

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 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 January 8, 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 December 11, 2024 meeting were approved as written.

LIBRARY REPORT – Director Melissa Juilfs present. Mayor Dettmer led the acceptance of Carol Graham’s resignation from Library Board. Graham was on the Library Board for 12 years; she currently was serving as President. Juilfs explained the Board has recommended Kate Zost as new member of the Library Board. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to accept Carol Graham’s resignation, Robert Johnson seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton, Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the appointment of new member to Library Board. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to appoint Kate Zost to the Library Board, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Juilfs reported recent activities held at the Library include Yeti’s and Waffles and movies for children. An after-school book club is starting later in the month for children ages 7 thru 14; currently there are 20 signed up. The Library is hosting a speaker series on January 26th as well as one in February and March.

Mayor Dettmer led the approval of claims and Treasurers Report; Todd Blome of BMG present. Blome introduced himself to new Council Member Robert Johnson and explained his role as the City’s accounting firm. Blome explained all accounts and activity has been reconciled. SRF Grant funds were discussed and how they have brought the loan balance down for the Water Improvement Project. Water and electric income are down. Sales tax collections are down a few percent from this time last year; this is based upon people spending money in the City. Ambulance income is down a little from this time last year. Overall, things are pretty similar. On the expenditure side of things, the electrical Capital Outlay is up due to the Electrical Distribution Project with Watts Electric. General governmental expenses that differ from last year include street expenses, these are down this year as 2024 had a few big street projects. Blome explained in December interest and principal payments were made on both SRF loans. Council Member Nate Patton moved to approve the Treasurers Report and to pay the claims, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Robert Johnson, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

ADKINS SIGNS - 26.25, AED ESSENTIALS - 1582.50, AKRS - 6.53, ALL ROADS BARRICADE, INC - 312.30, AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION - 375.00, AMERICAN RED CROSS - 722.00, ANDY BRACE - 450.00, ANTES FAMILY HARDWARE LLC - 364.15, 54035.20, ASCAP - 445.00, BEACH HOUSE DESIGNS - 96.00, BIBLIONIX LLC - 1540.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC. - 1043.87, BRIAN VODICKA - 150.00, 50.92, BRUCE NEEMANN - 150.00, CANON FINANCIAL - 127.68, CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. - 19.38, 156.48, CAROL LINQUIST - 525.00, CHRISTA REISDORFF - 300.00, CITY OF SYRACUSE - 1596.33, CLEANING AUTHORITY - 349.32, 306.72, COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC - 151.08, CUBBY'S INC. - 1387.13, CULLIGAN WATER - 40.99, CURTIS STANBERRY - 150.00, DAN'S TIRE & REPAIR - 386.26, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO. - 604.77, 65.30, DEREK HARMS - 5250.00, DTS TECHNOLOGY - 21.28, DUTTON LAINSON CO. - 3348.00, EAKES OFFICE PLUS - 305.94, ERIN BETH DESIGNS - 377.00, FIREGUARD, INC. - 217.60, FIVE NINES TECHNOLOGY GROUP - 3323.56, HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC. - 406.40, HEMJE PLBG., HTG. AND AIR COND - 175.00, HILLARY WIEBUSCH - 600.00, HOA - 6281.55, INVOICE CLOUD INC - 487.30, JEN WALLMAN - 500.00, 228.58, JENN STAACK - 525.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. - 5455.00, KODY CARDINAL - 300.00, LARRY GRUNDMAN - 200.00, LOGAN TETEN - 100.00, MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC - 272.19, MELISSA JUILFS - 288.56, MICHAEL TODD & CO., INC. - 183.21, MIKE'S WINDOW SERVICE, LLC - 246.02, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY OF OMAHA - 16192.68, NEBRASKA PUBLIC

HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB - 1967.00, NEXT-GEN CLEANING - 400.00, OLSSON ASSOCIATES - 707.75, ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS - 2663.95, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. - 15.58, OPPD - 139120.24, OTOE COUNTY TREASURER - 196.81, PINPOINT COMMUNICATIONS - 87.77, POINT C - 129.72, ROBERT MANZEL - 35.00, SE AREA CLERKS ASSOCIATION - 10.00, SEGRA - 2338.30, SYRACUSE FRESH MARKET - 298.88, SYRACUSE IRON WORKS - 66.75, SYRACUSE LUMBER CO. - 180.67, SYRACUSE MOTOR SUPPLY - 735.68, SYRACUSE RESCUE SQUAD - 22750.00, THE VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN - 2600.00, TIM WILSON - 825.00, TRUGREEN COMMERCIAL - 490.00, TYLEIGH MILLER - 33.75, UNIV. OF NE MED CENTER - 635.00, VERIZON WIRELESS - 1411.39, WATTS ELECTRIC - 28521.85, WESLEY HALVORSEN - 300.00, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - 3819.03, WINDSTREAM - 119.08, WINDY PRAIRIE SYSTEMS INC. - 300.00.

Claims paid outside of the January 8th meeting date include: ADAM BADBERG – 1752.03, JARED BICKFORD – 909.33, MAX BRAMMIER – 293.89, SAWYER BRAMMIER – 260.36, TYLER COLLIN – 1586.89, TERA EDEN – 1463.96, KELLY FARMER – 2540.51, LEAH GANZEL – 344.25, SARAH GANZEL – 160.14, SONNI GRAVES – 2060.50, MELISSA JULIFS – 1752.05, JESSICA MEYER – 2840.65, IAN MITCHELL – 1597.68, JULIE SLAFTER – 1297.91, CURTIS STANBERRY – 1883.17, EASTON STUBBENDICK – 822.22, BRENT TETEN – 1865.87, DEB MCWILLIAMS – 183.98, BRIAN VODICKA – 1786.50, JEFF VOGT – 2161.87, DEB DETTMER – 637.38, KRISTINE GERKING – 156.99, ORV GIGSTAD – 207.78, WESLEY HALVORSEN – 230.87, BRUCE NEEMANN – 1268.58, NATE PATTON – 230.87, JERRY WERNER – 230.88, MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS – 383.85, PRINCIPAL 2667.66, MEDICA – 16,664.63.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and approval of 2024 City Financial Audit; Julie Bauman present. Bauman expressed the audit went very well; she received information from the City as well as from BMG CPAs. Bauman explained how important the City Council Members role in reviewing the monthly reports from BMG are helpful and allows to oversee the City's cash flow. 2024 included another single audit due to the Water Improvement Project and SRF Grant as well as the Downtown Revitalization Project and the ARPA funds. Bauman explained they issue opinions on both the governmental activities as well as from the proprietary activities and the component unit which is the Sports Complex bond; \$685,000 is remaining in this bond. The government wide set of financials are cash basis where the proprietary which is the electric, water, and sewer is full accrual. Bauman feels the outcome of both came out very well this year. Government wide shows total assets at \$18,013,803.00; this does not count infrastructure. The City's depreciation is about \$500,000 a year currently; this is a non-cash item. Within the \$18 Million, the depreciation is included. Equity included forgiveness of debt as well as some other cash flow items. Proprietary funds total capital assets (infrastructure) is at \$14,448,325.00. With the water project reaching completion we'll see this number go down due to the aging of the facility and infrastructure. Long term debt on the utility side is a little over \$8,000,000.00. The single audit is based on expenditures, allowable costs, following estimates, and recording/reporting. The City received the best opinion available, no opinion on compliance which no opinion is a good thing including having no deficiencies. Bauman recommended on the utility side to go through the tenants deposits; this is something they're asking all Cities and Villages do. Bauman reported everything she asked for was made available and she was very pleased with the process. She expressed how important the Council Members and administration are and how the City is a very well ran government. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to approve the 2024 Financial Audit for the City, Jerry Werner seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Nate Patton, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led Authorization for Mayor to sign Management Representation Letter for 2024 Audit. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to authorize the Mayor signing the Representation Letter, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

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/RESCUE – Bruce Neemann present to give update on Schemmer Fire/Rescue Facility Programming and Conceptual Study. Neemann explained the kick-off meeting was held December 30th where a needs list was discussed for each the fire and rescue departments. A spreadsheet was put together by Schemmer and gives what is recommended for size of rooms, dimensions, etc. Schemmer also sent out a questionnaire to be completed by both Fire and Rescue Chiefs along with their officers. A zoom meeting is set up in January to go over the spreadsheet for clarification, after that rough drawings will be worked on. The two departments have been having committee meetings so they have a pretty good idea on what they each need.

PARKS AND REC REPORT – Director Sonni Graves present. Graves gave an update on the new pool filter system. The mechanical room has been gutted and contains one filter that replaces the three old ones. Pool resurfacing will be done in the spring; Graves is working with three companies on bids for a new slide. The Project Playground grant is going to be announced at the end of the month. Graves explained the City is continuing to move forward with the Civic Rec software and about to send out their first sign up being 3-on-3 Basketball.

PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Jeff Vogt present.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Ordinance No. 1163 to update and revise electrical rates pursuant to Syracuse Code of Ordinances Section 32-374; Dave Peterson of JEO present. He explained WAPA is going up. The City’s usage from last year is down about half million. To keep revenues to coincide with the budget the ordinance is recommending a 3% increase. He is also suggesting looking at rates again in 2026 based on increases. Peterson explained he is working with OPPD on a billing issue that has been happening so get it back to more of an even trade and the City is coming up short. Peterson explained to new Council Member Johnson his history with working with the City and how he looks at electrical rates. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1163 and move the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none. Mayor Dettmer read Ordinance No. 1163 by title. Council Member Jerry Werner moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1163, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Mayor Dettmer led the discussion and Resolution No. 25-01 to approve 2025 Maintenance Agreement No. 45 between NDOT and City of Syracuse, authorizing Mayor’s signature. Jeff Vogt explained this is the annual maintenance agreement for Highway 50; the amount has not changed. Council Member Jerry Werner moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-01 to approve Maintenance Agreement No. 45, Robert Johnson seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Dettmer opened the public hearing, discussion and Ordinance No. 1164 for Application for Conditional Use Permit for consideration of a free-standing sign at the following described real estate: Lot B Umbarger Subdivision of Lots 11 thru 12 and Part of Lot 10 Block 11, City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska, 404 3rd Street; Kurt Teten of Wagon Wheel Properties LLC present. There are no issues with setbacks or placement. The Planning Commission recommended Council approval at their January meeting. Council Member Nate Patton moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1164 and moved the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Nate Patton, Wesley Halvorsen, Robert Johnson. Nays: none. Mayor Dettmer read Ordinance No. 1164 by title. Council Member Wesley Halvorsen moved for final passage of the ordinance, Nate Patton seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Robert Johnson, Jerry Werner, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. Nays: none.

Council Member Nate Patton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M., Wesley Halvorsen seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Jerry Werner, Robert Johnson, Wesley Halvorsen, Nate Patton. 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