

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

April 17, 2012
7:00 p.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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Mark Sellers of Hamilton Communications

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, Kennedy seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – April 3
- Cemetery Board report – Jan thru March
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – April 10
- Treasurer's Report - March

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

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$41,529.78, except #1868, and #1323; Public Works Division \$317,541.84, except #4747; and the April 12 payroll of \$35,153.44. Roll Call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, allowing payment of claims #1868 and #4747 to Quality Fire Extinguishers. Roll Call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of the claim #1323 to T & T Corp. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- Copper and used equipment was stolen from the waste treatment plant. Replacement cost of the three shut offs is \$11,000 each. Surveillance photos showed persons on premises but were not very clear. The crew is rebuilding fencing and the investigation continues.

An ordinance was proposed that will adhere to Nebraska Title 9, Section 94.03 regarding speed and type of boats allowed on the Lake Helen. Following discussion, it was decided to amend the ordinances to state specifically that speed will not exceed five mph and will not create a wake.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, introduction of Ordinance 874 as amended, regarding boating regulations on Lake Helen. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to advance Ordinance 873 regarding statutory code updates, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing signature of a contract with Miller & Assoc. for the design and development of specifications and bid documents for the Lake Helen reclamation project. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay – none.

Cozad Telephone communications equipment was moved to the water tower after the 2008 explosion at All Points elevator. Hamilton Communications has purchased the business and requested an agreement to continue having the equipment on the tower. They are planning to upgrade the equipment for quicker services and will paint the new equipment to match the tower. They are also looking at the possibility of installing wireless service around town, such as in the park for campers and at the cemetery kiosk. The terms of the agreement will remain essentially the same as with Cozad Telephone, but the fees will be \$4200 for each of years one thru five; \$4400 for each of years six through ten; \$4620 for years 11 thru 25.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of the agreement with Hamilton Communications as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

At their last few meetings the Planning & Zoning Commission has discussed the possibility of changing the acreage requirements in Agriculture zoning districts to allow the sale of existing farmsteads to less than 10 acres. The question arose from a request for pivot use within our one mile jurisdiction, which has been extended substantially to the East from the annexation of the industrial tract. As proposed, new homesteads require ten acres, but existing farmsteads can be reduced to five acres to retain as much farm area as possible and still sell the home and out buildings.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Whiting, seconded by Strauser, to introduce Ordinance 875 as proposed by Planning & Zoning, to amend the acreage requirements in AG zone. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

Mayor Hudson read and signed a proclamation declaring April 20, 2012 as Arbor Day. The day will be recognized by planting trees at the school.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing purchase of a registered warrant in the amount of \$21,780 to pay Miller & Assoc. for design of the Lake Ave project. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be May 1, 2012.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk