

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson	Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon
Council members	Jeff Kennedy	
	Jim Aden	
	Tim Strauser	
	Jeff Whiting	
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer	
City Clerk	Connie L. Dalrymple	
Police Chief	Randy Olson	

Also present: Shane Gruber, Reed Miller, Travis Mason, Kris Jinx, J Buddenberg, Matthew Williams, Ed Wuehler, Troy Wuehler

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Advance notice and a copy of the agenda were given to the Council and members of the press. City Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available for public inspection on the north wall of the Council Chambers.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes - September 14
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - September 14
- Library Director's Report - July thru September
- Police Report - September

Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$105,152.48; Public Works Division \$31,013.92; the September 16 payroll of \$32,913.47 and September 30 payroll of 31,922.85. Roll Call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Open forum:

- Congratulations to Marg Dillon, a well deserving Chamber *WOW* winner.
- The viaduct feasibility hearing will be October 19. The feasibility study is available for review on the City's web site.
- Jeff Whiting thanked Shane and the crew for responding to the sewer issues at the 4-plex during the ball tournament on Saturday, October 2.
- Council members also thanked the employees for their work during the Harvest Festival.

Reed Miller of Miller & Assoc reported on the city-wide sewer study. He first reminded Council that June saw abnormal amounts of rainfall and that the waste treatment plant handled 2.3 million gallons of water during that time. The plant meets all standards of operation for the term 2009-2014. One anticipated change in standards is treatment for ammonia levels.

The study was done in two parts, immediate and long term goals for the system. Projected population and wastewater flow in 2030 were considerations.

There are currently over 130,000 feet (25+ miles) of sewer pipe in the system. About 30,000 feet should be televised, mainly the 15 inch crossing on the East side of town. Televising will find any cracks to repair, and any bad joints, etc. Instead of replacing it entirely, we could run a sealed liner through it. Reed estimated \$1.1 million would handle the immediate needs, although we can apply for funding assistance with the televising part and then re-evaluate the numbers. The south side is in ground water most of the year.

Long term needs is addressed in Chapter 4 of the study and is estimated at \$1.9 million. The system can handle future flow. The far east side of town is the only issue. There could be a bad crossing line, or water flow, or both. The line is old and small and should have a deeper interceptor line. They did not take elevations on every line but the 1980 maps indicate shallow lines. They should be deeper and with bigger pipes.

Chapter 5 of the study provides information on financing options. The projects are not eligible for Community Development Block grant funds because grants are based on low-moderate income. We probably can get loans at 3% interest and /or a \$250,000 grant from the State. The USDA has determined affordability for sewer fees at \$38 / month. Any needs over that should be met with a grant.

If very many bigger lines are installed, we will need to add to the wastewater plant, so we're better off to line what we have, where necessary, to eliminate ground water infiltration. There is a local industry that uses 120,000 to 130,000 gallons of water per work day in the cooling process of their production. If that could be reduced or eliminated it would have a big impact on the system.

Miller recommends televising older lines first, those installed prior to 1955, to check joints and gaskets and where the round water is. The capacity of the pipes and the flat elevation they are laid at is an issue. He also provided forms to apply for funding if we decide to do so.

Since the Mutual Finance Organization was created by the fire departments of Dawson County, the Fire Chief has been Gothenburg's representative. The one meeting each year is on the fire department's training night making difficult for the Chief to attend. Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2010-11 appointing Bruce Clymer as Gothenburg's rep to the MFO. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Matthew Williams, President of Gothenburg State Bank discussed the long term nature of the handicap parking space on the southwest corner of the bank property on 9th Street. Their building plan included four exit lanes but as a good neighbor they decided not to use the fourth lane at this time, making room for the parking space. However, the time will come when they need the lane resulting in the elimination of the handicap space. He realizes the inability to bind future Councils but asked the Council to add language to the resolution allowing the space to be eliminated if requested by the bank.

Council has no objection to the request and will consult Atty. Bacon on the proper method of recording the request.

Administrator Clymer reported to Council that the pole banners in Cozad are a Chamber of Commerce project. After discussing the need for continuity and maintenance, Mayor Hudson suggested Mr. Jessen approach the Chamber for a program plan and return to Council for approval or denial. The City is not interested in taking on pole banners as a project.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of \$5000 to Gothenburg State Bank for accessibility improvements in the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded allowing payment of \$7500 to Gothenburg State Bank for façade improvements in the Downtown Improvement Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of \$5000 to Gothenburg State Bank for energy efficiency improvements in the Downtown Improvement Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Aden, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of \$7500 to Brand Electric for façade improvements in the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of \$1312.50 to Brand Electric for energy efficiency improvements in the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded allowing payment of \$6880.87 to Schemmer Architects for work on the transportation study. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of \$6138.75 to Five-Star Flooring for Downtown Revitalization Project improvements. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none.

Matthew Williams thanked the Council for sponsoring the downtown revitalization project. It's made a wonderful difference downtown and has prompted additional projects.

The *Trees for Nebraska Towns* project is funded by the Nebraska Forest Service from Environmental Trust funds. The City would apply for 45 trees along Hiway 47 from I-80 to 10th Street. City would be responsible for watering and mulching. It's a \$21,197.80 project of which \$10,598.90 is grant funded, leaving approximately \$3200 for City match, which can be in-kind. The Department of Roads has approved the project on their right-of-way.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, authorizing the application for funding under the *Trees for Nebraska Towns* project. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Ed and Troy Weuhler spoke to the Council about authorizing the sale and display of fireworks on December 29, 30, and 31 of each year. The Legislature recently passed legislation allowing it but local statute limits sales to June 24 thru July 4 only. He would also like Council to reconsider the hours of display, extending it to 11:00 p.m. because it's barely dark enough at 10:00 to see the fireworks in the summer.

Police Chief Olson favors the 10:00 p.m. curfew because that's when people start calling his department to complain. The number of complaints received between 10 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. during the last five years are: 2006 - 25 complaints, 2007 and 2008 each had 26 complaints, 2009, 29 complaints. 2010 was the first year of the new time curfew, and there were only 6 complaints. None of these were littering or prankster complaints, only noise. The Department's policy was to give a warning on the first contact, followed by appropriate action on future complaints to the same party.

From a Police Department standpoint, he is opposed to sale and discharge of fireworks over the New Year holiday because New Year's is the busiest time of year for the department without adding fireworks complaints.

Discussion was held and Council decided to take no action on additional sale / discharge days but agreed to revisit the 10:00 p.m. curfew in June / July.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of Drawdown #14 on the Owner Occupied Project in the amount of \$12,686 and payment to Kreft Construction. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

A partial settlement has been reached with Ronnie Wilson on the issues at 1514 Avenue A:

- The fence and posts on right-of-way will be lowered
- He will remove the roof of the shed making it an open enclosure, thus meeting setbacks.
- The backyard fence exceeds the height allowances in a few areas by 1 - 2 inches and according to the County Surveyor is on his property in most areas, otherwise varying by only a couple inches.

Atty. Lisa Jorgenson of Bacon-Vinton represented the City at Court last week regarding the sign issues, arbor and remaining fencing. We are awaiting the Judge's ruling.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of the partial agreement as outlined. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be October 19, 2010.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk