

# CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA

## MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Council member Bender arrived at 6:03 p.m. Others present were: Travis Wilcox and Cierra Dison; Larry Alderson; Christie Iosbaker, Sigourney News Review; Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates; 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, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes for the regular Council meeting on January 6, 2021; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$80,682.42; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$3,615.21; City Clerk's financial reports for December 2020; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for December 2020; Appoint John Schröder as Alternate to Keokuk County Emergency Management; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the February 3, 2021 Council meeting for 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Bender arrived at 6:03 p.m.

**Additional City Business:** Travis Wilcox and Cierra Dison were present to discuss pit bull dogs. After thanking the Council for the opportunity to present his information regarding pit bull dogs, Mr. Wilcox asked the Council what happened that caused the City to ban pit bulls. Mayor Glandon stated that his wife and dog were attacked by a pit bull requiring tons of stitches. Mr. Wilcox stated he understands why pit bulls get a bad reputation as most people do not train their pit bulls or do not know how to train them correctly as they are stubborn dogs and do need more training. No dog is technically a vicious dog, it is all in how they are raised and treated. Mr. Wilcox stated there are different reasons why any dog might attack, such as thinking someone or another dog was on their property, etc. Pit bulls are not vicious, they are like a child, you have to teach them the correct way to do things. They can be taught correctly or incorrectly. Mr. Wilcox stated that he has five (5) dogs, four (4) of which are pit bulls. He could only bring one (1) dog with him when he moved back here due to the ordinance banning pit bulls. Mr. Wilcox asked if the ban could be lifted or if other laws or regulations could be made to follow: such as the pit bulls must have a muzzle while being walked or on a chain or lead when outside. This would allow those that have pit bulls to be able to have them in the City. He stated that his dogs are as sweet and lovable as any other dog. Mr. Wilcox compared pit bulls to a rifle both can be used for good or evil, it just depends on whose hands they are in. Council member Schultz stated this has been discussed recently. The City was asked to change our ordinance. This was reviewed as well as looking at what other cities are doing. The problem is to have the kind of guidelines that were discussed is so extensive that the City does not have a way to control it. To have something in the ordinances that is not enforced is worthless as well. Mr. Wilcox stated that Keokuk County states that any dog that attacks unprovoked is considered vicious. Sigourney and Keota both ban breeds. Mr. Wilcox asked if the City could view it the same way as the County. They have been banned, but Mr. Wilcox is asking if the City will give this another chance. Council member Schultz stated he is not inclined to vote for that. It is very unpleasant to have to tell a family that their dog must be removed because it has bitten someone, and the Council has been very consistent regarding this. Council members Schröder, McLaughlin and Morlan agreed with Council member Schultz. Council member Morlan stated that he did not like that pit bulls continue attacking instead of stopping after one bite. Mr. Wilcox stated he understood this has been brought up before and maybe the Council should reconsider since this is what the citizens may want. Council member Conrad stated this has come before the Council to change the ordinance twice, but even with the restrictions, it would be difficult. Council member Conrad stated that living in the country is different than living within a City regarding neighbors, etc. Mr. Wilcox thanked the Council for their time.

City Clerk Alderson explained that the City's fax line is not used often. A quote from MCG included a one-time fee of \$20.00 and \$.40 cents per month to hold this number. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by

Council member Conrad, to not approve the quote from Mahaska Communication Group to hold the fax line number. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The Council discussed the seven (7) properties that applied with the City for the Catalyst Grant through the Iowa Economic Development Authority and how the City will contribute to this. Council member Shultz stated that a committee met and reviewed applications for a program grant. He stated the committee sorted through which applications in the opinion of the committee met the most criteria for the purpose for which this is designed. In the process of sorting the committee felt the application submitted by the Grant Ranch was the most appropriate for consideration in this matter. Council member Conrad stated part of this grant included what the building needed, doing a façade, improving the business, adding apartment and/or living space, and nature of the project (historical). Some of the other applications hit some of these marks as well. The City can only submit one project and hopefully the City can submit another one next year. There were some very nice candidates. Because this must be funneled through the City, the Council is involved in the decision-making process and must also have some financial responsibility. The City does not want to be spending a lot of money getting rid of buildings. We would rather be proactive and spend money restoring buildings. Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve pursuing the Pre-Application for a City of Sigourney Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program Grant through the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) concerning the Grant Ranch Grub & Pub owned by Danette Meyer and the City would contribute not less than \$10,000.00. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Abstain: Conrad. Motion approved. *(Council member Conrad abstained as the applicant is his sister-in-law.)*

City Clerk Alderson stated the Keokuk County Visitors Guide is published every two (2) years. She asked if the Council was interested in putting in an ad. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve placing a full-page display ad in the 2021 Keokuk County Visitors Guide. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon stated there have been changes made to some policies regarding the Façade Grant. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following Community Development Block Grant Policies regarding the Downtown Revitalization Grant (20DTR005) (Façade Grant): Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Fair Housing Strategies, Citizen Participation Requirements, Procurement Policy, Code of Conduct, Prohibition on the Use of Excessive Force, and Equal Opportunity Policy Statement. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated she needs to mail out requests for proposals for asbestos inspections for the Façade Grant. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Requests for Proposals for Asbestos Inspection for Sigourney Façade Improvements Project (20-DTR-005). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

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

**Street and Sanitation:** Director of Public Works I Northup stated the City asks for bids regarding the mowing for the City. He stated both the Legion Park (not the ball fields) and Town Square Park are in need of being sprayed for weeds, etc. The bids could be for mowing only, spraying only, or mowing and spraying together. Northup discussed what other towns do regarding staying off the grass once it is sprayed. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve a display ad for mowing and spraying bids. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

A Street and Sanitation Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Water and Wastewater:** There was not an update for the Water Main Project.

Matt Walker with French-Reneker-Associates stated the pay request from KLC includes the service tie-ins, borings across the highway, corp stops and the final two (2) tie-ins on the north end by the Fire Station and on the south end closer to the hospital. Everything from the Fire Station south is switched over and using the new main. The old main is dead. In the spring they will come back and make sure everything looks presentable again, reseeding, etc. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve Pay Estimate No. 6 request from KLC Construction LLC for Proposed Water Main Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-016 – Sigourney, IA – (Project (#18-133/20-057). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, stated that in a week or so the sanitary sewer manholes will be delivered, and he assumes Boomerang should get started when those arrive.

Matt Walker stated he is working with the IDOT (Iowa Department of Transportation) to set up a meeting regarding the recent water main break. We would like to have a plan of action for the spring. This way everyone will know what to expect. Mayor Glandon stated it would be nice to have the IDOT tell the City what they must do or should be doing so we can pursue and know where the City is at financially. Mayor Glandon would like to be able to have a contractor give us a quote and put the City on their list to get the road fixed at the beginning of spring. Mayor Glandon does not feel the City should be paying for this that the contractor should, due to the situation the City is in. Mr. Walker agreed and he felt that was the understanding everyone had when they met the end of December. At the conclusion of that meeting the process was for everything to go through KLC Construction as the chunk of the main that broke should have been dead already. The original agreement was for all the water main work to be completed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. The only thing that could carry over was surface restoration, all the seeding, clean up and things like that. Mr. Walker thinks we will all get there once the IDOT, KLC Construction and the City meet and understand what the expectations are. The road belongs to the IDOT, so they will be dictating what they want the finished product to be.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, explained the past Engineering Services Agreements have been to preliminary and final design services to get the City up to bid letting and through the process. The current Engineering Services Agreement will be construction observation and engineering during construction for the actual construction process. Currently there is 260 days of construction observation and that includes a full-time person on site reviewing the contractor and making sure they are performing according to the plans and specifications and engineering and then all the construction staking that will be needed for the project. If the project is completed sooner this contract is hourly and the City will be charged for the time someone is actually here. The agreement will take the City through everything until the end of the project, including CDBG and SRF close out, preparation of record drawings, so the City will have a record of where everything that was installed is at. Currently the estimate fee is \$236,000.00. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with French-Reneker-Associates for the Sigourney Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements EDC/CO. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Finance:** A Finance Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

**Human Resources:** Mayor Glandon stated that other towns have extended the Infectious Disease Action Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic that expired December 31, 2020. The Human Resources Committee is proposing doing the same thing through June 30, 2021. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the extension of the Infectious Disease Action Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic through June 30, 2021 including all amendments and to allow a new eighty (80) hours paid leave to begin effective January 1, 2021. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**City Clerk:** City Clerk Alderson reminded the Council they had approved for Debi Durham, Director of Iowa Economic Development Authority, to speak at a luncheon for downtown business owners in the spring of 2020. This had to be cancelled due to COVID 19. The City Council had agreed to pay for one-half of the luncheon to be catered. Ms. Durham has resumed speaking engagements and SADC has agreed to sponsor this luncheon with the City. It was suggested to do this in June or July so the Façade project would be under way and the progress could be reviewed. Discussion was held regarding where to hold the event, etc. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to invite Debi Durham, Director of Iowa Economic

Development Authority, to speak at a luncheon for downtown business owners. 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 a citizen had asked him about the status of the City putting in handicapped curbs. If there is a sidewalk improvement, then the intersections should be put back as handicapped.

Council member Morlan asked Director of Public Works I Northup if the plans to temporarily move the compost site were going forward. Northup stated this site will be out by the water plant. The City may need to lay out some gravel and put up some signs.

Council member McLaughlin asked if there was a plan to open City Hall. Mayor Glandon responded not yet. Council member McLaughlin asked if one was going to be made. Mayor Glandon responded that he is watching numbers. Council member Morlan stated that the infection numbers have been going down. Mayor Glandon agreed, but he has also been listening to news and it has been going up in surrounding area. Mayor Glandon stated this has been a contentious item of discussion and he is doing what he feels is best because no one has told him how we would conduct business should COVID-19 get into City Hall.

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

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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