

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Others present were: 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 Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of January 5, 2022 Council meeting; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$34,450.49; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$5,100.62; City Clerk's Financial Reports for December 2021; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for December 2021; Resolution No. 2022-01-05 re: Establishing 2022 Appointments; Don Northup to attend Pool Operator School sponsored by Iowa Parks and Recreation Association in Coralville, Iowa on March 15-16, 2022 at a cost of \$275.00; Don Northup and Brent Gilliland to attend Rathbun Rural Water Workshop sponsored by Municipal Supply for Distribution CEUs in Centerville, Iowa on January 27, 2022 at no cost; Resolution No. 2022-01-06 re: Memorial Hall Commission Appointment; Transfer of Liquor License for Barn Wired, Sigourney, Iowa to 22400 220th Avenue, Sigourney, Iowa for a Class C Liquor License (LC) (Commercial); Community Betterment Project; credit card report; and the time and place for the February 2, 2022 regular Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: Council member Conrad explained the City is refinancing a General Obligation Bond and there is an opportunity to refinance a second one that will save the City interest. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve refinancing the 2016 General Obligation Bond. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad reviewed the financial amounts of commitment from the City regarding previous grants. Each of the grants are different and there have been several new grants available the last few years. As the square is being fixed up, it becomes more valuable and hopefully others will want to improve their property on the square as well. This does involve the City giving money to individual property owners and the Council has to justify what the value is to the City. Is there a value to the City to fix up these properties and maintaining the square, making sure there is as much in the City to keep people in town and to draw businesses. Mayor Morlan asked about finding a way to be consistent with the amount of money that is given to each property owner. The fees have been used for architect fees in the past and possible radon fees in the future. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve a commitment letter for a grant application for 123 East Marion Street as a \$10,000.00 commitment from the City. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Morlan explained there is a property ready for the radon and asbestos inspections. There are two other possibilities, if grants are approved. Doing all three properties at the same time may save money. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Requests for Proposals for Radon and Asbestos Inspections for Upper Story Grant properties. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Change Order #119-04 – Sigourney Façade Project – Phase 1. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Morlan requested a Mayor's cell phone as he does not want to use his personal cell phone to conduct business for the City. He would also like to have a local number as people do not answer about half of his calls due to an out of state area code. Council member Tish asked about the City's phone plan. City Clerk Alderson stated there is currently a plan with the police and rental phones. There are also hot spots and a laptop on the plan. This line should run about \$40.00 per month. City Clerk Alderson stated there is a phone available and one would not have to be purchased until something happened to this one. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve a cell phone for the Mayor and to pay the monthly fees. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker attended the last SADC (Sigourney Area Development Corporation) board meeting. It was reported that SADC has a revolving loan fund available to help businesses, but they have no applicants. There was a report given by the Iowa, Jefferson and Keokuk Counties Director on the Early Childhood Development Program. She talked about grant money that is available to fund expanded child-care in the counties. She is making the SADC organization aware of this and wants to work with a Steering Committee on a marketing study for the area. SADC took this under advisement. Another item of interest is a relationship with the school district. Kevin Hatfield, Superintendent of the Sigourney Community School District, was present and is reaching out to the SADC organization and the community for general soliciting input for: improving a relationship between the school district and the city as well as business leaders and citizens; develop a long term plan endorsed with all these parties; get a strategic vision so everyone is working toward something that is definable and actionable; create a portrait of a graduate – what is the ideal conceptional graduate from our schools and develop and grow our own employment plan – so we can graduate students from our schools in the county with skills that are usable in the community; and then through these relationships Mr. Hatfield wants to continue to facilitate planning and facility improvements in the schools according to the vision. There will be a community meeting that is proposed for February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Mr. Hatfield will be welcoming all participants at this point in time. Mayor Morlan stated that Mr. Hatfield was particularly interested in the parents of elementary school children because they are the younger parents of the kids in school and will be here longer than anyone else.

Park and Recreation: Council member McLaughlin stated that Dee Brinning (Paulette Wehr's sister) approached the City about donating a bench to the Legion Park. Council member McLaughlin called Ms. Brinning and told her the basic costs that was paid for the last benches. The cost of engraving is not known. Ms. Brinning was fine with everything and would like to proceed with this. The bench will be the same as the other benches with a concrete pad. If the Council is okay with this, then Ms. Brinning will reimburse the City. Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve placing a memorial bench and a plaque to be placed at the Legion Park in memory of Bob and Paulette Wehr. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve a display ad for lifeguards for the summer 2022 pool season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater: City Clerk Alderson stated a citizen called and stated her water utility bill is going to be paid by the Iowa Finance Authority. This is similar to the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program the City is affiliated with. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve participation in the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program through Iowa Finance Authority and to accept direct deposits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to approve Pay Estimate No. 11 from Boomerang Corp. for Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-009 – Sigourney, IA – SRF #CS192087001. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: A Public Safety Committee Meeting was set for Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Morlan stated that Donald Young would like for the City Council to call him regarding an extension on living at 309 West Elm Street. Mayor Morlan explained the process to date. It is City Clerk Alderson's understanding that there have been opportunities for a place for him to go that he has turned down. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to not give Donald Young an extension on living at 309 West Elm Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Finance: A Finance Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

City Clerk: Council member Iosbaker gave a demonstration of how the laptops would work for the Mayor, Council and staff. This would allow the Mayor and Council to keep their Council business separate from their personal lives and devices. This will allow the materials to be stored in the cloud and made available to the Council in the Council Chambers or elsewhere. The City Clerk would be able to drag and drop information into the cloud and it would be accessible to the Council immediately. The Council members would each have their own space to work on and/or save documents important to them.

Council member Iosbaker reviewed the costs involved with purchasing laptops. He would like to have more conversation with Access Systems regarding virus protection. Each device should have a headset and microphone with it if someone needs to remote in. Council member Iosbaker would also like to put together a user's guide. City Clerk Alderson stated there will need to be a contract between Council members / employees and the City respecting the property and what is and is not allowed. Council member McLaughlin asked if this would be paid from the Local Options Sales and Services Tax Fund. City Clerk Alderson stated for the initial laptops, but she would like to start expensing \$3,000.00 annually from the General Fund to the Replacement Fund. This would allow the City to have the necessary dollars to replace these when the time comes instead of depending on the Local Options Fund. City Clerk Alderson would also like to add \$1,500.00 to the computer line account in the General Fund. This would be to pay for the licensing and domain name annually. Each of the laptops would have an associated email address. There will need to be bags and wireless mice ordered as well. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve ordering laptops, software and accessories not to exceed \$17,000.00. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Input: Council member Tish would like to add to the agenda discussion regarding the City's contributions to grants.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:57 p.m.

Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk