

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

September 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Joan Windrum, CPA, Ross and Suzie Wahlgren, Kristy Connolley, Helen Cool, Luke Rickertsen, Caroline Scott, Jenny Daup

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.

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

 City Council minutes – August 19 and 26

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$166,661.70; Public Works Division \$100,807.95; and the August 28 payroll of \$36,091.14. Roll Call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Community Comments

- The City employees raised \$440 in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge held at the shop on the 29th.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 893 that sets up a permitting process for parking construction trailers on the street, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Joan Windrum has prepared the 2014-15 budget as directed at the budget work session. The tax rate will be the same as 2013-14 at .337864 resulting in a tax asking of \$654,041.20 that includes the Airport Authority request of \$43,020.10. The total budget is \$23,799,256.00 which includes a cash reserve of \$1,734,704.00. There remains \$182,587.04 in unused budget authority.

After a brief review and discussion of the budget, which meets all statutory limits, a motion was made by Waskowiak, seconded by Strauser, to approve the 2014-15 budget for publication and to set the public hearing for September 16 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

No discussion was had on the Downtown Revitalization Project guidelines but the matter will be on the September 16 agenda.

State law requires providers to allow customers that generate their own power, to sell the excess back into the grid. We've not had a request to do that but it would be good to be ready if we do have a request. Therefore, a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Strauser, to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool to draft the necessary agreement and service contract. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Strauser, moved to introduce Ordinance 894 entitled:

An ordinance of the City of Gothenburg, amending boundaries of zoning districts; defining the changes in such boundaries; ordering the change of the official zoning map to reflect such amendment; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and providing for an effective date,

and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Council member Waskowiak seconded the motion and on roll call vote the following Council members voted Yea: Kennedy, Waskowiak, Strauser. Nay: none. Absent and not voting: Whiting.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a three fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said ordinance.

Ordinance 894 was read by title and Council member Kennedy moved for final passage. Council member Waskowiak seconded the motion and Mayor Hudson asked, "*Shall ordinance 894 be passed and adopted?*" On roll call vote, the following voted Yea - Strauser, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Mayor Hudson declared Ordinance 894 adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

Helen Cool, along with other parents of young children, requested permission to install toddler size playground equipment in Ehmen Park. They have established a three-prong approach that includes similar equipment at Lake Helen Recreation Area but are presently concerned with placing equipment in Ehmen Park just west of the Pony Express Station. The area has been measured and the equipment being proposed will fit there; however, if it is placed there, the current equipment will have to be upgraded.

A drawing of the structure being considered was available. It would sit on rubber tiles that adhere to a cement pad. The tiles carry a full warranty for six years then warranty is pro-rated to 15 years. The tiles are designed to allow drainage away from the structure. They do not want to begin fund raising or look for grants until they have approval to put the playscape in the park.

New ADA guidelines require any new play equipment to be ADA accessible so in the future we will have to consider a ramp or hill system to accommodate handicap children.

Mayor Hudson noted the 2014-15 budget includes up to \$10,000 as match for play equipment grants or fundraising. It was the consensus of the Council to allow the proposed play equipment in Ehmen Park.

Since the August 19 meeting, the siding at the home at 123 5th Street has not been completed as the homeowner was directed and agreed to do. Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, directing the City Attorney to notify the homeowner, Dennis Meredith, by certified mail that he will proceed with legal action to begin the \$100 / day fine process as allowed by code on October 1, 2014 and continuing until the home is completed. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting. The next regular meeting will be September 16, 2014.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk