

Present:

Mayor Joyce Hudson  
Council Members Randy Waskowiak  
Jay Richeson  
Jeff Kennedy  
City Administrator Bruce Clymer  
City Clerk Brandi Kloeping  
Assistant City Attorney Colten Venteicher

Not Present:

Council Member Verlin Janssen  
City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: *Gothenburg Leader* – Ellen Mortensen  
*Gothenburg Times* – Eric Vicarro

Also present: Shane Gruber, Will Rahjes, Maria Demoret, Matt Weiss.

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.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- Council Minutes – February 28 & March 3
- Police Report – February
- Planning & Zoning minutes – February 11
- Building Permit Report – February
- Library Director’s Report – January 14 to March 9
- Library Annual Statistical Report – Oct 2018 to Sept 2019

Roll call vote: Yea –Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. No - none. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$128,755.39; Public Works Division \$860,614.35; the March 11 payroll of \$34,349.24. Roll call vote: Yea - Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. No - none. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Community Comments:

- Administrator Clymer stated we have the Water Quality Report and the levels are not above the accepted levels. The Department of Health sent an email that with Coronavirus, sample places can be taken elsewhere if need be. They are also sending test kits for populations under 10,000 to test for manganese. The department would like lead lines removed and we have some. The water department tries to remove the lead lines when they come up on them.
- With COVID – 19 the front office is open, but we are stopping people at the door with a table. The library is doing the same thing and leaving books out for community members that call and ask for books.

Garden Blessings put in a bid for trees for the Arbor Day Grant that totaled \$14,895.00 and Kennedy Landscaping totaled \$12,660.00. The Tree Board recommended going with Kennedy Landscape for the trees.

Waskowiak moved, Richeson seconded, to approve the bid from Kennedy Landscaping for the trees for the Arbor Day Grant. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak. No – None. Abstain – Kennedy. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Matt Weiss stated the Pony Express Station would normally open on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, but may be pushed back to May 1<sup>st</sup> to try to keep people safe. They applied with the state for the Passport Program and received it, so that may draw extra people in. They had 23,000 visitors last year, down about 1,500 from the year before due to the flooding.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, to approve the Pony Express Station management contract. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Pony Express Chevrolet bid a pickup, for the Parks Department, that matched the state bid. There is no trade-in, but may auction off a pickup later. There were no other bids.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to award the bid for the park pickup to Pony Express Chevrolet. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Waskowiak moved, Richeson seconded, to approve the hospital substation pay request No. 4 for \$413,697.86 to IES Commercial, Inc. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Richeson, Waskowiak. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Maria Demoret would like to do the Walk for Life at Ehmen Park on May 2. It will be the same as last year with a start/stop at Ehmen Park. It is for the Women’s Resource Center. Council gave her the ok.

The Housing Study with Strategies for Affordable Housing “Workforce Housing Specific Analysis” was given to the Council Members.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve Drawdown #2 for 18-TD-003 for \$3,000.00 and payment to Miller’s. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve payment of \$1,037.70 to CDS Inspections for OOR 16-HO-33067. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to approve payment of \$447.00 to GOTH10 & Straight Lin Construction. Roll call vote: Yea –Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Richeson moved, Waskowiak seconded, to approve payment of \$2,750.00 to GOTH06 & Window World. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve payment of \$7,180.00 to GOTH13 & Eickmeier Construction. Roll call vote: Yea –Richeson, Kennedy, Waskowiak. No – None. Absent and not voting - Janssen.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve Drawdown #22 for OOR 16-HO-33067 - \$11,414.70. Roll call vote: Yea –Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. No – None. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

Discussion regarding COVID 19 was taken up. For now an employee should take sick leave if they stay home, but that could change after federal legislation. We will delay shut offs for 30 days and waive the extra deposit fee. We want to encourage citizens to stay current on their bill rather than getting too far behind. Administrator Clymer will work with Sandy on making a policy. Things can change daily at this time as we are unaware of what may happen.

Kennedy moved, Richeson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy. No - none. Absent and not voting – Janssen.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Brandi Kloopping, City Clerk