

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

December 17, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Duane Oliver
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk / Treasurer Connie L. Dalrymple
Police Chief Randy Olson

Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Verlin Janssen, Karl Randecker, and Shane Maxwell representing the GIC Way of Life Committee

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public 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 was to bring awareness to the GIC Way of Life Committee whose charge it is to formulate ideas to improve life in Gothenburg, specifically through the Safe Routes to School initiative.

Shane Maxwell informed Council that the Committee had done a community ‘walk-thru’ in the area of the school and routes leading to the school and determined there is a need for:

- Traffic control devices at areas that cross Highway 47 / Lake Avenue and other routes to school, or on campus
- Need for walking and biking trails
- Sidewalk issues: some areas lack sidewalks altogether, some sidewalks are broken or narrow or blocked by trash or vehicles. Many sidewalks have no handicap accessibility.

Some of the areas proposed in Phase I include:

- improvements along Avenues G and I, north of 20th Street
- 13th and 16th street from Avenue A to the school
- 9th Street to 12th Street along Avenue H
- Areas along Jefferson Street and Ave H
- Current walk and bike conditions

The overall plan would consist of 9.5 blocks of new sidewalk and handicap accessibility for 58 curb sites.

The school collected survey data from student families as to how students are taken to and from school and received a 90% response. Seventy-three per cent of respondents sighted safety as the reason they do not allow their students to walk to school. There are about 500 students within a

two-mile radius of the school so; hopefully adequate routes will have more walking students which will in turn decrease the vehicular traffic at the school. Multiple routes are required because Gothenburg is unique in that the school is centrally located and serves all grades. Once routes are identified and improved, it will take public and school education and enforcement to make it work.

Phase I cost estimates are: \$448,372.80 construction
 \$112,093.20 engineering
 \$560,466.00

Discussion continued and a motion was made by Strauser, seconded by Oliver, to close the hearing at 7:24 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Oliver, Strauser. Nay – none.

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

City Council minutes – December 3, December 6, December 12

Police Report – November

Treasurer's Report - November

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

Oliver moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$64,526.85; Public Works Division \$408,973.72; and the December 5 payroll of \$34,461.25. Roll Call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay - none.

Community Comments: none

The proposed resolution required for the pre-application for Safe Routes to School funds was drafted according to NE Department of Roads suggestion. It describes the areas involved and requires exercise of eminent domain and condemnation procedures if necessary to obtain the property needed to install the routes.

Most areas have a 10 foot right-of-way and the state requirement is a seven right-of-way so it is unlikely that any area will require the condemnation process although it will be a part of project costs. It may be necessary to include a retaining wall in the bid process on Avenue I at 19th Street. There has been no surveying done at this time.

Oliver moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2013-23 authorizing application for Safe Routes to School funding. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay – none.

We average \$4000 / month on both police cruisers. Due to an engine failure that was covered by warranty we did not replace the 2009 cruiser last year. Bids to replace it have now been received from Pony Express Chevrolet - \$22,995 for a 2014 Impala LTD and \$25,133 from Platte Valley Auto for a Ford Police Interceptor. The State bid is \$23,908.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to accept the bid from Pony Express Chevrolet for a 2014 Impala LTD for \$22,995.00. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none. The new car should arrive in March or April.

Due to infestations of fleas, Eastside Animal Center has asked to amend their animal boarding agreement to include \$5.15 for a one-time flea treatment on animals coming into the shelter.

Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, authorizing amendment of the boarding agreement with Eastside Animal Center. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2013-24 which reflects the new animal fees in our user fees resolution. Roll call vote: Yea - Oliver, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be January 7, 2014.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk