

Regular City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers

January 6, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Randy Waskowiak
	Verlin Janssen
	Jay Richeson
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Sonja Richeson, Tod Clark, Mike Eberle, Linzy & Jeremy Hendricks

City Atty. Bacon administered the Oath of Office to Jay Richeson, East Ward Councilmember.

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.

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

City Council minutes – December 16

Police Report - December

Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$65,666.86; Public Works Division \$131,271.86; the December 18 payroll of \$31,727.34 and December 31 payroll of 34,130.84. Roll Call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- The League of Municipalities Mid-Winter Conference is February 23 and 24 in Lincoln. Anyone interested in going should contact Administrator Clymer.
- The employee recognition dinner will be Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 at the shop.
- Mike Eberle asked to change the date of the Barbeque Challenge to May 1 and 2 because North Platte has cancelled their event so we should be able to attract more teams. He has spoken with the Mayor, the Chamber, and the park caretakers. Council agreed to the request.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 901 vacating the easement on 14<sup>th</sup> Street on the west side of Avenue A on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Some changes were proposed for Ordinance 905 amending zoning regulations:

- District R-4 height and area requirements will align with R-3 regulations instead of R-2.
- Lengthy discussion was had on enclosing porches and porches extending into front setbacks. Council member Kennedy prefers that no porch be enclosed, others had no problem with back porches being enclosed. Atty. Bacon will revise the wording concerning porches for the final reading January 20.
- The proposal states that the cumulative total square footage of accessory use buildings cannot exceed 720 square feet or 75% of the total coverage of the permanent principle use structure whichever is greater, to the maximum allowable lot coverage of 35%. The issue is that the principle use structure, the house, should be the dominant structure.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 905 to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 906 which increases sewer rates by 5%, and increases utility deposits be advanced to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

The surface water permit for Lake Helen will be void after five years of non-use, not including construction time. We first used surface water on June 14, 2012 so that would give us a couple seasons to try using the well to keep the lake full. It takes about 56 days to fill the lake but that time could be shortened by also using the fire hydrant near Stone Hearth Estates. The current annual cost to NPPD for lake water is \$2760.

The proposed screening system for the lake costs \$38,350 and would be funded by the Game & Parks Commission. According to Game & Parks, if we do not use the money for a screen, we can use it for rip rap or fill. If we try using the well to fill the lake and after a couple seasons find it doesn't work out, the City would have to pay for the screen.

It was also proposed the City crew lay 360 feet of pipe on the west side of the lake to drain the lake water back to the canal if it should be necessary sometime in the future. We could then install a screen at the north end of the pipe to eliminate undesirable fish and eggs from entering the lake. If there is ever a water moratorium, we could use the pipe to fill the lake but there is no guarantee a screen system would work.

Council member Janssen prefers we use clean well water to fill the lake; all funding agencies are fine with that. It would also eliminate the need to maintain and clean the screen.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to use well water to fill Lake Helen and not install the screen. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

The 2008 mower originally cost \$40,851.76 and is used to mow the Lake Helen area. Last year we spent \$8000 on repairs and this year the brakes failed. Since the brakes are part of the drive train the estimated cost to repair it is \$10,000. A new mower costs \$64,290.82. With a trade value of \$25,000 the net cost of a new one would be \$39, 390.82. Landmark is the only local dealer that sells mowers this size mower. There is no money in the budget for a new mower but

there is some money in the street department and in the park that was budgeted for a new pick up. In this instance, formal bidding is not required.

Discussion was had and Janssen moved, Richeson seconded to purchase the new mower as proposed from Landmark Implement. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be January 20, 2015.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk