

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: Matt Weiss, 1st State Insurance representative Laurie Moody, LARM representative Nate Fox, Kent Kline, Ken Christensen

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 – 2-2-16 con'td 2-3-16
- Treasurer's Report – January
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – February 9
- Tree Board minutes – December 4

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

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$38,668.29; Public Works Division \$474,440.62 and the February 11 payroll of \$35,745.70. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- The crew is working on street repair.
- We received many good comments on the snow removal.

Two bids were received for general liability insurance:

1st State Insurance \$130,547

LARM \$111,083. If the City prefers a two year commitment the price would drop to \$109,972 and a three year commitment would be \$108, 861.

Speaking for 1st State Insurance Laurie Moody said:

- The policy would be through EMC Insurance, an "A" rated company, that's held our insurance since 1995.
- EMC has paid \$77,377 in dividends back to the City over the last 10 years.
- The 2015 premium increased 1%.
- There is a local office with an agent on staff.
- EMC does not assess losses annually.
- The difference in premium from LARM is the property category. 1st State has replacement cost so it's probably a rate factor issue.
- EMC writes 30% of the policies for Nebraska cities.

Speaking for LARM (League Association of Risk Management), Nate Fox said:

- LARM started working with agents about three years ago with the idea of growing their pool. They now insure 16 communities of varying size including North Platte, Maxwell, Curtis.
- LARM is member run for the benefit of their customers. There is a 15 member governing board.
- The coverage is bid to the specifications; the cost difference is in very detailed coverages. LARM also has large coverages not specified such as terrorism.
- There is no umbrella, but there is an underlying coverage to \$5 million.
- Ratings is a calculation difference by companies.
- LARM tries to maintain rates and dividends are not guaranteed. There was a 10% rate increase in 2015 but not in the previous six years. Rate adjustments ranged from a 3% decrease to an average increase of 2% a year.
- Coverage can be customized to our need, for example if the community is subject to sewer issues.

- LARM also works with their members on developing safety and employee manuals and provides 10 hours of training at no charge.
- EMC is a strong company and excellent organization and so is LARM.
- LARM is a financially strong company and if all their assets were exhausted in claims, the difference would be assessable to members on a proportionate basis.

Discussion was had on various aspects of both companies, claim handling, access to agents, etc.

Ultimately, Council felt it preferable to stay with 1st State Insurance as there have been no issues with claims and they are a local agency. Therefore, a motion was made by Kennedy, seconded by Janssen, to accept the bid offered by 1st State Insurance for general liability insurance at a cost of \$130,547. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approving the automatic renewal of liquor licenses:

R & C Petroleum dba Time Saver #18	Class B
Western Staab (Pizza Hut)	Class A
Pete's Lounge	Class I
Walker's Steakhouse	Class IB
Lakeside Fun Center	Class I
OK Bottle Shoppe	Class DK
Cubby's Truck Plaza	Class D
Cubby's Express	Class D
Shopko Hometown	Class D
Peterson's Supermarket	Class DK
Bar-W Lounge	Class IB

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

The Pony Express Station is scheduled to open for the season on April 1 and Matt Weiss has prepared an aggressive plan for its operation as a non-profit entity. CPA Joan Windrum assisted him with the budget, looking at the past five years. The \$76,662 budget incorporates funding from potential grants, private fundraising, donations, retail sales, and a \$15,000 management fee from the City. It's important to try to make the best quality experience for the community and tourists so the intent is for 20% of the management fee going to the physical structure, for such things as air conditioning for the comfort of tourists and staff, and heat to accommodate winter tours and so it's not necessary to remove items from the station to avoid damage from cold weather. He has a manager in mind but no commitment, pending the Council decision. He has also talked to prior staff members and intends to have an on-site manager which will require less hours for the guides.

Discussion was had on various items, such as the proposed labor costs, developing an on-line store for off-season purchases, providing for collection of cash donations from visitors, necessity of HVAC system versus maintaining the historic accuracy of the building, and making the Station more of a museum by improving display cases, and better utilization of tourism money.

Recognizing the value of the Pony Express Station to the community, a motion was made by Waskowiak, seconded by Janssen, authorizing Mayor Hudson to enter into a one year contract of \$15,000 with Matt Weiss for management of the Pony Express Station, as proposed in his Business Plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

No bids were received for sidewalk repair. Administrator Clymer has had some employees walking, measuring and taking pictures of sidewalks on the west side of town. He will notify property owners of the necessity to repair or replace sidewalks, and provide them with information on the program.

In discussions at an Employee Relations Committee meeting, the question arose regarding the requirement to use vacation first in maternity cases. As a result it was suggested we have the entire employee personnel policy reviewed by a specialized firm to be sure it complies with current employment law. For example, according to federal law, maternity leave should be treated like any other sickness; that is, sick time first then vacation.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to authorize signature of the engagement letter with Jerry Pigsley of Woods & Aitken LLP, not to exceed \$4000, for the review of Gothenburg's personnel policy. Roll call vote: Yea - Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, appointing Brandon Kauffman to the Community Redevelopment Authority, to complete Greg Viergutz term which will expire in January 2017. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Building permit #5409 to enclose the swimming pool was issued to Jai Ambe, owner of the Travel Inn on April 25, 2014 and has since expired due to failure to complete the construction. The City has asked for stamped plans, since it is a commercial structure, and for the owner to complete the construction, but has had no response.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to proceed with legal action regarding incomplete building permit #5409. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Change Order #1, that extended the Ave I sidewalk project. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the 3rd and final pay request of \$46,003.22 to TL Sund on the Avenue I sidewalk installation. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, approving the Certificate of Substantial Completion on the Avenue I sidewalk project. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Kent Kline, representing the Evangelical Free Church, asked permission to intermittently block the north half of the alley east of the church for about two weeks while Paulsen’s work on the new building. There are no private garages in that area and the blockage would be only during working hours for the safety of citizens and construction crew working around the power poles.

Council had no objection to the request, asking that all parties use their best judgment.

Atty. Bacon was asked to draft an agreement allowing storage containers on the city lot during hospital construction.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 1, 2016.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk