

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

November 16, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Jim Aden
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Attorney Mike Bacon
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Also present: Shane Gruber, Ken Christensen, Rita Thomalla, Mike Thomalla, JP Thomalla, Louis Mayfield of Beta LED, Anne Anderson, Lois Stanton, Ann Franzen, Ron Thoesen of Dutton-Lainson

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.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes - November 2
Police Report - October
Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - November 1 & November 9
Treasurer's Report - October
Library Director's report - September thru November

Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$60,427.43; Public Works Division \$246,275.75; and the payroll of November 11, \$31,274.66. Roll Call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none.

Open forum:

- Shane Gruber received the *Water Operator of the Year* Award from the Nebraska section of the American Water Works Assoc. on November 4 at the annual banquet in Kearney. He was nominated by Tony Martinez of Nebraska Health and Human Services. Mayor Hudson, Administrator Clymer, Shane and Kathy Gruber attended.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to authorize signature of Drawdown #13 on the Downtown Revitalization Project in the amount of \$19,922. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none.

A result of the city-wide sewer system study was the appointment of a committee to review the study and make recommendation to the Council. The study set out two major areas and cost:

1. Intermediate:

Televising the most suspect areas of the collection system for groundwater infiltration and/or broken areas and clogs. The estimated cost for 30,000 linear feet at \$1.55 / foot would be \$46,500.

To rehab those areas - approximately \$1.25 million

2. Long Term:

Install an additional line across the railroad tracks to the waste plant - \$1.8 million

The Committee's recommendation is to proceed with televising lines. The Committee also felt it best to first televise suspect lines in low-lying areas for ground water infiltration to determine priority needs. An option to offset the cost would be to pay the cost in one year by adding \$2.56 to the monthly sewer rate. Miller & Assoc can put the bid specifications together and the City crew would be involved in pulling manholes and showing the location of lines, probably during the night when flows are low.

Discussion was had on moving forward even though the cost is not budgeted, or seeking out available grant funds. Any grant application would likely slow the process and not net much cost share. Ultimately, Council decided that we've discussed these issues for several years and this is a definite place to start without just throwing money out, guessing where changes are needed. Televising the lines will provide useful information for future years. We can not wait another year and a half to budget it and then begin the bid process.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to seek bids for televising the sewer lines as discussed and to look at options for payment of the costs. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

The Jingle Bell Parade will be Thursday, December 2 from 5 - 7 p.m. The parade will move from the Fire Hall on 10th street, west to Lake Avenue, ending at Highway 30 for lighting the community tree. Parents and children can walk back one block to the Gothenburg State Bank for activities sponsored there. The Chamber would like to block Lake Avenue from 9th Street north to the alley to allow the fire truck and hay rides by the bank.

All the Council expressed concern about letting children off the fire truck so close to Highway 30 but agreed to the overall proposal. The Chamber will work with Shane on setting cones, barricades, etc.

Administrator Clymer shared the results of the recent community survey included with utility bills. So far, over 500 responses have been received and nearly all expressed appreciation of the bill stuffer idea.

Fireworks - Sales in December: 69 strongly favor, 139 favor, 165 opposed, 143 strongly opposed.

Time limit 10 pm or 11 pm: 348 for 10 pm, 129 for 11 pm, 33 no time limit

Number of days for sale: 341 - stay at 10 days, 122 - 5 days, 48 - between 5 and 10

days

Alcohol hours of sale: 57 - yes, increase to 2 am, 460 no, remain same as now

Close Cottonwood Dr and Lake Avenue railroad crossings and construct bypass route and overpass: 233 very opposed, 109 opposed, 60 favor, 45 very much in favor, 74 did not feel they had enough information

In September the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a preliminary map that enlarged the designated flood plain area. No appeals were received in the 90 day appeal period so FEMA adopted the new mapping as proposed. The city will be required to adopt new regulations that meet paragraph 60.3(d) of the National Flood Insurance Program before May 2011.

Some homes and businesses are not currently in the flood plain but will be under the new designation. Those property owners will need to talk to their insurance agent about flood insurance.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approving a License to Maintain sprinkler systems on public rights-of-way in the new Jefferson Square development. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

The Redevelopment Contract for the Comfort Suites project in Terry's Business Park Addition, includes a bond to capture an additional 1% tax on all sales within the subdivision to pay for the infrastructure. The RDA will issue that bond at their Friday meeting if the Council approves the agreement document.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing signature of the Agreement of the Issuance of Enhanced Employment Area bonds secured by General Occupation Tax. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

The City received a \$257,600 grant through the Nebraska Energy Office to replace existing high pressure sodium street lights with energy efficient LED lighting. Bids were requested for 100 - 100 watt replacement LED's and 350 - 250 watt replacement LED's.

Energy Solutions / Eco-fit (42/63)	\$210,700.00
Dutton - Lainson / General Electric (65/95)	\$196,795.00
Dutton - Lainson / General Electric (65/142)	\$251,920.00
Electric Fixture / Beta LED (70/113)	\$202,000.00
Electric Fixture / Beta LED (70/80)	\$258,000.00
Electric Fixture / Beta LED (70/100)	\$294,750.00
Electric Fixture / Beta LED (70/120)	\$325,084.50
Greenstar / Greenstar (57/129)	\$233,650.00
Wesco / Cooper (80/129)	\$300,250.00
Kriz-Davis / Cooper (103/129)	\$302,700.00
Kriz-Davis / Cooper (80/156)	\$331,500.00

The Dutton Lainson bid of \$196,795 for General Electric lights was lowest bid and since that is less than anticipated, we could consider additional lights or changing the mix of wattages. Administrator Clymer worked with several other communities with similar projects on the bid

documents. Samples of the various lights have been installed in the north part of town for comparison purposes and the electric crew has offered their opinion in favor of the GE product. Therefore, the recommendation is to accept the bid offered by General Electric through Dutton Lainson Co.

There are so many variables in LED lighting that Louis Mayfield of Beta LED has asked Council to reconsider the bids taking into consideration data other than price alone, such as performance. All that information was contained in his bid. He feels the failure of the bid process was in not adequately defining a 250 watt fixture.

Discussion was had on the fairness of the bid process, the option of declining all bids and starting the process anew with all bidders prices already exposed, or hiring a lighting engineer to sort through all data. Ultimately, a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Whiting, to accept the bid for GE Lights offered by Dutton-Lainson for \$196,795. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - Strauser.

Eric MacPherson purchased lots 3 and 4 of the Gothenburg Industrial Park 2nd Addition and the City abandoned the utility easement between the lots. He wants to put a fence around the perimeter of the property that will take in a small portion of a sewer easement in the southeast corner. The manhole is on lot 6 and therefore is easily accessible if needed.

Discussion was had on access and similar situations in various areas of town. Ultimately, a motion was made by Whiting, seconded by Strauser, allowing the license to maintain a private structure on public right-of-way to Eric MacPherson in Gothenburg Industrial Park Second Addition. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - Kennedy.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Drawdown #14 and payment to Kruse Construction on the Owner Occupied Housing Project in the amount of \$3417. Roll call: Yea - Aden, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be December 7, 2010.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk