

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

November 15, 2011
7:00 p.m.

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|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Present: Mayor – | Joyce Hudson | Absent: Councilmember Jeff Whiting |
| Council members | Jeff Kennedy | |
| | Gary Fritch | |
| | Tim Strauser | |
| City Administrator | Bruce Clymer | |
| City Attorney | Mike Bacon | |
| City Clerk / Treasurer | Connie L. Dalrymple | |

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Anne Anderson, Gary Norseen, Jennifer Norseen, Heather & Dakota Miller, Travis Mason, Terry Jessen

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 7:07 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.

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

- City Council minutes – November 1
- Police Report - October
- Treasurer's Report - October
- Library Director's report – September thru November

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$33,428.05; Public Works Division \$315,452.96; and the November 9 payroll of \$33,068.15. Roll Call vote: Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Yea - Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning their annual Holiday Magic event the evening of December 1, 2011. The Jingle Bell parade will begin at the Fire Hall and proceed downtown and there will be hayrides. Stores will be open late and Santa Claus will be in the Gothenburg State Bank. The Chamber is requesting Lake Avenue between 9th Street and the alley to the north be closed for duration of event.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing Lake Avenue to be closed to traffic from 9th Street, north to the alley for the duration of Holiday Magic on December 1. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting: Whiting.

Discussion was had on paving Lake Avenue from 4th Street to 7th Street. Options are:

- \$414,800.10 to replace the existing paving and water line and keep the street at 41 feet.
- \$368,163.68 to replace the existing paving and water line but narrow the street to 32 feet.

Discussion was had and points made included:

- How the narrower street might affect cement trucks coming onto Lake Ave from Paulsen's ready-mix plant.
- Semi-trucks turning onto Lake from West 4th Street
- If we don't like the narrower street, it will be costly to widen back to 41 feet.
- This project was discussed several years ago. Bidding and bond rates are favorable now so it may be a good time to start working on some improvement projects.

According to Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. a decision to proceed would allow design to be completed for a January bid-letting before contractor's summer schedules are full.

Council feels the main issue is not the need for the project but whether or not to narrow the street. Therefore, further discussion will be held on December 6.

All voting wards within a community should be as equally populated as possible. The County Attorney can levy penalties if we need to redistrict but don't. Therefore, using 2010 census data, the population of both the East and West Wards were tallied and it was found there is a 24 person difference in the wards as they now exist.

Fritch moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2011-7 that determines the East and West Wards to be sufficient as they are currently delineated. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Mayor Hudson received a letter from Dakota Miller, a local 10 year old, who has been diagnosed with epilepsy. He is trying to raise awareness of the disease. Mayor Hudson read and signed a proclamation regarding the disease and presented it to him.

Lake Helen was established in the late 1800's and used for hydro-power. The Lake had one of the oldest surface water permits in the valley. When hydro-power was discontinued, the permit became void. In 1993 Nebraska Public Power District applied to the Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of the City, for a water permit. After meeting with the DNR, the Department suggested the application be made by the City as there is currently no permitted appropriation for the lake. The request will require information that should be established by engineers, such as acre feet, construction, etc. Miller & Assoc. can help with that process and has offered an agreement to provide the service at an hourly rate.

After discussion, Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, authorizing signature of the contract with Miller & Assoc. for assistance on the Lake Helen water appropriations application. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

The City will sell assorted excess inventory at Brott's consignment auction on November 26. One item is the 2005 Chevy Impala and the potential value requires specific authorization to sell. Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2011-8. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting. The next regular meeting will be December 6, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk