

# CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA

## MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 with Mayor Miletich presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Others present were: Wayne Smithart; Michael Renner; Rick and Bonnie Tremmel; Douglas Glandon; Tena Fritz; Janice Lanman; James Lanman; Brent Gilliland, City Services Director and Building Inspector; Allan Glandon, Police Chief; Adam Clark, Assistant Police Chief; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Miletich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Miletich stated the following items needed to be removed from the tentative agenda: approval of the liquor license application for The White House Bar & Grill at 711 East Jackson Street and the resolution to adopt the employee wages and health/dental insurance benefits beginning July 1, 2012 for fiscal year 2013. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2012 regular Council meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Abstain: Ballensky. Motion approved. *(Council member Ballensky abstained as he was not present at the May 16, 2012 Council meeting.)*

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: accounts payable claims totaling \$47,487.73; Memorial Hall Commission accounts payable claims totaling \$3,756.85; annual renewal of retail cigarette permits for Casey's General Store, Kum & Go #9, Cobb Oil dba Sigourney BP, K & L Foods and T-N-T Liquors; liquor license application for Kiwanis Club of Sigourney, Iowa at 113 North Jefferson; and the credit card usage report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Ballensky, to approve the liquor license application for The Cathouse Saloon at 101 West Marion Street contingent upon the entire application being received at the City Clerk's Office. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz.

**Other City Business:** Mayor Miletich informed the Council that the Street and Sanitation Committee had met with Carol Stutzman, Deputy Driver License with the Keokuk County Treasurer's Office, Christine Kleinmeyer, Keokuk County Treasurer and Michael Berg, Keokuk County Supervisor to discuss the use of the City parking lot for motorcycle skills testing. Council member Schultz reviewed some of the items discussed. The County would be responsible for signage at the parking lot that would eliminate vehicles or anything else parking in the way during motorcycle testing. The Committee recommended the testing be limited to one (1) day a week during the mornings on Friday and the County agreed to this. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the current area in the parking lot being used for motorcycle testing be available on Fridays from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and four (4) signs be placed, one on each end, stating no parking in that area during that time frame. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: Ballensky. Motion approved.

Douglas Glandon stated the County employees do not go to work until 8:00 a.m. not 6:00 a.m. Mr. Glandon also wanted to know if the City had a certificate of liability insurance from the County or State of Iowa as there is a safety boundary outside the actual testing course. He questioned the City being liable if someone were to get hurt or City property damaged. Mr. Glandon stated he has parked his trailer in the City parking lot as sometimes there is not a place to park at a job site. Mr. Glandon also questioned whether the parking lot would become taxable if the County/State of Iowa is generating revenue. Mr. Glandon also asked what the enforcement mechanism would be if someone did park in the testing during the restricted time.

Mr. Smithart stated he was not aware that any testing would be done before 8:00 a.m. Council member Schultz stated that during hot weather testing before 8:00 a.m. could be an option. Council member Conrad stated that bags could be put over the signs when there is not any testing being conducted or if the weather is not acceptable to do the motorcycle testing.

**Park and Recreation:** City Services Director Gilliland stated that Jarid Bain has mowed off the tall grass at 1117 North Main Street so the area for the sports park could be cleaned up and mowed on a regular basis. Some of the utilities have been removed and Bill Tremmel is going to remove the gas services.

**Street and Sanitation:** Mayor Miletich discussed placing an annual percentage increase on the sanitation rate as is done with the water and sewer. The increase would be reviewed each year before it goes into effect and the Council would have an opportunity to approve a resolution to stop the increase, if it would be deemed to be unnecessary. An increase to the sanitation basic rate would need to be done by ordinance and would not go into effect until next fall sometime. The general consensus of the Council was to move forward with preparing an ordinance for the next Council meeting.

The Streets and Sanitation Laborer job description has been revised to remove the motor grader and sanitation packer. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, approve the Streets and Sanitation Laborer job description with the removal of the word "grader" under the essential job duties bullet number four and the removal of the words "motor grader" under the knowledge, skills and abilities required bullet number two. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad stated interviews for the street and sanitation position were conducted and there were some good applicants available. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to hire Dustin Bensmiller as the new streets and sanitation employee starting at \$10.00 per hour and after a successful 90 day probationary period would be increased to \$10.25 per hour. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Ballensky, to approve resolution 2012-06-01 regarding street closing and related items for a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration after changing Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> under the fifth whereas. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The Council discussed the music being stopped at midnight and that recommendation should be enforced. Council member Ballensky moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve resolution 2012-06-02 regarding street closing and related items for a beer garden on July 3<sup>rd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> on North Jefferson Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Water and Wastewater:** City Clerk Alderson stated the Finance Committee was recommending the 3% (three percent) increase for the water and sewer rates, which would go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The water and sewer notes currently being paid have requirements the City must meet and report. The City has not met these requirements for a few years, but the small increases each year have helped. The Council agrees with the recommendation and the 3% (three percent) increase for water and sewer rates will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

City Services Director Gilliland stated the painting on the water tower was finished up on Sunday evening and everything is done. There is a spot that was missed and they will come back to paint this. The tower will be filled in the next couple of days. There were a few small repairs that were fixed before the outside of the tower was painted. Overall the tower was very clean.

City Services Director Gilliland stated the water main project on West Jackson Street will start after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

The Council had some questions regarding the 2011 Water Quality Report and as Water Supervisor Northup was unable to attend this Council meeting, they would like to have this put on the next agenda.

**Public Safety:** Police Chief Glandon stated on May 17<sup>th</sup> he was called to investigate a dog attack at 507 North Jefferson and talked to Mike Renner. Mike had been mowing his lawn when a big brown dog that was on Janice Lanman's property, 220 Ringgold, had gotten loose and had jumped on top of the lawn mower and was trying to bite Mike. Mike did not get bit and the dog went back to the Lanman property and went into the house. Police Chief Glandon then talked with Janice Lanman and she stated she was not aware the dog had tried to bite Mike. She stated the dog's name is "Diez", actually belongs to her son Cory and does not like lawn mowers or tires.

Janice Lanman stated that she was not aware Mike was mowing or she would have put the dog inside the house. She will make sure the chain for the dog is closer to the house. Mr. Renner felt he should not have to deal with a dog chasing him while he is mowing his own yard. Mike stated that he turned his mower and went to a neighbor's house and called the police. The dog went the other direction. The dog had gotten off the chain and Mrs. Lanman was not aware that he had gotten loose. Mrs. Lanman and her family asked the Council to please give the dog one more chance and if anything else happened they would have the dog removed without being asked. The Council felt they

were not in a position to take a lot of chances. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to have the dog "Diez" belonging to Cory DeVooght / Janice Lanman of 220 Ringgold Street removed from the city limits and to send a letter outlining the standard procedures to be followed including notifying the police of where the dog will be located and when it will be removed from the City. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Miletich stated City Services Director Gilliland and City Clerk Alderson have talked with City Attorney John Wehr about the 119 Laffer Street and 118 West Elm Street properties and would like to start the procedure of abandonment. It does take time to do lien and title searches. Both of these properties have been empty for a few years. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve to start abandonment procedures for 119 North Laffer Street and 118 West Elm Street. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Police Chief Glandon stated the 2013 SUV is here and he has a list of equipment he would like to purchase to get the vehicle ready to use. He does not have all the prices yet, but has met with Racom and they are working on the costs. They are also working on other options and are hoping to purchase a new video system and use the sTEP grant to help with this. Police Chief Glandon talked about the different items needed and the issues he has encountered. He would eventually like to have a ruggedized laptop and brackets and eventually he would like to make some conversions to the Crown Victoria to have the same mounting equipment so the laptop could be transferred between the vehicles. Council member Conrad stated that he did not want to micromanage the Police budget and felt the Police Chief should use his judgment in making the decisions regarding what is needed for the vehicle and keep the Council informed. If there are large expense items such as the ruggedized laptops, those should probably be approved before they are purchased.

**Finance:** Bill Halleran and Brad Tinnis, representing the Sigourney Fire Department, were present at the Finance Committee meeting held May 30th. They were asking if the 5% of the general fund could be increased. The City budgets 5% of the general tax levy and 100% of the emergency levy to the Sigourney Fire Department each year. The actual amount increases as the valuation of the properties in Sigourney increase. Council member Ballensky explained the points discussed and also explained that if the 5% is increased then some other part of the budget would need to be decreased to allow for this. Bill Halleran has asked for copies of the City's budget and revenues. City Clerk Alderson will work on this information and has asked for budget and revenue information as well as information on how many of the fire calls have been within the City. As a City representative to the Sigourney Fire Board, Council member Conrad reviewed some of the information received at the fire board meetings.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Ballensky, to approve the following community betterment projects: \$300.00 to the Sigourney Police Department for National Night Out (reimbursed by grant); \$30,000.00 for equipment for Police Department / City's match to the COPS Secure Our Schools grant; \$7,540.00 for a VRS pick up sweeper for the skid loader; \$1,800.00 to fix storm sewers; \$1,500.00 for advertising expenses for the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Ballensky, Conrad, McLaughlin and Schultz. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**City Clerk:** The June 20, 2012 regular Council meeting will be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

The Council discussed the regular Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting date needs to be set for another date. There are two (2) Council members that will be out of town the week of the July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Council is going to check their calendars and a new date will be set at the next regular Council meeting.

**Public Input:** Council member Conrad stated he has received a phone call concerning wood burning and whether anything has been done about a complaint on South Main Street. Assistant Police Chief Clark stated he had dealt with a citizen on South Main Street and a wood burner. The phone caller asked if the lap swim on weekends could be readdressed.

There was a Historic Preservation Commission meeting on Monday. Boot Camp Madness wants to paint the front of their building and was approved by the Commission. Tim Gerard, Chairman, has completed the annual report and Mayor Miletich reviewed the report.

Mayor Miletich has sent out Memorandums of Understanding to the school, Keokuk County Expo and St. Mary's Catholic Church. She is also visiting with Lynn Reasor at the Keokuk County Health Center.

Mayor Miletich will be going to Chariton next week to pick up a sample snowflake and garland to have for display for July 4<sup>th</sup> to raise money for Christmas decorations.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:50 p.m.

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Patricia Miletich, Mayor, City of Sigourney

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