

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Matt Weiss, Troy Franzen, Lane Van Etta, Brandon Kauffman, Will Rahjes, Travis Mason

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, Richeson seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – March 1
- Treasurer's Report - February
- Tree Board minutes – March 24

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

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$85,341.16, except #2288; Public Works Division \$110,786.72; and the March 23 payroll of \$36,925.89. Roll Call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none.

Waskowiak moved, Richeson seconded, approval of claim #2288 to Kennedy Landscape Services in the amount of \$56.75. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- Administrator Clymer introduced Brandi Kloeping, Deputy City Clerk as of March 21.
- There will be a Town Hall meeting on April 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Library to receive public input on the Lake Helen master plan.
- The security camera installed at the tree lot resulted in citations being issued to persons responsible for dumping items other than tree branches and grass. We want people to know the cameras are there and although we do not want to issue citations, we do not want the litter either. Continued littering will result in revocation of our State license.
- Public Services Director Shane Gruber reported we have received the annual water quality report from the State. The numbers reported for arsenic levels are the most current, are an average of the three wells, and are below the maximum of 10. The copper and lead levels reported recently by some communities as being dangerously high are well within acceptable parameters. The report will be published in the *Times*.
- Normally, the City pumps 500,000 gallons of water a day. However, last weekend citizens began watering lawns and we pumped 1 million gallons a day. The SCADA water and well monitoring system is working very well.
- 20th Street at the hospital should be open next week as the water and sewer taps are complete. We have gained two new fire hydrants and a loop tying the 8 inch and 10 inch water lines together.

As requested at a previous meeting, Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. prepared a design and cost estimate for infrastructure and paving along Ave J, between 23rd and 27th Streets including the cul-de-sac at 24th Place, and Ave. K from 19th to 20th. The work can be done without a detention cell, which will save on the cost but, if infrastructure west of Ave J is included, a detention cell will be required as property slopes southeast. The total estimated cost of \$593,912.00. The City is responsible for the cost of alley approaches and intersections so without those expenses, the cost is approximately \$181 / lineal foot.

Discussion was had on moving forward with bid specifications and creation of districts for bidding this year and construction completion in 2017. Extending the completion time will give contractors more

options with their scheduling. We could also pave the block of graveled street on Ave L south of 22nd Street.

In addition, since water lines stop on 19th and 20th Streets, we could create a loop of water lines for greater flexibility and service. This cost is not part of Travis' design and would be a city cost since there is already water service in the area. Further discussion will be had at the May 3 meeting.

Matt Weiss said the only comments he had received on the proposed removal of the fireplace in the Pony Express Station was from long term employees at the station. They feel it should be removed because it is not specific to the era of the station, it was added several years after the station was moved into the park. He would rather the City remove the fireplace since it is structural.

Shane Gruber said the fireplace mantel is concrete and will be a big undertaking to remove. For safety reasons, he would rather the station was closed while it's being done, at least two days, and thought fall might be a better time as the crew is now gearing up for summer. Weiss reminded all that the station is only open six hour days right now and he is willing to remove the debris if the City can remove the fireplace now. Shane agreed to start demolition on Monday next week.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to either remove the Pony Express Station fireplace in April or wait until fall. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Will Rahjes of the Gothenburg State Bank, provided a resolution that Mass Mutual requires to ensure the action taken to amend the employee pension plan was made by a majority of the Council. Atty. Bacon says the document is to be signed by the clerk certifying that is what happened. He suggested Council pass a verbal resolution approving the document and he will provide the document for signature.

Richeson moved, Janssen seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2016-2 amending the employee pension plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay – none.

Craig Saum owns two lots behind his home on Grand Crescent and wants to put a building on the back lots. A contiguous lot agreement is required to combine all three lots since Municipal Code does not allow accessory buildings on lots without a residence. Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the contiguous lot agreement requested by Craig Saum. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to advance Ordinance 930 regarding tree topping and trimming to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson. Nay – none.

Brandon Kauffman, representing the Gothenburg State Bank, discussed the bank's concerns regarding pedestrian traffic at the exit of the drive-through lanes onto 9th Street. Bank staff discussed the issue with a consultant that suggested painting the sidewalk like a crosswalk. The bank will do the painting if Council has no objection. They will also install signs to advise drivers of the pedestrian traffic along the bank.

Chief Olson objected to painting the sidewalk as a cross walk because the area is a sidewalk, not a true cross walk by definition of State Statute. Also, according to State Statute it is the driver's responsibility to watch for pedestrians. He has looked at banks in other communities with similar situations and they use mirrors to let customers know if a pedestrian is approaching.

Mr. Kauffman said the bank will post signs on the canopy columns but fears they will lose their value over time. The structure of the canopy does not allow mirrors and the bank wants to take every precaution to protect pedestrians. Signs are not the best option due to the overhang. The lane closest to the Supermarket is the worst area because it's used as an alley. Customers in the drive-through are already at a stop.

Council member Janssen appreciates the idea of the signs but is reluctant to violate State Statute regarding crosswalks. Chief Olson suggested blocking off the 'alley' lane since it is private property. Other suggestions included speed bumps and having the tellers remind customers to watch for pedestrians. All agreed signage should be the first effort, followed by speed bumps if necessary.

A few years ago Blackbaud Corp purchased Fundware, the software program we had used for general ledger, payroll, accounts payable, and budgeting. In 2014 we were notified that Blackbaud would no longer support Fundware. Blackbaud's answer was the Financial Edge software program and we converted in 2014 but there continues to be issues with the program.

The Public Works Division uses Caselle utility billing program that the staff likes. Caselle also offers accounts payable, payroll, general ledger, and others. A couple weeks ago, the office staff and

Administrator Clymer participated in a webinar presentation from Caselle about their other products which can be purchased in total or in phases. Phase I would replace the General Ledger, Budgeting, Payroll, and Accounts Payable and add two licenses for \$35,000. Phase II is Asset Management, Accounts Receivable, Purchase & Requisitions for \$16,000. Staff was impressed with the product that is similar to Fundware in reporting capabilities and ease of use.

Since we are in a personnel transition at this this time, it would be a good time to make a software change and we would like to go with Phase I and perhaps add Phase II at a later date. Unfortunately there is nothing in the budget for software conversion even though we were able to negotiate a price reduction. To meet the cost we could delay one year the purchase of \$15,000 electric panels for the pool, and reduce the amount proposed for the Wellness Center.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Janssen, seconded by Kennedy, authorizing \$35,000 for the purchase of Phase I Caselle software, with six licenses. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kenney, Janssen. Nay – none.

Atty. Steve Vinton is currently the City Prosecutor but his office is busy and doesn't have the time required for the additional position. Administrator Clymer checked with two local attorneys and neither is interested because of potential conflicts with the prosecutor position. The City of Lexington uses Atty. Todd Wilson and is happy with his work. Chief Olson, Mayor Hudson, and Atty. Bacon have no objection to Atty. Wilson or the \$600 / month fee. He can begin work upon signature of the contract.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approving the contract with Atty. Todd Wilson as City Prosecutor for a fee of \$600 / month. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, the appointment of Jay Richeson to represent the City of Gothenburg on the Upper Platte Basin-Wide Plan. Administrator Bruce Clymer will serve as alternate. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Mayor Hudson's recommendation reappointing Kim Slack, Dan Frerichs, and Nate Baker to three year terms on the Tree Board. Liz Buckley will fill the remaining two years of the term vacated by Vicki Pontecorvo on the Tree Board. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay –none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Drawdown #13 in the amount of \$38,073 on the Downtown Revitalization Project, and payment to property owners. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, approving the Fire Dep't request to provide a fireworks display on July 4th and Lake Helen. Alternate date will be July 5. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be April 19, 2016.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk