

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Others present were: Christie Iosbaker, Sigourney News Review; Larry Alderson; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; Brent Gilliland, Director of Public Works II; and Angie Alderson, City Clerk. *(Larry Alderson was present, but stayed in the City Clerk's Office, which opens into the Council Chambers.)*

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

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$55,691.31; Library accounts payable claims in the amount of \$10,541.84; Resolution No. 2020-10-04: Approving 2020 Tax Increment Financing for Sigourney Prairie View Subdivision Urban Renewal – 54001 – Section 403.19 Certification; Sherrie Casper and Angie Alderson to attend the 2020 Virtual Budget Workshops Sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities on Tuesday, November 17th at a total cost of \$50.00; Liquor License Application for Goldman Enterprises, LLC (DBA: Copper Lantern) at 101 North Jefferson Street for Class C Liquor License (LC) (Commercial), Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales; Community Betterment Request(s); the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the November 4, 2020 Council meeting for 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda: Minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 7, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Abstain: Schultz and Schröder. Motion approved. *(Council members Schultz and Schröder abstained as they were unable to attend the regular Council meeting on October 7, 2020.)*

Additional City Business: Council member McLaughlin reviewed the information she had provided at the previous Council meeting regarding the opening of City Hall. Council member McLaughlin stated that City Hall has been open for the last couple weeks and she is not aware of any problems. City workers can wear masks if they are more comfortable. There are no additional cleaning requirements. Council member Morlan reiterated that the lobby is the only area open. He stated that the County building has been open two or three months now and he does not see any reason why City Hall should be closed. Council member Schröder stated he has voted against opening City Hall as all the news reports state there is going to be a worse outbreak during the fall and winter and that concerns him. Council member McLaughlin stated that people coming in can wear masks, City workers can wear masks and there is plexiglass in place for protection. She does not think there is that much traffic from the public. There are City workers that do come in as well and they have had contact with the public. Council member Bender asked why it was voted on at the last Council meeting to open and is back on the agenda. Council member Schultz asked how many Council meetings this had been voted on and at one meeting there is a yes and it is good to go. He does not believe that should reflect how the Council as a whole sees this matter. It is obvious by the way the voting has gone, there are three Council members that want to open City Hall and three that want to keep it closed and the Mayor has to break the tie. When there are people absent from a Council meeting that should not be the determining factor. Council member McLaughlin stated she does not think the public should have to deal with City Hall being opened at one meeting and then closed at the next – that is kind of wishy-washy and not fair to the public. Council member Schultz suggested that it only be voted on when all Council members are present. Mayor Glandon reminded the Council of the COVID 19 policy adopted last spring and if we open City Hall and it gets infected, there is a fourteen-day quarantine and shut down. Who is going to take the bill collections every day, who is going to process them and there is payroll once every two weeks? It takes two people to process payroll. He understands that an employee can bring this in from somewhere else, but he is trying to minimize it. The other thing is if the office is shut down for fourteen days it will be an additional \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 cost to the taxpayers. No one has told him what the complaints were with the way everything was handled. He has only heard that people cannot come in to visit. Council member Bender stated that the other towns are open and do not seem to be having a problem and worrying about what we are worrying

about. Mayor Glandon stated there are other buildings that are not open to the public. Council member Morlan stated that if someone gets COVID at City Hall that the whole thing does not have to be shut down for fourteen days and he stated that the person has to go and be quarantined for fourteen days. Mayor Glandon stated they all associate together. Council member McLaughlin stated her husband had COVID and the infection control policy is if you have a family member that has COVID you check your symptoms every day. She stated she checked their temperature, and she was experiencing no symptoms, so she wore a mask everywhere she went, and she did go to work. She never did get it. Just because you are around someone who has it, if you are not experiencing any symptoms you do not have to quarantine. You must monitor yourself. Mayor Glandon stated we should throw the COVID policy out. Council member Schultz stated that asymptomatic people infect other people. Mayor Glandon stated he is only trying to minimize. Council member McLaughlin stated we could wear masks and use good hand sanitization. We cannot live in isolation just because there is a virus out there, you take precautions. Council member Schröder stated it is even more difficult for him now that City Hall has been open for two weeks. He shares Council member Schultz's preference that the vote be taken with a full Council. We know what the vote would have been if all six Council members had been here. Council member McLaughlin stated we would know the Mayor's vote as well. Council member Schröder stated that he understands and appreciates what Council members McLaughlin, Morlan and Bender are saying, but he would rather error on the side of caution and everything he hears is that it is going to get worse not better. He understands that the Courthouse and banks are open. All kinds of places are open, but that does not mean everybody should open. Council member McLaughlin stated that if one employee gets this it does not mean that everyone must be gone. Mayor Glandon stated that if we throw the COVID policy out and then the employees cannot take advantage of it. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to open City Hall but leave the meeting rooms and restrooms closed. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: Schultz and Schröder. Motion approved.

There was no report for Sigourney Area Development Corporation (SADC).

Park and Recreation: Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to continue to keep the playground equipment open. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Morlan moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to open the park shelters. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: Schultz and Schröder. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to keep the ball fields open. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to leave the restrooms at Legion Park closed. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: Morlan. Motion approved.

Water and Wastewater: Director of Public Works I Northup reported that all the water main line has been set. They are in the process of pressure testing and bacteria testing. They are starting to do main line tie-ins. Council member Morlan asked about the sidewalk across the street from City Hall. He understands the property owner was asked not to fix it as the water main was coming through. He asked if the City was going to replace this. Northup stated the business owner has been contacted and was going to fix the entire sidewalk, but the Mayor asked that this be held off until the water project is done. Northup understood the business owner wants to fix this and he will once this project is done. Mayor Glandon stated that when the project was started, he talked to the business owner and they agreed to wait until this water project was done before he fixed the sidewalk. He has fixed everything else, so there is no reason to think he will not take care of the sidewalk.

Mayor Glandon stated this Change Order was approved at the previous Council meeting, but when the signed originals came in there was a seven-day extension to the completion date that was not on the one the Council approved. Council member Bender moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to approve Change Order No. 1 from KLC Construction, LLC for the Proposed Water Main Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-016 – Sigourney, IA (18-113/20-057) to now include the ten inch water stop and seven day extension to finish the project. Upon

the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 Request from KLC Construction LLC for Proposed Water Main Improvements – CDBG #19-WS-016 – Sigourney, IA (Project #18-113/20-057). Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Schröder, to set the Date and Time for a Public Hearing as Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for the Status of Funding Activity for the CDBG Watermain Improvement Project. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Director of Public Works Northup stated he has talked with Matt Walker, French-Reneker-Associates, and the contracts for the Wastewater Improvement Project have been signed and he would like to have a preconstruction meeting in the next two to three weeks. They are going to be delivering pipe to the lagoons in the next couple weeks as well. They are wanting to start in four weeks. Council member Morlan asked about the compost site. Northup stated he would like to have the compost closed and cleaned up before they get started. The construction will take a good year or better to complete. There is not an alternate site for the compost. Once work starts the compost will need to be shut down. The Council by consensus agreed the compost will be closed on November 16th. Northup stated that we have not found anyone willing to take the compost temporarily. It would mean that there could be people on your property seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day dumping everything from flower beds to wood to garbage. No one wants that liability. There has been a lot of thought put into this, but anything temporary could cost a lot to set up and the Department of Natural Resources would have to approve it.

Public Safety: A Public Safety Committee Meeting was set for Monday, October 26th at 7:00 a.m.

Finance: A Finance Committee Meeting was set for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

A Finance Committee Meeting was set for Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

Human Resources: Mayor Glandon reviewed the insurance policies for health, dental and vision for the employees. The health insurance through Blue Cross and Blue Shield increased 10.2%. City Clerk Alderson reviewed changes and additions to the policy. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve a policy for employee medical insurance benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The dental insurance through MetLife increased 0%. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve a policy for employee dental insurance benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: Schultz. Motion approved.

The vision policy through Delta Vision did not increase this year. This policy runs through June 30, 2021 and this could change. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Schultz, to approve a policy for employee vision insurance benefits. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Clerk: City Clerk Alderson reviewed the Annual Urban Renewal Report that is required by the Department of Management. Council member Schultz moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the Annual Urban Renewal Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Schultz, Morlan, Schröder, Bender and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Input: Council member Morlan asked if the Public Hearing will be during the next the Council Meeting and it will be.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:43 p.m.

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Angela K. Alderson, City Clerk