

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

April 7, 2015
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Matt Weiss, Si and Kathy Simon, Roger Heiderbrink, Dick Larson, Travis Mason, Milan Franzen, Jane Sheets, Larry and Kathy Nichols, Liz Frerichs, Vickie Peterson, Karen Oliver, Kayleen Ostergard, Lincoln Williams of HOA Systems, Atty. Steve Windrum

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.

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

- City Council minutes – March 17 and 31
- Treasurer's Reports – January & February
- Cemetery Sexton report – January thru March
- Police Report - March

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

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$124,286.28; Public Works Division \$172,931.46; and the payroll of \$34,268.40. Roll Call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Security cameras have been installed to monitor the recycling bins at the shop. While the cameras provide very clear pictures, there have been technical issues with the zoom on the cameras so we are upgrading the I-net. Folks seem to understand the recycling and are doing better about unacceptable items or mixing items.

Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. and Mayor Hudson opened the bids for the Ave I sidewalks on Friday April 3. Two good bids were received: Paulsen Inc. - \$111,579.60
T L Sund - \$81,644.50

Administrator Clymer told Council moving the fire hydrants and power poles were removed from the bid because the City crew can do that. A mailbox will be moved back of the sidewalk and made ADA acceptable. The sidewalk will be the same thickness as the street.

Upon the recommendation of the Miller & Associates, Waskowiak moved Kennedy seconded, to accept the bid offered by T L Sund for the Avenue I sidewalks. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Travis Mason also reported that work is progressing nicely but there is still a fair amount of work to do at Lake Helen before water can be let into the lake. Piers and the ADA fishing pad must be complete, so hopefully in a month or so we'll be ready for water. The dirt work is pretty well done and the bentonite sealer has been applied to the lake bed.

Council member Janssen has a recent drone video of the lake that is very nice and Miller & Assoc has a time-lapse video of the construction from start to finish. It will be put on the City's web site.

Originally the lake plan called for crushed rock walkways to the jetties but we are now looking at the possibility of concrete sidewalks instead. They would eliminate weed and dust issues. There will be a change order for it. Miller has received a pay request from Myers Construction so we are getting close the end of the project to see where we are financially.

Mr. Mason also reported that there have been a few small issues with the sewer project but it's going well.

Lincoln Williams of HOA Solutions spoke with Council about a SCADA system for the water system. He has worked with Mike Peters at the Waste Treatment plant in the past and has a system that will perform well for the water works. The system would monitor the wells and water tower levels eliminating the need for the crew to check the wells and tower daily. Installation of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) would optimize the speed of the pumps resulting in an average savings of 18% which could translate to \$7000 - \$10,000 per year in energy savings. They also control the start and stop of the pumps eliminating the hammering in water lines and save wear and tear on the water lines, preventing leaks. The life expectancy on the VFD's is 20 or more years and the RTU's is 12 – 15 years.

The entire project would include two VFD's, three RTU's, flow meters, and safety alarms on the tower for \$100,000. HOA Solutions has systems in Kearney, Lexington, Cozad, Scottsbluff as well as Cozad Canal and in Kansas and Iowa among other locations. If interested, the system could be installed in May or June for the summer season. The systems can be purchased outright or leased. Council asked Mr. Williams for more information to consider options.

Chamber Director Mass Weiss spoke with Council regarding the lease at the Pony Express Station. The Station is an asset to the community with 30,000 to 50,000 visitors each year. The chamber provides staff, promotion, advertising, maintenance, and sales. They are currently looking into a kiosk, and maintenance that will include insulation to help with heat in the summer. In the past, the City

has waived a portion of the \$2500 lease and the Chamber is requesting the lease be waived or reduced so they can provide the level of service that want for Gothenburg. The station opened April 1. The contract is \$2500 / year and 2015 is the final year of the contract so it's anticipated the lease can be discussed at renewal time.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, to waive the lease as stated in the contract for 2015. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

The city has an open contract with Kennedy Landscape and Quality Fire Extinguishers. We buy products at retail and the Accountability and Disclosure Commission requires public disclosure of the fact that the City does business with a Council member.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approval of the Contractual Interest Statement with Kennedy Landscape Services and Quality Fire Extinguishers, both owned by Jeff Kennedy. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kathy and Larry Nichols came before Council with a plan for the reconstruction of the railing on the southeast side of Lake Helen. They propose a total of 40 feet of reconstruction and a memorial sign stating the historical importance of the area. The sign, depending on verbiage, materials, and size, would cost anywhere from \$350 to \$2400. Volunteers will do the work and Paulsen's will donate the concrete. She is hoping the City could contribute at least a portion of the sign and there may be tourism money available for the sign as well.

Council member Janssen is concerned about how to reply to the folks that came to him saying the railing is no longer relevant to the lake and should be removed. The idea of the sign regarding early factories and use of the lake does make a difference but it definitely should be professionally done to last a long time.

Comments made:

- Dick Larson has always admired the lake and its history that made Gothenburg exceptional 100 years ago and now. Trails convene there and benches could be placed there too that would blend with some of the things tourism is working on. He is willing to help.
- Kathy Nichols feels the railing is the beginning of the lake.
- Milan Franzen feels the railing is history and the only thing remaining. The buildings and factories are gone, the shape of the lake is different and smaller. If the fence is gone, it will look like something is missing, a part of the lake is gone.
- Roger Heiderbrink recently had Canadian visitors at the Historical Museum. When they saw pictures of the Columbian School they asked why we tear these things down.
- Kathy Simon feels the fence is a great aesthetic to the lake from the street.

Mayor Hudson expressed appreciation for the volunteers but asked if they really understand what it will take to rebuild the railing. Perhaps there is a better place to put it and the sign because when the lake is finished, there will not be parking or easy access. The railing that is there has no rebar in it. She also questioned the ability to finish the project. The free concrete is nice but the forms will not be simple as it is a curved, raised line. She wants the type of information that

is required on a building permit for any other project undertaken in town; that is, contractors, time frame to completion, costs, etc.

Council member Kennedy said he appreciates history but doesn't see the fence as a lot of value. Council member Janssen would like to see a specific and firm plan with costs attached and have a commitment from someone to engineer the project beginning to end.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving pay request #2 of \$80,666.55 to Van Kirk Brothers Constructors for sewer improvements. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be April 21, 2015.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk