

Special City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

September 27, 2011
11:00 a.m.

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

Also present: Shane Gruber, US Corps of Engineers representatives Greg Johnson and Noel Blankers

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 11:00 a.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.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility working with the Corps of Engineers to develop a comprehensive plan for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources under Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

Section 22 is a flexible program that allows public entities to customize naturally occurring issues to fit needs. Particular questions under discussion included:

- Water in the north channel of the Platte River – control, and effects on property down stream
- Economic damages with the flood plain as it currently is
- Reducing the designated flood plain in the Gothenburg area
- Cost of a project to 'prevent damages'

During discussion it was recommended the City sign a small agreement to partner with the Corps. As needs and wishes become more specific, the agreement can be amended and is renewed annually. It is important to commit to an initial agreement this week because Congress has not appropriated funding beyond September for new projects but will allow continuation of existing contracts. Mr. Johnson recommended a detailed analysis from the outset so that if Congress authorizes funding for future years we are ready to move forward.

The initial contract requires little cost from the City, and there is no requirement to move forward with any project after the initial study. If we do decide to proceed, we can go forward in sections and in-kind contributions toward project costs are allowed. There will be a 50/50 cost share on technical analysis of issues.

The study would be conducted in two phases, the first being to work with the City to assemble and review existing information and develop a detailed scope of work and cost estimates for

future work. The second phase would consist of engineering evaluation of potential flood risk management alternatives and economic analysis to recommend the most cost effective plan. Initial work should be complete by year end. Any resulting projects may be partnered with the Community Development Block Grants, Central Platte Natural Resources District or other entities.

Mr. Johnson offered to review the initial cost estimate to determine if it can be less than \$4200 to the City.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to enter into a Section 22 agreement under the Water Resources Development Act and to authorize Mayor Hudson to approve the cost of the study to be paid from sales tax funds. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk