

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	
Deputy City Clerk	Brandi Kloepping	

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Dan Yancy, Charles McGraw of Ryde Transit, Fire Chief Mark Ballmer, Dean Kugler, 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, Richeson seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes – April 19

Building permit report - March

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

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$73,938.76 except #2360; Public Works Division \$106,395.83, except #2072; and the April 21 payroll of \$37,989.11. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claim #2360 to Gothenburg Irrigation in the amount of \$216.20. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, allowing payment of claim #2072 to Quality Fire Extinguishers in the amount of \$25.25. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- The completion of Lake Helen will be celebrated at a grand opening on May 20.
- Arbor Day was celebrated on April 29 at the cemetery by planting trees.

A triangular parcel of approximately 1.7 acres, with a pond on it, on the east end of 4th Street is owned by the State of Nebraska. The City has approached them about purchasing the parcel as part of the 4th Street sewer project, using the pond to capture run-off water. The State's process included an appraisal resulting in a sale price of \$28,000. There is money in the Street Fund budget for the purchase.

It was hoped the property could be purchased for less but it appears to be the best opportunity for the project. If we were to move the retention pond to the RDA property we would lose those lots for economic development sites.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, authorizing the purchase of the 4th Street parcel from the State of Nebraska for \$28,000. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Jansen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Discussion was had on the drawings and specifications prepared by Miller & Assoc. for storm sewer construction on 4th Street and on 3rd Street south of Central Nebraska Public Power District in the Tailrace area. Bid date could be June 2. We will need to obtain easements from property owners including Jeff Kennedy, CNPP & ID and others.

Ken Christensen said the property owners on the south side of the 3rd street have water drainage issues. Travis of Miller & Assoc. told Administrator Clymer an additional drainage box could be built into the design. Some additional grading could also help the water flow.

Shane Gruber reminded Council that 3rd Street dead ends on the west and there isn't much maintenance. Jim Long's bee business has also brought more road use in the area which is very flat.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, to approve the storm sewer plans and specifications as proposed with an additional drain box and authorized bids to be let June 2. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Change Order #1 for Tom Franzen Construction (TFC) on the Highway 47 and 30 corner project resulted from foundation issues under the wall of the adjoining building that required the addition of rebar and concrete.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve Change Order #1 to TFC in the amount of \$1450. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving pay request #1 in the amount of \$22,590.00 to TFC for work on the Highway 47 & 30 corner project. Roll call vote: Yea - Janssen Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to appoint Travis Binderup as fireman. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Dan Yancy of Yancy Insurance spoke with Council regarding the June 1 renewal of the employee health insurance. Since we have a sizeable side fund he suggested we move from a \$20,000 City deductible to a \$25,000 deductible, resulting in an overall rate increase of 5.2%.

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 beginning of the policy year there was \$591,662 in the side fund. Our 2015 claims history was good and approximately \$194,000 has been added for a total side fund of \$785,000 with a total exposure of \$215,000. Therefore, Administrator Clymer also suggested we reduce the funding of the side fund to 90% and take a \$25,000 City deductible. That would make the single premium \$719.24 / month with the employee contributing \$14.38 and the family premium \$1627.67 / month with employees contributing \$195.32.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to renew the employee health insurance as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving Mayor Hudson's recommendation appointing Dr. Ashton Hecox to the Community Redevelopment Authority. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson Janssen, Waskowiak. Nay – none.

Mr. Charles McGraw spoke with Council regarding Ryde Transit which is a public transit organization that provides vehicular transportation for anyone requesting their service, regardless of age or income. Service is curb to curb, meaning they take persons from their home to their destinations and back home, mostly within the community they reside in, but occasionally to neighboring communities, for instance from Gothenburg to Cozad or Lexington. They are usually in Gothenburg on Tuesday, sometimes on Monday or Wednesday. Recently they have been here more, assisting the Senior Center since the Center's bus is broken. Ryde Transit has no full time employees. They operate from Kearney in seven counties and have 48 vehicles on the road every day. There are several places riders can contact to receive their services including the City office and the Lexington office. They advertise in newspapers, have flyers around town.

Ryde Transit was recently approved as a pilot project to provide service from Dawson County to North Platte, primarily because of medical services available there.

Ryde Transit receives federal funding that is matched by local and county entities. Approximately 80% of their operating budget is federal and the remaining 20% is local contributions. According to the cost calculation, to operate the bus for one day a week for a year, Gothenburg's share would be \$2,145.85. County Commissioner Dean Kugler said the County supports Ryde Transit and would like to see other communities do so as well.

Brief discussion was had and while no action was taken, the Council will revisit the request for funding during the upcoming budget process.

According to Fire Chief Mark Ballmer, the City and Rural Fire Departments are purchasing a new Fire Truck. The Departments will mutually supervise the construction and purchase of the truck. The Rural Board will carry the insurance and the City will provide regular maintenance while anything over \$500 will be shared equally. It will be purchased through the local Fyr-Tek, and will take 300 working days to

build at a cost of \$302,000. Both Departments will be named on the ownership title. The truck being replaced is 35 years old, a 1981 International single axel 4-wheel drive, 500 gallon unit and is worth about \$7000. The Department will sell it.

The Rural Board will pay their half of the cost as work progresses on building the new truck and the City can pay their half on delivery, however interest can be saved on any payment made in advance.

Administrator Clymer reminded the Council the City has been budgeting funds for a new truck and currently has \$30,000 in the Fire Fund. Attorney Bacon prepared an interlocal agreement for the purchase of the truck.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, to proceed with the purchase of the new fire truck as proposed, authorized the signature of the interlocal agreement and a down payment of \$30,000 on the construction. Roll call vote: Yea - Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay - none.

Waskowiak moved, Janssen seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be May 17, 2016.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk