

Regular City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers

June 19, 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: Shane Gruber, Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc, Jay Holmes, Bruce Clark, Stan Jordan

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.

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

- City Council minutes – June 5
- Treasurer’s Report – May
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – June 12

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

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$62,288.95 except #1920; Public Works Division \$311,864.95; and the June 7 payroll of \$41,507.49. Roll Call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Fritch moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscaping. Roll call vote: Yea- Strauser, Fritch. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Community Comments:

- Clean City Week cost \$10,272, not including the regular hours worked by the shop crew.
- The water portion of the Lake Ave repairs is almost complete. The new main has been pressure tested and water testing will be done tomorrow. If ok, the new line will be operational Monday. The sanitary sewer line has been replaced and new paving has been installed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street intersection.
- Commissioner Dean Kugler told Administrator Clymer the Dawson County crew is laying hot asphalt mix on a road east of town to fill cracks. The road is open to traffic in one hour. It’s not a long term fix but is working well and should last five years. Kugler thought it’s a process the city could use on our streets. The machine is owned by a private company using it on a state contract and will train our personnel so our only cost

would be for material, \$12,000 to \$15,000. The machine will be available on July 11. Council had no objection.

- Administrator Clymer received a letter from Beth Ivey with information on tennis back boards. New nets have been ordered.

Council member Whiting entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 876 on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay – none.

Due to the holiday, the July 3 meeting will be cancelled and all matters taken up on the 17<sup>th</sup>. If an emergency arises, Council will meet on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Stan Jordan proposed repairing and painting lost / found bicycles the police department gathers, then having the Fire Dept. distribute them to children in need at Christmas time. Council agreed it is a worthy project if we can find a way to do it since city property should be sold by auction or sealed bid.

All communities in Nebraska have been requested by the Department of Economic Development to return revolving loan funds on hand and future payments to DED. Gothenburg currently has \$253,000 on hand. Our first loan was for Baldwin Filters and since that time we have reused the money along with loan payments from other Community Development Block Grants to assist the establishment of other businesses. Some have loans and others have been performance based forgivable grants.

Atty Bacon recommends we consider returning all funds or we have to agree to a DED audit. We can request a 60 day extension on the return of funds based on a proposal to use all the cash on a potential project. Before surrendering the money he would like to visit with DED staff in Lincoln to discuss the issues.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, directing either Administrator Clymer or Mayor Hudson to request a 60 day extension to respond to DED's letter for surrender of funds. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving Jarred Rickertson as a new fireman. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Bruce Clark, representing the School Board, discussed their proposal to move the curb about 16 feet west and install angle parking along the west side of Avenue I. This will give them 38 parking stalls instead of 16 and will change the traffic flow into the parking lot. Parking will be on the school's street easement.

Following discussion a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Whiting, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-25 allowing angle parking as proposed by the school. Roll call: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-26 approving the Deed of Conservation Easement between Roger Wahlgren LTD, R & J Wahlgren General Partnership, and Connie Spence Revocable Trust and the Central Platte Natural Resource District. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. spoke to the Council regarding his preliminary design for Lake Helen. According to State officials and consultants, we must reduce the size of the lake area. The current lake area is about 27 acres and this proposal reduces it to 20.7 acres. The north lake is shallow; therefore, it warms up and contributes to the PH factor causing the algae issues. The area would be large enough to accommodate such things as a community center, tennis court, or soccer field. He has incorporated a new road, walking rails, three jetties, and a fishing dock. The existing walk bridge connecting the lakes has been incorporated into the walking area.

Boating access can be off the first access or other area. The jetties break up wave action. The entire circumference of the lake will be three to four feet higher than the lake. The Game & Parks Commission is against canal water but Miller & Assoc. have met with them about a screening process that will keep fish roe from the canal out of the lake and they had no problem with it. A tall, yellow grass buffer prohibits geese from landing and walking to the water. Changes to the plan can be made before presentation to the public.

Reed Miller has talked to DEQ about our sewer projects which may be eligible for consideration as green projects putting us in line for a 2.25% loan with a chance for a \$100,000 grant. We need to pre-apply if interested.

Discussion was had on all areas and Miller suggested the Administrator, Travis Mason, and Shane Gruber meet to determine the worst areas and pinpoint projects to start on then he can focus on design and costs for Council to consider. Area six is the worst due to ground water and after further discussion it was decided to start with Areas One, Two, Three, and Six.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-27 adopting the REDLG plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Fritch moved, Strauser seconded, to enter into executive session at 8:10 p.m. for approximately ten minutes to discuss the law suit initiated by eight residents over sewer back-ups. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

Mayor Hudson declared the Council would enter into executive session for approximately ten minutes to discuss litigation for sewer back-ups.

Council reconvened at 8:21 p.m. It was noted that no discussion had occurred during the executive session except that for which the session was called and that no action was taken during the executive session. We are waiting for further information from legal counsel.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be July 17, 2012.

---

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

---

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk