

Regular City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers

November 4, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Mike Eberly, John Seward

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, Kennedy seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes – October 21 & 28

Treasurer's Report - September

Annual Treasurer's Report – 2013-14

Cemetery Board minutes – August 4

Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$54,695.96, excluding #1920; Public Works Division \$81,723.26; and the October 23 payroll of \$35,265.92. Roll Call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Waskowiak moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape Services. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Community Comments:

- The City crew has begun the annual leaf pick-up process.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve on third reading Ordinance #895 that will increase Mayor / Council salaries. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to pass and approve on third reading Ordinance #896 that adopts the 2009 Building, Mechanical & Housing Codes. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

According to Chamber Director John Seward, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Barbeque Challenge will be April 24 and 25 at Lafayette Parks as it has in the past.

Mike Eberly chairs the BBQ event and said they have used the park and facilities at no cost and would like to continue that arrangement this year. There are already two teams registered, hopefully there will be more than the 28 last year. Thursday night there will be a certified judge's class but no new judge's class this year. Teams from a distance will probably arrive on Thursday. Teams and the event will use the park on Wednesday thru Saturday night. If teams stay beyond that, they pay for their own camping fees; however, most teams come on Friday and leave on Saturday. The committee is proposing the challenge include a chili cook-off on Friday and the People's Choice BBQ on Saturday but plans are not firm yet.

Council members are happy about the BBQ but are concerned that camping is free. Other groups events also bring many people to town but campers still pay the fees.

Eberly noted that the Gothenburg event was voted most popular BBQ in our ten state region and suggested a one-time fee for sponsors to cover the camp fees. That methodology could be applied to other groups. Or, it's easier to roll the \$15 / night rate into the registration fee and transfer it to the City than to ask them to pay another fee upon arrival. The early registration is \$200 and will be \$225 after this year. The event barely breaks even when they cover the prize purse.

Administrator Clymer suggested that the fee be as established by the Council and the participant can determine if they want to pay for one or three nights when they register for the Challenge.

Discussion was had and Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to allow the Chamber to use Lafayette Park April 24 and 25 for the BBQ Challenge with camping fees determined by Council at a later date but prior to the event. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Item 5 d.) was removed from the agenda and not discussed: *Proposed Ordinance to vacate 3 parcels between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets on 2nd Ave. (Ken Christensen).*

Nebraska State Statutes require us to allow customers who generate their own electricity to sell it back into the grid. A proposed ordinance will put such an allowance into our code. A connection agreement and future rate ordinance will include rates they will pay for power. There is a lot for customers to think about if they want to generate electricity. For example, if the system is not correctly designed and operated the customer could still have live lines when the city crew thinks everything is off for repair. Applications, fees, and contracts will be designed later.

Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Waskowiak, to introduce Ordinance 897 entitled: *An ordinance adopting electrical interconnection standards, procedures, agreements, charges and fees.* Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve an amendment to the flex plan that will allow employees to carry over \$500 in unused funds to the next year, as allowed by IRS regulations. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Item 5 g.) was removed from the agenda and not discussed: *Proposed resolution naming the street West of Block 9, Hiles & Reynolds Addition 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the street west of Block 10, Hiles & Reynolds Addition 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.*

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to authorize signature of a preliminary design memorandum in the amount of \$6500 for Olsson Associates to look at our electrical system and determine what is needed to accommodate the proposed industrial tract. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser. Bids for designing an electrical system for future development will be let later.

The Chamber of Commerce asked permission to block Lake Avenue from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 30 for the 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas promotion. The intent is to include businesses immediately north of the Highway.

Administrator Clymer expressed concern about children so close to the highway and the traffic there. Discussion was had and it was decided Chamber Director Seward should visit with those businesses that would be negatively impacted by closing the street, such as Bar-W, and to move the event north one-half block to put it a greater distance from Highway and still include RTI and Sander Furniture. Barricades will be put at the intersection and again 50 feet north on Lake Ave.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing use of Lake Avenue from 10<sup>th</sup> Street south to 50 feet north of Highway 30 for the Chamber Christmas promotion. There will be barricades on the south including *Road Closed* signs, and lighted barricades on the north side and at alley entrances. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2014-15 allowing sale of excess municipal property on Brott's auction November 26. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea-Whiting, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser. The next regular meeting will be November 18, 2014.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

