

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Others present were: Pastor David Welch; Nicole Richardson; Josh Torgrim; Deana Torgrim; Richard Fortney; Zach Steinhart; Christie Iosbaker, Sigourney News Review; Larry Alderson; 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 Conrad, 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.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes of regular Council meeting of July 15, 2020; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$39,994.21; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$3,849.53; City Clerk financial reports for June 2020; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for June 2020; application for tax exemption for Lyle and Helen Dumont at 302 West Clark Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2020-08-01); Brent Gilliland to attend Wastewater Conference in Dubuque, Iowa on October 28-29, 2020 sponsored by the Iowa Rural Water Association at a cost of \$215.00 and to use the City's credit card for hotel and meals not provided; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the August 19, 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 stated she wanted to make a motion to open City Hall now that the plexiglass is in place. Mayor Glandon stated it needs to be in the motion that we will have midday cleaning of the entryway and the bathrooms as those are CDC suggestions. Council member McLaughlin asked about the number of people that come through City Hall. Mayor Glandon stated there are a lot of other entities such as the hospital, nursing homes and a few businesses that are not open and he has been watching the numbers *(of COVID 19 cases)* and they are going upward. Council member McLaughlin stated the hospital is open, but they do screenings all the time. Mayor Glandon stated we could start screening then. Council member Schultz asked if all the rooms such as the Council Chambers would be open as well. Council member McLaughlin stated the back rooms could remain closed and even the restrooms could be locked or for employees only. Council member Morlan asked if there was that much done at the office that it needs to be open. The water bills can be paid outside. Council member Schultz asked if there have been complaints made. City Clerk Alderson stated she has not heard any, but complaints could be out there. Council member McLaughlin stated she has been approached as to why City Hall is not open *(out of curiosity)*. She answered that we were waiting on the plexiglass, but that is now here. Council member Morlan stated he has been approached a few times and he answered due to COVID 19 and there is not much business that could not be done over the phone. City Clerk Alderson stated there are a few people including delivery persons that still come in and appointments are sometimes made. The staff will work with people the best they can. Council member Bender asked if we would be required to take temperatures. Mayor Glandon stated that any recommendations by the CDC are recommendations only at the federal level. Anything the Governor says is a recommendation only and asked how is anything enforced. Council member Schröder stated that the Governor says local authority cannot require masks, but like the stores why cannot we require anyone coming into City Hall to wear a mask. Council member McLaughlin stated a sign could be put on the door, but it cannot be enforced. Council member Schröder asked if the employees had any preferences. City Clerk Alderson stated staff would do whatever they are told. Council member Conrad asked about being open for limited hours to eliminate some of the additional cleaning. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, 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. Nays: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Motion failed.

Mayor Glandon reminded the Council we are looking to apply for a grant through the Iowa DNR for derelict buildings and it will be requiring estimates. Mayor Glandon does know a few contractors that do this type of work and would like to get estimates to clean up the property. Council member Conrad asked if the project would have to be put out for bids. Mayor Glandon stated the estimates would help with that information. Mayor Glandon stated he has a good idea of what this will cost from experience. It appears that if certain criteria are met there can be additional funds available for cleanup. Council member Conrad asked if there could be potential fees associated with getting quotes and if so, would the Council be informed of the costs before estimates are requested. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to pursue estimates and possible costs for cleanup at the 121 East Marion Street property. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon stated there are additional architecture fees to add the 101 West Marion Street property to the façade grant application as it was not part of the original contract. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve paying Curtis Architecture for additional façade design at 101 West Marion Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schröder stated that whenever a political subdivision acquires real estate, they have to pay the property taxes in the fiscal year in which they obtained the property. However, upon being noticed to pay the preexisting taxes the statute states that upon the political subdivisions refusal to pay then the Board of Supervisors abates those taxes. The County has given notice to the City to pay the preexisting taxes on two parcels, so the Council needs to take action to respectively decline and refuse the payments of the preexisting taxes. The County Attorney would then bring a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to abate those taxes. The City will need to pay the taxes for the fiscal year in which they were acquired. These two properties had not gone to tax sale in June as there was not a tax sale due to the COVID. Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve a motion that the City of Sigourney decline and refuse payment of any and all property taxes, penalty and interest pertaining to Parcel Numbers SGCOS-071200 and SGCOS-012800 which were owing before the respective parcels were acquired by the City of Sigourney, pursuant to Iowa Code section 445.63. 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 Conrad, to continue to leave 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 Schröder, 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 Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, 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:** Council member McLaughlin stated she has driven South Street and that there are a lot of cars that park along there and she asked if the residents have been notified that they will no longer be allowed to park along South Street. She also did see a semi parked on West Spring Street. She still thinks the semi issue could be addressed differently. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to approve the third and final reading of the City Code of Ordinances – Title III – Community Protection – Chapter 3

– Traffic Code – 3-3-28 Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specified Places. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: McLaughlin. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the third and final reading of the City Code of Ordinances – Title III – Community Protection – Chapter 3 – Traffic Code – 3-3-8 Chief of Police / Law Enforcement Officer to Designate Crosswalks, Establish and Mark Traffic Lanes. 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 asked the Street and Sanitation Committee members to drive by the intersection of North Stone Street and West Walnut Street. There has been a complaint of kids randomly running out into the intersection with their bikes. The complainant would like a four way stop put in there. Mayor Glandon has seen this in other sections of the neighborhood as well.

**Water and Wastewater:** Don Northup, Director of Public Works I, stated KLC started last week on the water main project at the water tower heading north. They are getting ready to cross the country club. There is also a subcontractor, doing some of the boring for them, that will be starting soon down by the hospital.

**Public Safety:** Mayor Glandon stated that the City used to have one hundred twenty hours of full time police coverage and since the first of the year this was reduced to eighty hours, forty hours, zero hours and then forty hours. The Keokuk County Sheriff's Office has been doing patrolling and they would like to be compensated for what they have been doing. This would be an agreement worked out between the City Attorney and the County Attorney for a temporary 28E Agreement until the City can figure out where they are at and what they are doing. This would be retroactive back to August 1<sup>st</sup> and then going forward. Council member Schröder asked if there has been any specific consensus as far as the Sheriff's Office and how the rate of compensation would look. Mayor Glandon stated that would have to be worked out. This is to come up with an agreement and then the Council would have to approve it and then the Board of Supervisors. Council member Schröder reiterated that tonight is to consider the preparation of an agreement not approving an agreement. Mayor Glandon stated this would just be temporary until everything is figured out. Council member McLaughlin asked what is meant by temporary and if other options are not being looked at. Mayor Glandon stated other options are being looked at. Council member Conrad explained that if the hiring process is renewed and whatever time period it may take to hire one or two more officers, which would not be immediately, this agreement would cover that time. Council member Schröder stated he thinks we owe the Sheriff's Office a debt of gratitude during this interim period of time and responding to the calls and providing services up to this time. He thinks the Sheriff's Office should be compensated for this because the City was in a real pinch when the available resources were minimal and nonexistent for a while. Council member Schröder is personally in favor of at least having something presented to the Council that would address what the Sheriff's Office has done for the City so far and at least have an idea of what may be available in the future. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to authorize discussion for a temporary agreement. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Finance:** City Clerk Alderson explained the DoxoDirect would like to direct deposit payments from the City's utility customers into the City's checking account. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to not allow DoxoDirect access to the City's checking account for ACH payments. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Input:** Pastor David Welch stated he addressed the City Council a few weeks ago regarding the Police Department. The newspaper and others approached him after the meeting and asked where he was getting the rumors. Pastor Welch stated these are not rumors, they were facts from one of the City Council members. Pastor Welch stated the Council just proved what he was saying by the inactivity of trying to get the Police Department going. By passing this temporary thing the Council members are postponing part of what their job is and that is to hire a police force for the City. He stated the Council has eliminated by just holding off temporarily until such time that the City can make an agreement with the County. There was not a start time or a date other than a week ago and he does not think this is appropriate. The action requested was that the Council get a Police Department and get it built up. Nothing has been done for that and how many meetings or discussions were held on finding our police – none. He wants the Council to know he thinks this is a sad perspective for a City. To rely on the

County to do what the City is supposed to do. He stands against it and he does not understand why the Council is failing to do their responsibility.

Zach Steinhart thanked the Council for their time. Mr. Steinhart views the issue with the Police Department as more of an infrastructure issue. He thinks the City having their own Police Department in Sigourney is part of their infrastructure and if there is one thing Sigourney has done very well is invest in infrastructure such as the façade project, the water and sewer projects. The City invests in the future here. Mr. Steinhart thinks that letting the Sheriff's Office take care of the Police Department issues we are showing potential investors here, any potential real estate and potential businesses owners that the City is not willing to invest in the future of this community. He is of the opinion that the City should try, if it is not fiscally irresponsible to do so, that the City try to hire some type of Police Chief to manage the Police Department through whatever means the Council sees as financially responsible for the community. But Mr. Steinhart thinks, emotions aside of feeling safe or however we want to put it, when you get down to brass tacks it is an infrastructure issue for him. Being on the fire side of things it is nice to have someone here to have his back whether he is attending to a patient or watching a fire, he has someone on the scene that is watching his back or our back whatever the time. It is just a presence. There are those among us that are not of the highest moral compass and if the presence goes away then the activities of those individuals will go wherever they want them to. He feels that having that presence in town keeps people on their toes and lets them know there is someone here not only to protect you but watching what you are doing.

Council member Morlan stated he remembers an issue from a few years ago when someone was running from the Police, lost control and hit a tree. There were four people in the vehicle. No one died, but a couple were hurt pretty bad, hospitalized. The one driving was drunk and decided to run from the scene. There was a Policeman right there that caught him and brought him back. If the Police had not been there, he would have gotten away. Deana Torgrim added to what Council member Morlan stated that on that call she was the officer that was there and chased that individual, caught him and there were absolutely no County cars on scene to help. It was herself and Larry Alderson was there on about 90% of that scene. Yes, he would have gotten away and he was actually in somebody's yard, behind somebody's bush and trying to get into somebody's door. She stated to take that for what it was worth.

Mayor Glandon stated that he keeps hearing that we are doing away with law enforcement for the City of Sigourney. The options are we are looking at everything. The four on the Committee are looking at everything and have met quite a few times the last three weeks. Not once did anyone look at cutting the hours of law enforcement within the City limits. Council member Schröder stated that the discussions held have been more in the area of a potential hybrid situation where we are actually improving the coverage for the City with the limited police force, we have been experiencing. Any kind of agreement with the Sheriff's Office would supplement and actually improve the law enforcement coverage such as we had for the past several months.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:41 p.m.

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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