LLC - 35.00, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT - 99.61, MAGNOLIA JOURNAL - 20.00, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 1158.64, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 112.00, MIDWEST ALARM SERVICES - 803.52, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 100.01, MIKE'S WINDOW SERVICE, LLC - 126.74, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 1114.50, NE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY - 40.00, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 3160.13, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 48.00, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. - 250.00, NMC EXCHANGE LLC - 1180.34, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 10817.00, OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - 128131.33, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 7.54, OTOE COUNTY - 16250.00, PETTY CASH PARK & REC. - 3000.00, PL CUSTOM EMERGENCY VEHICLES - 845.00, PREVENTION - 48.00, QUICK MED CLAIMS - 119.16, RODNEY NINCEHELSE - 1800.00, RON ROSENTHAL - 1350.00, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 14117.48, SARGENT DRILLING - 800.00, SCHAEFFER MFG. CO. - 650.76, SOUTHEAST NE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE - 1200.00, STRYKER SALES CORPORATION - 1220.60, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1978.58, SYRACUSE DO IT BEST - 347.98, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 31.95, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 390.07, SYRACUSE MARKET LLC - 21.54, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 743.58, SYRACUSE PTO - 31.00, SYRACUSE TOW & TIRE LLC - 31.90, SYRACUSE VOL. FIRE DEPT. - 53.91, THIELE GEOTECH, INC. - 1443.00, TORI WARD - 400.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2317.06, VAN KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION - 751520.71, VERIZON WIRELESS - 246.35, 776.42, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 3246.92, WESTERN SAND & GRAVEL CO. - 156.67, WINDSTREAM - 53.57, WOMAN'S DAY - 24.97, JARED BICKFORD - 2607.74, TYLER COLLIN - 2704.81, KELLY FARMER - 4367.57, SONNI GRAVES - 4007.43, JESSICA MEYER - 5464.76, IAN MITCHELL - 2911.77, JULIE SLAFTER - 2285.50, CURTIS STANBERRY - 3662.67, BRENT TETEN - 3595.16, BRIAN VODICKA - 2606.00, JEFF VOGT - 3970.84, NICOLE VONDERSCHMIDT - 2549.79, TODD AKSAMIT - 2320.04, ADAM BADBERG - 2860.51, LEAH GANZEL - 919.99, KRISTINE GERKING - 156.99, ORV GIGSTAD - 184.70, WES HALVORSEN - 230.87, BRUCE NEEMANN - 1361.20, NATE PATTON - 230.87, SHARON VANHOUSEN - 660.56, JERRY WERNER - 230.87, MELISSA JUILFS - 600.00, LILLY WINDHORST - 165.91, DEB DETTMER - 620.63.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT - No one present.

FIRE REPORT - Chief Keith McWilliams present. McWilliams came to discuss a possible use of ARPA funds recently allocated to the department. He explained the department would like to purchase battery-operated extrication equipment; this equipment would not require hoses or a generator as the current one does. The total cost is around \$49,000.00. McWilliams explained the department has applied for a couple of grants: \$8500.00 from one has already been received. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for up to \$25,000.00 of ARPA funds to be used towards the purchase of the extrication equipment, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

LIBRARY REPORT - Director Melissa Juilfs present. Juilfs reported this is her third week at the Syracuse Public Library. During these three weeks Juilfs started up preschool story time but has implemented more crafts and games into the program; Pat Apel and Amanda Stubbendeck have been helping. She and City Administrator Jessica Meyer visited the Nebraska City Public Library and would like to update some of the features on the Library

computers such as implementing login times; Juilfs will work with Five Nines on this. She attended a round robin with a few other librarians in the area and will be doing an inventory of the current books; the children's section will be updated first. Juilfs is also working on the Library achieving its accreditation for the board again and getting that back on track.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. There were 33 calls for service during the month of February. The majority of the incidents were traffic stops with eight total. Caudill explained the department was at Love's Truck Stop quite a bit for minor incidents such as fender benders but nothing serious. Caudill mentioned the agenda item discussing 4-hour parking and said the department will do what the Council would like. Currently citations have been issued for parking violations. The current Interlocal Agreement will expire September 30, 2023; negotiations will begin between the City and Otoe County Sheriff's office.

RESCUE REPORT – Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of a new member to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Wilson asked for the Council to approve Malorie Mueller to the department. Mueller is currently 17 years old and a senior at SDA High School. Wilson has approval and support from Malorie's parents. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock asked the City check with LARM to ensure there are no restrictions since she is a minor. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve Malorie Mueller to the SRS, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. Mueller's application will be on freeze until City Staff hears back from LARM.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and update for Quick Med Claims Billing Service. Wilson gave a brief history of the SRS relationship with formerly EMS Billing Service purchased by Quick Med Claims a couple of years ago. Since the takeover, Wilson has noticed some drops in the squad's income. For example, for un-collected claims of 90 days or older the squad is showing payments not received at roughly \$120,000.00. Wilson feels Quick Med is inadequate in the way they are billing for SRS. August 2022 is where the deposits really started dipping down and has continuously become less and less. Wilson distributed data showing the trends of the deposits. Wilson explained an account specialist who worked with SRS very closely is no longer with the company therefore Wilson has no contact at this time. Quick Meds has moved to a ticket system and tell callers issues will be visited within 24-48 hours. Other agencies have expressed the same concerns to Wilson. Wilson can see when accounts have been billed but he questions if they are billing the correct amount. There are a couple of other billing companies, one is in Omaha and another in South Dakota. Additional information will be needed to see how far back another billing company can go back to collect past claims. Time restraints consist when Medicare is involved as well as penalties when there are errors. In Wilson's opinion, he does not have confidence Quick Meds can come out of this but he will have conversations with them if that is the route the Council wants to go instead of looking at a new billing service. The Council would like to table the discussion in order for Wilson and Stilmock to speak with Quick Meds regarding the issues.

Wilson also reported who the current officers are; these will likely change in April when officer elections happen. Calls have been consistent in the last year; there has been a drop in transfers due to staffing issues. This hits the squad financially as transfers are where they make a lot of their money. Wilson expressed the concern of under-staffing; the squad will be losing three members who are all providers at the end of this year. Potentially there may not be the staff to cover day shifts. Sundays and Wednesdays are typically the squad's busiest days. Wilson also discussed data on response time as well as ages of patients. Recruitment for the squad is difficult as the level of commitment is often a turnoff. Social Media can be utilized and Wilson is looking at funding for some strategic planning.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on contribution to Nebraska Rural Water Association for sewer camera work. Vogt explained Nebraska Rural Water Association runs off of grant money and contributions and they provide a lot of help to communities. Recently they assisted in camera work in some of the City's sewer lines. Vogt would like to contribute \$250.00 to NRWA's equipment fund. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the contribution, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and update on Water Supply Improvement Project and alternative project priorities; Dane Simonsen and Tim Adams of JEO present. Simonsen gave an update on the Water Main and Transmission Project construction. After updating all of the costs involved in the water project, the City has approximately \$2,989,000.00 in SRF funds to utilize towards alternative projects. In 2021, a wish list of 11 projects were compiled with

one of the main priorities discussed was the north loop water main. A couple of other high priority projects include the 13th and Park water main as well as the Mohawk Street water main. Combined these three are more than the \$2.9 million dollars. Council Members and the Mayor feel it would be good to get going on the completion of the loop. Jerry Werner also discussed his concern of the area of 15th and Park Street and a bottleneck of differing line sizes in that area. Simonsen discussed if the whole stretch of pipe would be replaced there would be significant cost that another project would need to be taken out. Simonsen will continue the conversation and present a more detailed plan at a future Council meeting.

Jerry Stilmock asked Simonsen to refresh the Council on the question if VanKirk is accepting the City paying Winwater directly versus paying VanKirk for the pipe provided by Winwater. Simonsen has been communicating with both parties and will update the City after the details are all clarified.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the discussion and Resolution No. 23-08 to approve Application for Food or Non-Alcoholic Vendor Permit fee, authorizing Mayor's signature. Jessica Meyer explained the application was previously approved by the City Council, this is to establish a fee for when the vendor is connected to City power. Council Member Jerry Werner motioned for the fee to be \$50.00 per occurrence. Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to close Williams Park low water crossing for youth portion of Shamrock Shuffle on March 25th, 2023; Jessica Meyer explained on behalf of Julie Beach. The closure would be from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. and will be the only area or street closed for the run. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the closure, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1137 to amend Syracuse Municipal Code Section 2.01 adding definitions relating to solar energy systems and to add new Section 7.18 Solar Energy Systems. Building and Zoning Inspector Bruce Neemann explained currently the City's code doesn't have anything addressing a solar energy system and placement of these systems. Neemann has researched other communities to see how these systems are being regulated, especially when it comes to the electrical shut-offs and placement. Planning Commission recommended approval by the City Council. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Orv Gigstad introduced Ordinance No. 1137 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1137 by title. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request to remove 4-hour parking on Midland Street. The request was submitted by Syracuse resident Josh Anderson; Anderson not present. Discussion was had on how the 4-hour parking came about to begin with and it was established because of the former hospital being located on Midland Street. Jessica Meyer received input from a deputy and they expressed as long as one side was no parking they did not see any issues. Council gave Jerry Stilmock direction to draft a resolution to be voted on at the next City Council meeting to be voted on.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on expiration of Agreement for garbage hauling and disposal between Papillion Sanitation and City of Syracuse. Jerry Stilmock discussed his communication with Bob Young of Papillion Sanitation. The City can provide notice to terminate in order to negotiate the agreement renewal. Without notice, the agreement would automatically start over for a five-year term. Young explained they are fully staffed besides one driver being down. Young spoke with his operations group; they are in the early stages of putting together a proposal for the City. Concern was voiced regarding commercial roll-off dumpsters and a downtown business dumpster not being picked up. Council Member Gigstad thanked Young for their efficient pickup of the receptacles after GermanFest. Wendy Werner acknowledged Papillion Sanitation and their contribution to Germanfest by supplying the multiple dumpsters required for the event at no charge. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to proceed with expiration of the agreement in order to discuss proposals, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to use Williams Park on Saturday April 8th for the 2023 Easter Egg Hunt. Wendy Werner explained the event is planned to be held

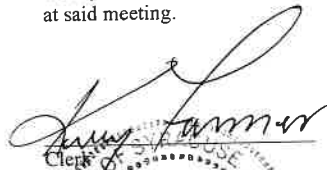
throughout the park and requested the Parks department not mow that week in order to allow the grass to be longer to better hide eggs in. Council Member Nate Patton moved to allow the Egg Hunt to be held at Williams Park, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none

Mayor Dettmer led the update on Aqua Center Bathhouse Repairs. Jerry Stilmock explained he has reached out to Corey Broderson of JEO. These had been discussed to be completed by March 15th.

Mayor Dettmer announced Item 13-F will be tabled until the April meeting.

Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M., Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, 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

