

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Others present were: Rodger Aller; Casey Jarmes, Sigourney News Review; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Brent Gilliland, Director of Public Works II; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 5, 2023; Council Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$23,762.94; Library Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$11,195.35; Community Betterment Project(s); credit card report; and the time and place for the August 2, 2023 regular Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: Rodger Aller, Grant Observer, stated all the windows at 101 East Marion Street are done except one under a stairwell. He has been told that everything else is done but has not seen this for himself. 109 East Marion Street should be finished. The new door has been put in for 117 East Marion Street that goes up to the apartments. It still needs to be trimmed and painted. There are still a few items at 119 East Marion Street. Once these items are finished that should take care of the punch list. The Upper Story Project at 103 South Jefferson Street is waiting on doors to arrive. The natural gas was hooked up today. Larry Deitrich has to call to have this unlocked. They used galvanized piping to run the gas main. In the past that was not allowed, but Mr. Aller thinks that has changed, but he will check with Alliant Energy.

Council member Conrad stated that the pay estimate does not appear to have been approved by the architect. Mr. Aller stated Mr. Curtis is on vacation. Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to table the Application and Certificate for Payment No. 14 to R.G. Construction for Sigourney CDBG Façade Improvement Phase I Project until the architect signs it. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker reported for Keokuk County Economic Development. The Car Show was last Saturday, and the event went well. There were about 130 cars. There were 49 communities represented and someone from each community in Keokuk County. There has been a lot of positive feedback. An email was sent out to the members of KCED asking them to review the business pages for the website. Once that is done enhancements will continue, but the website will go live. The Farmer's Market is going to very well. The coordinator has done a stellar job. This event is holding its own.

Street and Sanitation: City Clerk Alderson stated the agreement with Jonathan Utterback had not been previously approved by the Council. Mr. Utterback has reviewed the agreement and is good with it. City Clerk Alderson reviewed expenses that were included in the contract. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the agreement with Jonathan Utterback to provide CDL (Air Brake Endorsement) training. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Director of Public Works I Northup stated that TK Concrete should be out of Sigourney tonight. They are finishing. The only thing left to do is the seeding, which cannot be done until mid to late August. The sidewalks are done and cleaned up. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Pay Estimate No. 4 for Norris Asphalt Paving Co., LC, for the Proposed Street Improvements – HMA Surfacing – Sigourney, IA (21-144). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: City Clerk Alderson stated that she had put together a mowing ordinance and asked the City Attorney, John Wehr, to review this and make any additions or changes. Some of the changes include the maximum height of the grass being six inches instead of nine inches. There is a section on habitual violators that states there will only be one letter sent. If the grass is over six inches again, the City will just have it mowed. Council member Conrad stated that this includes the property owner being responsible for mowing the terrace, but what about alleys. City Clerk Alderson will ask John Wehr about this. Council member Tish asked for clarification that if there is an alley and the grass has grown over the gravel or pavement or anything, we are saying the responsible party is the owner next to it. Council member Conrad explained that generally adjoining property owners use any space they can. He stated that he and his neighbor take turns mowing the alley between them that goes to nowhere. There is an alley behind his shed

that he mows part of and the neighbor mows part of. The ordinance includes the property owner mowing the terrace and maybe it should state mowing the alley as well. The Council discussed the responsibility of having an alley mowed. Council member Tish stated that if the Council is not willing to vacate alleys when requested, then she does not believe that they should be asked to mow the alley. Council member Tish stated that during the winter when there is a snow emergency and she cannot park on the street and has to park behind her house, she has to pay someone to clear the City's alley so she can get out the next day. Council member Conrad stated that she would be using the City's property. Director of Public Works II Gilliland stated that he would mow an alley simply so his property would look nice. Council member Conrad stated that we have not stopped someone from using the alleys, they just cannot block them. Director of Public Works II Gilliland stated that the alleys are used for utilities. The City does use them for water and sewer sometimes, but alleys are mostly used for power and emergencies. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve proceeding with the mowing ordinance. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Iosbaker. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark stated the Public Works Committee has been continuing the process of planning for cameras. The Committee decided not to bore all the power lines down Pleasant Valley Street and that saved a tremendous amount of money. They would like to add cameras – one at Town Square Park and one at Legion Park. These will be placed on existing poles. The goal is safety for the community and kids. The Committee has lowered the monthly costs. Council member Iosbaker reviewed a spreadsheet he has created. The costs have been reduced from what was originally anticipated and presented to the Council. The overall installation costs that have been currently identified are \$79,000.00. There are now nine camera sights. The Committee has been able to save on recurring costs as well. The recurring costs will be approximately \$1,000.00 each month for power and internet for all the units. The current costs for the first year are \$91,000.00. The project has a budget of not to exceed \$150,000.00 that has been approved by the Council. The budget should be able to get the project through the first four or five years. City Clerk Alderson stated that she will pay the monthly expenses out of the \$150,000.00 and once this is depleted, the Council will have to decide from where to pay the monthly expenses. Council member Tish pointed out that additional cameras could be added as well to this budget. Council member Clark stated that is the intent to continue coverage.

Public Input: Casey Jarmes, Sigourney News Review, asked about the footage reference in the mowing ordinance. Council member Clark stated this pertained to farmland that could be within one hundred feet of someone's property, it has to be maintained.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk