

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Others present were: Larry Alderson; Bill Halleran, Sigourney Fire Chief; Christie Iosbaker, Sigourney News Review; 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 McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$59,437.21; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$6,758.51; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the January 20, 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 Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda: Minutes for the regular Council meeting on December 16, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin and Morlan. Nays: None. Abstain: Schultz. Motion approved. *(Council member Schultz abstained as he was unable to attend the regular Council meeting on December 16, 2020.)*

Additional City Business: Sigourney Fire Chief Bill Halleran was present to discuss the snow piled on and around fire hydrants throughout the City. Fire Chief Halleran stated he was driving around town and noticed there were some fire hydrants that were buried. He contacted Mayor Glandon and they had a discussion regarding whose responsibility it is to remove the snow around the fire hydrants. The next day Mayor Glandon told Fire Chief Halleran that he was of the understanding it was the Fire Department's responsibility and Fire Chief Halleran told Mayor Glandon that is not the Fire Department's responsibility. Fire Chief Halleran stated the Fire Department could have issues if there is a fire in the middle of the night and they cannot hook up a hose because the fire hydrant is buried under snow and ice. Mayor Glandon told Fire Chief Halleran that he needed to come to a Council meeting and discuss this. Council member Conrad asked if the fire hydrants were buried because the snow had drifted, the City / State / homeowner had piled snow on them. Fire Chief Halleran stated all of those reasons. Council member McLaughlin asked what has been done in the past when this has happened. Fire Chief Halleran responded that fortunately last year the City employees went around and back dug them. It does not have to be down to the grass just so he can get to the steamer fitting so he can get the cap off and the hose on. Fire Chief Halleran stated sometimes the homeowners have dug the fire hydrants out, but he does not believe there is an ordinance stating whose responsibility it is. Walking through some snow to get to the hydrant is one thing, but if you cannot even get to the fittings is when it becomes an issue. Council member Schultz asked Fire Chief Halleran if he was aware of what other cities do and Fire Chief Halleran responded that he intended to call other cities our size but did not get a chance to do that. Different cities could all do something different. Council member Conrad asked about the markers that are on some of the hydrants. Public Works Director I Northup stated that if the hydrant is low enough the City will put a marker on it. Council member McLaughlin had concerns asking the homeowners to do this as some elderly citizens would not be able. Hydrants are spaced to approximately every 600 feet. Fire Chief Halleran stated that fortunately it may snow and then melt and so far, has not been an issue, but it is only January 6th and there have already been two (2) decent snow falls. Council member Schröder stated he would be curious as to what legal responsibility the City has to perform this function. In his experience as County Attorney if you do not initially have liability exposure for something in the first place and then you assume the responsibility then you assume the liability exposure. Fire Chief Halleran stated he would think there would be some ramifications with the City's ISO rating due to having a known buried hydrant that is not being taken care of. Council member McLaughlin asked about high schoolers that need community service and wondered if the seniors had been approached. Council member Conrad stated that some of that falls back on whose responsibility it is and who should make the contact. Council member Conrad asked how many fire hydrants the City has and Public Works Director I Northup stated there are 140 give or take. Fire Chief Halleran stated he only came across maybe five (5) that were buried, but he did not look all over town. Council member

Conrad stated that he looked as well and there were some right on a corner that might be buried. Council member Conrad stated his concern is when the streets are being cleaned, the employees are not going to stop and remove the snow at that moment. Someone may go back later or the next day and open the area around the hydrants. Council member McLaughlin stated that if a fireman drove by and seen a buried hydrant they could also stop and clear it out. She believes the entities have to work together. Council member Conrad stated he would like to see what other communities do and if it is a policy or ordinance and who is identified to do this. Discussion was held regarding the differences in the fire hydrants, height, etc. Public Works Director I Northup stated that in the past there are about a dozen or so fire hydrants that they have a problem with. They do not have a path plowed to each hydrant. All the hydrants can be cleared, but then a week later one or more will be buried again as someone cleaned out a driveway and buried the hydrant. Public Works Director I Northup stated he thinks ultimately the City is responsible as the hydrants are purchased, maintained and in the City's distribution system. They belong to the taxpayer, but it is a never-ending job this time of the year. Council member Conrad stated that an ordinance could be put in place that someone could be ticketed for burying a hydrant. The City does go around and try to keep the nozzles on the hydrants visible as time allows. Fire Chief Halleran stated they just need to be able to hook up. It is the short fire hydrants that the Public Works Department keeps an eye on.

City Clerk Alderson stated Area 15 RPC annually asks for financial support. This will be paid after July 1st, but Area 15 is good to get the information to the City in time to be included in the next budget. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2021-01-01 providing for financial support of Area 15 Regional Planning Commission. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

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

Park and Recreation: Christie Iosbaker reviewed information she had given the Council regarding soccer during the COVID 19 pandemic. There were examples of how tournaments were successfully handled and what is already going on in the Sigourney community. Mrs. Iosbaker stated that the numbers in Keokuk County are dropping drastically. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to resume the soccer program following COVID protocols. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated that Alan Sellers stated the City could pay him \$1,500.00 to get the soccer program started. This will be an expense to the City for ordering shirts, etc. If in March, the COVID numbers are large and the Governor's Office shuts down youth sports Mr. Sellers would continue to take care of the fields through June 30th. If the program does move forward, then Council can pay Mr. Sellers the remaining \$1,000.00. Or the Council can pay him the \$2,500.00 up front. Council member Conrad stated that if we are going to move forward with the soccer program, we should pay Mr. Sellers the \$1,500.00 to organize the program and maintain the fields and then the balance of \$1,000.00 if we do not have to cancel. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve a contract with Alan Sellers for Soccer Director. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the display ad to advertise for pool manager, assistant pool manager and lifeguard positions for summer 2021. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

A Park and Recreation Committee meeting was set for Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Street and Sanitation: Public Works Director I Northup explained the LL Pelling proposal is just the annual pricing and later once the streets have been identified there will be another proposal put before the City Council. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan to approve the LL Pelling Co. proposal regarding the 2021 sealcoat work. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon asked the Council if they wanted to move forward with mowing bids and do this on a two (2) year cycle. The snow removal will be discussed in the fall.

Water and Wastewater: Director of Public Works I Northup stated the new water main from the fire station to the hospital is done and everyone is connected. The old water main has been abandoned. The rest of the water main is in. There was a meeting held on December 30th and there was discussion as to problems that may arise since the project is not complete and some things were cleared up. The completion date of December 22nd has passed. There are detailed notes being taken as to what is being done, etc. There are punitive and liquidated damages that could be due to the City if this causes the City problems.

Mayor Glandon stated the pay estimate to Boomerang consists of insurance expenses, bonding, some mobilization, and the pipe that is stored. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 request from Boomerang Corp. for Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-009 – Sigourney, IA – SRF #CS192087001. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schröder, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Finance: A Finance Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 a.m. The Max Levy Public Hearing needs to be at the newspaper by the end of that week for publication.

Human Resources: A Human Resources Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, January 12th after the Finance Committee meeting. If more time is needed the Human Resources Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 a.m.

City Clerk: The Council, by consensus, set the Public Hearing for the Maximum Property Tax Dollars for Fiscal Year 2022 for Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Glandon asked if there were any Council members interested in working on a committee to review the applications for a Catalyst Grant. City Clerk Alderson stated she knew there was one property owner interested in this grant. Council members Morlan, Conrad and Schultz were willing to be part of this committee again. The City Clerk will put together a packet and take it around to the businesses around the square except the south side as there is a Façade Grant currently in place.

Public Input: Council member Morlan asked if there could be an alternate to the Keokuk County Emergency Management. He is the appointed Council member for Sigourney.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:47 p.m.

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk