

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA  
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz (*via phone*), Morlan, Schröder and Bender (*via phone*). Others present were: Jason Hewitt, Mahaska Communications Group (MCG) Representative; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Brent Gilliland, Director of Public Works II; Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates; Jerry Wohler; Aaron Kephart, Police Chief; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk. (*Police Chief Kephart did not attend the meeting but was in the building. Jason Hewitt left after his presentation.*)

*Due to the restriction of the number of people at a public gathering, City Clerk Alderson monitored the people during the Council meeting and kept additional people in another part of the building during the meeting. It was decided that if anyone arrived at the meeting and wished to meet with the City Council members, one of the City employees would exit the meeting to allow anyone from the public the opportunity to speak before the Council. No one other than the people listed throughout these minutes attended the Council meeting.*

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

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$40,461.01 and \$3,790.00 for soccer refunds; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$3,245.76; Tax Abatement Application for Jean Axmear at 220 North Shuffleton Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution No. 2020-05-01); Liquor License Application for Nikolaos Lagiotis (DBA: Nicks Pizza) at 102 East Washington Street, Sigourney, Iowa for Special Class C Liquor License (BW) (Beer/Wine) and Sunday Sales; and the credit card report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Schröder. Nays: None. Abstain: Bender. Motion approved.

Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes of regular Council meeting of April 15, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz and Schröder. Nays: None. Abstain: Morlan and Bender. Motion approved. (*Due to working Council member Morlan was unable to attend the regular Council meeting of April 15, 2020.*) (*Due to COVID 19 Council member Bender was unable to attend the regular Council meeting of April 15, 2020.*)

**Additional City Business:** Jason Hewitt, Mahaska Communications Group Representative, was present to explain to the Council members the fiber optic upgrades his company would like to bring to Sigourney and the plans they have in place to proceed. Mr. Hewitt reviewed a map he had brought to show the Council what was being done and where it was being done. Mr. Hewitt answered questions from the Council members. Most of this will be underground except for three areas that will be put on existing poles or a pole will be installed. Mr. Hewitt reviewed the current plans to start and how things will spread out from there. The underground work will start approximately June 15, 2020. Once each section is done the tie ins can be started at homes. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the fiber optic upgrades by MCG (Mahaska Communications Group) in the City's right-of-way. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: Schultz. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve a letter to the Iowa Department of Transportation extending permission to MCG (Mahaska Communications Group) to work within the City limits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: Schultz. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon asked for discussion regarding the cancellation of summer events such as July 4<sup>th</sup> and National Night Out. Mayor Glandon stated that businesses are approached for donations and there are contracts that need to be signed and some with a down payment. Mayor Glandon stated that the planning should have started. There is a lot of liability and social distancing will not happen at these events. There are other events that may need to have streets closed. Council member Schröder stated he would rather err on the side of caution as a public

health matter above and beyond the planning and costs involved. As a public health measure, the safer thing would be to cancel all the events and activities. Council member Conrad asked if it should be summer events or set a date. Mayor Glandon felt that it could be addressed again and changed. Jerry Wohler stated that the July 4<sup>th</sup> event brings in people from all over and with our elderly society cancelling seems to be the smart thing to do. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to approve cancelling summer events due to COVID 19. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: None. Motion approved.

There was not a SADC report.

**Park and Recreation:** The Council discussed the usage of the basketball / tennis courts and baseball / softball fields at the parks. There was discussion on how that could work and would the social distancing be followed. Council member McLaughlin stated that if the summer events are cancelled that the park should remain closed. City Clerk Alderson stated staff has been through the Governor's proclamations and cannot fine anything on basketball / tennis courts and baseball / softball fields. Council member Conrad stated that this can be readdressed at any time. Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to keep the parks, playgrounds baseball / softball fields, basketball / tennis courts and everything involved with the parks closed for the summer. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: Conrad and Schultz. Motion approved.

Public Works Director I Northup stated he has talked with other communities and they are waiting to see what the Governor says regarding the restrictions on pools. Northup stated that at some point it will be too far into summer that it may not be worth opening. Council member Schröder stated the parks are closed and the people at a pool would be much more compacted than at a park. The cleaning, etc. has been done, but nothing else. The Council discussed setting a date or maybe the time should be until further notice. Northup stated that the park can be opened in a matter of hours, the pool would take a lot of time to get ready for opening. Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to close the swimming pool for the 2020 season. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin stated she would like for the Lewis Memorial Fountain to open. Public Works Director I stated it can be started but will become a gathering place. Council member Schroeder asked how social distancing would be enforced and Mayor Glandon replied there would not be a way to do this. Mayor Glandon stated he sees a lot of kids up there now. The City Clerk has talked with the County regarding usage of the courtyard, but it has not been discussed by the County Supervisors at this point. Council member McLaughlin stated that people could drive by and they will socially distance if they want to, she just hates to take everything away. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to start the Lewis Memorial Fountain and have it running this year. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan and Bender. Nays: Schröder. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated that she is starting to receive payments and forms for Flag Football and wondered if the information should be pulled until a decision can be made. The Council asked what the last possible date for a decision would be. Council member Conrad stated he would prefer to not accept registrations and payments at this time.

City Clerk Alderson stated there are approximately 40 registrations that parents have not responded to regarding the soccer program.

**Street and Sanitation:** Mayor Glandon opened discussion for consideration of a three percent (3%) increase to the water, sewer, and sanitation fees. Council member McLaughlin expressed her concern that with the COVID a lot of businesses are shut down and a lot of people are out of work. Some may not have a lot of resources. The Council is here to represent the citizens and their interests, and she feels this is not the right time. Council member Conrad stated his concern would be if the City does not increase the rates and the City gets into trouble providing the services. Council member McLaughlin asked if there were grants available for this. Mayor Glandon stated that grants were received for the water and sewer projects, but otherwise these funds are proprietary and should be self-supporting. Mayor Glandon asked what would be cut if the funds are not there. Council member Schröder

referenced the prior Council meeting that there would be measures taken to help people who could not afford to pay their utility payments at this time. He feels that consideration has been given to working with people. Council member Schultz stated that we all empathize with those who are struggling at this time but feels there is not a choice to allow the three percent (3%) to continue as we need it. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to apply the three percent (3%) increase to the sanitation rates. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, Schultz, Schröder and Bender. Nays: McLaughlin and Morlan. Motion approved.

**Water and Wastewater:** Council member McLaughlin stated she does not think the three percent (3%) is the right thing to do at this time. Council member Schultz stated he appreciates Council member McLaughlin's concern for the citizens as we all should, but he does not feel there is a choice in the matter, and we have to allow the three percent to be applied. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to apply the three percent (3%) increase to the water rates. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, Schultz, Schröder and Bender. Nays: McLaughlin and Morlan. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin stated again that she does not think this is the right time. Council member Conrad asked Public Works Director I Northup if he has noticed an increase in water with more people at home. Northup stated that yes there has been an increase in water usage and the amount of garbage put out. Council member McLaughlin stated that there are a lot of things that we are not doing anymore such as reading meters and picking up recycling. Mayor Glandon stated that he keeps an eye on what everyone does at work and there is always plenty to do. Council member Schröder moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve a three percent (3%) increase in sewer rates. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, Schultz, Schröder and Bender. Nays: McLaughlin and Morlan. Motion approved.

Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates representative, reviewed the bid opening data. He had expected to see more bidders. KLC Construction out of Russell, Iowa was the lowest bidder. French-Reneker-Associates has worked on a trail project with this company. Council member Schröder asked how this compared to what was expected. This was about \$13,000.00 under French-Reneker's estimate. Council member Schultz asked about the difference in the monitoring of the vibration bid item. Mr. Walker thought that a latter bid that was lower may have been the difference. This could also be a liability issue. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve Resolution No. 2020-05-02 awarding the low bid on the Water Main Improvements to KLC Construction. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Finance:** Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve the following Community Betterment Projects: \$300.00 for six new flags and poles around the square; \$2,444.95 for a GPS receiver to implement items for the Schneider Beacon site; and \$1,500.00 to complete grant project of placing new benches and concrete pads in Legion Park. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Schröder and Bender. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**City Clerk:** The May 20, 2020 Council meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**Public Input:** Council member McLaughlin asked about nuisance properties.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:57 p.m.

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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