

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

September 15, 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: CPA Joan Windrum, Dawson Area Development Director Jennifer Wolf, Airport Mgr. Robert Mann, Ken Christensen, Shane Gruber

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearings 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 on the 2015-16 budgets of municipal funds and the hearing to set the tax levy were taken up at 7:00 p.m.

According to CPA Joan Windrum, the final budget proposal is as approved for publication at the August 25th budget work session. The total budget of \$23,191,924.00, including cash reserves of 1,737,478.00, carries a tax request of \$703,555.92 based on a levy of .338984. The levy without the airport request is .337864 which is the same as the past two years. The budget is well within the levy limits and restricted funds authority limit. The budget could be increased by 50% and still be within the limit imposed by State regulation.

Brief discussion was had and a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Richeson, to close the budget hearing at 7:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to approve an additional 1% restricted funds authority. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Richeson moved, Janssen seconded, to adopt the 2015-16 budget of all municipal funds as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen, Richeson. Nay - none.

The public hearing to set the levy for the 2015-16 budget was then taken up. Following brief discussion Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to close the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2015-10 setting the 2015-16 tax asking at \$703,555.92 on a tax levy at .338984. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay - none.

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

City Council minutes – September 1

Police Report - August

Board of Adjustment minutes – September 4, cont'd on September 11

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

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$227,510.00; Public Works Division \$444,084.25; and the September 10 payroll of \$37,955.89. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Administrator Clymer reported a discussion with Joe Richeson regarding the Lake Helen well bidding. Phosphorus is not a naturally occurring chemical in ground water and the State feels it's leaching into the well water from the lake bed. Joe discussed compaction 50 feet deep on the existing well to stop the leaching but every 10 years it would be necessary to acidize the well at a cost of about \$10,000. Based on this information it appears a new well is the best idea. Council member Janssen said it's not a good idea to try to rehab an existing well.
- There was an electrical outage on Monday when a relay failed as NPPD attempted an electrical switch to Dawson Public Power. The temporary was fixed and the switch made a second time without notice by any customers.
- Airport Manager Robert Mann presented an overview of the airport where activity is up. Hanger rent is collected and the fuel card system is working well for the planes that come and go on business. Several local businesses use the airport regularly. Spraying businesses, such as Johnson Lake Spraying, also use the airport. In an effort to cut expenses Mann does 99% of the maintenance himself with the assistance of the City with electrical and snow issues. Utility bills have been reduced and the grass runway, while still an excellent runway, has been narrowed eliminating about seven acres of mowing. All accounts are solvent and bills timely paid, including monthly payments on the RDA loan. In six years the hanger loan will be paid and those funds will then be applied to the RDA loan. An FBI investigation found no wrongdoing in the last 20 years and the State Auditor found nothing amiss in their audit. Mann is going to Lincoln October 9 to request a grant to repair the ends of the runways and would appreciate a letter of support from the City. The airport is a 69 year asset to the community.

Jennifer Wolf gave her annual report on the activities of Dawson Area Development. As in past years every \$1.00 in dues paid has resulted in \$8.00 in grant funds. They have recently been awarded a \$490,000 grant for purchase of homes that have shown to be unsellable. DAD will have them rehabilitated and then resell them, possibly with down payment assistance. The intent is to invest in existing housing stock with the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds. Homes will be determined using parameters set by the DAD Board and will be predominantly two or

three bedroom units. The maximum dollars invested in the rehab cannot exceed 50% of the appraised value at completion of the project.

The ABLE program was discontinued after nine years because the schools have redirected their efforts and taken over much of what the program did.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, approval of the Supplemental Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad to move fiber lines as part of the sewer improvement project. There is a \$1000 fee. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, to advance Ordinance 922 expanding the Fire Limits to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, to advance Ordinance 923 prohibiting the discharge of fireworks within the Fire Limits of Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

After discussing Ordinance 924 with Atty. Bacon, Administrator Clymer suggested new language be inserted in the description of *prohibited areas* to refer to *Fire Limits* instead of using legal descriptions. If there is ever another change made to the Fire Limits it would be unnecessary to change this part of the code. Council agreed.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, to advance Ordinance 924, as amended, prohibiting the discharge of fireworks in certain areas of Gothenburg, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, to approve the Chamber of Commerce request to close 16th Street between Lake Avenue and Avenue F from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on September 18 for the Kids Pedal Pull and to close 15th Street and 16th Street between Lake Avenue and Avenue F and, Avenue F between 15th and 16th Streets from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 19th for the Arts in the Park event in Ehmen Park. All events are in conjunction with the Harvest Festival. Roll call vote: Yea - Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2015 – 11 naming depositories for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, approving Drawdown #8 in the amount of \$25,000 on the Downtown Improvement Project and payments to Peterson's Locker at 420 8th St \$2500, Peterson's Locker at 1009 Lake Ave \$7500, Blasé-Strauser Memorial Chapel \$7500, Peterson's Supermarket \$7500. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be October 1, 2015.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk