

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

February 12, 2025

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska met at Syracuse City Hall Council Chambers at 495 Midland Street at 6:00 P.M. on February 12, 2025 for a regular meeting. The meeting was open to the public and notice of meeting was given by posting in five places: Syracuse City Hall lobby, First Bank of Nebraska lobby, Countryside Bank, U.S. Post Office lobby and Syracuse Market window. Proof of publication in Syracuse Journal Democrat was shown. Mayor Dettmer was present and requested roll call; present were Council members Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen; no one absent. Mayor Deb Dettmer read the following: We will work collaboratively to achieve consensus while valuing differences of opinion both within our Council and when considering the input of others. We will gather the necessary data; seek expertise from city staff; provide questions to staff prior to meetings and hear from citizens to make wise decisions that achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of citizens. We will each individually support the collective decisions of Council. A copy of the publication notice and acknowledgement of notice to the Council is attached to these minutes. Dettmer noted the Open Meetings Act was posted. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the public. Minutes for the January 8, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurers Report; Todd Blome of BMG not present but sent the following comments and highlights. All cash basis activity has been recorded and the bank accounts have been reconciled; all note/loan/bond balances have been reconciled; #4030 Sewer revenue is up by \$45K for the year due to new sewer rates that went into effect in 2024; #4265 NAHTF Income, Housing Rehab Grant income of \$157K which ties with NAHTF Expenses (#6058), it's an in and an out; #6010 Electric expenses are up by \$206K over previous year primarily due to more capital expenditures occurring this year; #6029 Water Capital expenses are up \$374K in total so far this year, there was an SRF loan draw bank in December for a similar amount that covered most of this; #6058 NAHTF expenses, Housing Rehab expenses tie to above income increase; #6090 Parks expense up \$26K over previous year related to pickle ball and basketball court construction; #6100 Street expense down \$177K over previous year with prior year having the Swanson Drive and low water crossing projects; no principal or interest payments were made on any loans or bonds this month; and no draw received on SRF loan. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the Treasurers Report and to pay the claims, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

ABC TERMITE & PEST CONTROL, INC. - 160.00, AKRS - 513.91, ANTES FAMILY HARDWARE LLC - 569.94, AQUA-CHEM, INC. - 158700.00, BEATRICE READY MIXED - 294.00, BENEFIT PLANS INC. - 302.50, BLOOM HAVEN, LLC - 200.00, BMG CPA'S - 6477.00, BOHL PLUMBING & HEATING - 140.58, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 902.23, BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC - 771.65, BRANDT, HORAN, HALLSTROM & STILMOCK - 1536.45, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 27.94, 111.14, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 269.06, CAROL LINQUIST - 121.53, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1863.96, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 349.32, 306.72, COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC - 167.73, CUBBY'S INC. - 1607.84, CULLIGAN WATER - 40.99, DAN'S TIRE & REPAIR - 70.00, DON WENZEL - 150.00, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 14486.55, ELECTRIC PUMP - 40820.00, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 3345.30, FRONTIER COOPERATIVE - 101.96, GOTTULA PROPANE SERVICE, INC. - 749.75, HOA - 500.00, INVOICE CLOUD INC - 480.95, JC DIRT WORK - 4575.00, JENN STAACK - 92.20, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 4967.50, 7741.25, JULIE D. BAUMAN, CPA, P.C. - 14900.00, KEIM FARM EQUIPMENT - 824.45, KEITH MCWILLIAMS - 86.87, LARSON - 167.67, LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT - 2841.00, MARTIN MARIETTA AGGREGATES - 772.58, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC. - 254.09, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 5016.68, MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO. - 626.08, NE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY - 150.00, NE GENERATOR SERVICE - 818.45, NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES - 2197.59, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 34.00, NEXT-GEN CLEANING - 400.00, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 11.83, OPPD - 150045.85, ORCHARD HILL BBQ - 400.00, OTOE COUNTY SHERIFF - 18.50, ROSE EQUIPMENT - 488.65, RTR DEVELOPMENT - 10430.52, SARGENT DRILLING - 1350.00, SEGRA - 2338.30, SKARSHAUG TEST LAB. INC. - 95.85, SYRACUSE FRESH MARKET - 37.31, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 151.35, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 355.26, SYRACUSE VOL. FIRE DEPT. - 491.21, THE NEBRASKA MED CENTER - 1385.90, TRUGREEN COMMERCIAL - 980.00, TYLEIGH MILLER - 33.75, ULTIMATE TRUCK ACCESSORIES - 1171.06, VERIZON - 247.13, 982.50, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 3890.75, WINDSTREAM - 92.89, WINDY RIDGE CONSTRUCTION - 200.00

Claims paid outside of the February 12th meeting date include: ADAM BADBERG - 3302.68, JARED BICKFORD - 1525.92, TYLER COLLIN - 3092.87, TERA EDEN - 2912.54, KELLY FARMER - 5089.01, LEAH GANZEL - 816.05, SARAH GANZEL - 176.92, SONNI GRAVES - 4229.01, MELISSA JUILFS - 3374.50, JESSICA MEYER - 5745.77, IAN MITCHELL - 3110.77, JULIE SLAFTER - 2498.48, CURTIS

STANBERRY – 3977.30, BRENT TETEN – 3851.94, DEB MCWILLIAMS – 562.67, BRIAN VODICKA – 3552.36, JEFF VOGT – 4433.11, MAX BRAMMIER – 233.89, DEB DETTMER – 621.07, KRISTINE GERKING – 156.99, ROBERT JOHNSON – 187.79, WESLEY HALVORSEN – 207.79, BRUCE NEEMANN – 1449.67, NATE PATTON – 207.79, JERRY WERNER – 207.79, PRINCIPAL 1443.02, MEDICA – 18,889.17, CARDMEMBER SERVICES – 12,471.29.

HEARING OF THOSE PRESENT – Mayor Dettmer announced “Citizens wishing to speak on topics not on the agenda may comment at this point. The Council cannot discuss or take action on this matter; there will be a five-minute time limit.” No one present.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Keith McWilliams present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of purchase of washer-extractor machine. McWilliams explained the machine would do four sets of gear at once. This encourages the department to have the mindset of deterring bad habits before eventually moving into a new building. The cost of the machine is \$13,463.90; McWilliams would like Rural Fire to pay 50%. The additional cost for the electrical work will be minimal. McWilliams will ask Rural Fire to help pay for future bunker gear if they will not contribute to the machine. Funds are budgeted from capital outlay in the 24-25 Fire Budget. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the purchase of the machine, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Robert Johnson. Nays: none.

McWilliams announced current SVFD member Josh Medeiros is stepping down as he is moving out of town. McWilliams will attend a future meeting to approve a new member to the SVFD.

RESCUE UPDATE – Chief Tim Wilson not able to attend; update tabled.

LIBRARY REPORT – Director Melissa Juilfs not present. A report is available to view.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Director Sonni Graves present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to proceed with Sports Complex softball infield renovation, baseball infield renovation, and baseball pull pens all by K & J Elite. Graves explained she would like to get on K & J’s list sooner than later to allow for the work to be done sooner; they are very happy with the fieldwork K & J did last year. The softball infield proposal is \$22,070.00, the baseball infield proposal is \$19,840.00, and the baseball bullpens proposal is \$12,920.00. If the Parks department demos the current bullpens, that will cut some of the proposal cost. Graves explained the department is looking at getting covers for the pitching mounds. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the softball and baseball infield renovations and baseball bullpens, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the Project Playground update and presentation of Tree City USA information and Class Tree Project. Sonni Graves and Jessica Meyer explained the City did not receive the Game and Parks Grant. Currently the Project Playground Committee has \$380K to put towards the project currently. As of now, the group does not want to reapply for the Game and Parks Grant. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve Project Playground to proceed with obtaining new playground bids without grant funds, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson. Nays: none.

Graves and Jessica Meyer explained they have been working with the Arbor Day Foundation on obtaining the City’s Tree City USA Designation. Four required standards must be met; the City has achieved all but the fourth which is an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation which demonstrates support for the community tree program. The City is working with SDA Schools and Arbor Day Farm in a collaborative effort known as Class Tree Project, a tree planting initiative. Each grade will have the opportunity to choose and vote on the variety of their class tree, with the voting list determined by an expert at Arbor Day Farms. The project aims to replenish urban green spaces by replacing trees lost to storm damage and/or disease while also improving air quality and providing wildlife habitat. There will be a total of 13 trees, one for each grade through Williams Park and the Middle School/High School. Parks and Rec employees will plant the class trees selected for Williams Park in the week leading up to Arbor Day. Each tree will have a plaque with the tree type and graduation year. On Arbor Day, April 25, 2025, students will walk Williams Park to take part in a celebration of the tree planting project and a recitation of the official Arbor Day proclamation will also take place.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt not present. Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval to proceed with Street Room projects. Jessica Meyer explained Jeff Vogt and Justin Stark have been working on this for a couple years as it has been difficult finding contractors for each of the projects needed. The projects consist of Mannschreck Masonry for south wall replacement at \$15,205.00, Midwest Doors and Hardware for north and south walk-in doors at \$8998.00 and Langfeldt Overhead Doors for removal and reinstallation of the garage door at \$2110.00 for a total of \$26,463.00. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the three street room projects, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson,

Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and request for Council Member to serve on Safety Committee. Jessica Meyer explained pursuant to Nebraska State Statute the City is required to have a Safety Committee to be comprised of members of City staff and administration and will meet at least once a quarter. Robert Johnson and Nate Patton volunteered to be on the Safety Committee; Jessica Meyer will also be among those on the committee. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve Johnson and Patton to the Safety Committee, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Robert Johnson. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and confirmation of Letter of Commitment to Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging for 25-26 Budget Year. The City has supported the agency for many years through Letter of Commitment and annual matching funds. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to approve the City’s commitment to Blue Rivers, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of Special Designated Liquor Licenses for Knights of Columbus 2025 fish-fry events to be held at St. Paulinus Church social hall on the dates of March 7th, March 21st, and April 4th, from 4:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. The events are structured the same as they have been held in the past. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the SDL requests for the three dates, Robert Johnson seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer asked to go into Closed Session for the purpose of potential litigation inviting Jessica Meyer, Kelly Farmer and Jerry Stilmock to stay. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to go into Closed Session at 6:38 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Council Member Nate Patton moved to come out of Closed Session and back into Open Session at 6:43 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Robert Johnson, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 25-02 to approve settlement agreement between City and Justun Hampton, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-02, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Council Member Robert Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson. Nays: none.

I the undersigned City Administrator 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.

City Clerk

Mayor