

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members – Jeff Kennedy
Verlin Janssen
Jay Richeson
Randy Waskowiak
City Administrator – Bruce Clymer
City Attorney – Colten Venteicher

Absent: City Clerk / Treasurer – Brandi Kloepping

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Ellen Mortensen

Also present: Shane Gruber, Ken Christensen, Jewel Johnson, Dr. Garret Shaw, June Shaw, Kobe Rickertsen, Brock Massin, and Deb Egenberger.

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.

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

City Council minutes –October 17
Police Report – October
Annual Treasurer’s Report – 10/2016 to 9/2017

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

Richeson moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$88,555.39; Public Works Division \$193,273.52; and the October 11 payroll of \$34,238.48. Roll Call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson. Nay - none.

Community Comments – No Comments

Discussions:

Deb Egenberger on behalf of the Gothenburg Chamber asked for permission to close Lake Avenue from 9th to 10th Street on Tuesday, December 5, from 4:45 - 7:00 p.m. to hold ‘Magic on Main Street’. Santa will be in Gothenburg State Bank and the Gothenburg Volunteer Fire Department will give children free rides on the fire truck starting at 5:00 p.m. There will also be food vendors on the street.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, to allow closure of Lake Avenue from 9th to 10th Street on December 5 from 4:45 – 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the Maintenance Agreement #56 between the City of Gothenburg and the Nebraska Department of Transportation for surface maintenance of various streets/highways/ road within the City. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay - none.

Discussion was held regarding memorial items along streets within the community. Administrator Clymer presented a list of potential rules and regulations in regard to this. It was decided to be proactive and pursue coming up with rules. This issue will be taken up at a council retreat at a date and time not decided.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving pay request #4 to GenPro Energy Solutions for Solar Project for \$82,500.00. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Councilperson Jeff Kennedy presented a listing of four items he would like the city to pursue. These included a sprinkler system at Lake Helen, new playground equipment at Lake Helen, a new shelter at Lake Helen that will be large enough to hold several tables for large gatherings, and a splash pad to be located at the swimming pool. Kennedy expressed that he has had numerous conversations and requests about when the City is going to get “stuff done” to complete the Lake Helen Park renovation. Kennedy also mentioned that Cozad has a new splash pad and Holdrege has a new playground for possible ideas. A 1/2% sales tax could possibly be proposed to the community to pay for renovations. Waskowiak liked the list and Janssen thought that if the list were put in the Gothenburg Times, perhaps the City might get some feedback on what the community would like to see done at Lake Helen. Richeson feels that the only way we going to generate revenue is by the 1/2% sales tax. Kennedy pointed out that this would have to be

voted on by ballot at a regular election. Janssen said that more discussion is needed on this at the next Council Meeting. Administrator Clymer responded that two weeks is not enough time to put together potential costs; however we will have on the next agenda a contract to have the City Engineer work to put together cost estimates for the splash pad and any other needed amenities at the pool. City Attorney Colten Venteicher will look into time of getting the sales tax on the ballot if desired.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving request for License to Maintain for private sewer on Avenue A presented by Ken Christensen. Roll call vote: Yea –Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Jewel Johnson requested additional street lighting in the alley between Avenue D & Lake Avenue on 17th Street. There are currently only street lights at the intersections, both east and west of her home. There are a couple of areas in her area that have street lighting on the alley; however the lighting is being paid for by the residents in those areas. The City had previously offered to install lighting for Mrs. Johnson and to bill her the monthly fee for a light. Mrs. Johnson asked the council to reconsider the decision. Dr. Shaw and his wife June also stated that it is a dark block and that they don't think that the lighting is sufficient in Gothenburg, even at intersections. The Shaw's feel it is only a matter of time before someone get hurt, as June almost hit someone recently. They asked that the Council conduct a design standard study of the City's lighting. Johnson commented that downtown is lit up more than residential area. The council took no action, but were willing to listen to further discussion regarding this issue.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be November 21, 2017.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Bruce Clymer, City Administrator