

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Absent: Council member Jim Aden
City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stroessner, Lois Stanton

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.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes – November 17

Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$35,338.90; Public Works Division \$180,753.23; and the November 25 payroll of \$31,122.99. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden

Open Forum:

- The base of the entrance sign has received a concrete finish and looks good. According to Stoneco, manufacturers of the sign, the old lettering will cure out and become less noticeable.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to grant the Redevelopment Authority \$39,725.79 from sales tax funds to pay the paving, water, and sewer assessments on the vacant lots in Hilltop Estates Subdivision. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Proposed ordinance to vacate right-of-way on Lake Ave - Sander Furniture and Proposed ordinance to vacate right-of-way - alley between 8th & 9th Streets off Lake Ave - Sander Furniture were removed from the agenda and not discussed.

The Nebraska Energy Office has received stimulus funding to be available to municipalities, in grant format, to replace standard street lighting with energy efficient LED lighting. Requests for Proposals will be sent to 83 counties and 500 cities for \$250,000 in grant funds requiring a 20% project match. According to information received the LED lights reflect down instead of up and are a white light instead of yellow. The fixture is not replaced, only the light bulbs. All lights are made in Kansas and have a life use of 30 years as opposed to 2 - 5 years the current lights.

Estimated cost to replace all street lights in Gothenburg is \$257,600 of which \$206,080 would be grant and actual cost to the City \$51,520. Based on current electrical usage and rates, its estimated \$17,540 would be saved annually by the change and costs recouped in three years.

We may experiment with three lights somewhere in town regardless of the grant status. If the grant becomes reality applications could be in process by the end of the year.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Strauser, to apply for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, as discussed, if it becomes available. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

The City received a grant of \$8720 on a \$10,900 project to landscape the area around the new community entrance sign on Sought Highway 47. The grant was awarded through the Nebraska Forest Service. Unfortunately, the Federal Highway Association denied the funding but the Nebraska Department of Roads neglected to notify the Forest Service therefore our grant funding does not exist. At this time its unknown if funding will be available in 2010.

Discussion was had and it was decided the landscaping could be done in phases to reduce the impact on the budget. The matter was referred to the Tree Board.

For various reasons, there were no bids on the digger truck at the November 28 auction. Therefore, Atty. Bacon has prepared a resolution to sell the truck by sealed bid. To allow proper notification, bids will be received at 2:00 p.m. on December 18 and will be opened and awarded at that time. Minimum bid will be \$5500.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2009-24 to sell the 1985 Chevrolet digger truck by sealed bid as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Aden. The next regular meeting will be December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk