

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy Duane Oliver Tim Strauser Jeff Whiting
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett *KRVN* – Ben Schwartz

Also present: Shane Gruber, Travis Mason & Brenda Jensen of Miller & Assoc., Stephanie Ricley, Terry Jessen, James Widdifield, Amber Burge, Sarah Hecox

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and the One and Six Year Road Program hearing 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.

The purpose of the public hearing is to establish a program of street improvements and is the planning tool required for Highway Allocation funds. The plan can be modified through the year, but we are not bound to it. Travis Mason presented the following plan:

One Year Project: Pave a 30 foot wide road from Cottonwood Dr. to the corporate limits

Six Year Projects: Overlay 27th St from Lake Ave to west corporate limits, Ave M from 27th St. to 16th St.
Paving 18th Street from Avenue A to Avenue B
Pave 17th Street from Ave L to Ave M and Ave L from 17th Street to 18th Street
Pave Ave I from 22nd Street north .5 block
Pave Ave K from 19th Street to 20th Street
Pave 6th Street from Hiway 47 to Cottonwood Dr.
1000 feet storm drainage west from Cottonwood Dr.
Pave 13th Street from Ave I to Ave H
Pave 800 feet east from 1st Street to Ave A
Pave Ave J from 23rd Street to 27th Street
Pave Ave K from Hiway 30 to Washington Street; Ave J from 10th St to Washington Street;
Washington St from Ave J to Ave L, 11th St from Ave I to Ave K; 10th St from Ave I to Ave L
Pave Ave L from 21st St to 22nd St
Pave Jefferson St from Ave J to Ave L
Pave 22nd St from Ave H to Ave J
Pave 22nd St from Ave G to Ave H
Pave 23rd St from Ave G to Ave H
Drainage structure across Gothenburg Irrigation Canal

The one year project road from the waste plant to the industrial site is a \$1.6 million dollar project that will be paid with \$500,000 from the Department of Economic Development, \$360,000 REDLG funds and the balance from sales tax. The Gothenburg Improvement Co is currently waiting on engineering specifications and intends to let bids in January or February 2014.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Whiting, to close the hearing at 7:05 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Oliver, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2013-20 adopting the One Year and Six Year Road Program as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:
City Council minutes – October 15
Police Report - October
Annual Treasurer's Report – 2012-13
Treasurer's Report - October
Library Director's Report – Sept 10 thru Nov 11

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

Oliver moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$127,435.31, except #1920; Public Works Division \$447,232.82; and the November 7 payroll of \$35,728.62. Roll Call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Oliver. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Oliver seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape service for \$412.32. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Strauser. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- The annual GIC meeting on the 20th will include a report on the drainage and fill required to bring the lots on the south side of 4th Street out of the flood plain. They will also discuss the site layout for the industrial tract and a company wanting to install fiber optic cable in the entire community at no cost to the City.
- Clerk Connie Dalrymple was recognized for 40 years employment with the City.

Council had no objection to a request from Stephanie Ricley for use of the Lake Helen area the last weekend in July 2014 for the Relay for Life event.

Cities with more than 50 full time and full time equivalent (including seasonal) employees are required to conduct self-examination of public buildings for compliance with the Title 6 and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Title 2. Community Planner Brenda Jensen of Miller & Assoc. spoke with Council about helping the City through this examination process and if we do not meet the guidelines, to help us transition to meet the 2010 guidelines.

On July 23 we provided the Department of Roads with an ADA policy statement. Administrator Clymer noted that the City should be pro-active in accessibility. Miller’s contract will carry a fee of \$10,000, which is budgeted.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of the contract with Miller & Assoc. for \$10,000 to provide an analysis of public buildings for the purpose of determining compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Administrator Clymer proposed an amendment to the employee personnel policy. Changes clarified and updated several sections by:

- Changing position titles
- Defining regular part time positions as less than 30 hours / week (does not affect current employees)
- Stating that vacation leave will stop accruing when the maximum of two years allocation is reached
- Adding a new section, 11.03, regarding dress codes and Item 13 of Section 6.01 addresses the violation thereof. The Employee Relations Committee has reviewed various dress code options and does not object to an addition to the code.

Discussion was had and Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2013-21 adopting the amendments to the Employee Personnel Policy. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Three bids were received for demolition and removal of the unsafe structure at 1804 Avenue C. The house, shed, and all concrete will be removed, the basement filled, and the lot leveled. The garage will not be removed. Work is to be completed by January 31, 2014 or within 30 days of start.

Gary Garner	\$14,800
Mark Ostergard	\$13,150
Terry Jessen	\$11,460

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the \$11,460 bid submitted by Terry Jessen to clear the property at 1804 Ave C. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Following a study of the sanitary sewer system, Miller & Assoc. has provided cost estimates for four projects to rehabilitate the sewer system. They are:

- Area I:** \$371,800 4th Street. Line some pipes, most will need to be removed and replaced.
- Area II:** \$51,800 South of 4th Street, east to Cottonwood Dr. Line the pipes
- Area III:** \$69,500 Reline the crossing along the County road to the waste treatment plant.
- Area IV:** \$1,078,300 New line from the waste plant north to 11th Street, including a new third sewer highway crossing. The cost could be as much as \$1,740,300 depending on what is discovered in the

process and how much of the project is done. The high cost is due to the need to remove and replace paving.

All projects total \$2.233 million. Some of the project qualifies as a *green project* because existing piping is lined instead of replaced. That designation qualifies us for a \$100,000 loan forgiveness bringing the total cost down to \$2.133 million. A state revolving loan is available at 1.25% interest over 20 years. A result of low interest and the fact quite a bit of debt will be eliminated prior to the project is that sewer rates would increase approximately 62 cents per month to carry the new debt. Council was reminded that sewer costs probably will increase more than that due to increases in operation / maintenance and personnel costs.

According to proposed loan contracts with DED, the City can agree to the contract but if construction bids are too high, we are not obligated to the project. Likewise, the cost of design is 7.15% of the total cost but if we decide not to proceed with the project, the design is available for future use.

Councilmember Oliver feels we should do Areas I, II, and III first and see how much that work relieves the load on the sewer system, then consider Area IV.

Councilmember Kennedy felt inclined to proceed with the design because the rates are good and the design can be used later.

Councilmember Whiting agrees with both Oliver and Kennedy. He feels the first areas must be done. He understands the concerns of Area IV but sees it as alleviating future growth issues.

Councilmember Strauser agrees with all and feels we need to start to move forward.

Ultimately Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to enter into a loan contract with the Nebraska Department of environmental Quality for up to \$2,233,000 for sewer improvements less \$100,000 forgiveness as a *green project*. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Oliver, Whiting. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to enter into an engineering agreement in the amount of \$159,688 with Miller & Assoc. for design of sewer improvements, to be complete for February bidding, and fees for construction at an hourly rate but not to exceed \$51,788. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – Oliver.

When the City began mandatory trash collection, the ordinance stated that if an electric meter was in service, trash service was required. However there are a few instances, such as storage areas, where trash service is not applicable. Therefore Administrator Clymer proposed changing section 5.01 of the Public Works Division Policy Manual where customers can apply for a waiver of trash service under certain conditions and with the approval of the City Administrator.

Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, to approve the changes to mandatory solid waste billing as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Oliver, Whiting. Nay – none.

The Gothenburg Improvement Company has established a *Way of Life* Committee that includes Amber Burge, Sarah Hecox, and Dudley Elementary Principal Jim Widdifield. The Committee is charged with the task of determining advantages that affect the way of life in Gothenburg in the next 10 years and beyond. Some of the areas they have discussed have been establishing a trail system, the need for sidewalks, and routing issues to and from the school. Just recently funds have become available from the State for safe routes to school and the Committee has determined six areas of need. There is 100% federal funding available but there must be a minimum of \$500,000 cost requirement on each application for Safe Routes to School Program and it can encompass a two mile radius for K thru 8th grade students. Preliminary estimates for sidewalks along Avenue I are \$284,960 but the school area can be involved to meet the \$500,000 requirement. The unfortunate thing is that the pre-application deadline is December 20. If successful the final application is due by January 31.

Mr. Widdifield has met with Administrator Clymer to discuss school and Avenue G pedestrian and vehicular issues. Some possible school items include signs and lights on the Avenue G and Avenue I side of the school, student drop off and pick up zones, expanding signage and street markings, education and reminders for students and parents. The school population has increased to just over 500 students which also creates an increase in cars, bicycles, and pedestrians.

The Safe Routes to School project is seen as a program to apply for financial help to address safe route issues around the community and school. It's good that it allows us to do a lot at one time, but bad because the time frame is so short. Applications must be done by a municipality and no funds will be

available next year under the Safe Routes Program. There may be alternatives under different categories but that will increase competition for funding.

Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. has worked with the Safe Routes Program before. He said getting an application approved starts with engineering design and attention to environmental issues. He gave the group some suggestions on information to attach to applications such as maps showing where 'clusters' of children live.

In the end, a motion was made by Strauser, seconded by Kennedy, to submit a pre-application for grant funds under the Safe Routes to School Program. Travis Mason and Administrator Clymer will assist. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be December 3, 2013.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk