

May 25, 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 25, 2023 for a special 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 May 10th, 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 discussion and Resolution No. 23-19 for approval of Employee Handbook, authorizing Mayor's signature. Mayor Dettmer explained the Employee Handbook Committee consisting of Jerry Werner, Wes Halvorsen, and Jessica Meyer met with a representative employee from each department to allow for feedback on the current handbook. Following the employee input, the committee met with Jerry Stilmock to consider modifications. The handbook contains revisions agreed upon by the committee with consideration being made for the pay increases provided to employees in 2021 for adjustments made to the overtime policy on June 28, 2021. Jerry Stilmock requested the following statement be included in the minutes: The inclusion of holidays as hours worked for purposes of calculating overtime, is above the established FLSA Standards.

Council Member Nate Patton voiced concerns regarding why each department is lumped into one set of rules as far as pay is concerned when the utility staff is on-call at all times and do not receive additional compensation for being on-call. He sees adjustments could be made. Clerk Farmer included how the staff at City Hall is also affected during emergency situations. Salary employees do not receive any additional compensation when they assist with emergency situations; hourly paid employees receive overtime during emergencies as long as they have physically worked forty hours. Flextime is typically used by Parks and Rec employees. They adjust their forty hours within the week to accommodate for planned events. The use of vacation and/or sick time was also clarified when overtime is in question during the same week. Clarification on what "weekend duty" is versus overtime was also had. Patton received clarification on the earned vacation time as well as funeral leave. City Administrator explained funeral leave time is up to the department head. The handbook is in place and cites federal law so updates will be done as provisions are made to those laws. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the handbook, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to accept a bid for the 2nd & Poplar Sewer Replacement project; Jessica Meyer explained. Two bids were received from Van Kirk Brothers Construction and Kerns. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the Van Kirk bid at \$64,510.00, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

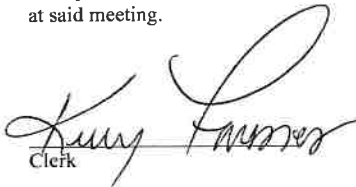
Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of dirt work and seeding for the fire and rescue land at the corner of 17th & Midland Streets; Jessica Meyer explained. The City received a bid from Pinnacle Grading. The ground is very rough and is hard on City equipment with lots of debris from the demo construction of the former hospital. Jerry Werner's concern is there is a lot of grass there currently; if the ground is graded there is going to be a lot of bare ground. Jessica Meyer and Mayor Dettmer explained in their conversation with Jon Hughes of Pinnacle he is going to use fescue seed and straw would also be placed to help with keeping the ground in place. The bid proposes to re-grade the affected area of approximately 50 yards and dropping the fescue seed; the bid notes to just topcoat with the topsoil which will do minimal damage to the existing grass. Council Member Nate Patton's concern is we will not get the amount of rain needed. The bid from Pinnacle is \$10,000.00; the money would come from leftover ARPA funds and then fire and rescue to split the remaining of around \$3000.00. It was suggested using the utilities tractor with the shredder on the rough area. Jon Hughes was present via phone and explained the details of his bid; some areas are worse than others on the property. Hughes also mentioned the water ways where the ground has settled and how he would use equipment to help pull up the debris by tilling up the top two inches of dirt following it with a roller. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to reject the bid and the Utilities department use the shredder on the rough portion with the Parks department mowing the outer edge grass, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-20 for approval of SRS billing rates; Tim Wilson present. Wilson explained things are up and running with the new billing company but they just need to get confirmation of rates. SRS rates hadn't been updated since 2016. One Billing Solutions sent a range with a low and a high. Wilson explained Medicare

increased 9% so he had to account for that; many supplies and medication are costing more also. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the billing rates, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Council Member Nate Patton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, 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

