

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Others present were: Larry Alderson; Don Northup, Public Works Director I; Richard Fortney, Police Officer; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

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: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes for the regular Council meeting on January 20, 2021; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$45,786.13; Tax Exemption Application for Justin Clubb at 101 West Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-01); Tax Exemption Application for BC Investments LLC at 101 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-02); Tax Exemption Application for Ken Wagler at 105 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-03); Tax Exemption Application for Jerry and Emily Wohler at 109 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-04); Tax Exemption Application for Horak Brothers Insurance LLP at 115 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-05); Tax Exemption Application for Misty Dawne Reinier (K/N/A Misty White) at 117 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution NO. 2021-02-06) Tax Exemption Application for Amanda and Tyler Snakenberg at 119 East Marion Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2021-02-07); Resolution No. 2021-02-08 re: Planning and Zoning Commission Reappointment; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the February 17, 2021 Council meeting for 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Hearing:** Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to open the public hearing regarding the proposed maximum property tax levy for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved, and the public hearing was opened at 6:01 p.m.

Mayor Glandon stated the proposed maximum property tax levy for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 was published according to law on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mayor Glandon asked the City Clerk if she had received any written objections. City Clerk Alderson stated she had not.

Council member Conrad stated the maximum property tax levy does not refer to the entire budget as it does not include all the nonproprietary funds and debt service. It has no effect except a cap on what the Council can budget. This is a requirement that the Council must fulfill. City Clerk Alderson stated that if the tax levies remain the same as last year, the general fund 8.10 levy would not be met and then the City could not ask for the emergency levy and the benefits levy. The Council discussed the valuations and the tax levies.

Mayor Glandon asked the Council and public if they had any comments. There were none.

Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to close the public hearing. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved, and the public hearing was closed to 6:05 p.m.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2021-02-09 to adopt the proposed maximum tax levy for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to set the date and time for Notice of Public Hearing on City Budget Estimate for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Additional City Business:** City Clerk Alderson stated she is trying to reduce the Planning and Zoning Commission from seven to five members as it is hard to keep all the seats filled. There has been a vacant seat for several years. There are two members that expire this year and one of them is willing to remain on the Commission for five more years. John Wehr, City Attorney, stated there is not any law that states how many members there needs to be, so the Council would need to change the City's ordinance.

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

**Park and Recreation:** Council member McLaughlin stated the Park and Recreation Committee met and reviewed ten (10) applicants that applied for the 2021 pool season. They would like to place an additional ad for lifeguards. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the display ad for additional lifeguard positions for the Summer of 2021. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin stated the Park and Recreation Committee would like to recommend Brooke Garringer as the pool manager with Jenny Bell and Julie Tremmel as assistant managers and to hire the rest of the applicants as lifeguards. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2021-02-10 re: pool personnel for the 2021 swimming season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve Resolution No. 2021-02-11 re: establishing admission rates and rates for season passes for the 2021 pool season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Street and Sanitation:** Director of Public Works I Northup stated Dave Harper, Sigourney School Superintendent, contacted him the first of the year. The school would like to put in new sidewalk on the north side of the elementary school. The curb is shot, and they cannot pour a new sidewalk without the City pouring a new curb. This is in conjunction with a project for a new dumpster they purchased. The school is wanting to put in all new sidewalk and then a driveway for the City to back into for the dumpster. The school will pay for the sidewalk and the driveway. The Street and Sanitation Committee thought the curb and gutter should be the responsibility of the City. The curb and gutter could cost up to \$10,000.00, but Northup does not think it will cost that much once you take out for the dock area. The school and city will need to work together to get this done. The Street and Sanitation Committee thought it would be best if one of the local contractors did this. It will probably be summer before this project is started.

**Water and Wastewater:** Director of Public Works I Northup talked with Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, and Boomerang will start hauling equipment in next week. French-Reneker-Associates will start surveying as well.

**Finance:** Council member Conrad stated one of the next grants is a project for upper story rehabilitation. This would provide new housing around the square. This could help fill some of the vacant spaces and provide affordable, quality housing. Council member Conrad stated there were applicants from the Catalyst Grant that are interested in creating new apartments. This is not for rehabilitating apartments. City Clerk Alderson stated there would have to be an environmental review done. In the past the City has used Area 15 RPC for this. Brad Grefe, Area 15 RPC, thought this would cost around \$2,500.00. An architect would also need to be hired for some work on this before the grant can be submitted. We should not have to go out for qualifications for an architect as we did for the Façade Grant. If the Council is happy with the work done by Rod Curtis, we could hire him. Since this should be less than seven (7) apartments, Bacon-Davis wages would not apply. A contractor must be hired to do the work it cannot be done by the applicants themselves unless they are licensed contractors. The up-front costs would include the environmental (\$2,500.00) and work from an architect (\$7,500.00). If the City's application is not awarded, these would be costs the City would be out. The City did this for the Façade Grant as well. The Council discussed other aspects of this grant including asbestos and costs involved. Council member Conrad suggested that information should be included in the application to the building owners as well as letting them know the City will try to promote these grants annually.

**City Clerk:** City Clerk Alderson reminded the Council there had been a new debt in October 2020 for the Sewer Plant Improvement Project and this debt amount will need to be transferred monthly from the Sewer Fund to the

Sewer Sinking Fund. Council member Conrad stated the sinking funds are a requirement. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2021-02-12 re: new debt transfer of funds. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Input:** Council member Schröder stated he was at a Kiwanis meeting and they are looking at various projects to do in the community. One of the suggestions was to add something (water toy, etc.) to the pool. This is just one of several different projects being discussed and the Kiwanis wondered if this would be something the City would be interested in. Director of Public Works I Northup talked about a splash pad, but these can be very costly and are high maintenance. Northup talked about three (3) lights that are used in the evening to clean up. The lights are original and really need to be replaced – maybe LED. There was discussion of maybe partnering a grant and Kiwanis to do a larger project. Northup is going to work on getting some estimates for the lights. Northup stated there is room on the north side of the pool to add a pool toy or splash pad, but it will cost. The Council discussed the pool and all the things that are going to need to be done in the future including the liner, gutters, and the concrete under the liner.

Council member McLaughlin asked about the opening of City Hall. She stated that as of January 26<sup>th</sup> Iowa reports the Iowa positivity rates have dropped from 11 to 10.3 percent overnight and the seven (7) day rate dropped from 8.5 to 8 percent and the number of Iowa's 99 counties reporting a positivity rate greater than 15% dropped to 7% and from 9% a day earlier. Keokuk County COVID positivity rates are declining rapidly. The number of vaccines administered outnumber the number of positive COVID tests. Council member McLaughlin thinks City Hall should be opened. Most of the businesses are open, schools are open, and sports activities are taking place. She would like to have this on the next Council agenda. Mayor Glandon stated it could be put on the agenda, but it is a proclamation he made, and he is the only one that can end it. Council member McLaughlin stated she thinks it is time it is considered. Mayor Glandon stated he has been watching the positivity rate as well and he knows a lot of people that have had this and did not get tested. Council member McLaughlin stated the plexiglass is up and employee can wear masks as well as ask the public to wear masks. The restrooms and meeting rooms do not have to be open. There are not limitations on the employees as to where they can go and what they can do. Mayor Glandon stated the plexiglass was purchased for security as well.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:49 p.m.

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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