

CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Others present were: Bill and Amanda Smothers; Jim Willis and Barb Randall, Iowa Municipal Benefits Plan; CJ Eilers, News Review; Kathy Glandon; Dena Torgrim, Police Officer; Aaron Kephart, Assistant Police Chief; Allan Glandon, 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 Landgrebe, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims totaling \$59,106.31; tax exemption for Cheryl D. Clingan at 905 South Stuart Street (Resolution No. 2016-11-01); tax exemption for Paul and Cathy Yock at 611 South Jefferson Street (Resolution No. 2016-11-02); and the credit card report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Landgrebe moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda: minutes from the October 19, 2016 regular Council meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Abstain: Conrad. Motion approved. (*Council member Conrad abstained as he was unable to attend the October 19, 2016 regular Council meeting.*)

Other City Business: Police Chief Glandon stated on the evening of October 27th he was called to the Pastor and Mrs. David Welsh residence on West Jackson Street. They told Police Chief Glandon they had been walking their two (2) dogs eastbound along West Jackson Street on the sidewalk and as they crossed West Street a large dog ran up to them, attacked and bit one of their dogs on the back of the neck. The dog also bit Pastor Welsh and knocked down Mrs. Welsh. Pastor Welsh was wearing a jacket which protected his arm. Pastor Welsh pointed out where the dog came from and Police Chief Glandon went to the house and talked to one of Smothers' boys. He said that their Mastiff dog, Zeus, had gotten loose earlier. The parents, Bill and Amanda Smothers, were not home, but he did talk to them later in the evening. Mrs. Smothers confirmed that the dog had been loose, but it did have a shock collar on, but when she pressed the button it did not seem to stop the dog. Police Chief Glandon called Pastor Welsh regarding the meeting this evening, but he was having a medical procedure and would not be able to attend. Council member Morlan stated Pastor Welsh had asked him to speak on their behalf. Council member Morlan was told that they were walking their dog and a big dog came charging up the street and went after their little dog. Their other dog stepped in to stop the attack, but in the process Mrs. Welsh was knocked down and their second dog was bit. Pastor Welsh grabbed the collar of the attacking dog and yelled at the owner to come and do something. Mrs. Welsh stated that the owner was standing in front of her house, while she (Mrs. Welsh) kept yelling "come get your dog". Pastor and Mrs. Welsh felt Mrs. Smothers was not in any hurry to get to her dog. Council member Morlan stated that he saw the bruises on Pastor Welsh's arm and feel if not for his jacket there would have been puncture wounds. The Welsh's took their dog to a veterinarian and there were puncture wounds on the dog. Police Chief Glandon stated Pastor Welsh told him he thought dogs that behave this way should not be in town especially near a child. Mrs. Smothers stated that she did see this. She paused long enough to send her daughter to get Mr. Smothers. Mrs. Smothers stated that Pastor Welsh had a hold of her dog and sent his wife home with their dogs. Mrs. Smothers stated she had three (3) letters (one from their groomer) that all stated Zeus had never shown vicious activity. There was a small dog on a grooming table, while he was being groomed and he made no attempt to attack and has never done anything like this before. Small children have always played with him and there have not been any issues. Mrs. Smothers had the shock collar on him, but wondered if it was not tight enough. Since this incident, they have only taken him out when he is on a leash. Mr. Smothers stated that Mastiffs are very docile dogs. They would not have a mean dog as they have children and their children's friends come over to play. Mr. Smothers stated that Zeus bit the dog, but did not attack it. Mrs. Smothers stated that it was a chaotic scene and Mrs. Welsh was screaming. Mrs. Smothers agreed that a Mastiff running at you would be very scary, but Mastiffs are not bad tempered dogs – more like gentle giants. Mrs. Smothers stated that the Welsh's dogs have been in their yard loose multiple times. Mr. Smothers stated that Zeus is a house dog and only goes out to use the bathroom. Mrs. Smothers stated that she didn't have the shock collar tight enough and that was her mistake, but they only use the leash now and their children should not have to suffer because two (2) dogs do not like each other and a fence will be put up if need be. They feel this was a one (1) time incident. Mrs. Smother's asked if there was an ordinance on Pit Bull dogs as there is one in their neighborhood. She also asked about an ordinance on large amounts of animals such as goats, chickens and roosters, that make noise at all hours of the night. Mrs. Smothers stated that their daughter was bit by a dog that broke skin that was not up to date on rabies and the owners still have their dog. Mrs. Smothers stated that Zeus was defending himself when Pastor Welsh grabbed his collar. Council member Conrad read the vicious animal ordinance. Council member Schultz stated that he felt the Council had been consistent in their decisions.

Council member Conrad explained the process to have the dog removed from the City limits and what procedure could be taken by the Smothers' if they disagreed with the Council. Mrs. Smothers questioned why the dog that had bit their daughter was allowed to stay when it was not up to date on its shots. The dog bit their daughter on the foot and she had to take antibiotics. The dog was quarantined. It was reported to public health and to the police. It was an unprovoked attack, but was not brought before the Council. Council member Schultz stated that the City does not require that the dog be put down, but there is a consistent record of asking that the dog be removed from the City limits. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the City sending a letter to Bill and Amanda Smothers concerning their dog named Zeus and the necessity to remove it from the City limits within 10 days. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: Landgrebe. Abstain: Morlan. Motion approved. *(Council member Morlan abstained as he had represented Pastor and Mrs. Welsh in the discussion.)*

Jim Willis, Iowa Municipal Benefits Plan, reviewed information that he had presented at the last Council meeting and outlined the steps the Council would need to take to change the City's Agent of Record for our health and dental insurance, renewal date and what will be offered to the employees.

Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve Wellmark's Agent of Record Transfer Request from Accumen to Willis Benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mr. Willis discussed changing the City's renewal date from January 1, 2017 to December 1, 2016 as there will be a savings to the City. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe, to approve a letter being sent to Wellmark requesting the City's renewal date change to December 1, 2016. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk Alderson stated the rates for dental insurance through MetLife increased by 3.01% effective December 1, 2016. The recommendation is to increase the employee share 10% of the increase and rounded to an even number. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Landgrebe, to approve renewal of MetLife as dental coverage for the City employees effective December 1, 2016 with employee's paying \$12.40 for a family plan, \$6.20 for an employee plus spouse plan and \$3.10 for a single plan per month and the City paying the remainder and to change the agent of record to Willis Benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mr. Willis reviewed the health insurance options. Options include keeping the PPO network or letting the employees choose the HMO network. After meeting with some of the employees, Mr. Willis feels there is some hesitation of automatically taking the HMO network as there are some differences in the chiropractor access. Mr. Willis suggested the Council either stay with the PPO and next fall do some education on the HMO before the renewal next year or offer the employees an option that they get to choose and if they elect the HMO the employees will save some contribution. Wellmark would ask for less premium on the HMO option as the network will be limited to Iowa only instead of out of state also. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the health insurance plan by offering the PPO network as a base and each employee, may option out to the HMO network and the employee would get the savings. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Street and Sanitation: Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the compost site being closed as of December 19th, open on January 7th and 8th to accept Christmas trees and wreaths and then open on March 1st. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon stated there has been a request to have no parking in the 200 block of East Marion Street from the alley to South Shuffleton Street. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the first reading of the Ordinance amending Title III – Community Protection, Chapter 3 – Traffic Code, Section 3-3-28 – Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specified Places. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays; None. Motion approved.

Public Safety: Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve the sSTEP contract between the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau / Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Sigourney Police Department. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Landgrebe, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk: City Clerk Alderson reviewed the Annual Financial Report.

The November 16th, 2016 regular Council meeting will be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Public Input: Council member Morlan stated he had been approached about some areas in town that are very dark. Alliant Energy puts up the poles and the City pays a monthly bill.

Council member Landgrebe stated that he and Council member Bender went on the golf cart ride.

Kathy Glandon asked about the metal plate across the sidewalk on the east side of The Clubb House.

There was discussion about fires being set at the Compost Site and items being left there that do not belong.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:00 p.m.

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, Sigourney City Clerk