

# CITY OF SIGOURNEY, IOWA

## MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF

### June 4, 2025

The Sigourney City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, with Mayor Morlan presiding and the following Council members answering roll call: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Others present were: Keya Cox, Cox Sanitation Casey Jarmes, The News Review; Brent Gilliland, Public Works Director II; Kadie Conrad, Deputy City Clerk and Ashley Fry, City Clerk.

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

Council member Conard moved, seconded by Council member Clark, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda items: Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 21, 2025; Liquor License for Sigourney Golf and Country Club; Cigarette/ Tobacco/ Nicotine/ Vapor License; Library Claims April/May; Community Betterment Projects; credit card report and to set time and place for the next regular scheduled Council meeting is June 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: Schultz. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Conrad, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda items: Council Accounts Payable claims in the amount of \$91,357.24 Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None; Abstain: Schultz (Schultz's nephew owns Exceptional Edge) Motion Approved.

**Additional Business** Mayor Morlan stated next, we will be speaking with Keya Cox, from Cox sanitation. Mayor Morlan started off by saying he made a mistake at the last Council meeting. He stated that 90% of the recyclables that residents recycle at the center are not recycled. After going to the center in North English they recycle everything that we send to them. They bundle everything, and they have companies that come in and buy it. I have heard reports of them dumping things at the landfill from time to time. And from my understanding, that does happen, but it's not recycled items. For instance, cardboard, if it has any oil stains, or its dirty it does not get recycled. Keya corrected the mayor and stated that they do in fact recycle the cardboard pizza boxes. Keya stated that if you bring dirty cans and bottles, they do go to the landfill. Mayor Morlan continued saying the reports that I've had of seeing the garbage trucks dumping at Richland weren't recyclable, but everything else is recycled, very clean operation, and they had some very large bundles there that they sell. So at this point, I'd like to open it up to Keya. Just one thing about the landfill, we don't take truckloads of recyclables down here. If you have recycling in your trash, we're not going to go through your trash to pick it out, not worth our time. We do not set the price for the town to use that recycling center. That recycling center is set by the supervisors. So I charge the supervisors a price every month to run the place. Then they charge your town to use it. The reason your town has to pay to use the center is because you're the only town in Keokuk County that does not offer recycling at the curb, which is a mandate in this state. It states that you have to implement a program which separates the waste from your recycling. It states that by July 1 of 1990 you had to have a 25% reduction and by July 1 of 2010 you had to have a 50% reduction in your waste going to the landfill. The next statement made was if you didn't renew your contract with the county that the recycling center would have closed. She stated that this would never have happened. This building has been going for 25 years. Waste Management ran it before we did. Waste Management charged the county like \$20,000 to run it, and they took everything. They didn't care who brought it in. We use to have people coming from Iowa County all the way down here. After we started taking care of the building we implemented rules. The people that live in Keokuk County pay on their taxes for that building. Mayor Morlan stated I had a discussion with Mike Hadley about the building, and he stated that if we don't renew, the building will probably close. The girls that work down there can be kind of harsh, but the things that they have to put up with from people that are coming down there, if I worked down there, there is no way you would talk to me like that. No way, I wouldn't put up with it. I've had them be threatened to be shot. I've had two people chest bumped them. I've had an employee been pinned between a car and a dumpster. I've had an individual come in with a truck and trailer ran into my dumpsters and think it's funny. So as far as people complaining about my employees, we're done taking it from people. We might take your trash, but don't treat us like trash. We are human, we're not disgusting people, but if that's how you're going to treat us, then that's probably how you're going to get treated back. Mayor Morlan apologized on behalf of the city for the way they're being treated down there. They've been nothing but nice to me when I've taken things down. As long as you follow the rules. Keya stated the rules are set by the DNR. We have to follow what the DNR tells me, like no yard waste. I don't have a permit to take yard waste. Therefore, I can't have it on the premises. If you throw it in the compactor it's combustible, and my compactor can very well catch fire, because we have had that happen, but people just don't want to follow the rules. Then I asked you to send this paper out to everybody, and they were all complaining about you're setting the rules. I want you to follow the rules that I have set, and I have set them for six years now, but they just don't want to do it. Mayor Morlan stated one of the problems we have with people being uninformed with the rules is the newspaper has a low subscription rate. Not everybody gets the paper, and so since we do electronic billing on things, we can't send a notice out with their bill. So it's hard to get that notice to people. Keya stated we do have a website and Facebook. Council Member Clark asked about providing us with more than a three week list of who has used the center. Just so we can gauge how many citizens are, in fact, using the recycling place. Keya stated, we can try but the residents complain when I make them sign their name onto something because they might get caught doing something they're not supposed to be doing. Mayor Morlan stated, I'd like to back up on something else when I first moved here, I've been here 11 years now, we used to put recycles out on the curb, and each day of the week was different type of recycles. The problem we started having was people would go around the city and go through the recycles and see what they wanted, and they would leave things a mess. It was my understanding, back then, that was one of the reasons we went this route, instead of having them picked up at the curb. We did have the recycling cart sitting at the old state shop and

they brought their own stuff there for a while. That didn't work out so well either, because they were throwing trash and all kinds of things in there. So, we were trying to make it more functional for everybody, and easiest for everybody. Keya stated that right now it is the easiest, as long as you follow the rules. I mean, it's not that hard. Just rinse out your jars. I can't send a load of dirty plastics to the plastic mill because it's contaminated. Just want them rinsed and cleaned. We have been picking up dumpsters in this town as long as my father in law started the business, which is 49 years ago. I have never in the 25 years I've been working for my mother-in-law, have ever been told that there was an ordinance in this town that we couldn't have dumpsters here. Not once has anybody called me to bring that up. I want to know why suddenly, it is now a thing about our dumpsters? I'd also like to know why, if you're going to change the ordinance, why not just call us about it while in the planning stage instead of changing everything and then telling us about it? Tell me what I'm doing wrong up front right now. Mayor Morlan stated I think one of the things with the dumpsters is there seems to be an explosion of people using dumpsters that didn't before, seemed like in the last three or four years, by last count, there were 58 dumpsters in town here, that belong to Cox. Keya said that our dumpsters aren't crappy looking, they have lids that shut and if they're bad, we replace them. Council Member McLaughlin stated I think part of the problem is sometimes that they get overfilled. Keya stated well, if they get overfilled, that's on the customer. You've got to call me to tell me that you need it dumped. And then there are some people in this town who don't like to pay their bills, which I'm sure you all know, you work for the city, if you don't pay me, after three months, I'm not going to pick up the trash, and after four months, then I'm just going to remove it, and then we're going to go from there. But if there's trash sitting there, it's probably because they haven't paid their bill. I drove around this town today, and there are dumpsters in this town that are not mine, that don't even have lids. There's one right over here that doesn't have any lids on it. I don't know what that building is, it's right over here next to the alley. There's a dump trailer two buildings over, heaping full of trash, and that's more of an eyesore than our dumpster that might have a bag or two on top. I don't understand why all of a sudden it's Cox sanitation, because Waste Management's in this town. What are you going to do with people who want roll offs, because there's at least four haulers that bring roll offs to this town. What about contractors who bring in their own dumpsters or dump trailers to do their work? I mean, I'm more than willing to pay you a permit for a year, because there are three towns that do it, and they do it by the year, but I'm not willing to give you \$15 every time I'm going to deliver a dumpster to this town. If you add that up, that's a lot of money that's coming out of my pocket. Council member Clark said if we were to change our ordinances and put some sort of stipulation in there that if there is a dumpster, either owned by you or contracted by you to dump it, and our code enforcement officer goes around and he sees that there is an overflowing dumpster. Can the city then contact you to have you come and dump that dumpster? And then that way it is forced that it would be dumped. Then that bill would go on the home owner, correct? Yes, and I would put right on their bill the City said that this needed dump because it was overflowing. Instead of seeing all this stuff printed in the paper, because you asked me a question, I'm going to give you an answer. So, today at the recycling center, two people came down with three yellow bags because they were tired of waiting on the city garbage truck to come pick up trash bags. My employee told them we don't take your yellow bags. People don't like our orange bags either, but they still use them. I have people who have dumpsters that don't get dumpsters dumped for three months. I mean, we can do it weekly, every other week, once a month but you have to call us. Otherwise, we are not going to dump your dumpster unless the city decides that they want me to dump it because it's full. Morlan said we just want to keep our city clean. I know there's customers in town here that aren't abiding by our rules of where the dumpsters need to be and what they need to be sitting on and so on and so on and like I said, we've just had an explosion the last week. Keya, I don't know those rules and I didn't even know you had an ordinance. Morlan said it hasn't been followed. Council Member Conrad to me, it's like the rules for down there. I may not know exactly what they are, but if I go down there, you know, they may be posted or maybe told what they are or I might ask. Council Member Lentz stated with the new website you can search all of our ordinances. Conrad stated none of our efforts on the committee were aimed at Cox, we were trying to address a bigger problem, and it did include some of the other items that you had discussions about. Keya said but if I don't know that I'm violating something, somebody has to tell me. We had no idea that you had an ordinance that we couldn't bring dumpsters to residents in this town. Someone did make a comment in the paper that I advertise in the paper. I do because I provide service to the whole county. I didn't like the analogy of making it towards the sheriff's department where somebody wants to do something illegal and advertise for because I'm not doing anything illegally, if I don't know that I'm doing something illegally. My husband and I need to know what you guys want from us, as far as our dumpsters, if they need to be placed in a specific area. Morlan said I understand that, but up till now, we haven't been abiding by the ordinances. We've just been kind of ignoring them, and we've had some complaints, so we're trying to take care of that situation and trying to update our ordinances, and it's not against Cox, it's just trying to keep the city looking better, trying to keep it healthier by not having varmints getting into the trash that's being thrown in there. We're differentiating between trash and garbage, and just addressing that in ordinances, and there's a lot of work we have to do on that. We're not trying to single you out. Keya said well we felt singled out because you didn't mention anybody else but us in that article. I know Waste Management has done business here in town. Morlan stated businesses are on a different level than private individuals, and that's what we're trying to address in our ordinances also. We'll have better communication into that. Keya stated all you got to do is call our numbers on those dumpsters all over town. City Clerk Fry stated that I will email you with questions and we can keep the line of communication open between the two of us.

Council Member Conrad moved seconded by Council Member Iosbaker to approve to discontinue Schneider Geospatial. Council Member Conrad asked if this was talking about the services that we have mapped. Brent stated yes. Conrad stated it was a way to search properties in town, as there are different layers. We contacted them to use that service so that we could also include whatever water projects and the sewer and where everything was at, so that you could just kind of pick your layer and know where things were at. Brent stated that we currently don't have time to do all the mapping. City Clerk Fry stated why should we continue to pay for something that we are not using. Council Member Iosbaker asked if we are to stop using this and something happens to you or Donnie how are we going to get the information. Brent stated that we have detailed hand maps of everything in the city. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council member Iosbaker, KCED Director, stated the Farmers Market started today and looks like a great turn out. We had our fundraiser for the daycare in Keota for the Child Care Network we raised around \$3,000 toward our goal.

**Park and Recreation:** Set a park and recreation meeting for June 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM

## **Street and Sanitation:**

Council Member Clark moved seconded by Council Member Iosbaker to approve the second reading of ordinance -Title III – Community Protection – Chapter 3 – Traffic Code and to waive the third reading. We are adding words in the ordinance stating Hickory Street from South Main Street to Stuart Street there will be no parking on either side of the street. Upon the roll call being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion Approved

Council Member Clark moved seconded by Council Member Lentz to approve estimate No. 1 from M4I Concrete at location Marion and Pleasant Valley Street manhole. This will be paid out of the sewer fund. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council Member Schultz moved seconded by Council Member Clark to approve estimate No. 2 from M4I Concrete at location East Street sewer patches. This will be paid out of the sewer fund. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council Member Clark moved seconded by Council Member Schultz to approve estimate No. 3 from M4I Concrete at location Courthouse Curb and Gutter. This will be paid out of the Alliant Energy Franchise. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Council Member Schultz moved seconded by Council Member Clark to approve estimate No. 4 from M4I Concrete at location Warren and Pleasant Valley. This will be paid out of the LOSST Funds. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark, Conrad and McLaughlin. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Set a Street and Sanitation meeting for June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

## **Water and Wastewater:**

The City is going to have a one-day detour to fix a sewer issue on South Main Street. Brent stated that he has contacted the Iowa DOT and they are going to be placing signs up for traffic that is coming into town that they will have to follow the detour. Bill Tremmel will be completing the work but it will be at the cost of the homeowner as the sewer problem is theirs. We just have to follow all the guidelines for a detour because we are working on a state highway. We have a map that is labeled what road you have to take for the detour. It has been placed on Facebook and we will be sending it to KBOE as well.

## **Human Resources:**

Council Member Conrad moved seconded by Council Member Iosbaker to approve resolution NO. 2025-06-08 re: Salaries Incorporated into the Adopted 2025-2026 City Budget as Commencing July 1, 2025 with the removal of Brian Hahn as his pay rate will remain the same. Council Member Conrad stated that there was not a unanimous decision, on what the percent of raises should go up to. City Clerk Fry stated this resolution reflects their current wage with a 3% increase on for the fiscal year 25 to 26. Council Member McLaughlin stated we were not in agreement, but we did agree that it would be straight increase across the board for all employees. We thought that's what was fair compared to last year. If you remember, we had 13 employees and raises ranged from \$1 all the way up to \$6.50. I guess my feeling was that a 2% raise, I think everybody deserves a raise, but I just felt that with the increase last year, 2% was more aligned. Council Member Lentz and this resolution reflects 3% correct? McLaughlin, yes except for the one under road use, street and sanitation. Brian already makes \$9 from last year. He's already at \$9. I will take him off the resolution that we approve. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark and Conrad. Nays: McLaughlin. Motion approved.

Council Member Clark moved seconded by Council Member Conrad to approve resolution NO. 2025-06-09 Employee Position Wage Caps. City Clerk Fry just added 3% to the base pay to keep the caps moving forward. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark and Conrad. Nays: McLaughlin. Motion approved.

Council member Clark moved, seconded by Council member Lentz, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll being called, the following voted Ayes: McLaughlin, Iosbaker, Lentz, Schultz, Clark and Conrad Nays: None. Motion approved

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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Jimmy Morlan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Fry, City Clerk