

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Others present were: Shannon Greiner, Sigourney Community Schools; Tiffany Ketcham; Richard Fortney; Josh Torgim; Larry Alderson; Matt Walker, French-Reneker Associates; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Jeff Runnells, Reserve Police Officer, and Angie Alderson, City Clerk. *(Larry Alderson was present, but stayed in the City Clerk's Office, which opens into the Council Chambers.)*

Due to the restriction of the number of people at a public gathering, Police Officer Runnells monitored the people during the Council meeting and kept additional people in another part of the building during the meeting. It was decided that if anyone arrived at the meeting and wished to meet with the City Council members, one of the City employees would exit the meeting to allow anyone from the public the opportunity to speak before the Council.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Shannon Greiner was present to answer questions regarding the resolution to close downtown streets for Homecoming and a pep rally. Mrs. Greiner stated the football schedule has been revised and Homecoming will be on September 18th. They are asking for Wednesday, September 16th to celebrate Homecoming. They would like to have Boom Night same as last year. The parade would start at the Elementary School, go around the square, then at the newspaper office with permission to park there and put the trailers up. They would hold the community pep rally there. Mrs. Greiner stated it worked well last year, that they had a good attendance. They would like to have things as normal as possible for the kids as they have already missed out on six months of stuff.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes of regular Council meeting of August 5, 2020; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$26,282.98; City Clerk financial reports for July 2020; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for July 2020; Resolution No. 2020-08-02 Temporary Closing of Downtown Streets for the Sigourney Community Schools Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally on Wednesday, September 16th; Community Betterment Projects; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the September 2, 2020 Council meeting for 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Additional City Business: Council member McLaughlin would like to open City Hall with the same restrictions as at the last Council meeting. She does not feel there are a plethora of people that come in at one time and she does not think it would be a burden to clean it as needed. As more businesses are opening, she feels it is necessary to open City Hall as well. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to open City Hall and keep the Council Chambers, Conference Room, and restrooms closed to the public. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Morlan and Bender. Nays: Schultz, Schröder, and Conrad. Mayor Glandon voted nay to break the tie. Motion failed.

Tiffany Ketcham was present to talk about the City's dangerous animal ordinance. Mrs. Ketcham introduced herself as a Keota graduate in 2007. She has relatives in Keota and Sigourney. Her family is currently re-locating and they are hoping to move to Sigourney. She is a responsible dog owner and called City Hall and determined that we do have a breed ban on dogs that could be affiliated as pit bulls. She has worked with animal rescue organizations for the past ten years. She has had 13 dogs in her home that she has fostered and gotten into forever homes, two of which she has adopted. The question about pit bulls is she has learned to be true is that they are a self-fulfilling prophesy. If you believe they are vicious you can find every statistic on dog bites about them and if you believe they can be good family companions you can find stories about this. You can look on the American Kennel Association and see that they have a passing temperament rating higher than Border Collies and Beagles. One statistic Mrs. Ketcham shared she pulled from the World Health Organization: in 2018 there were 26 deaths for this breed including rottweilers and she feels this is a scary number. What is important is that

in 25 of those circumstances the owner had a criminal record. What she believes about this breed is that it has a reputation and that reputation attracts the wrong dog owner. She has adopted two pit bulls and has three little children at home. Mrs. Ketcham stated she does not want to own a dog that she does not trust or risk anyone in her family getting hurt. Mrs. Ketcham passed around pictures of her dogs and told her stories as to why she adopted these two dogs. Mrs. Ketcham reviewed the City's ordinance and agreed that there should not be vicious animals in communities. She does disagree with the portion that states "when the propensity to attack or bite persons shall exist". Her issue with this is that every dog has the ability to bite. When you own a dog of this breed, owners have an extra responsibility to make sure nothing ever happens, to train them and to socialize them. Every dog does have the propensity to bite, but do they have the propensity to attack. Mrs. Ketcham stated that she wants to stand up for this breed and there are some that do deserve a chance. Mrs. Ketcham, as a dog owner and a community member, asked that instead of completing taking the ban away, put high restrictions on any owner that does have these types of dogs such as six foot privacy fences; leashed and muzzled when on walks; can't go to community events, can't walk by schools, parks or playgrounds. With any breed of dog, you have to be careful where you take them. She is extra cautious because of what she has seen over the years. Putting in high provisions that would allow smart dog owners to own the types of dogs that are okay in homes and eliminate the so called "bad" dog owners who would not follow these restrictions. She also suggested having a vet or police officer do a canine compatibility test or a canine good citizen test. If that is passed once a year, the dog is going to the vet and the city has no complaints. The vet could vouch for the animal or a police officer could do this as well. That is what Mrs. Ketcham is asking. She would love to be a part of this community, but her dogs are important and she knew the decision she made when she adopted these dogs was that there are certain view points on them and she is just asking the Council to be open to suggestion and conversation as to how this can be made to work for everybody: the Council, the community and herself. She thanked the Council for their patience and consideration. She does not want to just open this up as she cannot promise there will not be issues with other dog owners. Council member Conrad talked about the portions of the Animal Control Ordinance that would need to be changed if the Council decided to move forward and the placing of conditions or restrictions. Mrs. Ketcham suggested the ordinances from the City of Newton and the City of Des Moines are both good ordinances. The City of Des Moines also asks that the dogs be put on the homeowner's insurance policy. She thinks that would be a good idea as well. She stated that the City of Anamosa recently changed their ordinance from a ban to restrictions. Council member Morlan stated that the number one dog with the most bites is the Labrador Retriever and over fifty percent of dogs are retrievers. Mrs. Ketcham asked if she is visiting her grandparents in Sigourney and she is walking her dogs are the police going to stop her and tell her the dogs are banned in town. Sometimes it is hard to tell the breed. If the ordinances are changed the police could just ask the dog owner to put a muzzle on the dog if they are going to walk it. Mayor Glandon stated that in the past it is hard to get a vet to state that a dog is a pit bull. Mrs. Ketcham stated that our ordinance stated mixes including the appearance or characteristics which could eliminate a lot of breeds that do not have behavioral issues. It can be hard to tell what a dog is even with a DNA test. Mrs. Ketcham is guessing our ordinance must be a little difficult to enforce. Mayor Glandon explained the reasons the ordinance was put into place but stated it might be time to address this as a vicious acting animal more so than breed specific. There have been other people before the Council in the last few years and their dogs cannot be verified as pit bulls. Council member Schultz stated the Public Safety Committee could talk about this. Mrs. Ketcham stated that if a dog bites it should be removed. Council member Schultz agreed that typically it is not the dog but the owner that is the problem. Mrs. Ketcham believes that owners should have more responsibility with bigger dogs. Council member Morlan complimented Mrs. Ketcham on her presentation and thank her for the information.

Mayor Glandon asked the Council if anyone had driven the intersection of West Walnut and North Stone Streets. Council member Conrad stated he had, but that it was early and there was not any activity. Mayor Glandon stated that he has seen kids at different intersections as well. Council member Morlan stated he talked with a resident in the area who asked about the stop sign and he responded it is to keep a kid from the getting killed by hopefully at least slowing a car down. Council member Schultz stated he does not think this will fix the issue. There would be a whole lot of intersections that would need to be signed. The kids are running all over the block, but at a lot of intersections. Mayor Glandon stated that he witnessed four kids on scooters/skateboards on the wrong side of the road in the middle of the intersection. He stopped and tooted his horn and the kids stared at him with a "what do you want" look. Council member Conrad asked if this was coming from someone that was concerned about hitting the children instead of the parents. The Council discussed how aware the parents are. Mayor Glandon asked if the consensus at this point was to not put additional stop signs at this intersection. Council member McLaughlin asked if there were any other solutions? The Council discussed that they have seen kids at other intersections.

Mayor Glandon stated that City Clerk Alderson has been talking with Tim Oswald, financial advisor, the bonding attorneys, etc. They are proposing designating a TIF district around the square or further and then the improvements such as with the Façade Project the money could be diverted into the TIF and designated to be used to repair streets in that area, or a second round of the Façade grant to help pay the City's portion. City Clerk Alderson stated this is a blight and slum TIF which is different from the other two TIF districts currently in place. It could also be used later to help eliminate other derelict buildings, etc. This does have a cost associated to get started. This involves someone to put the plan together, our financial advisor and our bonding attorneys. It has been estimated to cost between \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00. The TIF district could be made into any shape or size. Council member Schultz thought this should be looked at as it is different than what we currently have. Council member Conrad thought we should get more information. City Clerk Alderson will see if someone would be willing to come to the next Council meeting and answer questions. Council member Conrad stated that TIF is beneficial, it does not create new dollars, but it focuses dollars that we would collect as taxes from improvements to go to specific things we want it to go to. It could be focused back on additional improvements. The City would then be using the existing real estate base less those improvements to pay the other regular bills. It is designed to be continued growth and improvement. Mayor Glandon stated it is an obligation to keep doing improvements. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to table proceeding with a new TIF project until more information can be provided. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

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

Park and Recreation: Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to continue to keep the playground equipment open. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to open the park shelters. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin and Morlan. Nays: Schultz, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Motion failed.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to keep the ball fields open. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to leave the restroom at Legion Park closed. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Street and Sanitation: Mayor Glandon stated Connie Carver called earlier this week and wanted to be able to go to the compost pile to take firewood out of the brush pile. The Public Works Department has dealt with people wanting to cut trees that are out on the street. There are liability issues. Director of Public Works I Northup stated the City has always had the policy if there is a huge disaster with FEMA involved, people volunteer, and it works that way. But the City cannot allow anyone to go out to the park and cut a dead tree down on a whim or in the right of ways. There has to be insurance coverage. The compost pile has been on fire and it would not be good to have people sifting through that. People can get mulch from a separate pile than the brush and it is not lit on fire. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to not allow citizens to salvage items from the compost. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schroeder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater: Director of Public Works I Northup stated that he hopes by the end of the week to have the boring and main in from the Country Club to the water tower and from the Hospital to about Skillman Street. They are making progress on the watermain project.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, Inc. stated that KLC Construction is the contractor currently installing the watermain at the Country Club. They have hired Morris Enterprise as a sub, and they are working on South Main Street. Mr. Walker reviewed the pay estimate, which goes through August 13th and includes approximately 2300 feet of six, eight and twelve-inch watermain. One of the big things is the stockpile of materials. French-

Reneker had this looked at and it appears the items are there. The pay estimate is for \$331,336.74. As more watermain is installed that stock-piled material gets used and future invoices will be more labor than materials. Council member Conrad asked what happens if all the materials disappear without being installed. Mr. Walker answered KLC has insurance on the materials and there is also the performance bond. If this should happen and the contractor goes bankrupt, then the performance bond would pay to get the project finished. This is standard on larger projects. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 request 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: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, stated the all the permits are approved for the wastewater treatment project. Mr. Walker explained that the aeration system will be completely replaced and add a secondary treatment that will allow the treatment plant to come into compliance with the new permit limits that were established by the DNR. Mr. Walker is asking that the public hearing be held on September 2nd at 6:00 p.m. They are calling for the bids to be opened on September 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. They would like for the Council to set a special Council meeting to award the bid on September 23rd. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to place plans and specifications on file and set the date and time as Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m. for the public hearing and bid letting for the Wastewater Improvements Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to set the date and time for a special Council meeting as Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: Mayor Glandon stated Doug Glandon, Rental Inspector, had someone call about a rental issue. He checked with other cities. They are not currently doing inspections. If he does an inspection here, then he would need the protective gear to wear. Rental Inspector Glandon is asking if the Council wants him to start doing these inspections again. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to not reinstate rental inspections. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk: City Clerk Alderson explained the Outstanding Obligation Report. This report consists of all the City's debt and what the current principal balances are.

Public Input: City Clerk Alderson announced the City did receive the Wellmark grant for \$25,000.00 for the pickleball courts.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:58 p.m.

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk