

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Others present were: Holly Van Voltenburg, Sigourney Area Development Corp. (SADC); Amanda Snakenberg (119 East Marion Street Property Owner); 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 Clark, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$55,817.17; Resolution 2022-05-04 re: Temporary Closing of the Inside Parking Area on the East Side of the Keokuk County Courthouse for the Farmers Market Season Sponsored by Sigourney Area Development Corporation (SADC); Resolution No. 2022-06-05 re: Temporary Closing of Downtown Streets for the Car Show on Saturday, July 16, 2022; Public Works Department attending SIPDO (Strategic Initiatives to Prevent Drug Overdoses) Training on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at the Community Outreach Center, 615 South Jefferson Street, Sigourney, Iowa at no cost; Annual Renewal of Retail Cigarette Permit Applications for Cigarette/ Tobacco/ Nicotine/Vapor for Various Sigourney businesses; Annual Principal and Interest Payments for G.O. Bonds and Revenue Bonds; Community Betterment Request: remove trees, stumps and limbs on City property on an undeveloped, platted street between Conrad and Bender properties - \$6,500.00 and gravel for concession stand at upper ball field - \$554.37; credit card report; and the time and place for the June 1, 2022 regular Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the remaining item on the Consent Agenda: minutes of May 4, 2022 Council meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Lentz, Tish, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Abstain: Iosbaker and Clark. Motion approved. *(Council members Iosbaker and Clark abstained as they were unable to attend the May 4, 2022 Council meeting.)*

Public Hearing(s): Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to open the public hearing re: Proposal to Vacate and Dispose of City's Interest in the Following Described Real Estate: All that part of Marion Court, a street in Victory Park Addition which is located north of the north line of Sigourney Blvd in Victory Park Addition and south of the line which line begins at the Northeast corner of Lot 1 in Block Seven of Victory Park Addition and in a westerly direction ending at the point located in the northeast corner of Lot Seven in Block One in Victory Park Addition, City of Sigourney, Iowa. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing was opened at 6:04 p.m.

Council member Conrad asked City Clerk Alderson if there had been objections and City Clerk Alderson responded she had not received any objections.

Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to close the public hearing re: Proposal to Vacate and Dispose of City's Interest in the Following Described Real Estate: All that part of Marion Court, a street in Victory Park Addition which is located north of the north line of Sigourney Blvd in Victory Park Addition and south of the line which line begins at the Northeast corner of Lot 1 in Block Seven of Victory Park Addition and in a westerly direction ending at the point located in the northeast corner of Lot Seven in Block One in Victory Park Addition, City of Sigourney, Iowa. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05-06 re: Vacating Said Property for Conveyance to Adjoining Property Owners. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Quit Claim Deed(s) from City of Sigourney, Iowa and Authorization for Mayor and City Clerk to Sign. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to open the public hearing re: Amendment of Current City Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing was opened at 6:08 p.m.

Council member Conrad explained the budget amendment and that everything does not happen exactly as anticipated when the budget was done. At the end of the year, we adjust our budget to show what has actually happened. This gives an accurate point to start the next year.

Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to close the public hearing re: Amendment of Current City Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved and the public hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.

City Clerk Alderson stated that the City borrowed \$2,000,000.00 for street projects and the façade project which accounts for the increase to revenues and around the same amount could possibly be spent. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05-07 for Proposed Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: Mayor Morlan explained that 105 East Marion Street is the Antique Shop owned by Ken Wagler. This roof is not part of the façade agreement, but he does have a leak in the roof and is asking permission to go ahead and repair that with his own repair crew. City Clerk Alderson stated she had spoken with Brad Grefe (Area 15 Regional Planning Commission) and the administrator for the CDBG portion of the project. She sent him pictures and he agreed that with that kind of damage he really needed to fix this. Mr. Grefe stated this does not require City approval. Properties owners cannot do additional work to their buildings if they are part of the façade project unless there is an emergency situation and Mr. Grefe stated this definitely looked like something the City should let him fix. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve emergency roof repairs and interior repairs to the ceiling and walls at 105 East Marion Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Morlan explained that 121 East Marion Street is the old Jonesy's building that burned, and 119 East Marion Street is Barn Wired. State law states that if the common wall needs to be repaired the two property owners split the costs. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve paying one-half the costs to repair the parapet wall between 121 East Marion Street and 119 East Marion Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Morlan stated there has been quite a discussion on hiring a qualified advocate for the City and the property owners for the oversight of the Façade Project Phase I. The majority of those discussing that, not that it is not necessary, an oversight person has no responsibility and actually cannot tell the contractor what to do. So, any recommendation he has is his own and the contractor does not have to follow it. We have had a lot of discussion on this and of course this is someone we would have to hire to oversee the entire project and what is happening. But again, the contractor does not have to take his word or do anything about it. Council member McLaughlin asked if this was a project manager of sorts. Mayor Morlan responded more or less with no responsibilities and no power to do anything. Council member Iosbaker stated there is another perspective and that is we need a way to get control of this project, so the quality output is reasonable. He would argue that the quality output is substandard. The purpose of this being on the agenda was to initiate a conversation about how we can acquire some control here, exert some control, so that the outcomes for the business owners are reasonable. If that is in the form of a qualified advocate, fine. If we were, for example, to elect another avenue such as using someone expressing our own opinions on the level of quality, then that is something we can consider. The thought behind this is the only leverage we have with the contractor is to withhold payment. If we think we are going to have to go down that road, then one opens up the possibility of finding oneself in court. So that means we would have to make a case that the quality of the work is substandard and that we are justified in withholding funds. This is a

suggested way forward we can certainly explore other avenues, but that is the reasoning behind it. Council member Conrad asked what makes a person a qualified advocate. Council member Iosbaker stated he wish he
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knew. Council member McLaughlin asked how we go about this – do we have a person in mind or where is the starting point for that. Council member Iosbaker stated there is not anyone in mind. They have talked about the concept of a building inspector. He has asked around and that is a possibility. He clarified a building inspector not a rental inspector. That is a possibility, but he is not versed enough in this industry to say that this is the most correct answer available to us. Council member Tish stated that Misty (White) had mentioned at the last meeting that it is sometimes standard to have a schedule to go along with these projects. She asked if there was a schedule. City Clerk Alderson responded there was as of yesterday. This schedule encompasses the end of April, all of May and the first part of June. This came from R.G. Construction (Grooms), the contractor. Council member Iosbaker stated this is focused primarily on the roofing. Council member Tish asked if there had been nothing that existed before this. City Clerk Alderson stated that she would have to look as she does not remember one. Typically, what is done, from looking at the pay estimates, he (Grooms) charges for the work he does each month. She usually looks at the administrator's worksheets when they come through to see what money was spent where. Even though there is a list of materials, we do not know which building they went to. Council member Tish stated that is at this point we do not have anything to fall back on such as this was supposed to be done with this level of quality. Council member Iosbaker stated he thought there was a schedule of what is to be done, but the quality or the result that is a little more subjective based on what he thinks he is hearing. It seems as though it is a difficult thing to nail down from a layman's point of view. He knows what looks goods and does not look good at least in his own opinion. The question is how can we exert some influence and control as actually one of the central contract holders. Council member Clark asked what the standards are in the contract / bid. There is a spec book that states what is going to be done. Council member Iosbaker explained that the architect draws that out and the contractor looks at it and decides to do what he thinks will achieve the result the architect wants. Mayor Morlan stated that as far as a qualified advocate, technically that is what the architect is. He is supposed to be overseeing this. Mayor Morlan stated he has spent quite a lot of time over there and he has seen things he has not liked, and he has called Rod Curtis (the architect) to let him know. If action was taken, he does not know, but he does not think we can do any more than that. Council member Iosbaker stated that the contracts read, from his interpretation, Rod Curtis has limited oversight on a day-to-day basis. He does not think Rod Curtis is in a position, nor does the contract actually require him to be, to govern the quality output. The paraphrasing of this is the architect can offer guidance, but he cannot really enforce anything. Council member Tish asked if there has been any conversation of the contract with the City's attorney. City Clerk Alderson stated not with a contract in front of us. Council member McLaughlin asked if other cities, when they go through this grant process, hire someone to oversee the architect. City Clerk Alderson stated she could call another city and see what they have done. Council member Clark asked if there is anything in the City's Code of Ordinances being violated or do, we even have codes pertaining to this stuff. He asked how we would hire someone to bring the work to a standard if we do not have a standard in place. Council member Tish asked about the historical side of this. Mayor Morlan stated that as far as his experience in Omaha the architect usually hires somebody to be on site to supervise the construction and architectural firm is responsible for that. As he understands it according to the contract Rod Curtis is supposed to be here thirteen times during construction. Again, if the City hires a qualified advocate, Rod Grooms does not have to listen to what they say anyway. Council member Iosbaker agreed but added if we get into a dispute and find ourselves in court, we need to have a way to defend ourselves. That is what we are really seeking here. At the end of the day Grooms is going to do what he wants to do or not do what he wants to do. The City needs to be expressing in no uncertain terms whether we think we are getting a quality output. As an advocate for the business owners the only lever we have, and John Wehr confirmed is to decide to withhold payment which could be a distinct possibility. That gets people upset, so that could end us up in litigation and we need a way to defend ourselves. Police Officer Fortney asked if there were any retired contractors in the area. Council member Iosbaker stated that might be our best bet. Mayor Morlan stated he knew of one, the former Mayor. Council member Iosbaker stated that if he stood up in court and said he thought the work was substandard, no one would care. Mayor Morlan stated that if you brought it to Rod Curtis' attention, he could back us up on it and his word would be good. Council member Tish asked if we looked for this qualified advocate, who is taking that project on, who is going to do the research, get numbers, etc. She is all for approving getting more information on this and then visiting the topic one more time. There is a lot of stuff and there is nothing concrete. Council member Clark asked what is not being done properly. Amanda Snakenberg stated he could come to her business, and she would show him. Half of it can be seen visually with the eyes. Council member McLaughlin asked if Ms. Snakenberg did not feel this was being addressed. Ms. Snakenberg stated no and that she has gone to Rod Curtis multiple times. Council member McLaughlin asked if this is not where the insurance companies get involved. Ms. Snakenberg is not talking about the apartments or the roof. She is talking about the storefront, the new windows, the new ramp they poured that leak, the whole front wall was not sealed properly. You can hold a lighter up to the outside wall and brick wall inside the building and wind would blow it out. Mayor Morlan stated

he has seen some of this. Council member Clark asked if this was on the City because we are part of the grant. City Clerk Alderson stated the grant is with the City and the contracts are between the City and property owners. Page -4- Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The architect and general contractor have contracts with the City as well. Council member Clark stated the contractor does not have to listen to the business owners, but they have to answer to the City. City Clerk Alderson is not sure the contractor has to listen the City. The City hired the architect, his designs were approved, and all the contractor has to do is meet those standards. They are supposed to come out to be a nice product. Council member Iosbaker stated that \$710,000.00 worth of product ought to net the City a reasonable quality. Council member McLaughlin asked if Rod Curtis was not fulfilling any of this. Ms. Snakenberg stated she had talked to Rod Curtis regarding the ramp situation and Mr. Curtis stated the only proper solution would be to have them tear the ramp out that was just put in and hold up progress on the rest of her project and is that what she wants. Ms. Snakenberg stated she answered that she wanted it done right and it never happened. Council member Iosbaker stated that maybe at this point the question is two faceted as in can anyone think of a better approach than what is in item three and if not, can we get approval to try and find an advocate. Council member McLaughlin stated she would like to have a list of everything that is not right. She would like to present that list to Mr. Curtis and see what his response is. Ms. Snakenberg stated she could get that list. Council member Tish wondered if we should speak to John Wehr, City Attorney. Council member Iosbaker stated that we have, and Mr. Wehr landed on withholding money. Mr. Wehr said the City has the power of the purse; we do not have to pay. The contracts are all mechanical. There is nothing about whether the wall has to be straight. Mayor Morlan reminded the Council that we are discussing a qualified advocate and would like to table this until the next Council meeting. There is too much going on right now and too many things to be taken care of. Mayor Morlan is not even sure if hiring an advocate would help. Council member Clark stated he thinks it is a waste of money to hire an advocate and the (contractor) does not have to listen to anything the advocate says. Council member Iosbaker stated this would be a defensive position. We could take the position that we could go to court and take our chances. The only reason this is being put forth is as a defensive measure if we find ourselves in court. Council member Tish asked if everyone has been to Barn Wired with this project going on and she encouraged everyone to go and see. Whoever wants to take this project on, do the research to find someone to be prepared with the information with "what it is going to cost" – everything. Go check it out for yourselves because if it was your business, your livelihood on the line, you might feel a little bit differently. These are our business owners. We can at least be prepared with the information, not necessarily hire someone or spend the money. Director of Public Works I Northup stated the City has been through this situation with the watermain project and with the lagoon project. We are not looking for an advocate, we are looking for an observer. There is a very fine line of what the observer can tell the contractor to do. We borrowed money and taking the lowest bidder, which is problem number one. That is just the way we have to operate. We are looking for an observer that can write things down and knows what he is talking about. We are looking for an observer who observes, takes notes, writes things down and takes pictures. We can not tell them how to do the project. If we do and we are wrong, the contractor is going to say they told me how to do it and then that is on the City. Even withholding payment was a fine line with the watermain project. There is five percent withheld from every payment and this was done with the watermain project. They have to come back. We hired French-Reneker-Associates and a gentleman to come in to take notes, measurements, do all the mapping for us and observe. They can not tell the contractor what to do, they can not tell them they are doing it wrong, just observe. At the end of the day, you can withhold the final payment, which is what he thought the five percent was until the City is happy with the project. The final walk through is done and the City is satisfied and then they are given the last five percent of the project. When talking to the bonding company and they said not really. After they receive the final payment, if they do not come back, the bonding company goes after them. If the City hires an observer and this goes to court, someone that knows what they are doing, they can say this is what they did wrong – here are the notes, measurements, camera with pictures of everything they have done wrong. The walk through is where you do the lighter, look at the wind, look at the leaks and point out what is not right. We would be paying for an observer to write down every move. If it does go to court, you have someone that knows what they are doing to watch every move. We would be paying a lot of money and we should not have to, but we have to remember we borrowed money and we have to hire the lowest bidder. Council member Iosbaker stated this is what he is hoping we can accomplish here. The City has to have eyes on the project and be able to make a case. He likes looking for a lever, which in this case would be the bonding company. Unfortunately, this is at the end of the project, so all the damage is already done. That seems to be a little late but may be the only option. Mayor Morlan stated that we needed to take action of some kind. Council member Clark stated he does not like the idea of hiring a retired contractor from here to do this. If we do this there is concern of the contractor being biased. Council member Conrad stated that whoever we hire is going to be biased as the City would be paying them. The courts know that we are paying someone, and we would not have them appear in court if they are not going to testify on the City's behalf. He is not in favor of moving forward tonight as he does not have any information about whether it should be someone like Doug Glandon or whether there is some engineering firm that we could hire to be an observer. He would like to find out about that. If we

are talking about any type of court or threat of court, we should involve our attorney from the very beginning. In the past, John Wehr has done the things we need to do. If there is a specialty the City needs, then we may need Page -4- Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of Wednesday, May 18, 2022

to look for that elsewhere. Mayor Morlan stated we better have our ducks in a row as there is a lot of information we need before we can attempt that. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to table this matter until the next Council meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05-08 re: Quit Claim Deed for the property located at 308 South East Street from the City of Sigourney, Iowa and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark stated the Public Safety Committee has met and discussed changing our vicious animal ordinance to allow pit bulls in the City and they do not want to change the ordinance but leave it as it is. Mayor Morlan asked if there was any discussion. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to not change the vicious animal ordinance, but to leave as it is. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: Lentz and Tish. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated she only had one contract ready for approval for the DJ on July 3rd for entertainment. Council member McLaughlin asked if any other organizations helped with the July 4th expenses. There have been some donations from local businesses to help with the entertainment expenses. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to approve the July 3rd street dance DJ services and to pay a total of \$400.00. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated she has been talking with Will and Mikayla James regarding the planters around the square. They are ready to plant, but the flowers do not always get watered. We talked about the possibility of asking different businesses if they would help pay for the flowers. The City and SADC paid for the winter arrangements. The biggest concern is not them putting the flowers in, it is making sure they are watered. City Clerk Alderson asked if anyone had any ideas on how to accomplish this or if maybe the City could work with SADC to come up with a program to help pay for these and make sure they are being watered. Amanda Snakenberg stated she has talked with the Master Gardner's, but they are too busy. The high school has been willing to send kids out during school, but the summer is the worst. The plants have to have consistent water. They need watered daily and not all businesses are open seven days a week. Council member Tish suggested maybe a memo could be sent to the businesses to sponsor one of the eight planters. Ms. Snakenberg stated that Casey Thompson donated his time last year to water the plants but does not have time to do this again.

Council member Iosbaker stated the committee for the Farmer's Market is active. They are recruiting sponsors and working on arranging with businesses to stay open on the evenings of the Farmer's Market. They are actively looking for entertainment that can take place during the Farmer's Market. The thought would be to approach businesses to sponsor this entertainment. They are asking the restaurants to stay open. These start in June and will be held every Wednesday. SADC is also working on the Car Show which is a big draw. They are working on obtaining sponsors and getting signage. There will be a map developed and sponsors will be identified. SADC is also working on the availability of childcare within the county. There was a good conversation with Indian Hills Community College and Early Childhood Care. They are prepared to launch a Keokuk County study. Early Child Care is going to fund a CPR class for providers and students. Part of the strategy is to try to prime the work force to generate a work force over time by making it attractive and possible for students to get trained from this area. This would give them an opportunity to work in a childcare setting and this applies also to students that are interested in entering the field of education. The Facebook page is more active these days thanks to Holly's diligence, and they are getting quite a bit more traffic and interest in what SADC is doing. This is purely marketing and promotion but is intended to raise awareness of the organization and what it is doing. They are also changing their look with a newly designed trifold that has a much better color scheme. They are also working on the website. They are working with the Sigourney High School. They have had two meetings with the high school students and the high school team under the direction of Tom Watson has formed a working group for a redesign of SADC's website. SADC presented to the students what they wanted from the site. He is happy to say when they went back for a review, he was personally blown away with what was produced. There are five students involved and their presentation was professional and what they produced as a proposal was very attractive. They thought of several things that SADC had not originally indicated they wanted. This is something the City could look at doing and it would promote the school system.

Park and Recreation: Mayor Morlan stated one lifeguard turned in her notice as she will not be able to work this summer at the pool. There was another lifeguard that wanted to apply. The Pool Manager highly recommends her as she has been a lifeguard before. Council member McLaughlin stated the lifeguard is Sophie Whitmore and she has turned in her application. The Park and Recreation Committee would like to recommend hiring her at the \$9.00 per hour, the same as the other lifeguards. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve hiring Sophie Whitmore as an additional lifeguard. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Iosbaker, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05-09 re: pool personnel for the 2022 swimming season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin reviewed the pool punch cards. The City will number the cards and put a date on them. The scan QR code will be a link to the pool patron rules. The Park and Recreation Committee thought 250 punch cards might not be enough and are recommending 500 at a cost of \$47.50. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the pool pass design and ordering 500 cards from The Design House. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Aye: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker stated the fields right now are heavily infested with dandelions. To make sure this does not affect play the fields have to be mowed twice. In order to avoid this and improve the quality the soccer directors are asking that the fields be sprayed. Council member Conrad suggested that the policy for spraying the park gets adopted for the soccer fields, so the weeds are controlled, and the grass is nurtured as good as possible. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to adopt the same policy the City has for the parks and treatment of the lawn for the soccer / flag football fields by contacting the provider to see if this could be extended and give a price for the same treatment as at the park. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Streets and Sanitation: Director of Public Works I Northup stated we have to order enough salt that we think we are going to use for the next winter. There is an abundance due to a mild winter last year, so we only have to order 100 ton this year. Normally we order 200 to 250 tons. The salt shed holds 600 ton, and it is full. That will be used. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the purchase of 100 ton of rock salt. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater: Director of Public Works I Northup explained the change order deals with the influent building and effluent building at the lagoons. They are only three walls and a roof due to the gases that come through there. They had debated putting a ceiling in these and left that out thinking they would not need one. This is a tall building, and they already have birds nesting and getting in there, so they would like to put the ceiling in now as it would be cheaper then to hire it done later. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve Change Order No. 2 for Boomerang Corp. for the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-009 – Sigourney, IA (17-130/21-006). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Pay Estimate No. 15 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: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Finance: City Clerk Alderson stated the State Auditor's Office has done the audits for the City the last three years. The quote is for years ending June 30th for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023 and 2024. They are easy to work with. Council member Conrad stated we have put this out for bids before and we can do that again we could. There is a definite benefit such as when the City Clerk has a question, she is talking with the City's auditor, but as it is the state the answer is about as good as it is going to get. They are familiar with what the City is doing and how we do it, that makes it easier for them to review things without putting in a lot of additional time getting up to speed. The familiarity is beneficial on both sides. Council member Iosbaker moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to approve the award for audit services relating to the City's annual audit for the years ending June 30, 2022, June

30, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Tish, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

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Public Input: Police Officer Fortney read the following letter: Since March 26th, 2018, I have served the City of Sigourney as a Patrolman with the Sigourney Police Department. In that time, I have responded to thousands of calls for service both within the City and backing other Officers within Keokuk County. I have responded to hundreds of medical calls, and many times, been the one to begin CPR or other vital life-saving interventions prior to the arrival of EMS. I have responded to numerous Domestic Assaults, and more than once, my arrival ended a deadly force incident before life was lost. I have responded to assaults. I have responded to burglaries. I have listened to children tell me about their traumatic experiences. I have been the one to tell family members that their loved ones are gone. I have taken dangerous drivers, intoxicated drivers, illegal narcotics, and wanted fugitives off the streets of our city, many times as they were entering the City.

For the past two years, I have continued to do the same job that I swore to do over four years ago. In that time, I have had little to no support, assistance, assurance, or help from the elected officials of this City. I held out for a new Mayor and City Council in the hopes that things would change for the better. I believed in this City. I moved to this community and began establishing roots here because I fell in love with this City that I have protected and served for the past four years. I have tried to offer solutions. I have tried to make changes that would enable me to better do my job for the citizens of this City. I was met with opposition and worthless platitudes at every turn.

I cannot continue working in the environment that has been created through inaction, ignorance, and negligence. Effective two weeks from today, I will no longer be an Officer with the Sigourney Police Department. I have accepted a job offer that will allow me to continue applying my extensive training and experience to the medical needs of the citizens and visitors of Mahaska County. I understand what this decision likely means for the Sigourney Police Department, but that weight should never have been mine to bear. The elected officials of the City of Sigourney have the sole responsibility of maintaining public safety for their constituents, and I hope and pray that they begin focusing on such rather than looking at numbers and budgets. Do your due diligence. Speak with Hospital Staff, business owners, employees around town, and the private citizens that put you in office. Numbers on a page do not tell a full story and are easily skewed to satisfy self-fulfilling agendas.

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

Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk