

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA  
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Bender and Conrad. Others present were Sarah Beatty; Rhonda Vermillion; Cathy Clawson; Jason Dehne; Vicki Homan; Dan Roller; Tonya Webster; Larry Alderson; John E. Schröder; Don Northup, Public Works Director I; Brent Gilliland, Public Works Director II; Richard Fortney, Police Officer; Aaron Kephart, Police Chief; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the tentative agenda. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes from the regular Council meeting of October 2, 2019; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$33,607.87; City Clerk September 2019 financial reports; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for September 2019; resignation of Jeremy Davis; Sherrie Casper and Angie Alderson to attend the 2019 Budget Workshops sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities in Iowa City on November 21<sup>st</sup> at a total cost of \$100.00; Brent Gilliland to attend the Wastewater Treatment – Grade 2 Course at Kirkwood Continuing Education Training Center, Cedar Rapids on January 30, 2020 at a cost of \$125.00 and to use the credit card for meals; Brent Gilliland to attend the Water Treatment / Distribution – Grade 2 Course at Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown on April 8, 2020 at a cost of \$125.00 and to use the credit card for hotel and meals (*location may change and a hotel may not be needed*); and the credit card report. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Additional City Business:** Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution 2019-10-04 authorizing sponsorship for the Keokuk County Community Endowment Foundation Grant. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Street and Sanitation:** There were citizens present to discuss the recycling. One of the questions was why did the City quit the curbside pickup? Mayor Glandon stated that at one time we had an outlet at First Resources to drop off the recycling, but then First Resources wanted to charge the City a fee to drop off the recycling at the workshop. The percentage of people that recycle was discussed as well as the only way to control what is put into recycling is to pick it up curbside. Public comments were: it is difficult to recycle as the bins are hard to reach for short people and then you cannot hold the lid up and dump your recycling in at the same time. With all the issues of having to sort out the garbage maybe it would be easier to pick it up curbside. It is important to recycle and not put all these items into the landfill. Eventually there will be garbage in the ditches, etc. There were suggestions such as to getting everyone their own receptacle and pick up curbside and maybe going to every other week for pickup. The Council was asked if the City was going to reduce the staff. Some of the residents already take their recycling south of town. One citizen stated they would like to see the City get out of the garbage business altogether and use one of the local haulers to provide large containers. Each Council member was given an opportunity share their views. The Council members are supportive of a recycling program. The Street and Sanitation Committee has met several times to discuss this issue. The Committee has talked with the County regarding using their facility south of town. The County is asking for \$1,500.00 per month but are unable to provide any data to currently support this amount. It was explained that when everything went to First Resources it was just dropped off. At North English the City employees must go through the bins and remove all the garbage. There are less and less items being accepted for recycling. Director of Public Works I Northup explained the recycling process and that eventually a minimum of 30% of what we recycle ends up in the landfill. He has called several towns and stated they all struggle with the same issues. None of these communities do their own garbage anymore, they outsource both garbage and recycling. The Council discussed that even though they are trying to do

things efficiently, it isn't working and the costs for recycling are increasing. Mayor Glandon explained to the public that at some point there may be a fee placed on each utility bill. Mayor Glandon also explained the Street and Sanitation Committee is considering working with the County for approximately six months until data can be collected. At this point the Council will re-evaluate the fees and decide how to proceed. Council member Bender thanked the public for taking the time to come to the Council meeting and share their views. He stressed that the Council would like to do what the public wants, but sometimes it is hard to keep everyone happy. John Schröder thanked the Council for their work. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to work with the County to allow the citizens of Sigourney to take their recycling to the facility south of town for six months at the \$1,500.00 per month rate. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Schultz, Morlan, Bender and Conrad. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Mayor Glandon instructed the City Clerk to call one of the Keokuk County Supervisors to get the 28E Agreement process started first thing Thursday morning. The Council will have a special Council meeting to approve this and hopefully have this in place by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The recycling trailer will be sold to help pay for the fees until the Council can review data. There will not be any fees added to the utility bills now.

**Public Safety:** Council member McLaughlin has been attending the Emergency Management meetings as the City's representative and she would like to be relieved of this if someone else on the City Council would be willing to attend these meetings.

**Finance:** Council member Conrad stated there will be Finance meetings on November 19<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. to work on the budget.

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

**Public Input:** Mayor Glandon reminded the City Council the State Auditor, Rob Sand, will be at City Hall on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:00 p.m. for a Town Hall meeting if anyone would like to attend.

City Clerk Alderson stated the auditors will be here for two weeks starting Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Vicki Homan asked if the Council minutes could be put on the City's web site. Mayor Glandon stated we are changing the web site and the minutes will be put on the new site.

Mayor Glandon congratulated Council member Bender on 65<sup>th</sup> years of marriage.

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

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Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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