

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Others present were: Steve Shettler; Kris Metcalf; Casey Jarmes, Sigourney News Review; Joshua Reinier; Rich Fortney; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Doug Glandon, Code Enforcement Officer; Beckie Applegate, Office Assistant; 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 after removing Item 4-1. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Lentz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 4, 2023; Council Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$34,666.67; Don Northup to attend the 29th Annual Water and Wastewater Operator's Training Workshop sponsored by Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities on November 28-30, 2023 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa at a cost of \$350.00 and to use the City's credit card to pay for hotel accommodations and meals not provided; Liquor License Application for Goldman Enterprises, LLC (DBA: Copper Lantern) at 101 North Jefferson Street, Sigourney, Iowa for Class C Retail Alcohol License, Catering and Outdoor Service; the credit card report; and the time and place for the November 1, 2023 Regular Council Meeting will at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated she was contacted last spring regarding the tax abatement process. On June 2nd she responded and outlined all the information including the paperwork that had to be returned before building started. As far as she can see from the email string the gentleman that returned the application had just received the information. City Clerk Alderson stated she did tell them to go ahead and fill out the paperwork and she would put it on the agenda for the Council to discuss. Council member McLaughlin's concern is setting a precedent for future requests. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to not approve the Tax Exemption Application for FIDC 133 LLC for 327 North Main Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2023-10-03). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Change Order 103 - #8 for the Upper Story Project at 103 South Jefferson Street, Sigourney, Iowa. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve Application and Certificate for Payment No. 10 to R.G. Construction for Sigourney Upper Story Project at 103 South Jefferson Street, Sigourney, Iowa. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Lentz moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Upper Story Project at 103 South Jefferson Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: Council member Clark stated the Public Safety Committee met last week. In the past the Public Safety Committee has talked with the Council about changing the residential restrictions for the department heads. This would allow the application pool for police candidates to be widened.

Council member Conrad discussed the residential restrictions and felt that this should be a forty-five-mile radius outside of city limits. Some of the other restrictions were also removed. Mayor Morlan stated this is getting more important as it is getting harder to find qualified people for the positions, so the search area needs to be expanded. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve changing the personnel handbook as set out except instead of 45 miles change to "within a forty-five-mile radius of". Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Clark stated that at the last Council meeting it was discussed that the City had received two police applications and interviews were set up. The interviews were conducted and spoke with Mr. Metcalf for an extended period of time during his interview. He has extensive law enforcement experience, roughly twenty-two years of experience as a law enforcement officer. He has been the Chief of Police in three other small cities comparable to ours as well as a County Deputy Sheriff for ten years. He is very knowledgeable and capable of doing the job. The Public Safety Committee thinks he will do a very good job for the City. Council member Clark asked Mr. Metcalf if he had

anything to say. Mr. Metcalf stated he believes he is ready to lead the City in reopening the Police Department. He feels that he should be able to find some officers that are suitable to work here in Sigourney to make this a safe place. Council member Tish asked Mr. Metcalf if he would introduce himself to the Council and if he had any thoughts as to how he wants to rebuild the department. Mr. Metcalf stated he is a grant writer, and he has already contacted the Governor's Office to get equipment for the City so that would not burden the City with costs. Part of that would be traffic enforcement. He doesn't necessarily feel that everyone should be ticketed, but at least warned and then a citation. He doesn't believe the intention is to hammer people, but we do live in town and there are children around and we need to abide by the speed and other traffic laws are important. Mr. Metcalf believes the schools are important and law enforcement should be in the schools. The kids need to know that law enforcement are not bad people and are there to help them. He would like to hire some officers that could eventually replace him when he retires in approximately five years. Council member Tish asked what made him choose to apply for the position. Mr. Metcalf stated that he went back as a Reserve in Jefferson County. It was nagging at him to come back; he was not satisfied not working. He stated that he is on IPERS and he will have to make less money because of the requirements, but he is going to be working part time as an officer with the State Fair. Mr. Metcalf feels this is important for networking. Mayor Morlan added that Mr. Metcalf has had extensive training in all areas of law enforcement including mental health. Mr. Metcalf will be working forty hours per week, but these will not be set hours. He will be flexible. Council member Tish asked when he planned to start. Mr. Metcalf stated November 1st was discussed as there are hoops that need to be jumped through. Council member Tish asked if he was planning to do equal parts patrol plus office or was he planning to be mainly in the office to start. Mr. Metcalf stated that he did not intend to sit in the office all day, he would be on patrol. He feels that presence is important, so the community sees law enforcement. He also thinks that changing the routine would challenge the citizen's integrity. Council member Tish thanked Mr. Metcalf. Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve hiring Kris Metcalf as a full time forty hour per week Police Chief at \$24.00 per hour contingent upon passing the MMPI and a physical. The Public Safety Committee's recommend is to offer Mr. Metcalf two weeks' vacation contingent upon him signing a one-year contract stating that he will reimburse the City for any used vacation during that time and with a starting date of November 1st or after the City receives the results from the physical and MMPI whichever comes sooner. Council member Clark stated the reason they would like to offer two weeks of vacation to start is he is taking less money than the City was offering for the position. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Human Resources: Council member Conrad explained we were looking at keeping the same medical policy. City Clerk Alderson explained that there are some options for dental, but they would like to keep what they have and look at options next August when the medical information becomes available. Council member Conrad stated that all the information was not available that is needed to make a good decision. City Clerk Alderson reviewed the increases to the insurance. The current medical insurance will take a 9.6% increase this next year and the dental insurance is a 15% increase.

Council member Lentz moved, seconded by Council member Tish, to approve the policy renewal for employee medical insurance benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated in talking with some of the employees they would like time to make a comparison between policies. This is a 15% increase for MetLife. Council member Tish asked if we would try to get the information to discuss at the November 1st Council meeting. Council member Tish moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to table approve the policy for employee dental insurance benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Tish, Clark, Conrad, McLaughlin and Lentz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk:

Public Input: Mr. Joshua Reinier asked if there could be a flagpole and concession stand placed at the Flag Football field. Mayor Morlan stated that the City could look in to this and discuss it. Mr. Reinier asked Mr. Metcalf if he would be upholding the constitution in his position. Mr. Metcalf stated that he supports the constitution.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk