REGULAR MEETING   
CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 2023

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met for a regular meeting at Syracuse City Council Chambers located at 495 Midland Street Syracuse, Nebraska at 6:33 P.M. on September 13, 2023 following the separate 2023-2024 Budget. Notice of meeting was given by posting in five places. Mayor Dettmer requested roll call; present were Mayor Dettmer and Council members Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen; 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 August 16th, 2023 regular 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 announced the City has hired a new Utility Billing Clerk, Tera Eden. The Mayor encouraged the Council and public to stop by and meet her.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurers Report; Todd Blome of BMG not present. Council Member Jerry Werner pointed out on page 10 of the report, the General Government expenses show the City is under about $75,000.00 but in reality the City is over-budget by about $110,000.00 due to capital expenses. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and to pay the claims, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

ARROW MAUNUFACTURING, INC. - 44.00, ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES -

435.00, AUSTIN CHAMBERS - 200.00, BARAGARY CONSTRUCTION, INC. - 883.00, BC MEYER

CONSTRUCTION - 200.00, BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING - 1430.00, BMG CPA'S -

6050.00, BOHL PLUMBING & HEATING - 257.23, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 2587.51, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 87.96, CAPITAL

BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 209.03, CHERRY ROAD MEDIA - 75.37, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 3118.97, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 306.72, CLINE WILLIAMS - 1234.85, COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC - 297.82, CORE-MARK MIDCONTINENT, INC. - 701.57, 6.00, COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY L.L.C - 4312.20, CUBBY'S INC. - 3133.42, CULLIGAN WATER - 96.99, DAN'S TIRE & REPAIR - 345.20, DAYTON GRAVES - 160.00, DECK DYNASTY - 200.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 21.28, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 654.42, ECC VENTURES - 35.00, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 3378.00, ET'S LAWN & LEISURE - 849.05, FIRST WIRELESS, INC. - 52.93, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 273.46, 2745.69, FRONTIER COOPERATIVE - 1154.95, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 1967.52, GREENWADE TREE SERVICE - 6697.89, GRUNDMAN CONSTRUCTION, LLC - 159.00, HEMJE PLBG., HTG. AND AIR COND - 133.00, HOME BY HUGHES - 200.00, INVOICE CLOUD INC - 940.10, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 26337.50, 4250.00, JERRY WERNER - 102.11, JOHNSON SERVICE COMPANY - 30000.00, KANEQUIP, INC, - 15106.75, SYRACUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY - PETTY CASH - 7.72, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT - 331.76, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 737.49, MELISSA JUILFS - 70.74, MICHAEL TODD & CO., INC. - 352.24, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC. - 112.00, 222.75, MIDWEST WALLS & LANDSCAPES, INC. - 245.00, MIKE MEYER - 80.00, MIKE'S WINDOW SERVICE, LLC - 131.00, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 1467.28, NMC EXCHANGE LLC - 400.50, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 921.88, 9045.99, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 46.12, OPPD - 170463.68, OTOE COUNTY SHERIFF - 16250.00, PEPSI COLA OF LINCOLN - 1128.41, PETTY CASH - 117.80, PORT-A-JOHNS - 220.00, RIGHT EYE DIGITAL, INC. - 1800.00, RON HELTON - 35.00, RON ZAHN - 35.00, SCHOLASTIC INC - 545.70, SCHOOL DISTRICT #27 - 2780.00, SDA STARLETTES DANCE TEAM - 826.74, SHALENE PEARSON - 200.00, STATE OF NEBRASKA - 630.00, STRYKER SALES LLC - 56994.86, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 123.20, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 389.59, SYRACUSE PTO - 180.00, SYRACUSE TOW & TIRE LLC - 21.00, SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE - 175.00, TG TECHNICAL SERVICES - 162.41, THE ADDED TOUCH - 126.00, TROUT PAINTING SERVICES - 2871.55, 979.00, UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS - 2332.78, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 2937.16, WILL JANSSEN - 240.00, WJH CONSTRUCTION - 35.00, COMBINED SALARIES - $55,425.20.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – No one present.

SHERIFF REPORT – Otoe County Sheriff Caudill present; the report has been distributed. The report shows 54 calls for service within Syracuse. The increase was related to recent car thefts. Caudill explained all stolen items were found except for one laptop. All cars with stolen items were left unlocked and pushed to lock your vehicles.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-\_\_\_ to approve Interlocal Agreement between City of Syracuse and Otoe County Sheriff Office, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Caudill explained the County still needs to look at; he has some issues with some of the verbiage. The monetary amount in the agreement is also off by about $2000.00 Caudill suggested. The proposed agreement is for 40 hours. Caudill explained the County Commissioners still need to look at the proposed agreement; he and the County Attorney have reviewed it. The County Commissioners meet next on September 26th. No resolution motioned or voted on.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Chief Tim Wilson present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion

and approval of new member to Syracuse Rescue Squad. Wilson spoke of Tony Carroll and the proposal to have her on as a member to the squad. Carroll has some prior service as a first responder in Missouri; Carroll will start with the driving duties and continue with training. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve Carroll, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

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

PARKS & REC REPORT – Director Sonni Graves present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request approval of bid for tree removal at Williams Park. Sonni announced before getting into the tree bids the Parks department has submitted a grant application for the proposed trail system and a site visit will be had on September 18th. Regarding the tree bids, Sonni explained there is an elm and two cottonwoods that need to come down at Williams Park. Bids were received from Christianson Tree Service and JC Dirt Works. City Attorney Jerry Stilmock pointed out contractors need to be submitting “bids” as opposed to “estimates”. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve JC Dirt Works up to $9,600.00 expenditure with it being resubmitted as a bid and not an estimate, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request approval of bid for Sports Complex shop loft. Sonni explained the idea was originally budgeted as an extension of the shop with a fenced in area but realistically that is very expensive and not real feasible. A loft will help get things off the floor of the shop to create more floor space and storage. Bids were received from WJH Construction and Advanced Exteriors. The project is intended to be completed in September 2023. Discussion was had to have an application for use when a contractor is submitting a bid to ensure it said the word “bid” on it. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve WJH not to exceed $6,000.00 with the estimate being resubmitted as a bid and not an estimate, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present. Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion, and Resolution No. 23-33 on 2023/2024 One & Six Year Street Improvement Plan, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Justin Stark explained roughly $280,000.00 is received in Highway Allocation funds and this helps fund the projects on the One & Six Year Plan. Stark discussed a few of the various projects; all of these together equal around 1.923 million dollars. The current Street bond is getting ready to be paid off so considering that Stark asked what the City wants to do. There is the option to keep a bond payment coming out of those Highway Allocation funds; this would enable to the City to lump some of these projects into the bond. Downtown revitalization and infrastructure replacement could also be something a bond could pay for. Clerk Farmer explained the City is paying one bond with sales tax funds now since the pool bond was paid off. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-33 to adopt the One & Six Year Plan, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner. Nays: none

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of diagonal parking on 12th Street, north of Aqua Center. Vogt and Stark explained this was part of the Williams Park master plan including the basketball courts; this would allow for additional parking. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to approve the Baragary Construction bid of $49,720.00, Nate Patton seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of bid for backhoe. Vogt explained Altec came in and did inspections on the bucket truck and Digger Derek truck. Repairs to the bucket truck may be extensive and parts may be difficult to find so it may be a better idea to consider replacing the bucket truck. The item is tabled for further research on the bucket truck. The bucket truck may need to be taken to St. Joseph, Missouri for further inspection.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of bid for vac trailer. Vogt explained if he can order the machine now, the City may receive it by the first of the year. All four of Vogt’s budgets will share the cost of the vac trailer. The utilities department had the opportunity to use one for a few items over the summer and it would be very useful to have for digging holes. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the bid of $104,579.00 for the vac trailer purchase, Orv Gigstad seconded. Jerry Werner asked if the Council should consider waiting on this item until something with the word “bid” being on this. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton. Nays: Jerry Werner.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on detention cell options and next steps. Justin Stark introduced a team member of Olsson present as part of mentorship program in project management. Stark explained last month he came to give an update on the eastern detention cell option; this time he is discussing the western detention cell option. The western cell reduction is higher percentages when it comes to the peak discharge amounts of drainage during major storm events but the structures are closer together in the eastern option. A little more dirt work would be needed for the western option and there are also more trees so there will be a more significant cost with the western option. Part of this is due to the western option covers a bigger area. These cells are considered dry detention cells so there would not be any pond or water other than during a rain event. The Council Members and Mayor give direction to move forward with the eastern option; Stark will return to a future Council meeting with a work order.

OLD BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 1147 for approval of Rocket Subdivision Final Plat of the following-described real estate: All of Lot B, Grotrian Subdivision, Part of Lot 23, Swanson Heights, Part of Williams Addition, and Part of Blocks 6, 8 and All of Lots 2 and 3, Block 9, 14th Addition, Lots 4 – 6, Block 1, Lots 1 – 4 and Part of Lot 5, Block 4, Fourth Addition, All in the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska and Vacation of streets within Rocket Subdivision; Josh Borchers of JEO present via zoom. Jerry Stilmock explained the Planning Commission recommended approval by the City Council. Stilmock explained the subdivision covers four lots covering the areas occupied by portions of the high school, middle school and SDA football field. Previously there were no dedications of streets. Three of these lots are proposed to go to the City with one going to the SDA School District. Mayor Dettmer closed the public hearing. Proof of publication and posting of signage and notices pointed out. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1147 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on the three different days be suspended, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none. Jerry Stilmock read Ordinance No. 1147 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of the ordinance, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-34 to approve contract for exchange of real estate within Rocket Subdivision, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Stilmock explained this contract puts in place any expectations for titling of the properties, filing of deeds and expenses of filing deeds. Council Member Nate Patton moved to adopt Resolution 23-34, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on request to close Railroad Avenue from Midland to Mohawk Streets on Saturday October 7th, 2023 from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. for Steve Mayfield auction; Mark Easter of Easter and Associates not present. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closure, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request for closure of 10th Block of Oak Street on September 16th, 2023 from 8:00 A.M. to Midnight for annual block party. Justin Stark explained the closure is the same as years past. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the street closure request, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request to close 5th Street from Plum to Thorne Streets on Sunday October 1st from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for Germanfest Car Show. Wendy Werner of Germanfest Committee explained Don Wenzel is organizing the car show. Nate Patton moved to approve the street closure for the car show, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to use Sports Complex sand volleyball courts for 2023 Germanfest event on Friday September 29th from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. and Saturday September 30th from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.; Wendy Werner explained. The tournament has been made into a two-day tournament to accommodate for the dedication of the fence and shelter in memory of Morgan Hallstrom. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve use of the sand volleyball courts, Nate Patton seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Orv Gigstad, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 23-35 authorizing the consumption of alcohol at the Sports Complex sand volleyball courts September 29th from 5:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. September 30th as well as 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for 2023 Germanfest event, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Wendy Werner explained this is similar as held in years past; no alcohol will be sold but any brought will be consumed inside the fence. Abby Weddingfield is the organizer of this event. Council Member Orv Gigstad moved to adopt

the resolution, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Orv Gigstad. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request for SDL and street closure for beer garden, as presented on map, from 8:00 P.M. September 30th to 2:00 A.M. October 1st, 2023. B&J’s owner Anthony Hensley present to explain the closure and the event. The event is similar to the street closure B&J’s has held in the past during Germanfest. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the street closure, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion on SDL request for 2023 Germanfest Beer Garden on Saturday September 30th from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Otoe County Fairgrounds; Wendy Werner of Germanfest Committee present. The SDL will be under Rich Harvest Winery and will be similar to their presence in years past. They will be located in the same beer garden boundaries as The Beer Stein. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the SDL, Orv Gigstad seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the district and county court filing dates. Jerry Stilmock explained the two district court cases involved include Anderson commercial property and Bassinger residential property. The property owners have made some headway in cleaning up the properties within the 30-day time period ordered by the judge. The next court action will be done to file request to hold the property owners in contempt. Another case has been re-filed, this is the case concerning the property owned by Justin Hampton. A grass nuisance case for the property owned by Madison Zoz was discussed and work by the City to be assessed. Bruce Neemann is monitoring all these along with the Campbell property and discussion has been had to move forward with filing suit. Stilmock explained the trailer court owned by Chris Richardson has not followed Bruce’s direction to remove existing items on a lot.

Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M., Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Orv Gigstad, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton: 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.