

**CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020**

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 with Mayor Glandon presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Others present were: Adam Clark, Sigourney Ball, Inc.; Christie Iosbaker, Sigourney News Review; Larry Alderson; Don Northup, Director of Public Works I; 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 6:04 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: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member Bender, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: Minutes of regular Council meeting of September 16, 2020; Council accounts payable claims in the amount of \$18,524.01; City Clerk financial reports for September 2020; payroll expenses, miscellaneous expenses, ACH and monthly transfers for September 2020; Don Northup to Attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Water and Wastewater Operator's Training Workshop – Online Conference on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 and Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at a total cost of \$100.00; Contract for CDBG Administration Services with Area 15 RPC for Technical Assistance for the IEDA CDBG No. 20-DTR-005 for Downtown Façade Improvements; Agreement between the City of Sigourney and Curtis Architecture & Design PC re: Sigourney Façade Improvement Project; Tax Exemption Application for Forrest Gibson and McKenzie Verry at 118 West Elm Street, Sigourney, Iowa (Resolution 2020-10-01); Community Betterment Request; Liquor License Application for Grant Ranch, LLC (DBA: Grant Ranch Grub & Pub) at 121 South Jefferson Street for Class C Liquor License (LC) (Commercial) and Sunday Sales; Liquor License Application for Amanda Snakenberg (DBA: Barn Wired) at 119 East Marion Street for Class C Liquor License (LC) (Commercial) and Sunday Sales; the credit card report; and to set the time and place for the October 21, 2020 Council meeting for 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda: Minutes of special Council meeting of September 23, 2020. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Abstain: Bender. Motion approved. *(Council member Bender abstained as he was unable to attend the special Council meeting on September 23, 2020.)*

**Additional City Business:** Council member McLaughlin stated she has tried for several months to get City Hall opened. She has done an area query from area City Halls. She contacted Washington, Marengo, Delta, Brooklyn Richland, What Cheer, Oskaloosa, Rose Hill, and Williamsburg. All these city offices are open. Council member McLaughlin had a series of six questions that she asked each one. The first question she asked is if their City Hall was open to the public and if so, how long has it been open during the pandemic and are the number of citizens limited in the building. They are all open and have been open since June 1<sup>st</sup> and one was July 1<sup>st</sup>. The next question asked was if there was a mask requirement. There are not any except one City has their staff wear masks and encourage the public to and have posted a sign on the door. The next question was if there are meeting rooms and if they are open to the public. All responded they do not have an additional room available; one was under construction; some allow but the person(s) using the room must clean it and one City puts each request through the Council. The next question asked was if the restrooms in City Hall were open to the public. All were open to the public, but one and one is under construction. The next question asked if there were any special cleaning requirements conducted. All said they disinfect the credit card machine after usage, or the counters and one City said it is done every 24 hours. There were not any special cleaning requirements needed. Last question asked was if plexiglass had been installed in the windows as a safety measure. One City does not, but they have a distance safeguard and is not a problem. All the other City's had plexiglass in place. There is not an issue with anything not being done, Council member McLaughlin feels the public should be allowed in to pay their bills, etc. She does not understand why the door needs to be closed to the public making us a non-welcoming community. She understands there is a pandemic going on and people that want to wear masks can wear masks. Council member Morlan agreed with Council member McLaughlin. Mayor Glandon asked about the COVID 19 policy that was approved last spring. If we get infected, everyone goes home and is quarantined for two weeks. The taxpayers pay the employees to stay home. The employees do not use their sick leave, the taxpayers are

responsible to pay for eighty hours for three employees plus a deep clean must be done. During that two-week period, he would like to know how the work is going to get done. Daily the drop box is checked. One person takes it out, another person verifies the money and a third inputs it into the computer system. If there is cash, that is opened in front of another employee. Any two-week period will have payroll. One person does it and another person inputs. Most are ACH, so one person sends the information, and another receives a verification code. Council member McLaughlin asked if the employees are restricted to their homes. Mayor Glandon responded that there was a fifty-mile radius and some of the employees wanted that raised and it was. His main concern is at City Hall. Council member McLaughlin stated you cannot restrict people from having a life. Mayor Glandon responded that he is not. Council member McLaughlin asked if not opening City Hall was because he was afraid that people were going to bring in COVID. Mayor Glandon asked about businesses that have had to close to do deep cleans and Council member McLaughlin responded that you will have that. Mayor Glandon asked how the work was going to get done and Council member McLaughlin stated the same as the other cities. Mayor Glandon asked Council member McLaughlin if she had asked the other cities how they were going to handle something like this. Mayor Glandon stated that he is looking out for the taxpayers and he thinks this is ridiculous because he would have to send three employees home. Council member McLaughlin stated that the employees could get it elsewhere and bring it into City Hall. Mayor Glandon acknowledged that he understood that, but he is trying to minimize this. He has calculated this, and it could cost up to \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in taxpayer money if the office must be shut down for two weeks and then there would be the overtime to get caught back up. There was discussion of other offices/businesses being open, alternate options and that everyone has their own opinions. Council member McLaughlin stated that she feels the taxpayers should be able to come into the office to pay their bills, etc. Mayor Glandon stated that if a private business must shut down that is out of their pocket, but if City Hall shuts down that is out of the taxpayer's pockets. The purchase of the plexiglass was discussed, and Mayor Glandon stated that was purchased for more than just as a shield for the COVID. Council member McLaughlin reminded everyone that the Council understood that opening City Hall would happen after the plexiglass was purchased. Mayor Glandon stated he has been tracking the cases in Keokuk County. Council member McLaughlin stated that more testing is being done and the death rate overall state-wide is not raising. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, 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: Conrad. Motion approved.

Adam Clark, Sigourney Ball, Inc. reminded the Council that he has been talking to the City about the stairs between the upper and lower ball fields at Legion Park. There is a \$25,000.00 grant that is available through the Keokuk County Community Endowment Fund and Sigourney Ball would need to have the City sponsor this. The application has been filled out, submitted, and approved. Mr. Clark reminded the Council of Jared Molyneux's bid to put the stairs in and the bid is still good. Mr. Clark also talked about revamping the concession stand and bathrooms. He reviewed all the things the Sigourney Ball Board would like to upgrade and why. They would like to replace windows and a door to make the building more secure, add a window on the west side so the volunteers can see the lower ball field, gut the inside of the building and replace, add an air conditioning unit and a pergola on the east side of the concession stand. Mr. Clark would like to see the fields used to host tournaments, which should add revenue to Sigourney. He has requested two bids and one was returned for \$11,855.00.

Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve Resolution No. 2020-10-02 re: Authorizing Sponsorship for the Keokuk County Community Endowment Foundation Grant. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The Council discussed the availability of funds through the Local Options Fund using the Sports Park line account. Mr. Clark stated the Sigourney Ball Board would like to do the stair project this fall and the renovations to the concession stand and restrooms in the spring. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, to approve a contribution of \$10,000.00 to Sigourney Ball for the completion of Phase I and part of Phase II of the projects Adam Clark outlined with the payment of those coming out of the Sports Field line account in the Community Betterment Funds. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The Council decided to have the Public Safety Committee discuss the request to close an alley.

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: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

The Council discussed people using the shelters even though they are closed. Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Morlan, to open the park shelters. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan and McLaughlin. Nays: Bender and Conrad. Mayor Glandon voted no to break the tie. Motion failed.

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

**Water and Wastewater:** Director of Public Works I Northup reported on the Water Main Project. He stated KLC is pulling pipe from Dollar General to Elm Street then they will just have the block in front of City Hall. They have passed the pressure test and one of the bacteria tests on the line from Jackson Street to the Country Club.

There is a Change Order request from KLC Construction for the Watermain Improvement Project. Director of Public Works I Northup stated this request is due to a valve at the water tower that was closed but would not hold. A company had to come in and do a live line stop so they could make the main tie-in on Jackson Street. Council member Conrad moved, seconded by Council member McLaughlin, 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. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member McLaughlin moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve Resolution No. 2020-10-03 Approving and Authorizing a Form of Loan and Disbursement Agreement By and Between the City of Sigourney, Iowa, and the Iowa Finance Authority, and Authorizing and Providing for the Issuance and Securing the Payment of \$5,729,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes, Series 2020, of the City of Sigourney, Iowa, under the provisions of the City Code of Iowa, and Providing for a Method of Payment of Said Notes; Approval of the Tax Exemption and Certificate. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Morlan, Bender, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Public Safety:** A Public Safety Committee meeting will be set later.

**Public Input:** There was not any public input.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:46 p.m.

---

Douglas L. Glandon, Mayor

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