

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, J Buddenberg, Anne Anderson, Al Childers, Mark Brand, Don Abbott, representatives of Murphy Tractor Co.

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. upon arrival of a quorum. 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.

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

- City Council minutes - February 22, 2010
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - February 9
- Treasurer's Report - January 2010
- Cemetery Board minutes - February 1

Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$49,703.95; Public Works Division \$349,733.83; and the payroll of \$30,196.50. Roll Call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Aden, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Open forum:

- The Police Dep't renovation is in full swing. The area has been cleared, and walls and plumbing are being installed.
- We have applied for a grant for LED street lighting. A sample light has been installed at Countryside Lane and Avenue M.
- This year is Gothenburg's 125th anniversary. The 100th anniversary time capsule in Ehmen Park will be opened in July. The Chamber of Commerce will welcome ideas for celebration.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to advance Ordinance 854 adopting the updated Municipal Code to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Three bids were received on February 12 for a new loader. All bids included trade-in of the 1988 Caterpillar 926 model.

Fairbanks International	2010 New Holland	\$101,700 including forks, snow blower attachment
Murphy Tractor	2010 John Deere	\$106,930 including forks, snow blower attachment & hub locking differential
Nebraska Machinery	2010 Caterpillar	\$114,350 including forks

Similar machines have been available for the crew to see and drive. All were an improvement over the current equipment but they prefer the John Deere because of better rear visibility. Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Aden, to accept the bid from Murphy Tractor for the 2010 John Deere loader with locking differential, pallet forks, and snow blower attachment. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay- none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, approving the automatic renewal of liquor licenses:

Norm Lambertus - Bar-W Lounge	Class IB
R & C Petroleum dba Time Saver #18	Class B
Pizza Hut	Class A
Pete's Lounge	Class I
Walker's Steakhouse	Class IB
Lakeside Bowl	Class I
OK Bottle Shoppe	Class D
Pit Stop, Inc	Class B

Randazzle Cafe  
China Cafe  
Pamida

Class I  
Class A  
Class D

Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of \$7421.47 to Gothenburg Realty for the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the renewal of Maintenance #56 with the Department of Roads. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

J Buddenberg installed a heat pump at his business, Electric Rain. Per the utility ordinance, his sewer rate is based on his water usage, even though the heat pump water empties into the storm sewer instead of the sanitary sewer.

Our current rate structure allows for a "deduct meter" process but it does not apply to heat pumps. One idea is to install a water meter at the building and one at the heat pump to measure usage at the heat pump and then deduct the usage from the total bill. A fee could be set to cover the City's cost of the extra meter and manual billing. Another option is to charge a minimum rate or establish a percentage of the water rate. This would be simpler and less time consuming for the billing staff.

It was noted that there are some residential heat pump systems but since we don't meter the water they pay no more for water or sewer. Commercial watered is metered; therefore the sewer charge is increased. Some action should be taken in both rate structures.

J is willing to provide plumbing for a deduct meter to gather data on usage for Council to decide a permanent course of action. It was agreed to have an ordinance on the March 2 agenda allowing for installation of deduct metering for gathering data relative to heat pumps.

Anne Anderson presented a Tourism Committee idea for interpretive signage at Lake Helen. Signs depicting the history of the Lake area would be installed at various locations in the park and trail area. The sign composition has a 25 year or more life cycle. The Tourism Committee will work with the sign company to construct, install, and maintain the signs at no cost to the City. Payment would come from the lodging tax receipts, currently approximately \$25,000.

During discussion, it was suggested that the signs be low profile and on a single pedestal to ease grass maintenance. Perhaps an Eagle Scout candidate could assist with the installation

The Tourism Committee also suggested installation of Pony Express rider signs on the light poles on the overpass. The signs would be designed like those at the Pony Express Station but larger. They are 3/8 inch powder coated steel and weather very well. Placement is subject to approval from the Department of Roads.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to proceed with the signage at Lake Helen as proposed, and to seek approval from the NE Department of Roads for overpass signs as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approval of Drawdown #6 and payment of \$2000 to Dawson Area Development for work on the downtown revitalization project. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approval of Drawdown #7 for \$14,921 on the downtown revitalization project. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nays - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approval of the final pay request on the 2008 Street Improvements and payment of \$3300 to Dawson Area Development. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - one. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee has received a request to expand the project boundaries. When information was being gathered for the grant it was decided to include only the core business district instead of the entire study area that included commercial areas east of Avenue H. The expansion can be accomplished by Council action without a public hearing. The DTR Committee recommends the change.

During discussion, Council expressed concern that any change be fair to all parties affected. Sufficient notice should be given to allow all eight businesses in the expanded area to have equal notice of eligibility and time to prepare and submit application for grant funds. Most of the façade funds have been used so if at the end of the grant period, there are still funds available in the reuse loan category; Council suggested those funds be moved to façade improvement.

Strauser moved, Aden seconded, to expand the downtown revitalization area to include all of the study area and set March 1 at 8 a.m. to receive applications from the expanded area. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Aden, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve to Terry Kruse Construction for client #08-HO-3074-03. Payment will be \$19,993.00 with a USDA share of \$7500. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Three interviews were conducted for the Transportation Plan. Administrator Clymer has been working with the department of Roads on a contract to be sure the study works with the federal highway plan if we should go forward with a second overpass / truck route. Schimmer, Inc proposal was favored by the Committee at a cost of \$69,714.50. Only \$60,000 was budgeted but the Dawson County Railroad Safety Committee has agreed to pay the overage.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the contract with Schimmer, Inc for the transportation study. Approval is contingent on review by the City Attorney and approval of the NE Department of Roads. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

The Cemetery Board recommends increasing the cost of cemetery lots on March 1, 2010. Lots for residents will increase from \$100 to \$200 and non-residents from \$200 to \$250. Brief discussion was had and Council asked the recommendation be on the March 2 agenda as an update to the fees resolution.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting. The next regular meeting will be March 2, 2010.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk