

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Randy Waskowiak
	Verlin Janssen
	Jay Richeson
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Chamber Director Matt Weiss, Jim Widdifield, Al Daup, Shane Gruber

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.

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

- City Council minutes – November 3
- Police Report - October
- Building Permit report – October
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – November 10
- Library Directors report – September 15 thru November 9
- Treasurer’s Report – October

Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$67,429.51; Public Works Division \$376,899.18; and the November 5 payroll of \$35,763.93. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 925 updating various construction codes to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay – none.

Matt Weiss and James Widdifield spoke with Council regarding the cost of managing the Pony Express Station and how that cost has forced the Chamber of Commerce to look seriously at the operating budget and to take such steps as they can to reduce costs, such as limiting hours of operation in the spring and fall. Realizing the Station is a major asset to the community they want to continue improving displays by retaining what is ‘original’ to the era of the station and to carefully inventory the rest to determine what works in the station and what doesn’t. Therefore, they are hoping to open a dialogue with the Council and receive guidance as they begin their 2016 budget process.

Mayor Hudson and Council agreed both the City and Chamber need to take a serious look at the cost of operating the Station and thanked the Chamber for the work they have done managing the Pony Express Station.

Nebraska Public Power District has offered a 20 year contract proposal for signature by December 31. They have been working for two years to create an agreement that will work for them and their wholesale customers. This contract is the same as offered to all their customers and it also addresses the process for customers that may want to return to NPPD services at a later date. At the present time it appears NPPD will retain 90% of their customer load including Cozad, Central City, Holdrege and some large rural carriers. We have had a long-term stable relationship with NPPD and Administrator Clymer recommended the agreement be approved. Atty. Bacon has not reviewed the most recent proposal.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Waskowiak, seconded by Janssen, to approve the NPPD contract as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

There has not been a franchise agreement with Source Gas since 1984. At that time the City chose not to renew because the new agreement contained a requirement that the City bear the cost for lowering or moving gas lines for street work. Source Gas recently offered a proposal wherein they will bear the cost of moving gas lines provided the company is included in design discussion. Hopefully that will allow them to control some of their costs. The agreement is pretty much what the City asked for several years ago. If

Council approves the franchise agreement they will also have to set a franchise fee to be collected and passed on to the customer. The prevalent rate is one cent per Therm so a customer would pay \$1.60 on a bill of 160 Therms. The agreement carries a 5-year window for when fees can be changed.

Richeson moved Janssen seconded, introduction of Ordinance 926 regarding the Source Gas franchise. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay – none. A franchise fee amount will be determined at the next reading.

Black Hills Energy purchased Source Gas and it's unknown if they will continue the Choice Gas Program.

According to Chief Olson it was uncertain exactly what obstacles might be met with the new school traffic plan. Some changes need to be made between 13th and 15th Streets on Ave G to stop drivers from cutting across to the parking lot. A flashing light will be placed at the crosswalk on Ave G instead of the stop sign so that traffic will only be stopped during school hours.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2015-13 amending the vehicular traffic pattern on Ave G at the school. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Two options are available for designers of a Lake Helen master plan. A *Request for Qualifications* allows us to seek proposals from qualified designers, then proceed with cost negotiations. A *Request for Proposals* would provide pricing, followed by a design.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to proceed with Requests for Qualifications for a Lake Helen Master Plan. Roll call vote: Yea Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Following concerns about the condition of some sidewalks in residential areas and discussion at the previous meeting, Administrator Clymer proposed options for repair that begin with notification to the property owner either in response to a citizen complaint or upon determination of need by the City. From there the City can require the home owner to repair or replace the sidewalk, cost share with the homeowner as an incentive to make the repairs, or assist homeowners by contracting the work and assessing the homeowners much like we do street costs.

During discussion it was noted that sidewalk repair and replacement is part of home ownership and therefore the responsibility of the owner. The City will set standards for repair / replacement and if we begin the notification process now we can provide a good window of time for folks to plan for repairs by spring. Further discussion on the sidewalk issue will be at a later meeting.

On a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission, a motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Richeson, to introduce Ordinance 927 amending Section 152.058 of the Municipal Code to require manufactured homes to have permanent foundations below exterior walls. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay – none.

Police Chief Olson has received two bids for a new Police cruiser to replace the 2011 model: a state bid from Husker Auto Group for \$22,868, and a bid from Pony Express Chevrolet of \$21,723. Both bids are for a 2016 Chevrolet Impala. There will be additional costs to transfer lights and equipment, as well as detailing.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the bid from Pony Express Chevrolet for a 2016 Chevrolet Impala cruiser. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Engineering and a contractor will be required to move the 34.5 KV power line from the middle of the proposed street in the southeast industrial site. Therefore Olsson Assoc. has submitted an amendment to their contract.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, approving Amendment #1 with Olsson Associates for relocating the power line at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be December 1, 2015.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

