

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

May 5, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson	Absent: Council member Randy
Waskowiak		
Council members	Jeff Kennedy 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: Dan Yancy, Randy Olson, Ken Christensen, Shane Gruber

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 – April 21
 Cemetery Board minutes – February 2 & 16

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

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$55,625.41 except vendor #1920; Public Works Division \$91,107.41; and the payroll of \$35,788.05. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Waskowiak.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, allowing payment to vendor #1920, Kennedy Landscape Services in the amount of \$954.66. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none. Absent and not voting- Waskowiak.

Community Comments:

- The Lake Helen well was found to have pump issues when it was turned on May 1. Repairs have been made that increased the water output and there is water going into the lake.

Dan Yancy of Yancy Insurance spoke with Council regarding the June 1 renewal of the employee health insurance. Since our employee numbers are down and our claims history for 2014 was good, Mr. Yancy contacted the underwriter and was able to secure a reduction in the proposed increase. Under a modified self-funded insurance arrangement, the City pays only the insurance portion of the total premium, the premium amount above that is paid by the deductible and the remaining balance of the premium goes into a side fund to be used as needed. At the present time the side fund carries over \$400,000.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to renew the employee health insurance with the current provider, Yancy Insurance. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting- Waskowiak.

The Game & Parks Commission has requested we not allow the use of live bait at Lake Helen because it will not work with the stock fish they will be providing. Therefore Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, introduction of Ordinance 919 regarding the use of live bait at Lake Helen. The ordinance will be amended to refer to *live bait* instead of *baitfish*. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Waskowiak.

A committee made up of City and school personnel have been working on traffic and safety issues at the school. The joint committee is offering a proposal involving 13th Street, 14th Street, and Avenue G as follows:

- Establish a School Zone on Ave H from 12th Street to 13th Street; and from Avenue H to Avenue I on 13th Street during the hours of 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM; and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM when school is in session
- “Do Not Enter” flashing sign will be placed for northbound traffic on Ave H north of the 12th Street and Ave H intersection.
- A flashing light for the westbound lane of 13th Street will identify the school zone along with a posted speed limit of 15 miles per hour when flashing. Signs will also be placed at the northwest corner of the 13th Street and Avenue I intersection.
- The northbound stop sign at 13th and Avenue H and the westbound stop sign at 13th and Avenue H will be removed.
- There will be two handicap stalls on southbound Avenue H south of the 13th Street and Avenue H intersection.
- There will be a 100 foot drop off area for westbound traffic on 13th Street east from the Avenue H intersection. No vehicles can be left unattended from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM; and from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM while school is in session.
- There will be a School Zone on Ave G from 12th Street to 16th Street during the hours of 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM; and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM when school is in session.
- A flashing light on northbound Avenue G will identify the school zone and be posted 15 mph when flashing. Signs will be at the northeast corner of the 12th Street and Avenue G intersection.
- Flashing lights on the southbound lane of Avenue G will identify the school zone with a 15 mph speed when flashing. Signs will be placed at southwest corner of the 16th Street and Avenue G intersection.
- The north and south bound stop signs at Avenue G and 13th Street will be removed.
- The north and south bound stop sign at Avenue G and 14th Street will be removed.
- Existing cross-walks on Ave G at the 13th Street and 4th Street intersections will be removed.
- A pedestrian cross-walk will be placed on Ave G at 13th Street and stops signs will be placed both north-bound and south-bound at this cross-walk.
- Three handicap parking spaces will be located northbound on Ave G starting at the north corner of the 13th Street intersection.

- Between the hours of 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM; and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM when school is in session there will be a drop-off zone north of the 12th Street intersection to 13th Street on Avenue G. No vehicle can be left unattended during these hours.
- There will be no left turns northbound at 13th Street and Avenue G and no right turns southbound at 13th Street and Avenue G during the established hours.
- Only right turns will be allowed eastbound at 13th and Avenue G and no left turns northbound at the intersection of 14th Street and Avenue G during the established hours.
- There will be only right turns southbound at 14th Street and Avenue G and only left turns eastbound at 14th and Avenue G during the established hours.
- A “No Exit” sign will be posted on the Gothenburg Public Schools parking lot south driveway entering the east intersection of 14th Street and Avenue G during the established hours.
- A “Right Turn Only” sign posted on the school parking lot north driveway entering Ave G north of the intersection of 14th Street and Ave G during the established hours.
- A “Right Turn Only” sign southbound at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue G during the established hours.
- There will be a “Left Turn Only” eastbound at the intersection of 15th and Avenue G during the established hours.

Ken Christensen thanked the committee for taking time to look at several options regarding the school traffic area and feels the proposal is a good answer for traffic at the school. He asked if any consideration had been given to folks using the alley between 12th and 13th Streets to access school drop off areas. If that happens, the City will address the problem.

Administrator Clymer will look into the cost of the required signage and lights for the proposal and the school traffic issue will be on a future agenda for further discussion and action.

In compliance with Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission regulations, Council Member Richeson submitted a Contractual Interest Statement for Council to consider since the City purchases labor and materials from both his businesses, Richeson Well Service and Gothenburg Irrigation.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, approval of the contractual statement from Council Member Richeson. The Clerk indicated that in the absence of Council member Waskowiak, and the personal involvement of Council Member Richeson, she would call for the vote of the Mayor. Roll call vote: Yea – Hudson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none. Absent and not voting- Waskowiak.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Waskowiak. The next regular meeting will be May 19, 2015.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

