

# CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA

## MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Others present were Brad Grefe, Area 15 Regional Planning Commission; Judy Frank, Sigourney Area Development Corp. (SADC); Carl Mohr; Amanda Rostami, Librarian; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Aaron Kephart, Police Chief; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

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

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following item on the consent agenda: Minutes from the regular Council meeting of July 1, 2019. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Abstain: Morlan. Motion approved. *(Council member Morlan abstained as he was unable to attend the regular Council meeting on July 1, 2019.)*

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$88,145.09; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$5,419.63; liquor license application for El Fogoncito Inc. (DBA: El Fogoncito) at 121 South Jefferson Street, Sigourney, Iowa for Catering Privilege, Class C Liquor License (LC) (Commercial) and Sunday Sales pending dram shop insurance; Resolution No. 2019-07-02: temporary closing of downtown streets for National Night Out event; and the credit card report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Additional City Business:** Carl Mohr, Sloan-Mohr Monument, stated that over the years he has had dog problems with his neighbors to the south of his business and that has been contained. Now there are chickens and roosters and Mr. Mohr wonders if there was anything in the City ordinances regarding chickens and roosters. He understands that in other communities, roosters are not allowed, and the number of chickens is limited. Mr. Morlan stated that he had asked about having chickens and he was told that he should check with his neighbors and make sure they were okay with it. Mayor Glandon recommended that the Public Safety Committee meet and discuss this. Mr. Mohr stated that his next issue is neighbors farther south have pigmy goats and they get loose. The goats run around and defecate on his property. This is a concern as he has clients and they are sometimes under stress and this is not good. Mr. Mohr is asking what he can do about these situations.

The Mayor and Council discussed the GIS agreement with the County and the agreement with Schneider regarding fees, etc. The Mayor reviewed the process for using hours through the County to have work done on the City's website once approved. This GIS information will be used by Public Works internally, but we would like to add the voting districts as well as the zoning information. The layers can be marked as public or internal and shared with the County. Once the basic information has been placed in a layer, City employees will be able to add information themselves. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the Iowa Chapter 28E Agreement for the Distribution or Exchange of GIS Data Between Keokuk County and the City of Sigourney. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon reviewed the annual fees for an agreement with Schneider. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the professional services agreement with Schneider Geospatial. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Brad Grefe, Area 15 Regional Planning Commission, was present to review the Façade Improvements project with the Council. The Façade project is a way to help get the façades of the downtown buildings shored up for future or continued use. This is federal dollars and there are rules to be followed. The program (Downtown Revitalization Fund) is facilitated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority. This is a slum and blight remediation program. The Council has contracted with Area 15 Regional Planning Commission to help with the comprehensive building survey. This has been done. Once the project is narrowed down to a target area Mr.

Grefe will do a more detailed assessment of those properties. Once this is completed the Council would have a resolution and map showing the slum and blight target area to approve. The City would be eligible for up to \$500,000.00 and must have at least eight (8) façades to qualify for the full amount. Mr. Grefe showed samples from other communities outlining some of the projects that can be done. Last week Mr. Grefe met with the City (Mayor and City Clerk) and SADC regarding the work that has been done. A map has been created showing how properties rate and looking at a specific target area. Mr. Grefe reviewed how the grant and local funding work together. The upfront cost could run \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00. Mr. Grefe reviewed how the process will proceed and our next step is to send out the requests for qualifications for architects. The entire project could be completed by December 2021 and a second phase could be started during the summer of 2021. City Clerk Alderson stated that she has talked with Ed Basch from Iowa Economic Development Authority and he is willing to come to the City and present a 45 minutes slide show and then walk around the square looking at the buildings and getting his perspective. It was suggested that we hold a special Council meeting that did not include any voting items on the agenda. Daytime would be easier for Mr. Basch. There are Council members interested in doing this. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the Architect Request for Qualifications for Façade Improvements Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon stated that he would like to have two (2) Council members that would be interested in working on a Committee to review information as the program progresses. Council members Conrad and Morlan both volunteered to be part of this Committee.

**Street and Sanitation:** Public Works Director I Northup reviewed the process for recycling and all the problems created. There is still a lot of trash being left in the bins and around the area that must be cleaned up daily. There is more cardboard being recycled and newspapers since the Lions Club will no longer take newspaper. Sometimes it does not make sense as the containers are clearly marked and not full and yet metal is thrown in with shredded paper. The employees usually have to throw the items in the bins that are mixed in the garbage truck. If we do not, then an employee has to sort through it when it is taken to Cox for disposal. This is not working the way we initially thought. The City had to stop leaving a dumpster at the park because it was being used by everyone to throw away their trash not just the park users. Council member Conrad asked about a designated day(s) and time(s) and having personnel present to monitor the recycling. The County is currently working on a program. If the County is willing to allow the citizens of Sigourney to bring out their recycling and pay for it, that may be another option.

**Water and Wastewater:** Mayor Glandon discussed the City's buffer strip at the water treatment plant by the well fields. The current area has been reduced as it does not qualify anymore due to the brush in it. This program is for ten (10) years and paid approximately \$1,000.00 per year. Eric Wehr paid the \$1,000.00 to the City and signed a contract to mow the area once a year and it must be **interseeded** once during the ten (10) year period. The government is no longer sharing the cost of the **interseeding** and the cost has been reduced from approximately \$1,000.00 per year to \$250.00 per year. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to let the buffer strip in the CRP program expire and not renew. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Director of Public Works I Northup explained there is a pole on Duane Atwood's property on South Main Street that we would like to put one of the collectors for water meter readings on. This would help with the meters in the southern area of town. It is a good solid pole. A contract has been drawn up. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad to approve the Lease and License Agreement to Use Power Pole Between the City of Sigourney and Duane A. Atwood. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Finance:** Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following Community Betterment Project: \$1,050.00 for Library personnel to attend the ILA Conference. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**City Clerk:** The August 7, 2019 regular Council meeting will be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Input:** Council member Morlan asked about lawn mowers being allowed to drive down the street without a flag or slow-moving vehicle sign. There are not any state regulations on this that the Mayor or Police Chief are

aware of. Police Chief Kephart stated that lawn mowers are going from property to property and not used to go the grocery store, etc.

Council member Morlan stated he has been approached by several people regarding all the vehicles being parked in streets and yards. Police Chief Kephart stated that if all the vehicles are licensed and move at least one-inch (1") every twenty-four (24) hours they are legal. This does reduce the street to one-way passage most of the time.

Council member Morlan asked about dogs roaming around the square. Two dogs were on the square one Sunday afternoon and after several phone calls, they could not get anyone to take them. At one time there was a kennel, but that presents a different set of problems. The veterinary office is not willing to take in animals at all times of the day or night. Calls were made all over the county and there was not anyone willing to take the dogs. Police Chief Kephart stated the vet's office does not allow animals after hours and will only take them from the Police. If the dogs had been aggressive, the Police will respond. If the dogs are not aggressive, the Police officers have been advised to not respond after hours.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:02 p.m.

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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