

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Dennis Meredith, Ken Christensen, Delmar & Carol Brass, Gene Tillotson

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 – June 17
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – June 10
- Police Report - June
- Building Permit Report – January thru June
- Treasurer's Report - June

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$111,332.33; Public Works Division \$134,942.14; the June 19 payroll of 37,916.26 and the July 3 payroll of \$43,826.49. Roll Call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- The Department of Economic Development has notified us that we have been awarded \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for Phase II, implementation of the Downtown Revitalization Grant.
- Atty. Bacon reported that Pin Point has received the 500 signatures required to bring the fiber company to Gothenburg.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Mayor Hudson's recommended appointment of Randy Waskowiak as East Ward Council member replacing Duane Oliver. His term will expire in December 2016. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Atty. Mike Bacon administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Council member Randy Waskowiak and he took his place with the Council.

Lynnette Stevens has requested use of 27th Street from Lake Avenue to Avenue M from 6:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on August 23 for a relay fundraiser. The eight mile relay will consist of two or four people that either run or walk two miles east and run or walk two miles west. The relay will extend one mile beyond City limits and they will contact the Dawson County Department of Roads regarding use of that section of the road. Youth between ages 8 and 12 can participate in the relay but they will use the Lake Helen walking trail instead of 27th Street. The purpose of the relay is to raise funds for spinning bikes for the Wellness Center. The Highway 47 / 27th Street intersection will remain open but the Ave F, Ave G, and Ave L intersections would be closed for the event.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, approving closure of 27th Street from Lake Avenue to Avenue M on August 23 as proposed by Lynnette Stevens. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Gene Tillotson of Tillotson Enterprises discussed with Council the product and installation he proposed for the repair of the shop roof. The materials warranty would come from the manufacturer and the labor would be warranted by him and if he is not available at the end of the 10 or 15 year warranty period, the next owner would carry it. Also, if the warranty is nearly up we can have Mr. Tillotson's company wash,

and reseal the roof and the warranty continues for another full warranty period. The labor warranty comes at no cost but the joint warranty with the manufacturer is an additional fee of \$2500.

An average hail would cause no harm to the product, if the hail is severe enough to dent metal, it will dent the product. He also noted that the product usually hardens over time. The product is fully functioning to weather in 4 – 6 hours and fully cured in 6 – 8 hours; however it takes 10 days for full adhesion to metal.

Nebraska Salt & Grain and Baldwin Filters have his roofs and are very happy with them. If the Council decides to proceed with the work tonight, it will be done in the next three or four weeks. He cannot specify a time after that as work is coming in daily for this season.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Strauser, seconded by Kennedy, to accept Option 2 in the amount of \$30,096.00 from Tillotson Enterprises for repair of the shop roof. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Mr. Tillotson will report back on the exact warranty costs. The repairs will be taxable because the building is owned by the Public Works Division.

According to Council action on April 1, Dennis Meredith was allowed 90 days to show substantial progress in exterior completion of his home at 123 5th St. Mr. Meredith told Council he has completed the north side and is working on the west side. The front (north) will have a large porch added with a stone fascia and he will have to get another building permit for it.

Council member Kennedy asked for a time frame for the completion. The progress made is appreciated but it's still not done, after several years, and Mr. Meredith is planning for another permit. Mr. Meredith responded that he will have all the material he currently has on hand completed by the end of July and totally finished at least within a year.

Atty. Bacon reminded all that the municipal code says construction projects cannot remain unfinished past six months and if they do, the penalty is \$100 / day and court costs. Mayor Hudson agrees that progress has been made but it is in the best interest of the City to specify a final time frame before issuing a citation.

Mr. Meredith is building trusses himself and will finish the outside before he continues inside work. The metal siding for the south side should arrive this week. Council asked him to complete everything to where the new porch will be and then get a new permit for the porch. He said he would have the porch finished within the time frame of the permit.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to give Mr. Meredith until August 19 to complete the exterior of his home except the area for the porch on the north side. He is to apply for a permit for the porch at that time. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Delmar and Carol Brass were notified to remove a tree in front of their home at 1703 Lake Avenue. It's a large tree with dead branches and the tree is leaning toward the homes on the east side of the street. The notice allowed them 30 days to remove the tree or request a hearing before the Council. Mr. Brass has contacted an area tree trimmer, who suggested they cut out the dead branch and leave the rest.

When asked his opinion about the tree, Council member Kennedy, a certified arborist, said that while he has not looked at the tree, he disagrees with the idea of trimming the tree because it is a silver maple. By nature they are not strong trees and if the dead branch is removed they will probably find decay inside and the branch is probably hollow. If the branch is removed, the deterioration accelerates and the process will gain only a year or so before the rest of the tree will have to be removed.

Mr. Brass questioned why he has to pay for removal of a tree in the right-of-way, especially after the City has trimmed it in the past.

Atty. Bacon replied that State Statutes give cities the power to regulate trees in the right-of-way or sidewalk space if the trees are diseased and or dying. The City can do the work and assess the property owner. The tree itself is not City property, it belongs to the homeowner. Administrator Clymer also stated that the City trimmed that tree and many others to remove damaged and dangerous branches following a storm when it was in the best interests of the community as a whole to do so immediately. The tree leans dangerously and now that the situation has been identified in a public meeting both the homeowner and the City can be held liable if the tree falls causing damage or injury.

It was noted that Terry Ackerman Tree Service is doing work on Avenue F and may be able to help out.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing Delmar and Carol Brass 60 days to remove the tree at 1703 Lake Avenue. If they have a contract to remove it but if the contractor cannot get it done in that time frame, due to weather or scheduling, they are to contact the City prior to the expiration of the 60 days. Roll call vote: Yea- Waskowiak, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2014-10 affirming the action of the Council on June 17 that authorized Mayor Hudson’s signature on the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for an electric vehicle. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

The Police Department continues to have issues with unattached trailers. It has become the norm for contractors, plumbers, electricians, landscapers, etc. to have trailers containing tools and materials parked on the street at a work site. However, unattached trailers violate ordinance. Chief Olson and Administrator Clymer have discussed a permitting process similar to dumpster permits for construction trailers. Persons would apply to the Police Department during working hours and the Department would verify the trailers have reflectors and are properly parked. The permit would be for 10 days at a specific site.

Ken Christensen, speaking for Eric Christensen owner of Straight Line Construction, said Eric feels the permit process is a good idea but wondered if there would be options for the allowed time frame and fees. Brief discussion was had and it was decided to place the matter on the next agenda for further discussion and approval.

Strauser moved, Waskowiak seconded, to approve Mayor Hudson’s recommended appointment of Steve Vinton as City Prosecutor following the resignation of Atty. Willard Weinhold. The position pays \$100 / month. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Waskowiak, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be July 22, 2014.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk