

May 10, 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 May 10, 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 Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton; no one was absent. A copy of the posting notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Minutes for the April 12th, 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.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. There were 47 calls for service during the month of April, 45 were reportable. Caudill reported a couple of warrants issued in town. The department assisted State Patrol with an individual in crisis. The majority of the incidents were traffic stops with 13 total. An incident had happened with a dog earlier in the month, Caudill explained they had not seen or heard anything more regarding finding the dog. The department is not fully-staffed.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on Interlocal Agreement renewal proposal. Jerry Stilmock explained the proposal submitted to the City; the current agreement expires September 30, 2023. The proposal is based on one full-time deputy at 40 hours a week; included is a 2% wage/benefit/taxes increase added to years two and three. The gas per gallon amount is also increasing. The Council will continue to discuss the proposal and will table until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurers Report; Todd Blome of BMG present. The April Treasurer's Report was distributed prior to the meeting. Blome discussed checks for expenses over \$3000.00. All of the cash accounts have been reconciled and all cash basis activity has been reported. A large draw was made on the State Revolving Fund for \$1,470,000.00 for the Water Improvement Project. Year to date numbers reflect an increase in utility billings. Ambulance revenue is down as mentioned in previous months; the billing service for the SRS is on the agenda for this meeting and the Council and Chief Wilson have been discussing. Street expenses are up due to some concrete work and low-water crossing engineering. Swimming Pool and fire expenses are down. 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.

AKRS - 411.55, BARNES & NOBLE - 256.24, BENEFIT PLANS INC. - 310.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 778.69, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 258.13, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 3284.50, BRENT TETEN - 100.00, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 13.20, 108.69, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 253.74, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 349.32, 306.72, CONCRETE INDUSTRIES - 741.82, CORE-MARK MIDCONTINENT, INC. - 1276.23, CUBBY'S INC. - 1962.13, CULLIGAN WATER - 39.99, DAKTRONICS - 1215.00, DEMCO, INC. - 183.92, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 10.64, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 987.85, EASTER & ASSOCIATES - 1090.00, ECHO GROUP INC. - 5666.00, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 1290.00, ET'S LAWN & LEISURE - 21.27, FIREGUARD, INC. - 580.85, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 3436.51, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 1887.45, GREG THUMANN - 35.00, HEMJE PLBG., HTG. AND AIR COND - 2730.05, INT. INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS - 210.00, INVOICE CLOUD INC - 456.10, JD CONSTRUCTION - 200.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 862.50, 31377.50, KANEQUIP, INC. - 424.87, KAVL SYSTEMS LLC - 1495.00, LARRY NEEMANN - 35.00, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 1171.67, M & M CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 377.50, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 128.00, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 152.82, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 1382.98, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 1660.28, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 66.00, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 3655.74, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 47.76, OPPD - 120777.75, OTOE COUNTY SHERIFF - 16250.00, PEPSI COLA OF LINCOLN - 191.50, READING EQUIPMENT & DIST., LLC - 13225.00, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 1008.32, SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, INC. - 797.75, SHAFFER COMMUNICATIONS - 793.00, SHALENE PEARSON - 4302.59, JH SPORHASE LLC - 214.75, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1245.89, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 129.71, SYRACUSE MARKET LLC - 398.06, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 35.48, SYRACUSE VOL. FIRE DEPT. - 244.27, 25000.00, THIELE GEOTECH, INC. - 678.00, TORI WARD - 1950.00, U.S. POST OFFICE - 290.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2317.06, VERIZON WIRELESS - 245.62, 878.81, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. - 37.28, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 3006.50, WINDSTREAM - 53.39, WINN RACK - 3357.00, TYLER COLLIN - 1381.99, KELLY FARMER - 2215.20, SONNI GRAVES - 2008.30, JESSICA MEYER - 2738.79, IAN MITCHELL - 1484.86, JULIE SLAFTER - 1196.72, CURTIS STANBERRY - 1787.11, BRENT TETEN - 1704.76, BRIAN VODICKA - 1313.25, JEFF VOGT - 1991.84, NICOLE VONDERSCHMIDT - 1279.10, TODD AKSAMIT - 1189.61, ADAM BADBERG - 1507.14, LEAH GANZEL - 360.59, KRISTINE GERKING - 157.00, ORV GIGSTAD - 207.79, WES HALVORSEN - 230.87, BRUCE NEEMANN - 1246.41, NATE PATTON - 230.87, SHARON VANHOUSEN - 235.49, JERRY WERNER - 230.87, MELISSA JUILFS - 18 20.37, DEB DETTMER - 620.63, CODY PESTER - 78.04, JARED BICKFORD - 1289.92,

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

RESCUE REPORT – Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led Resolution No. 23-13 authorizing Mayor to sign Proclamation acknowledging EMS Week. Mayor Dettmer read the proclamation. EMS Week is May 21st thru May 27th, 2023. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-13, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to proceed with termination of contract with Quick Med Claims Billing Services. Wilson explained he and Jerry Stilmock have been in additional discussions with Quick Med Claims, the squad's current billing service. Wilson reported for current month credit, QMC has paid out \$29,000.00 plus in claims. The Aging Report is currently at \$140,624.00; \$121,000.00 was at 91 days plus. That 91 days plus is currently around \$97,000.00 and 180 days plus is at \$67,000.00. Wilson is concerned as there was not a checks and balances to check QMC's mistakes during any internal audit. Jerry Stilmock explained the fee is 50% of the fees we collect, QMC offered that to be reduced to 15%. Indemnification of losses has been requested by the City, neither Stilmock or Wilson have heard back from them. Stilmock also recognized the City has the choice to give 60-day notice of termination or send notice of breach and terminate immediately. City Administrator Jessica Meyer explained how she has been communicating with One Billing Solutions would be able to take over the SRS billings. Council Member Orv Gigstad motioned to move forward with the breach and to terminate immediately from Quick Med Claims Billing Services, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-14 to approve contract between One Billing Solutions and City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor's signature. Wilson explained he noticed sending write-offs to collections is not included in the One Billing contract as well as clarification on helping determine viable rates for the SRS to bill. Wilson suggested we could come back and revisit the bad debt/write-offs conversation if that's something not in the current proposed agreement. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-14, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Keith McWilliams present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to purchase fire boots. McWilliams discussed the department would like to purchase eight pair at \$500 to \$550 each. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the purchase of eight pair of fire boots, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request to close Plum Street from 1st to 3rd on June 19, 2023 at 8:00 A.M. for hose testing. McWilliams explained the SVFD has a three-year contract with this company, this being the second year. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the street closing request, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

LIBRARY REPORT – Director Melissa Juilfs not present; no report given.

PARKS & REC REPORT – Director Sonni Graves present. Graves reported five Parks Seasonal Employees have started. No cancellations or reschedules for games at the Sports Complex have been needed. The dog water fountain at the dog park has been installed; the water department is currently waiting on testing results back. The fence at the sand volleyball court is almost done; coed league is scheduled to start on May 17th. A confirmation project at Williams Park Shelter; Wyatt Higgins and Nate Patton are working on landscaping around the building. Field renovations are still set for mid-June. The Parks and Utilities departments have been working together to fill the pool. Sprinklers at the Sports Complex will be replaced/repared soon; Judson Irrigation will be doing the work.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on wall replacements in the Street Room at 578 Mohawk Street. Vogt explained he is looking for approval to put the project out for bids. Specifically replacing the south wall and walk-in door as well as the north walk-in door. The estimated cost is just under \$40,000.00 according to Justin Stark's cost estimate. Stilmock discussed the bid process. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the bid amount of \$39,396.50, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none. Council Member Nate Patton moved to put the Street Room wall project out for bids, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to authorize bidding for 11th Street and Swanson Drive low-water crossings; Justin Stark of Olsson present. Stark explained Olsson has been working on surveying the areas. The bid opening is scheduled for June 6th. Stark is hoping the work will be done this budget year. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to accept the cost estimate of \$262,077.00, Orv Gigstad. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to amend the previous motion to accept the cost estimate including additional sewer work at \$302,077.00, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve to put the low-water crossings project out for bids including the additional work for sewer, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on purple/red phase tie-in for electrical system; Matt Kalin of JEO not present. This project would close the purple and red phases in order to be able to switch off just a certain area when needed. Kalin commented by email the bid opening would be in August and realistically the work would be done in Spring/Summer months of 2024. Bidding during this year will help with budgeting. Construction is scheduled to be complete by September 11, 2024. The approval request at this time is for \$31,250.00 for preliminary and final design phases, bidding and negotiation, and construction phase and basic services. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the JEO scope at \$31,250.00, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of bid for 2nd & Poplar sewer replacement. The pipe is offset and broken; this makes jetting and videoing the sewer lines very difficult. Vogt provided a bid from VanKirk Brothers Construction but would like Kerns to have the opportunity to bid as well. Jerry Stilmock explained VanKirk's bid has been presented therefore they will need to resubmit their bid. The item was tabled until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-15 to approve Interlocal Agreement between City of Syracuse and Otoe County for bridge work at 1st & Walnut, authorizing Mayor's signature. Dettmer discussed the meeting held between the City and County representatives Dan Crownover and Jon Brinkman. The agreement says materials for the bridge repair/work will be purchased by the City while the labor, oversight and permitting be done by the County. Intended completion is scheduled for December 31, 2023 weather permitting. The cost of the materials will be in the City's 23-24 Budget. Council Member Nate Patton moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-15 for the Interlocal Agreement, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and update of electrical work at Cook Wells. Vogt explained the failure of the vfd at Cook Well #1. The utility department shut off the power but when they went to turn it back on the breaker installed in 1968 would not turn back on. Splices to the service coming into the well also needed to be addressed by trenching in a new service line. Vogt then contacted JEO to connect new well #2021 to the existing 12" main and the City has been running off of the new well for the last two weeks. The cost of the repairs to Cook Well #1 was \$22,850.00 and paid out of the Water budget's capital outlay. Dane Simonsen will be attending the June City Council meeting to provide an update to the Water Improvement Project.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-16 to approve JEO Change Order No. 4 for Water Supply Improvement Project, authorizing Mayor's signature. Jessica Meyer explained the change order came about from Rural Water adjustments and additional work required. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution 23-16 approving JEO Change Order No. 4, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-17 to approve Subdivision Agreement and Escrow Agreement between City of Syracuse and Zahn Meadows, LLC, authorizing Mayor's signature; Ron and Barb Zahn present. Stilmock explained the documents and included a date was needed to complete sidewalks. Zahn agreed to the date of December 31, 2028. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-17 to approve the Subdivision and Escrow Agreements, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1140 of Application for approval of Zahn Meadows Phase II Final Plat of the following-described real estate: A tract of land located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 15, Township 8 North, Range 11 East of the 6th P.M., Otoe County Nebraska. Stilmock explained the process for the final plat

mylar. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1140. Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1140 by title. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1140, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Waste Connections of Nebraska proposal for solid waste collection service. Jessica Meyer explained the proposal and the fully automated services noted. The term of the proposed agreement is five years as is our current agreement. Commercial service does show an increase. The item will be tabled until the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-18 to approve amendment of proposal for replating Williams Park, authorizing Mayor's signature. Dettmer explained the first agreement for surveying services was approved last year; JEO completed that. It was determined that the City needed the plat to include Williams Park with the replat for the school property. This amendment will allow the City to finalize the project in the next two to three months. The amendment includes the survey as well as all title services. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt 23-18, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1141 for Application for Conditional Use Permit for consideration of a free-standing sign at the following-described real estate: SW ¼ of Block 14 Thorne's Addition to the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska; Lori Carper of Otoe County Museum of Memories present. Publication was had and signage posted at site noted. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen introduced Ordinance No. 1141 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1141 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Downtown Revitalization applications. This item tabled until a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request to close 5th Street from Midland to Mohawk on Sunday August 6th, 2023 from 4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. for Mat Club youth wrestling event; Zahn Woods of Syracuse Mat Club present. Woods explained this is the second year for this event; they are expecting a larger number of wrestlers this year. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the street closure, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Shalene Pearson's Application for Syracuse Childcare Incentive Plan; Shalene Pearson present. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for Pearson to be approved up to \$5000.00, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Electricians and Plumbers licenses; a list was distributed by Clerk Farmer. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the companies listed, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.


Mayor Dettmer asked for a motion to go into Closed Session for the purpose of potential litigation inviting Jessica Meyer, Kelly Farmer, Jerry Stilmock and Sonni Graves to stay. Council Member Nate Patton moved to go into Closed Session, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none. Clerk Farmer confirmed the motion was passed; time of Closed Session is 7:58 P.M.

Mayor Dettmer asked for a motion to come out of Closed Session at 8:23 P.M. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to come out of Closed Session, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

No action taken.

Council Member Nate Patton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 P.M., Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, 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

