

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Others present were: Steve Shettler, Steve Shetter Media; Casey Jarmes, Sigourney News Review; Jerry Wohler; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Brent Gilliland, Director of Public Works II; Kris Metcalf, Police Chief; Beckie Applegat, Office Assistant; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

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

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 7, 2024; Council Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$17,668.92; Library Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$6,308.95; Don Northup and Brent Gilliland to attend the Iowa Section American Water Works Association Region 6 Works Operators meeting on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Washington, Iowa at a cost of \$60.00 each; Community Betterment Projects: concrete work on Ringgold Street - \$20,000.00 and update pool office to LED lighting - \$1,000.00; credit card report; and the time and place for the March 6, 2024 regular Council meeting is 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Additional City Business:** Council member Conrad stated the tower server is not new equipment. In the past the City has been leasing. The Finance Committee discussed this and if the price can be paid, it is cheaper to purchase outright than to lease it. The services will be the same. The Finance Committee would like to start saving for the next purchase. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to approve the purchase of the tower server from Access Systems. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated gWorks, our City software, is working to move everything to the cloud. We have moved a couple items already. We are currently working on setting payroll up. This new proposal would put everything to the cloud including the general ledger, all the financials, accounts payable and receivable, etc. City Clerk Alderson explained that had the City started with this on January 1<sup>st</sup> the total cost would have been \$15,300.00 and approximately \$700 plus for the 311 additional users. The total is \$16,052.00. The City has paid \$10,442.00 for what is currently being used. If the City agrees to move the software to the cloud, the fees would be prorated. The cost should be no more than \$5,610.00 and should be less as January and February are over. This is a request for local options funds for the additional costs and then the full amount will be included in the budget for the next year. Council member Iosbaker asked if the packages we are using are working well. City Clerk Alderson stated there are glitches here and there, but we would have that with any software. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the cloud-based platform through gWorks. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker, Keokuk County Economic Development, stated the annual meeting of members was held. They shared activities and accomplishments over the last year. There was a demonstration of the website. They asked for guidance from various members to see if they were content with the ongoing activities and what KCED is trying to accomplish. KCED is still asking for volunteers.

**Park and Recreation:** Jerry Wohler stated that last year was the first full year of pickleball at the park. During the evenings, when it is usually a nicer time to play, the light runs out, especially during the fall. They wanted to get the Council's approval to look into getting lights placed at the courts. They have a lot of connections made so this should not cost a lot. They are not asking the City for any money at this time, just the approval to go ahead and move forward with it. They have talked with the Public Works Department about placement, etc. Council member Schultz asked about LED lighting as there will be costs associated with this after the installation is completed. They discussed whether the lights might be on a timer, etc. Mayor Morlan asked where the money would come from for the poles and lights and Mr. Wohler responded the money would be raised. Council member McLaughlin stated she thinks the courts get used a lot. Mr. Wohler stated there is a core group of about 30 people that use the courts a lot and another 15 to 20 people that use is some. People play during their lunch and after work. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin to approve lights at the pickleball courts. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Street and Sanitation:** Council member Schultz stated the Street and Sanitation Committee met and discussed several items. One of the items is the length of the grass for mowing purposes. The recommendation from the committee is to

change the length from nine inches to six inches. The committee also discussed alleys and who should be mowing, etc. The City does not have the authority to tell someone they have to mow the alley. The Council discussed the length change. Council member Clark asked what the process is to mow someone's yard. Doug Glandon, Code Enforcement Officer, stated last year we allowed ten days, but by then the grass might be twelve inches and then it is sometimes almost impossible to mow. City Clerk Alderson stated that a good point had been brought up this morning that last June we had an ordinance ready to approve that included that if grass needed to be mowed, the owner would be notified once, then after that the City would just go mow it. It was decided to review the mowing ordinance that was started last summer. The committee also discussed some TIF money that is being looked at as an upcoming project to do work on Ringgold Street. Sanitation rates and container rates were discussed as well.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve amending Ordinance Title III Community Protection – Chapter 2 Nuisances – 3-2-1 Definitions 1(k) grass height from nine inches to six inches. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**City Clerk:** Council member Conrad stated that as part of the process for adopting our new budget for the upcoming year, the first thing the Council has to do is publish a notice setting the maximum the City can ask for. The numbers for last year and what the Finance Committee is proposing were shown. Council member Conrad stated that the City is limited on what can be taxed. This would set the highest amounts the City can tax for. The actual tax rate is based after the budget is set and based on the current assessment at that time. This is just what we expect it to be, based on the numbers we have been given. City Clerk Alderson stated this information is collected at the state level. The state will in turn provide the counties with this information and the County Auditor will mail out a letter by mid-March with all this information. The City then has to hold a public hearing. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve the proposed tax notice and set a meeting date for March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Input:** Council member McLaughlin asked about when the compost pile might be open. She stated there are a lot of tree limbs piling up in yards and people need a place to put them. Director of Public Works I Northup stated there is more water at the compost pile as it sits lower and if it is opened people will go out there with their stuff and it will then have to be closed again due to rain and snow. The trouble in the past with opening and closing is that getting the information out does not necessarily work and people just dump their stuff at the gate or in a ditch. That is why it has always been kept closed. This is an oddball February, but he will open it if the Council says to. It will get torn up and there will have to be money spent to fix it. It is usually opened in April or May depending on how much rain is received. Discussion was held regarding some of the problems and how to get the word around.

Council member Lentz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

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Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk