

Regular City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers

March 19, 2019  
5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Verlin Janssen
	Jay Richeson
	Randy Waskowiak
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
Deputy City Clerk	Jill A. Rubenthaler
City Attorney	Mike Bacon

Also present: Shane Gruber, Matt Weiss, Sara Coleman, Titus Coleman, Luke Coleman, Caleb Coleman, Maria Demoret, Dana Daniels from Miller & Associates, Troy Franzen, Zane Franzen, Lane VanNatta, Robert Meyer, and Guardians of the Children members including Roland Mayers, Carrie Peterson, Jada Peterson, and Karlee Mayers

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 5:30 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.

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

- City Council Minutes – February 19 and March 6
- Police Report – February
- Planning & Zoning minutes – February 12
- Building Permit Report – February
- Treasurer’s Report – February
- Library Director’s Report – January 8 to March 11
- Library Annual Statistical Report

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

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$44,880.46; Public Works Division \$408,687.62; and the May 26 payroll of \$31,685.38. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- None

Matt Weiss reported that the Pony Express Station had another successful year in 2018, with 23,398 people; people from all 50 states and Puerto Rico and Guam, as well as 51 other countries. July 2018 alone had over 6,100 visitors. 2018 also included 5 educational groups, 11 private tour requests, and 13 tour buses. 22 days had visitor totals of 200 or more. They now have FM broadcasting 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 88.1 with information that people can listen to about the Station when it is not open. There will be a ductless heating/cooling vent installed at no cost to the City installed soon.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to approve the Pony Express management contract. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

Sara Coleman and Maria Demoret asked that the Women's Resource Center be allowed to use Ehmén Park on Saturday, May 4 for 'Walk for Life'. They plan to use primarily the South end of the park. The council agreed with the request, thanked them for their work, and said that no vote need be taken to approve.

Eight bids were received were received on March 1 to painting and restoring the elevated water storage facility:

AC/DC Solar, LLC, Valrico, FL	\$218,560.00
Maguire Iron, Inc., Sioux Falls, SD	\$225,400.00
W.W. Sandblasting, Plattsmouth, NE	\$247,200.00
Viking Painting, LLC, Omaha, NE	\$279,200.00
Central Tank Coatings, Inc., Elgin, IA	\$280,600.00
Utility Service Co., Inc., Perry GA	\$317,200.00
J.R. Stelzer Co., Lincoln, NE	\$387,500.00
TMI Coatings, Inc., St. Paul, MN	\$395,000.00

On the afternoon the bids were received Dana Daniels of Miller & Associates emailed the company with the lowest bid – AC/DC Solar out of Florida requesting references on past performance of similar types of projects over the last 4 years. The information and references asked for was not submitted, despite numerous requests and attempts to communicate by Daniels. Because Miller & Associates have never worked with this company and were unable to get references from them, Daniels recommended the second lowest bid from Maguire Iron out of South Dakota. Miller's have worked with this company close to 25 times prior and have a good working relationship with them. Attorney Bacon said that in this instance, the 'lowest responsible bidder' could be used since the lower bidder was not responsible in providing references.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to accept the bid from Maguire Iron, LLC. From Sioux Falls, South Dakota for \$225,400.00 for the painting and restoring of the water tower. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

Only 1 bid was received for the hay land owned by the City for future Solar Projects. The property is 8 acres. The bid is for \$50.00 rent per year with the bidder responsible for all seed, material, fuel, equipment, labor, weed and gopher control, etc., and in return has the rights to all the alfalfa raised for those years. Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded to approve the bid submitted by Doug Sitorius for 5 years. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

There were 2 options provided by RVW Inc for the new Hospital Substation design at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue J. Option #1 included engineering services of \$47,800 for 34.5 KV. Option #2 is \$62,800 for 69 KV. Administrator Clymer noted that while 34.5 KV is currently enough, if the City would ever want to upgrade to tie into Dawson Public Power, the 69 KV would be needed.

Because of this, he recommended Option #2. Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded to approve Option #2. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

Troy Franzen of the Gothenburg Volunteer Department asked for permission to set off fireworks at Lake Helen on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, to allow the Gothenburg Fire Department July 4<sup>th</sup> firework display. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

Jada Peterson and Karlee Mayers representing the Little Guardians of the Children (a group of abuse victims), asked to have a fund-raising event in Ehmen Park on Saturday, June 29 from 5 to 10 p.m. This will be called 'Park Palooza' and will include many fun events for all ages, including a movie. They plan to primarily use the north side of the park away from the Pony Express Station, will provide their own trash receptacles and won't close the streets. The Mayor reminded them that the public parks cannot be reserved, and that they should probably get there early to claim that area. With that the Council thanked them and wished them well on their event. No motion or vote was required.

Robert Meyer from R.J. Meyer Accounting firm presented a draft of the 2017-2018 Audit. He pointed out that currently the City is in a good financial position and that things went smoothly this year for the audit. Waskowiak discovered some typographical errors that need to be corrected. After that, he moved that the audit be accepted as presented with the errors he pointed out to be corrected; Janssen seconded. Meyer will check things over, make corrections and send it in to the State of Nebraska. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay - none.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. The next regular meeting will be April 2, 2019.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Jill A. Rubenthaler, Deputy Clerk