

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Others present were: Justin Abell; Jerry Wohler; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Brent Gilliland, Director of Public Works II; Richard Fortney, Police Officer; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of April 6, 2022 Council meeting; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$103,070.76; Liquor License Application for Amanda Snakenberg (DBA: Barn Wired) at 119 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa for Class C Liquor License, Catering, Outdoor and Sunday Service; Liquor License Application for The Keswick Tavern at 22400 220th Avenue, Sigourney, Iowa for class C Liquor License; City Representatives To Attend the Nuisance Abatement Conference Sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities in Ankeny on Wednesday, May 18th at a Cost of \$75.00 Each; Blood Drive Dates Provided by Impact Life; National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, 2022; community betterment projects for \$200.00 for Skunk River Artifacts Show and \$1,473.18 to replace the front desk computer at the Library; credit card report; and the time and place for the May 4, 2022 regular Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: The Council discussed the request to close half of the 100 block of East Marion Street from 105 East Marion Street to 119 East Marion Street to work on the roofs of the Façade Project. There are not any dates at this time. Director of Public Works I Northup stated the Public Works Department has been in contact with the roofing contractor and he is hoping to get this done in five to twelve days if all goes well. There are also things that must be done by RG Construction before they can start. The sidewalk will need to be closed, the parking in front of the businesses and the south lane of the street. The Council discussed the best way to handle this – no parking on the north side of the square as well to allow for two lanes of traffic. If there is only one lane, there are a lot of potential problems. Council member Clark thought it would be easier to close the south side of the square until the construction work is done. Director of Public Works I Northup stated the roofing contractor said he would try to open the streets back up at the end of the day and definitely on the weekends. It would be easier, less confusing and safer to close the block. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to close the 100 block of East Marion Street from the time the contractors (RG Construction and roofing contractor) are ready to work on the roofs in the Façade Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated John Wehr had told her of an easement regarding the water line that was thought to run down the platted but undeveloped Sigourney Blvd. The easement provided for twenty feet of land to the south of Sigourney Blvd. for the water line. As this was additional information regarding the request to close / vacate Sigourney Blvd. from the east side of Warren Street to the west side of Pershing Blvd., the item is being discussed again. Director of Public Works I Northup stated he had a couple maps that said the water main that runs east and west on the south side of the Sale Barn all the way to the high school was in the roadway. That is not the case. According to the easement the water line runs south of Sigourney Blvd. east and west to the high school. This means the water line is not under the concrete pens. Director of Public Works I Northup stated they took measurements from the as builts and the water main is south of the pens that were built in the road. Director of Public Works I Northup stated this is the City's property and is a straight shot all the way to the high school and then turns and goes north. It connects a lot of dead ends. There is also another platted but undeveloped street running north and south on the west side of the Conrad property. Council member Conrad stated that the Council has said no to closing this undeveloped street as well. Mayor Morlan stated that typically the Council does not like to close streets and/or alleys. Council member Clark posed the question of the school ever doing anything on their property and wanting this street developed as another access point. Mr. Abell stated the street could still be accessed by using Pershing Blvd. Mayor Morlan asked Director of Public Works I Northup if he was aware of any other utilities in Sigourney Blvd. and he stated he was not aware of any. He does know that Alliant Energy does have a gas drop and electrical drop there should they be needed. Director of Public Works I Northup reminded the Council that we are always looking for places to run utilities. We may not want to run utilities down

the middle, but possibility along the edge. Northup explained that sometimes they need to get easements to go on private property and that is not always possible. Council member Conrad stated that he is not aware that the City is not going to tear up the concrete and would like to keep the decision as made at the April 6th Council meeting.

Council member Isobaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2022-04-07 Nunc Pro Tunc correcting and amending scrivener's error in the legal description for the Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Area for the Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Isobaker moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve an ordinance correcting the legal description Nunc Pro Tunc for the property subject to the division of revenues under Section 403.19, Code of Iowa, for the Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Plan as Adopted in Title VII Special Ordinances Chapter 10 Urban Renewal. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance (Title VII Special Ordinances – Chapter 10 – Urban Renewal-A) for the division of revenues under Section 403.19, Code of Iowa, for Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin left the meeting at 6:31 p.m. as she had a Keokuk County Community Endowment Foundation meeting to attend.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to approve Waiving the Second Reading of Ordinance (Title VII Special Ordinances – Chapter 10 – Urban Renewal-A) for the division of revenues under Section 403.19, Code of Iowa, for Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to approve Waiving the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance (Title VII Special Ordinances – Chapter 10 – Urban Renewal-A) for the division of revenues under Section 403.19, Code of Iowa, for Sigourney Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark stated the Public Safety Committee discussed changing the animal ordinance to allow pit bulls. He stated it was the Public Safety Committee's position to keep the ordinance the same. They do understand that every animal (pit bull or not) is obviously going to love their family, but it is the perception of the community and not knowing what an animal is going to do around other people. The Committee felt that changing the ordinance was not warranted.

Council member Isobaker stated that he is the new interim Executive Director for SADC (Sigourney Area Development Corp.), and Holly Van Voltenburg is the new Executive Secretary. There has been quite a bit of work done in the last ten days to reactivate and revitalize the communication with the community. There are postings on the Facebook page. The first posting was an anonymous survey asking for input from daycare centers. There were four questions that are geared toward who is out there and if they have needs. The early indications are yes so, they are getting statistics back and are very pleased with the progress. They are also working on integrating the Facebook page more closely with the website. All the energies are being directed outward. They want to start communicating with the community in a more rich and regular fashion. They are going to begin to promote the Indian Hills Academy to raise awareness of what the Indian Hills Academy can do within the community. They are going to start a campaign on this project in the coming days. They have other projects as well. There was a board meeting Tuesday morning, and they covered a wide array of subjects including childcare, communication and other community activities such as preparation for the upcoming car show.

Park and Recreation: Mayor Morlan stated the News Review has asked the City if they would pay \$35.00 per event and the News Review staff would hide an object in the newspaper for kids to find. If they let the News Review know they found the object and where it is in the paper, their name would go into a drawing for a prize which could be a one-day pass to the swimming pool. There could be as many prizes given out as the City desired. The City would pick how many weeks they would like to do this. Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Isobaker, to approve working with the Sigourney News Review for the hidden object event

and doing this twice paying \$35.00 each time and having three pool passes each time as prizes. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson asked the Council to review and possibly update the policy governing pool donations. This policy is from 2013 and since there have been significant changes this year, it might be a good time to look at this. Council member Tish asked how many passes were given out last year. City Clerk Alderson responded that she does not remember giving out any last year. The Library used to get them as prizes, but with family pool passes the kids were taking the day passes and then not using them. City Clerk Alderson stated she had called the Library, but the Librarian has started doing things differently. She would take some if we wanted her to put them in her gift bags. Council member Clark stated he would like to leave the policy as is. Council member Tish stated she would be interested in whether any passes are requested this year. Council member Iosbaker asked if we could track these. The consensus of the City Council was to leave the policy as is for this year.

Mayor Morlan stated the Design House has been contacted for prices to print punch cards. The office staff did get prices from an on-line company for \$32.00 for 500. These would be the size of a business card. The thought is to give two 10 punch cards if someone wanted to purchase 20. The Council would like to keep the business local. Council member Clark moved to approve the order of pool punch cards. (*This motion died to lack of a second and further discussion.*) The Council discussed whether the punch cards could be carried over to the next summer and felt they should not be allowed to carry over. The Council discussed what information should be put onto these cards such as the year, names and keeping track of these cards. The Park and Recreation Committee is working on some type of system to track the number of people going to the pool. Council member Tish asked if this could be tabled until Park and Rec could meet again.

Street and Sanitation: Mayor Morlan stated he thinks the City should have a clean-up day once a year to help people get rid of the junk around their house. This used to be done on a regular basis, but he is asking for a one-time deal. Council member Clark asked what we would do with the stuff picked up. Director of Public Works I Northup stated the last clean-up we had was in 2017. Metal was picked up one day, appliances one day, computers could be taken to the old state shop and wood was picked up on one day. The problems were on metal day people would put their metal out and at night all the scrappers would go around and pick up all the good stuff and Rick Kruger (who took a day off work) was left with nothing worth picking up. Mr. Kruger told the City he would not do this anymore. We have a trailer placed at the shop for people to put their metal on and Mr. Kruger will go to someone's house and pick up metal if they call him. People would sign up to have an appliance picked up and when the guys would get there, and the appliance would be gone. In 2017 there were thirty appliances to be picked up. The City picked up fourteen as the other sixteen were taken by scrappers. Time was wasted going to all these houses. The wood used to be taken to the compost site. The DNR (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) told the City that is a not allowable. There are outlets for everything. Furniture can be taken to the recycling center for a fee. The Council discussed different ideas, but there are outlets for everything. Director of Public Works I Northup stated that he checked with the recycling center, and they do take the furniture, etc., but are not equipped to have sixty people bring couches out on the same day. Mayor Morlan asked about putting something in the water bills outlining where all the items could be taken. City Clerk Alderson stated that we have to be careful to not leave any possible vendor off the list. Council member Iosbaker stated he would be in favor of activities that were geared toward improving the appearance of neighborhoods of the City. Council member Conrad asked if everyone was in agreement that the Council should discuss some type of way to provide awareness to the citizens of how they can get rid of their stuff. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to not approve setting a clean-up date throughout the City. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater: Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Tish to approve Pay Estimate No. 14 from Boomerang Corp. for Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-009 – Sigourney, IA – SRF #CS192087001. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: Council member Clark stated the Public Safety Committee has been meeting often, discussing potentially trying to change the nuisance policy to something that incorporates a larger range of nuisances. They are looking at other ordinances to put one together for the City that is easier to enforce. They are also discussing a possible Code Enforcement position. The Public Safety Committee also discussed the reserve peace officers. They are trying to get the reserve officers to work more. All their training must be brought up to date and in speaking with ILEA (Iowa Law Enforcement Academy) a certified peace officer must be on duty to oversee the reserves officers. The reserve officers cannot be used to replace a certified officer. This cannot be done right

now. Council member Clark was told from ILEA that a certified peace officer from that agency must be on duty at the same time. In the past when there was a full department the reserve officers would work, but there was a certified officer in town and available with a phone call to go out and handle a situation that a reserve officer would need assistance with. That is not available right now, so the reserve officers cannot be currently utilized. Council member Clark asked ILEA about the Sheriff's Department being the certified person, but it is a different agency. There are some letters to be served on properties for clean-up and to remove pit bulls from the City.

Finance: Mayor Morlan asked the Council members if they were ready to make the decision regarding the annual 3% increase to the utility bills. Council member Isobaker stated the recommendation from the Street and Sanitation Committee was to do the 3% increase. Council member Tish stated that all three of the committees wanted to go with the 3% annual increase. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Isobaker, to approve the increase for water, sewer and sanitation as outlined in the Sigourney Code of Ordinances. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Isobaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Input: Jerry Wohler stated that at the next Council meeting the Kiwanis is going to make their proposal for the Fourth of July. The beer tent setup would be requested to be the same as last year. Mr. Wohler stated that in the past it did not make any difference if they knew people or not, all ids had to be checked. This got to be ridiculous, and it upsets people when you have to do this, so he is asking for some leniency.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:20 p.m.

Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk