

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Others present were Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates; Dan and Beckie Appleget; Barb Schmidt; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon asked that the items on the consent agenda for the January financials be removed as they are not completed. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes from the regular Council meeting of February 20, 2019; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$26,490.78; Ashley Fry and Angie Alderson to attend gWorks Iowa User Group Meeting in Des Moines on April 10<sup>th</sup> at a total cost of \$180.00; Don Northup and Brent Gilliland to attend the Iowa Section Region VI Water Distribution and Treatment Plant Operators Conference sponsored by American Water Works Association on March 20, 2019 at a total cost of \$100.00; and the credit card report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Hearing:** Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to open the public hearing regarding the budget estimate for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved, and the public hearing was opened at 6:02 p.m.

Mayor Glandon stated the proposed budget was published as required on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and then asked the City Clerk if she had received any objections. City Clerk Alderson stated she had not.

Clerk Alderson asked the Council if there were any questions regarding the budget. The levy rate is slightly more than last year. Council member Bender asked about the Alliant Energy franchise fee. Clerk Alderson stated the Alliant Energy franchise fee replaced the local options sales tax on their utility bill. It started as a 1% fee and then in July 2017 it was increased to 2%. The revenue is then placed in the General Fund with 50% going to street projects and 50% going to property improvements. Clerk Alderson shared the replacement dollars with the Council and how she handles those.

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

Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to close the public hearing. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved, and the public hearing was closed to 6:06 p.m.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe, to approve resolution no. 2019-03-01 to adopt the city budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Other City Business:** Dan Appleget stated that damage occurred to their car on the Keswick Road near the Pappy Davis residence. There was a hole in the road, the car hit it and it broke the rim and that cut the tire. After talking with the county, the County Supervisor stated that was the City's and he had already talked with a City employee telling them there was an issue and that some signage and/or cones should be put up. That never happened. Mrs. Appleget hit the hole with her car. There are now cones and signage up and the hole is not fixed. Shortly after this Mrs. Appleget called Doug and shortly after this Bill Tremmel was fixing this. Mrs. Appleget stated that she was talking on the phone with Ashley Fry, Office Assistant, and Ashley was conversing with the Mayor and was to get a return phone call later in the day. Mrs. Appleget stated she did not receive a phone call. Director of Public Works Northup explained the portion of this road that is within the City's boundaries. Council member McLaughlin stated this winter has been hard on the roads, which Mr. Appleget stated they understood

that. Mrs. Appleget stated that she never drives that road, so she was not aware of any issue especially since there was not any signage, etc. to alert her. Mayor Glandon asked who the County Supervisor was they had talked to and which City employee was told about the situation. Mr. Appleget answered that it was Supervisor Deke Woods and he was not sure if Supervisor Woods had talked with Don Northup or Brent Gilliland. Director of Public Works I Northup stated he had not talked with Supervisor Woods regarding this matter. Northup explained the snow plowing and that they knew there was a hole there and had been patching it. There was a blowup in the highway last July that had been fixed and this hole was not there then. Northup stated that hole was on their list to be fixed along with a list of others. The City employees scratched out everything they could and put in rock which is ongoing. Mr. Appleget stated that Mr. Tremmel was called to have this fixed the same day. Mayor Glandon stated that when he received the message he talked with Don and Don checked it out. Don stated that the City has put in over six (6) tons of asphalt in potholes since October. It is never ending trying to keep the holes filled. The Council discussed potholes being all over and there is only so much the City can do until the weather breaks and where does the City's liability lay. City Clerk Alderson stated she did turn this in to the City's insurance. She received a message that the claim was being denied but is waiting for the details as to why. Mr. Appleget stated he had received a phone call as well and was told that the City does not have time to fix holes. Mr. Appleget stated this is a concrete road and asked how long the road has been this way and how long have we been patching it. Northup discussed the never-ending cycle of fixing roads. Council member Conrad stated he would like to get more information from ICAP and run this past the City's attorney as well regarding additional liability. Council member Schultz stated that the Council does try to be consistent and would like all the facts before a decision is made. The Council decided they would like to gather more information before deciding. Mr. Appleget stated he thought the City knew they had a problem and it had been discussed and filled. He understands this is a concrete surface not asphalt and he understands that cold patch will not stick this time of year, but it is a 35 mile per hour zone, and it should have been taken care of before. This road has been patched before. Northup stated there have been prior blowups. Mr. Appleget stated something isn't right and that he doesn't feel they should be responsible for someone's bad engineering or installation that is known to have problems. Northup stated that could be said about any road in town. There are tens of thousands of dollars spent trying to keep the roads open and filled. There are 27 miles of road to keep holes and cracks filled. There simply isn't the money and time.

Mayor Glandon reviewed the information Brad Grefe presented at the prior Council meeting. He reminded the Council they will have to have a commitment from the City. There are other grant opportunities being discussed as well. The City will have to pay the \$3,000.00 to Area 15 and then there will be costs involved to receive the preliminary design costs at approximately \$10,000.00. If the grant is not awarded, the City will be responsible for these fees as well. The SADC \$12,000.00 retail grant request was postponed to help cover these fees. Hopefully the \$13,000.00 to \$15,000.00 spent now will help provide a grant which will allow more funds to be spent. Council member Schultz stated that it will cost money to help keep the buildings in good repair as opposed to having to tear them down. Local Options Sales Tax dollars can be used to fund this, but if the grant is received there will need to be some reallocation of possibly LOSST dollars to help take care of the City's commitment part. Mr. Grefe stated there could be some other grants available to help with this as well. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve a contract for grant application assistance with Area 15 Regional Planning Commission for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Downtown Revitalization (DTR) Façade Improvement Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon asked for clarification on the request from the Sigourney Area Development Corp. regarding the Retail Grant. Council member Conrad stated he would like to not approve the SADC Retail Grant now, but to figure out after the Downtown Revitalization (DTR) Façade Improvement Project gets started if this is something we will need those additional funds for. Until the Council can gauge how this program is working as being a determining factor and to not go ahead and provide the additional \$12,000.00 for SADC Retail Grant project at this time. The Council would like to continue to put this request on hold and postpone the decision to a later time.

**Park and Recreation:** Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe to approve a display ad for pool pass discount advertising in the Sigourney News Review. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Street and Sanitation:** Mayor Glandon opened the three (3) bids received for the 2019 mowing. The first bid was received on March 4<sup>th</sup> from Backs Lawn Care for \$390.00 per mowing. The second bid was received on March 5<sup>th</sup> from Exceptional Edge LLC in the amount of \$400.00 per mowing. The third bid was received on March 6<sup>th</sup> from Dobbins Lawn Care & Landscaping for \$300.00 per mowing. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve Dobbins Lawn Care & Landscaping for \$300.00 per mowing. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

A Street and Sanitation Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Water and Wastewater:** Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to set Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. as the time and date for a public hearing for citizen participation regarding proposed activities relevant to application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for the water improvement system. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, explained another step in the process for the water improvements. After meeting with Don Northup and Brent Gilliland the design for the water improvements has been completed. The next step is to submit to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and get a construction permit issued. Having the permit in place when the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application is submitted says the City is ready to start this project. Once this construction permit application is signed and the public hearing is held on March 20<sup>th</sup> the CDBG application should be ready for submission by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe, to approve the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Supply Engineering Section Construction Permit Application for 2019 Water Improvements, the \$721.00 permit fee and authorization for the Mayor to sign. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Morlan. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Finance:** A Finance Committee meeting was set for Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

**City Clerk:** The March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regular Council meeting will be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Input:** Council member Morlan stated that he has been contacted by several people concerned that they need a step ladder to get to the recycling bins. There are elderly people that will have trouble stepping on the trailer, opening the lid and trying to empty their recyclables at the same time. Director of Public Works I Northup stated they will investigate this.

Council member Morlan stated he would like for the City to consider supporting the Senior Citizen Center. He is a volunteer and helps deliver meals to shut ins. Their current funding has been cut and they are struggling financially. Barb Schmidt was present and stated they have an average of 30 people that eat at the center daily. This a good place for elderly people to socialize and it also provides a good meal. Council member McLaughlin asked if the center had considered applying for the Keokuk County Community Endowment Grant which could provide up to \$5,000.00 if awarded. Council member Morlan stated he would like to see the City help with support. Milestone provides the food and helps with wages. The residents that use the facility pay \$3.50 per meal for their food, but this money is given to Milestone. The center is currently being run on donations. The building needs repairs and they struggle each month. Council member Morlan stated the people he delivers meals to are always grateful. Some of the recipients can not fix their own meals. Mayor Glandon stated that the Finance Committee can look into this, but the City does have to be careful as the Senior Citizen Center is a non profit and donations must be for economic development. The Finance Committee would like to see some numbers. As the Older Americans Act funding was cut this led to the center having their funding cut. The employees had their hours cut as well. The funding is based on the number of elderly citizens in the area. Ms. Schmidt thanked the Council for their consideration.

Council member McLaughlin reminded the Council of the Keokuk County Community Foundation promotion event on March 28<sup>th</sup> and to make sure they respond to Ann Spillman by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:53 p.m.

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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