

Special City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

January 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.

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: Ken Christensen, Will Rahjes, Matt Weiss

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. This meeting was scheduled due to the lack of a quorum on January 5.

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

- City Council minutes – December 15 & 23
- Board of Adjustment minutes – November 13 cont'd November 17, December 8
- Treasurer's Report – November & December
- Police Report - December

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

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$65,760.64 except #2052; Public Works Division \$117,388.81; the December 16 payroll of 33,269.51 and the December 30 payroll of \$36,295.87. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak. Nay - none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims #2052 to Gothenburg Irrigation in the amount of \$147. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- We've received notice that the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance has received funding from the Environmental Trust Fund for the Solar Project. Cliff Messner will present the Council with agreements and contracts for the project.
- Sandy Smith was named 2015 Employee of the Year at the January 8 employee recognition dinner.
- The January 19 Council meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting will be February 2.

Miller & Assoc. has proposed to design the 4th Street storm sewer for \$25,400 and construction observation not to exceed \$19,300. Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Richeson, authorizing signature of the contract with Miller & Assoc. for the design the 4th Street storm sewer as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved Janssen seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 928 banning paper lanterns on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approval of committee and personnel appointments:

Committees:

Cemetery Board	Ken Christensen
Housing Authority	Will Rahjes Sandy Smith
Library Board	Ernie Blecha Shanna Keiser Sherry Langley
Planning & Zoning Commission	Louis Bovitz Eppie Sisneros

PERSONNEL

City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Prosecutor	Steve Vinton
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L Dalrymple
Police Chief	Randy Olson
Police Sgt.	Matthew Langley
Police Officers	Joe Humphrey Jill McCandless Aaron Pelzer – PT
Fire Chief	Mark Ballmer
Building Inspector	Doug Swanson
City Physician	Dr. Craig Bartruff
Municipal Engineer	Miller & Assoc.

Fire Dept Roster

Ron Alexander	Brock Anderson	Alan Ballmer	Mark Ballmer
Trevor Anderson	Dennis Bihlmaier	Shane Butterfield	Dan Butterfield
Justin Carlson	Eric Coulter	Andy Cowan	Richard Crown
Matt Farr	Adam Finke	Craig Franzen	Dale Franzen
Derek Franzen	Larry Franzen	Lyle Franzen	Troy Franzen
Justin Geiken	Wade Geiken	James Hecox	John Hecox
Tyrel Hite	Chris Horn	Jon Hudson	Joe Libal

Dan Meisinger	Travis Miller	Troy Munster	Mark Ostergard
Mike Ostergard	Robb Ostergard	Jared Rickertsen	Corey Rossell
John Stuhr	Garland Underwood	Lane Van Natta	Jason Wagner
Michael Wagner	Dan Walker	Keith Williamson	

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

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool has provided our utility rate studies for several years. The proposed rate for 2016 is greater than NPPD's; however, we have not raised our rates since June of 2012 and it's likely NPPD rates will increase substantially over the next few years. As proposed, residential rates will increase 3.2%, general services rates 2%, demand 6%, time of use 5.8%, and municipal rates 2% with similar increases in 2017.

The proposed ordinance also discontinues the practice of allowing customers to provide a date certain to pay their utility bill if they cannot pay by the 20th. Since the Public Works Division bills customers after usage they can easily become over two months behind and the amount increases with late and disconnect fees added. On occasion customers have left town owing a large past due account that we cannot collect. It also provides for an additional deposit if a customer is disconnected for non-payment.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Janssen, seconded by Kennedy, introducing Ordinance 929 increasing utility rates. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay - none.

Further discussion will be had at a later meeting on discontinuing the policy of allowing customers to delay payment after the 20th.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, approving a contract with Miller & Associates in the amount of \$14,600 to develop a master plan for the Lake Helen area. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Miller & Assoc. offered a contract of \$55,300 to design paving on Ave J between 23rd and 27th Streets, and Avenue K between 19th and 20th Streets. If the project goes forward, there will be an hourly fee not to exceed \$39,750 for construction services. Once the design is complete we can decide if the cost of construction will be too high to proceed. If we create a paving district, the design costs can be bonded with construction costs. If we do not proceed with the project, we will still have the design. New legislation allows us to borrow from the bank to pay the design costs.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to proceed with the design contract with Miller & Associates as proposed for paving on Avenues J & K. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Matt Weiss described for Council his proposal to establish a non-profit corporation for operation of the Pony Express Station since the Chamber will no longer be operating it. He provided a timeline to accomplish this process and has already received the support of the Gothenburg

Historical Museum, established a mission statement and is developing a business plan. He feels this method of operation could open avenues for grants and use of memorabilia and displays relative to the era of the Station. Such displays may cycle to the museum as well. A percentage of any money that might come to the non-profit will be allocated for maintenance that will be in keeping with the accuracy of the era of the Station.

Due to the time, inventory for this season may be limited to that on hand since the opening date is April 1. Other ideas include a computerized kiosk that would provide the historical story of the Pony Express.

Mr. Weiss will offer a 3-year commitment with a Board operating the non-profit. City presence will be through an interlocal agreement and membership on the Board.

Lengthy discussion was had on various aspects of the past and future operation of the Pony Express Station. Ultimately the Council members agreed to allow Weiss to move forward with establishing the non-profit for the Pony Express Station.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing signature of the Certificate of Compliance and renewal of the Maintenance Agreement #56 with the Department of Roads. Roll call vote: Yes – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Janssen moved Waskowiak seconded, authorizing Mayor Hudson to sign a purchase agreement of \$21,000 with Mike Hilderbrand for a parcel of .66 acres on the north side of 27th Street near Highway 47 for use as a future municipal well site. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Will Rahjes, working with Nate Wyatt at the Gothenburg State Bank, spoke with Council about the employee pension plan. We are required to review and restate our plan every six to eight years to bring it into compliance with the latest laws. Our last restatement was in 2008. One change in the law allows us to add ROTH contributions to the our pension plan giving participants, particularly younger participants, greater flexibility with contributions. There is an \$800 fee for plan restatement but the ROTH segment can be added without additional cost.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to add the ROTH option to the restatement of the employee pension plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Richeson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be February 2, 2016.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

