

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson  
Council members Jeff Kennedy  
Jim Aden  
Tim Strauser  
Jeff Whiting  
City Administrator Bruce Clymer  
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon

Also present: Shane Gruber, Anne Anderson, Chris Miller

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.

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

City Council minutes - May 18

Treasurer's Report - May

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$78,081.16; Public Works Division \$219,482.41; and the May 27 payroll of \$35,825.79. Roll Call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Open forum:

- Landscaping at the welcome sign has begun
- The warning sirens have required many batteries and fuses since being installed ten years ago and still cannot be depended upon when needed. A repair professional from West Point was here to check them and has discussed converting the sirens to AC with battery back-up. The cost is \$4800 each and if ordered immediately, it will be 5 - 6 weeks before parts arrive. The north siren has given the least problems. The south siren had new batteries last week and they are all tested every couple days. It appears the batteries run down after 3 to 4 minutes of use which can occur during testing. Next week the City, Police Dept, and North Platte dispatch personnel will meet to discuss emergency weather procedures. It becomes confusing because the phone calls come from the Hastings weather service even though North Platte is closer and more applicable.
- Administrator Clymer demonstrated the new digital aerial photography.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to amend the agenda of include *Review / approve contract for sale of Pony Express Greenhouse*. An emergency exists due to the imminent sale and accruing interest. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

When the State installed the turn lane on Highway 47 at 4th Street, it eliminated the walk area from 4th Street south. The State has indicated that hike / bike trail program is still valid at 80 / 20 funding. However, according to Chris Miller of Miller & Assoc, the guidelines have changed requiring a design and a construction engineer. The trail must be destination related, going from specific destination to another specific destination.

The Chamber's Tourism Committee supports the trail idea and is interested in placing interpretive signs along the way.

Administrator Clymer was asked to contact the original Hike / Bike Trail Committee to discuss the project and consider having an engineer provide an estimate of cost before deciding on whether or not to apply.

Scott Keene of Ameritas Corp provided an ordinance to issue bonds not to exceed \$500,000 for the cost of the 2008 Street Improvements. Bonds will be amortized over six years. The city will pay the cost of issuance from local funds. After the bonds are marketed next week, the Mayor will need to sign a bond purchase agreement in order to complete the issue by July 7 and pay the warrants. The anticipated interest rate is 3% to 4%

Council member Kennedy introduced Ordinance 856 entitled:

*An ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation various purpose bonds, Series 2010, of the City of Gothenburg, Nebraska, in the principle amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars*

*(\$500,000) to provide funds, in the addition to other legally available funds of the city, to pay the costs of paving, grading curbing, and guttering certain streets and constructing certain other improvements necessary and incidental thereto in Street Improvement District Nos. 100 and 117, and Street Improvement Projects Nos. 115, 116, 118 and 2008-1 of the City; providing for the levy of taxes to pay the interest on and principle of such bonds; providing for publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and the time when this ordinance shall take effect; and related matters*

and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. The motion was seconded by Council member Aden and on roll call vote the following members voted "Yea": Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. "Nay": none.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a full vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said ordinance which was then read by title.

Council member Aden moved for final passage and Council member Kennedy seconded. Mayor Hudson asked the question "*Shall ordinance #856 be passed and adopted?*" On roll call vote the following voted "Yea": Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Strauser. "Nay": none.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

The Retail Committee of the Chamber of Commerce asked to move the Farmer's Market from Lake Avenue in front of the banks to 10th Street from Lake Avenue to the alley. They want to expand the market to include prepared food and entertainment.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Aden, seconded by Whiting, to approve the proposal to close 10th Street from Lake Avenue east to the alley for the Farmer's Market beginning July 15 and continuing on Thursday's through the summer. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

The City received a notice from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that the 16th Street well is in violation of the maximum level of arsenic. The NDHHS lowered the maximum level of arsenic from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion in 2000. Our well tested at 11 and 12 parts over the last 4 quarters. As a result we must provide immediate individual notice to all customers by mail. There is no immediate risk and the NDHHS does not recommend boiling water or using bottled water. The 16th Street well generally is used as a back-up well.

According to Chris Miller of Miller & Assoc. our options are:

1. Quit using the well except for emergencies only and notify the NDHHS of that status. Then notify all customers.
2. Blend the water with water from other wells. That would require a dedicated line with no taps and dual controls and would be costly.
3. Test the water constantly. Equipment and costs run upward from \$750,000.

Our best option is to not use the well and develop a plan for its use on an emergency basis only. Arsenic is a naturally occurring substance in the water and fluctuates with little overall change. If the well is put on emergency stand-by, it will not be sampled regularly but we must notify the state and the public and do extensive testing if we intend to put it into service.

According to Shane Gruber and Administrator Clymer, the well is like new because it was relined in 2005-06 but we had other issues with water lines on Avenue G so we have not pumped water from it into the water system since 2005. We run about 10,000 gallons from it to take samples for the State. We use the south side well in the summer due to lawn and garden watering. The tower well and Avenue A well generally run the town. A new well to a depth of 400 feet to 500 feet will cost between \$300,000 and \$350,000.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to take City well 72-1 out of service and to evaluate alternative sources for water supply. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded allowing payment of \$1921.98 to James Graff, DDS at 902 Avenue D as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none.

Administrator Clymer reviewed the newly developed Public Works Division reference manual, including policy based on existing resolutions and ordinances. Following discussion, Aden moved and Strauser seconded, adopting the policy as presented. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none.

According to information from Atty. Bacon, the Pony Express Greenhouse is under a sales contract to Garden Fresh Vegetables, Inc. The sale affects the City thru the tax increment financing, of which \$757,772.47 is owed and will be paid by terms of the sale. The taxes are delinquent and accruing interest at 14%. All buildings will be removed.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the contract pursuant to Mayor Hudson and Atty. Bacon finalizing the details and revising final documents. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Kennedy, Whiting.. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be June 15, 2010.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk