

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: Shane Gruber, Larry & Kathy Nichols, Nancy Fisher, George Prince, Tobin Buchanan, Jane Sheets

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 – February 17 and 25

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

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$47,642.67 except #1677; Public Works Division \$87,419.83, except #1128; and the February 26 payroll of \$33,043.61. Roll Call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay - none.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, to pass and approve claim #1677 to Kennedy Landscape Service \$89.00 and #1128 to Kennedy Quality Fire Extinguishers for \$18.45. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- Tonight is the first attempt at electronic Council packets instead of paper files.
- After reading the Council news in the *Times* indicating a drive from Lake Avenue into a parking area at Lake Helen would be built, Nancy Fisher asked Council to consider providing access and parking in several locations within the park. It would help reduce congestion from the many vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians trying to enter and exit the lake area at one location. Administrator Clymer said that at the recent Council retreat there was some discussion about developing a master plan for use of the lake and park area that will allow for public comment and ideas. Nothing definite has been decided at this time as discussion continues on seeding the area that was the small lake and finishing all construction before taking on the project of usage.

Plans, specifications, and bid notices have been prepared for the construction of a six foot sidewalk on the west side of Avenue I from 16th Street to 20th Street, including replacement of steps at one property to be ADA accessible. The engineer's estimate of probable cost is between \$85,000 and \$125,000. The request for bids sets April 3 at 2:00 p.m. as the deadline for submission of bids.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the plans and specifications for the Ave I sidewalk construction and setting April 3, at 2:00 p.m. at the bid date. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Documents have been prepared to redeem the 2010 paving improvement bonds and reissuing them at a lower interest rate. Council member Kennedy introduced Ordinance 916 entitled:

An ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds of the City of Gothenburg, Nebraska, in an aggregate principle amount not to exceed \$325,000; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; providing for the levy of taxes to pay the interest on and principle of such bonds; providing for publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and the time when this ordinance shall take effect; and related matters

and moved that the statutory rule requiring that ordinances be read by title on three different days be suspended so that Ordinance 916 might be passed and adopted on the same day without being read in full.

On roll call vote, the following Council members voted in favor of the motion to suspend the statutory rule: Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy. The following Council members voted “Nay”: none. The following Council member did not vote: Waskowiak.

The motion to suspend the statutory rule having been agreed upon by at least three-fourths of all the Council members, the Mayor declared the motion passed and the statutory rule suspended.

Following the reading of the title of Ordinance 916 Council Member Kennedy moved that the ordinance be passed and adopted, which motion was seconded by Council Member Janssen. On roll call vote the following Council members voted in favor of the passage of Ordinance 916: Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. The following voted against the passage of the ordinance: none. The following did not vote on the passage of the ordinance: Waskowiak.

The passage of Ordinance 916 having been agreed upon by a majority of the Council, the Mayor declared the ordinance passed and, in the presence of the Council, signed it and the Clerk attested the passage of Ordinance 916 by signing the same and affixing the seal of the City of Gothenburg.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 907 regarding the administration and conduct of elections to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Janssen seconded, to advance Ordinance 908 regarding occupation taxes on fire insurance companies to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to advance Ordinance 909 regarding filing fees for election candidates to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 910 renaming the child protection act to harmonize with State law to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Waskowiak seconded, to advance Ordinance 911 regarding Mayoral powers to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 912 regarding credit sales of alcohol to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Janssen moved Richeson seconded, to advance Ordinance 913 regarding sale / use of vapor & nicotine products to minors to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy , Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, to advance Ordinance 914 revising tobacco and cigarette licenses to include vapor products and alternative nicotine products to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 915 regarding abandoned vehicle procedures to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving Mayor Hudson’s recommendation appointing Dr. Mike Teahon to the Board of Adjustment and Cindy Cooper and Dee Miller to the Cemetery Board. All terms will expire January 2018. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Atty. Bacon declared a conflict of interest in the discussion on conveying real estate to the Gothenburg Hospital District. The current hospital expansion eliminates the present helicopter-pad and leaves them with an inadequate parking area. Employees park on 20th Street as it is. State statute allows one public entity to transfer property to another public entity. The East 50 feet of 21st Street, along with Lots 1 – 3 of Block 32, Summit Addition (the lots immediately east of Crestview Housing), and the west half of vacated Avenue I currently belong to the City. A proposed ordinance will transfer those parcels to the Hospital District.

Discussion was had and a motion was made by Kennedy to introduce Ordinance 917 entitled:

An Ordinance declaring that the Gothenburg Hospital District is a public agency for purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat 17-503; conveying real estate located in the City of Gothenburg, Dawson County, Nebraska, more particularly described in the attached Exhibit "A" to the Gothenburg Hospital District; repealing ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date

and to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days. The motion was seconded by Waskowiak and on roll call vote, the following voted "Yea": Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. "Nays": none.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a full vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said ordinance which was then read by title. Council member Kennedy moved for final passage and Council member Janssen seconded the motion. Mayor Hudson asked "*Shall ordinance 917 be passed and adopted?*" On roll call vote the following voted "Yea": Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. "Nay"; none.

Mayor Hudson declared Ordinance 917 adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

Kathy Nichols spoke to Council regarding the intent to remove the concrete fence on the south east side of Lake Helen. She provided pictures of the lake in the late 1800's that show the fence there as well as an historical picture of the original bridge on the west side of the lake. The fence is older than the 1890's factories that once stood west of the lake. She spoke with 129 people that want the fence saved for its historic value, it's the only thing left of the original lake. Many folks would also like to see the west side bridge reopened. Much of historic Gothenburg is gone and Mrs. Nichols asked Council to reconsider saving the fence or put it to a vote of the people.

Council member Janssen said he also had comments from citizens that feel the fence serves no purpose and needs to be removed. There is also the issue of safety for children and others.

Mayor Hudson noted the issue had been discussed at one meeting and again at the second meeting before being voted on. A lot of thought went into the decision. The original purpose of the fence was protection from the lake but the changing landscape will no longer require the fence which is in dire need of repair. The broken section was hit by a chunk of frozen dirt which doesn't say much for the integrity of the fence. Another area broke a few years ago and was repaired. She expressed appreciation for concern for the fence but feels the Council voted to have it removed based on its condition and maintenance needs.

Councilman Richeson looked at the fence today and said it was poured concrete without rebar for strength. He was uncertain how it could be put back to look original.

Mrs. Nichols commented that we live in a disposable society and she is upset with Gothenburg when it comes to saving historical things.

No action was taken on the request.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the Special Designated Liquor License requested by Michael Peterson of Peterson's Supermarket for a March 20 Chamber of Commerce banquet event to be held at 520 10th Street in Gothenburg. The event will be from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Roll call vote: Yea –Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay - none.

Katie Beth Kauffman has requested use of Ehmen Park as a staging area for the Women's Resource Center Walk for Life on May 3. Last year, according to Shane Gruber, the participants could run, walk, or ride bicycles on a course that moved up Avenue F to 20th Street, then down Avenue G back to the park.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing use of the park as proposed for the Women's Walk for Life on May 3. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 17, 2015.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk