

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 18, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Duane Oliver
	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

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearing 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.

The public hearing as taken up at 7:00 p.m. and was to provide an update and receive community questions and / or comments on the current Downtown Revitalization Project.

The public hearing on the application for Community Block Grant funds for Phase II, implementation of the Downtown Revitalization project was not published and was removed from the agenda. The hearing notice will be posted and published next week for a later meeting.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to continue the public hearing on the project update to a special meeting Thursday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m. The public hearing on the application will be taken up at the same meeting. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – March 4
- Library Director's Report – January thru March
- Treasurer's Report – February

Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay –

Oliver moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$150,356.89; Public Works Division \$472,071.08; and the March 13 payroll of \$32,087.32. Roll Call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay - none.

Community Comments

- We have received the permit from the Corps of Engineers. We can now proceed with the Lake Helen rehabilitation.

- The GIC is doing a survey regarding the use and need for fiber optics and it will be included with the utility bills. It's a long survey so there is concern that many will not return it. The Chamber of Commerce, Gothenburg Schools, and the GIC are helping to get the information out. The survey is an effort to be sure there is sufficient interest to entice an operator of the system. Fiber optics increase the clarity and speed of technology such as internet. The survey can also be accessed on the internet via Survey Monkey according to Atty. Bacon. It is important to complete the survey to move forward with needed infrastructure.

The 2012-13 audit was removed from this agenda and moved to the April 1 meeting.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to advance Ordinance 887 regarding Goshen Subdivision areas change in zoning from R-2 to R-3 to accommodate multi-family dwellings, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Oliver, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

The Nebraska Choice Gas Program was authorized by the Public Service Commission to provide competition in natural gas rates. Each year in April, consumers can choose a provider or let their service 'roll-over' to the next year. About 60% of customers 'roll over' from their existing provider. The city aligned with ACE, Alliance for Community Energy, at the outset of the program and has received member distributions each year. This year's distribution to Gothenburg is \$1747.39.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to use the \$1747.39 distribution from ACE for improvements to Lake Helen or the northeast corner of Hiways 30 and 47. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

In August the City received a court order allowing the removal of the condemned house at 1804 Ave C and the assessment of costs totaling \$18,180.79 was filed as a lien against the property. Atty. Bacon has prepared a resolution that seeks foreclosure action or other legal action necessary to collect costs incurred by the City. The court will enter judgment and the property will probably go to a sheriff's sale. If there are unpaid property taxes or other costs assessed against the property, the City may or may not receive any reimbursement but the property will then be clear and available for sale. It is a large corner lot and has an existing garage.

Oliver moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2014-3 requesting enforcement of the liens against 1804 Ave C. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Oliver. Nay – none.

At the request of the Fire Department, Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2014-4 increasing ambulance fees to \$300 for non-emergency and \$425 for emergency calls. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Oliver, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay- none.

Travis Mason has prepared drawings and specifications for the Lake Helen improvement and rehabilitation. Therefore, a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Strauser, to approve the drawings and request bids for construction on Lake Helen. Bids will be received on May 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Consideration and approval of the Downtown Revitalization Plan will take place at the Mach 27 special meeting.

Bid specifications for the 2014 sanitary sewer project have been prepared so that contractors can bid on all or part of the project and likewise, all or part of the contract can be approved by the Council. Total project cost is \$2,233,400.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, approving specifications prepared by Miller & Assoc. for the 2014 sanitary sewer project. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Oliver seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Oliver, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be April 1 , 2014.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk