

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, with Mayor Pro-tem McLaughlin presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Others present were: Jerry Wohler; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Richard Fortney, Police Officer; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, 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 Clark moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of February 16, 2022 Council meeting; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$53,523.95; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of 15,318.46; credit card report; and the time and place for the March 16, 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.

**Public Hearing(s):** Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated it was the time and place for the public hearing on not to exceed \$3,400,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (ECP-1). Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to open the public hearing regarding the not to exceed \$3,400,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (ECP-1) and the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of notes to evidence the obligation of the city thereunder. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing opened at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated the purpose of the General Obligation Bond will be for street projects and to refinance the two (2) current General Obligation Bonds the City has with lower interest rates. She also stated the public hearing notice was published in the Sigourney News Review on February 16<sup>th</sup> as required by law. Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin asked City Clerk Alderson if she had received any written objections and City Clerk Alderson replied she had not received any.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin asked the public if they had any questions and Jerry Wohler asked what the reduced interest rate would be for combining the bonds together. There will be a savings of approximately \$80,000.00 interest and \$23,000.00 interest on the two (2) bonds being refinanced. Once comments were finished, Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad to close the public hearing regarding the not to exceed \$3,400,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (ECP-1) and the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of notes to evidence the obligation of the city thereunder. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution 2022-03-01 instituting proceeds to take additional action for the issuance of not to exceed \$3,400,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro-tem McLaughlin stated it was the time and place for the public hearing on not to exceed \$310,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (GCP-2). Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to open the public hearing regarding the not to exceed \$310,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (GCP-2). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing opened at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated the General Obligation Bond will be for the City's share of improvements for the façade project on the south side of the Sigourney Square. She also stated the public hearing notice was published in the Sigourney News Review on February 16<sup>th</sup> as required by law. Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin asked City Clerk Alderson if she had received any written objections and City Clerk Alderson replied she had not received any.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin asked the public if they had any questions and receiving none, she asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Atwood to close the public hearing regarding the not to exceed \$310,000.00 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes (GCP-2). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing closed at 6:07 p.m.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution 2022-03-02 instituting proceedings to take additional action for the issuance of the not to exceed \$310,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin explained that the City would need to ask for pre-tax levy approval to pay the interest on the new GO Bond during fiscal year 2023. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2022-03-03 authorizing the issuance of \$2,485,000\* General Obligation and Refunding Capital Loan Notes, Series 2022, and Levying a Tax for the payment thereof. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin explained there will be a payment of \$2,485,000.00 to refinance two current General Obligation Bonds to save almost \$100,000.00 in interest. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Resolution No. 2022-03-04 approving the distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Additional City Business:** Mayor Pro-tem McLaughlin stated it was time to discuss the disposition of a dog owned by Michael Britt (601 North Jefferson Street) as a result of a dog encounter. Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated there has been a written complaint regarding this and Officer Fortney talked with the owners as well as HR staff and management at the Co-op. There have been issues at the Co-op for employees and customers. People have been ran into the office and up ladders by the dog. It has nipped at several people. The gentleman that was bit had puncture wounds on the back of his right thigh and back of his right calf. He had medical treatment in Washington County. Officer Fortney has copies of the dog's vaccination records showing the dog is up to date on his rabies and after speaking with Michael Britt understood that the dog was quarantined at home for time frame Public Health deemed necessary. Council member Iosbaker clarified there have been other occasions, but this is the first formal complaint. Officer Fortney confirmed this. Council member Iosbaker reviewed his understanding of the City's Code of Ordinances. City Clerk Alderson reviewed past procedures which includes sending the owners of the dog a letter giving them ten (10) days to have the dog removed from the City limits and to inform the Police Department where the dog has been relocated to and contact information so the officer can verify that. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, to send a letter to Michael Britt giving him ten (10) days to remove the big yellow German Shepherd cross from the City limits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish and Clark. Nays: None. Abstain: Conrad. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated it was time to discuss charging a fee for the usage of City Hall. City Clerk Alderson stated she talked with Paul Horak of Horak Insurance. Mr. Horak stated that ideally yes groups using City Hall should show proof of insurance. There will be some groups (organizations) or individuals that would not have insurance. Insurance is not demanded but is encouraged. City Clerk Alderson also asked about signing waivers releasing the City. Mr. Horak responded those are awesome, but it does not always mean a lot. In some instances (such as a vendor fair) one party could sign the waiver, but the party that may get hurt does not. Or even though everyone signs a waiver, and everyone (including the City) is aware of a piece of carpet laying out and someone trips and gets hurt, the City could be pulled into this. Council member Tish stated she just had concerns that if people are making money, they should be paying something even if it is a donation. Council member Iosbaker suggested a resolution that the building is for conference purposes for local organizations and individuals. There could be a procedure to handle for profit organizations as well. Council member Tish stated she would like to see a contract drawn up with rules. Council member Tish talked about the security of the building. Council member Clark stated the citizens are already paying for the building and he is not in favor of charging a fee for the usage of the building. Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated she was not in favor of charging a fee for either non-profits or for profits. She feels this is good marketing for the City. Council member Clark stated he is

not in favor of parties, but for business activities. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Atwood, the Council adopt a resolution to permit public use of City Hall for business meetings and similar activities at no charge. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance (Title VII Special Ordinances – Chapter 10 – Urban Renewal) 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, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated she received a call from the state regarding the wards and map. There are questions regarding some of the street names. Laffer Street should be Warren Street, but Woodin Street is correct. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2-1-5 Wards-Precincts and to waive the third reading. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the Application and Certificate for Payment No. 4 to R.G. Construction for the Sigourney CDBG Façade Improvement Phase 1 Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker stated that SADC (Sigourney Area Development Corporation) approved reaching out to other economic development groups in the county with the intention of seeing if there was any interest in forming a common working group to increase the ability to help expand the economic base for the county. There have been some contacts made with some interest. The SADC board has approved working with the school systems to update the website. This will be working with the students and Indian Hills so the students can get credit for their activities and SADC can improve its marketing presence online.

**Park and Recreation:** Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin explained the resolution for the pool rates and information for calendar year 2022. There has been a lot of thought put into this. The Park and Recreation Committee would like to eliminate the season passes and babysitter tickets. They would like to recommend the strip tickets (punch cards). These would be 10 punches for \$40.00 and 20 punches for \$75.00. They would also like to recommend changing the day fees from \$3.00 to \$5.00 with after 5:00 p.m. the charge would be \$2.50. For the facility rental, the Park and Recreation Committee would like to recommend for up to 30 people a fee of \$150.00 and for over 30 people the fee would be \$200.00. The public swimming lessons would be increased to \$50.00. There is an issue finding lifeguards. There have only been ten (10) applicants with part of the problem being the wage. They would like to increase the wages \$1.25. The wage recommendation would be \$9.00 for a lifeguard, \$11.25 for the assistant managers and \$12.25 for the manager. The Committee thought this would be more in line with what the wages should be. The wage increase should be covered by the increase in rates. Council member Clark talked about the lifeguards paying for their own certifications. There was discussion of paying for some portion of the certifications. Council member Tish asked for clarification on the punch cards and not having season passes. Council member Clark stated that there were not as many season passes sold as in previous years. The calculations for what it cost to go to the pool for a day and what the passes costs doesn't make a lot of sense. Trying to calculate at the new rate didn't work well either. Using the punch cards there would be a 20% discount for the ten (10) punch card and a 25% discount for the twenty (20) punch card. That would still allow for a discount. There is always a loss but looking to the future there is going to need to be a new liner and the concrete is going to have to be repaired/replaced. These rates are comparable with surrounding pools. The Council discussed the need for good data on attendance going forward to make good decisions for future projects. The season passes that have been purchased will be honored. Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve Resolution No. 2022-03-05 re: City Pool Rates and Information for Calendar Year 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad asked if this is enough for the wages. The Council discussed some way to reimburse the lifeguards for their certifications. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve increasing the lifeguard wages from \$7.75 to \$9.00 per hour, the assistant managers from \$10.00 to \$11.25 per hour and the manager from \$11.00 to \$12.25 per hour. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Water and Wastewater:** A Water Committee meeting was set for March 10, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

**Public Safety:** Council member Clark stated there is currently not an agreement with the Keokuk County Sheriff's Department as it expired June 30, 2021. Council member Clark and Council member Iosbaker met with the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy. The previous 28E Agreement was for \$40.00 per hour. When this agreement went into effect it was meant to be a short-term patch to get the City through. The \$40.00 was just agreed upon. After talking with the Sheriff's Department, that does not cover the costs and the Sheriff's Department is asking for an increase to \$55.00 per hour. The hours the Sheriff's Department provides the City were reviewed and the Sheriff's Department is not even coming close to the 80 hours per week. There is a budget number of \$150,000.00. The effective date could be retroactive to March 1, 2022. City Clerk Alderson stated that the County Supervisors would need to approve this as well. Mayor Pro tem McLaughlin stated she would like to make sure the Mayor has an opportunity to review this as well. City Clerk Alderson stated she could give the information to the County Attorney to update. The Council discussed that the \$55.00 per hours is also for their hourly wage, equipment, training, etc. Council member Tish asked historically what officers have made. She was wondering if the hours stayed the same, would it be comparable to having a second officer at the City. Council member Clark explained that the 28E Agreement is covering the City for law enforcement until the City can make the decision to hire or not hire. It is the City's obligation to have law enforcement available. Council member Conrad stated the agreement can be discontinued with a thirty (30) day notice.

**City Clerk:** Council member Atwood moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to set the date and time for the notice of public hearing on the city budget estimate for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 as March 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Atwood, Tish, Clark and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Input:** Police Officer Fortney requested a list of landlords and phone numbers. The Sigourney Fire Department would like this information so they could contact the owners of the apartment complexes for issues they have on medical calls.

City Clerk Alderson stated she was given information today regarding a Peace Officer Bonus that the application is due March 11<sup>th</sup>. This will not cost the City anything.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:22 p.m.

---

Connie McLaughlin, Mayor Pro-tem

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