

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA

MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Others present were: Kirsten Benson, Terry Benson, Holly VanVoltenburg, Christie Iosbaker, Stuart Grossman, Jerry Wohler, Gwen Stull; Don Northup, Public Works Director I; Brent Gilliland, Public Works Director II; Richard Fortney, Police Officer and Sherrie Casper, Deputy City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the tentative agenda after removing item 4-1 (Disposition of Dog Owned by Anthony and Amber Jones as a result of a dog encounter). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$17,463.04; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$5,963.18; City Clerk's March 2021 financial reports; Payroll Expenses, ACH and Monthly Transfers for March 2021; Tax Exemption Application for Mark and Kamiko Weber at 1115 South Stuart Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-04-01); credit card report and the time and place for the April 21, 2021 regular Council meeting will be 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve Minutes of the regular Council Meeting of March 17, 2021. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, and Schröder. Nays: None. Abstain: Morlan. Motion approved. (Council member Morlan was unable to attend the March 17, 2021 Council Meeting).

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Minutes of the special Council Meeting of March 19, 2021. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Schröder. Nays: None. Abstain: Bender and Morlan. Motion approved. (Council members Bender and Morlan were unable to attend the March 19, 2021 Special Council Meeting).

Additional City Business: Gwen Stull and Terry and Kirsten Benson are asking for the Council to close the alley between their properties. It is the north half of the alley. It is an open alley all the way through. The utility trucks won't use her drive to get to the poles in the back, they always used Mr. Benson's drive to get in because his lot was empty, but now it's not and they can't get through the other end. Council member Schultz asked if we have utilities in the alley. Director of Public Works Northup answered no we do not have any water or sewer. There are utility poles back there. Council member Conrad said that the last time we had someone that wanted to build a garage we had an easement and if we needed to get to our lines, we had the right to bust up the concrete to get to them. We had told them to put it up at their own risk. We have not closed or vacated very many alleys.

Council member Schroeder asked where the traffic is coming from that is going on their properties. It is coming from West Hickory Street going north. There are many people that cut down through there. Mrs. Stull asked if the City wants it then why don't you maintain it? Council member Schultz said it's an alley and the City has limited funds and can't maintain them. She asked the City to put rock in there a few years ago and was told that it was her responsibility if she wanted rock, but it's not her property so why should she have to do that. Council member Conrad responded that it is like the terrace on your property, the City owns that, but we are not going to mow every terrace in town. She said why should she have to pay for tons of gravel in there when they are going to send utility trucks through there.

Mr. Benson stated that the only reason he wants it closed is because it is Stull's driveway and when it is blocked because it is her driveway, instead of people driving in and then having to back out they cut down through his lot and out his driveway. He has seen it with trucks with trailers, cars, pickups. It doesn't matter when they get to where it's blocked, they see an access and drive out through his lot. He is tired of fixing ruts in the yard because people are driving through there.

Council member Schultz asked if that was the only place that the Stull's had to park? Gwen answered yes that basically she has a one car garage, and she owns three vehicles. The City has to be concerned about always being consistent about the things that we do as much as we can. We are very slow to close alleys because once they are closed it is hard to get them back and we may have regretted doing that in the past. Typically, we have discussed something like this in a committee meeting and not made a decision off the cuff. Council member Conrad raised concerns about making a swift decision and not looking into other options that might be out there.

Mr. Benson brought up that an alley was recently closed by Sieren's place over on South Stone no less than five years ago. Mayor Glandon stated that Sieren's wanted to pour a concrete driveway and there was a document drawn up stating that if the City ever must go in and do something to the storm sewer, we will tear the concrete up and won't repair it.

Council member Schroeder asked if it was the same person or persons driving down through there and if it was maybe they needed to talk to them about not doing that. It is not the same people; it is random people doing it.

Council member Schultz wondered what their intentions were if the City closed the alley. Mr. Benson said that he would put some kind of barricade up so people could not drive through.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz to table this discussion until the next council meeting. The Council can drive by the properties to look at the situation. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the second reading to the Sigourney Zoning Ordinances – Section 18 – Planning and Zoning Commission. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Stuart Grossman and Jerry Wohler are representatives from the Kiwanis Club. They have an interest in a proposal to raise funds to replace and build a new bandstand on the square. They are proposing the location for the new bandstand as the southeast corner of the square because of its proximity to the events that tend to occur there. It would be further away from the highway. We are concerned about children being able to run out into the street. They thought it would add value to the square for its attractiveness perspective. Having a place for people to gather for events such as the Fourth of July. There could be summer concert series to bring more people to the square to participate with the events and to visit the local businesses. They spoke to the County last week. They are open to the idea; they were ok with the location. They had concerns about if there were any utilities running under the area. There was a One Call done by Lonnie Bell. Most of the utilities run along the walkways. There is one fiber optic cable that runs through the grass area but there is plenty of room to place the bandstand, so it is not disturbed. The one thing that the County was interested in was who would be in charge of maintaining the structure after it was constructed. They declined to except the responsibility and suggested the City would be a more appropriate entity. They are here to ask the City if they would be interested in taking on the maintenance of a new bandstand. They realize that it is going to take some time to raise the funds. There hasn't even been a design chosen and a budget set because they wanted to see if there was an interest before they went to the trouble to start the fundraising. They have discussed it as a club and are committed to finding funding sources locally and with any outside sources, but there is no reason to do this if there is no interest to have the project go through.

It would be low maintenance, possibly painting and eventually a new roof years down the road. Materials would be picked that are low maintenance but attractive and long life. They want to build something that is beautiful and has a long life. If that means that it takes longer to raise the funds, then that is what they will do.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan to table to discussion of this project until the next council meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Jerry Wohler inquired about the July 4th activities, if we are having a big celebration as in the past or is it put on hold like last year. The Fourth of July is really not sponsored by the City, it is individual entities that are in charge of the different events. Jerry said that he would go to SADC and see if they are interested in planning it. The Council agreed that they would be in favor of the July 4th activities going forward.

This is the Catalyst Grant Application for Grant Ranch. The City would be committing \$3,500.00 to \$5,000.00 for the architectural fees and an additional \$5,000.00 for any other expenses. The money could be in kind money towards the project. The only real expense the City would be out is the architectural fees. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the Catalyst Grant Application and Financial Contribution for the Iowa Economic Development Authority for a Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program Grant Application. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Abstain: Conrad. Motion approved. (Council member Conrad abstained because he is related to the recipients of the grant).

This is a maximum \$500,000 upper story grant application. It is for building owners that have properties that the upper story needs to be rehabilitated. A committee will be set up to pick a property from the interested property owners. Council member Conrad, Morlan and McLaughlin volunteered to be on the committee. They set the meeting to make the decision for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to place plans and specifications on file and to set the date and time of Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for the public hearing and bid letting for the IEDA (Iowa Economic Development Authority) Downtown Revitalization (DTR) 20-DTR-005. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

There was no report for Sigourney Area Development Corporation (SADC).

Park and Recreation: There was one additional application received for the lifeguard position. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve Resolution 2021-04-02 Pool Personnel for the 2021 Swimming Season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Street and Sanitation: Director of Public Works II Brent Gilliland reviewed the temporary compost site and that the committee had talked about putting up a pole with a camera on it. He received a quote from Atwood Electric for what it would cost to do it. It would be roughly \$1,200.00 to do it. It would include removing a pole out at the park that is no longer needed and installing it at the compost site. It would be \$10.00 a month to have the camera. If we don't want it during the winter when the site is closed, we won't have to pay the monthly fee. The fee is for us to be able to see it remotely on an iPad. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to approve spending up to \$1,300.00 additional on installing a pole and camera at the temporary compost site. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater:

Director of Public Works I Don Northup presented the 2020 Water Quality Report. It shows that all the tests were taken, and everything was in compliance for what the DNR was requesting. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Conrad to approve the 2020 Water Quality Report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

There were no issues with the pay request from KLC Construction. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan to approve Pay Estimate #7 from KLC Construction, LLC for Proposed Water Main Improvements-CDBG #19-WS-016 – Sigourney, IA (Project #18-113/20-057). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The pay estimate from Boomerang Corp. is for office work for submittals and some offsite storage for the aluminum gates. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad to approve Pay Estimate #2 from Boomerang Corporation for Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-009 – Sigourney, IA – SRF #CS192087001. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Northway is out at Well #5 cleaning and acidizing it. It hasn't been done for close to five years. We try and do a well every year. It produces good water, so it is worth doing routine maintenance.

Council member Schultz reported that the sewer committee met and that they will have a recommendation for the Council. The other utility committees are meeting later this week to discuss their rates. There are the standard increases that are built into our ordinances and they need to be addressed and now is the time to look into them.

Public Input: Council member Schroeder would like the Council to know that he is a member of Kiwanis and he is a proponent for the bandstand project that was discussed tonight, and he is in favor of it.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:03 p.m.

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sherrie Casper, Deputy City Clerk