

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

June 7, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson	Absent:	Council member Jeff
Whiting			
Council members	Jeff Kennedy		City Attorney Mike Bacon
	Gary Fritch		
	Tim Strauser		
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer		
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple		

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Delvin Seil, Ken Christensen, Kasey Bogus, Dan Yancy, Scott Keene, Mike Libich, 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.

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

 City Council minutes - May 17

 Police Report - May

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$86,382.16; Public Works Division \$262,446.16; and the May 26 payroll of \$36,845.04. Roll Call vote: Yea - Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Community Comments:

- Ken Christensen brought up traffic issues at 4th St and Highway 47. He feels some sort of traffic control is necessary because it's difficult to enter #47 from 4th Street. He also has issues with the 10th St and Ave G intersection. Council members agreed and also sited 1st Street at Highway 47. Administrator Clymer remembered a request from Baldwin Filters to the Dep't of Roads for signaling at 1st St. resulted in a letter from the State Dep't of Roads that signaling installation and maintenance would be up to the City but would require a traffic study first. We can ask the State the fund the study but Council action would strengthen that request.
- Administrator Clymer offered a community complaint form on the City's web site that could be used for weed and dog complaints, etc. According to Section 84: 712.05, only complaints investigated by the Police Dept can be confidential. If the complaint comes in to the City office and then goes to the Police Dep't, the complaint and relative information is public information. Complaints to the PD are confidential. Any questions and concerns about the form can be addressed to Administrator Clymer.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving appointment of John Stuhr to the Fire Dep't. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Scott Keene of Ameritas Corp. discussed calling the 2006 Various Purpose bonds and reissuing them at a savings of approximately \$13,000, since current interest rates are about 2.5% compared the original bond rate average of 4.3%. Since the bonds are callable in August, he suggested leaving the August payment in place and reissuing the remaining \$245,000. He has also approached Wells Fargo to act as bond holder on the old bonds at no charge. If they insist on the \$1000 fee, he suggested pursuing a new agent for the new bond.

Brief discussion was had and Fritch moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2011-4 calling the 2006 Various Purpose bonds on or about August 22, 2011. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Council member Kennedy introduced Ordinance 866 entitled:

An ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds, Series 2011 of the City of Gothenburg, Nebraska, in a principal amount not to exceed two hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$270,000) to refund outstanding various purpose bonds, Series 2006 of the City of Gothenburg, Nebraska, dated August 22, 2006 in the principal amount of two hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$245,000); prescribing the form and certain details of such bonds; providing for the levy of taxes to pay the interest on and principal of such bonds; providing for publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form; and related matters

and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. The motion was seconded by Council member Strauser and on roll call vote the following voted "Yea": Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. "Nay" - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a three-fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said ordinance which was then read by title. Council member Fritch moved for final passage and the motion was seconded by Council member Kennedy.

Mayor Hudson asked the question "*Shall Ordinance 866 be passed and adopted?*" On roll call vote, the following voted "Yea": Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. "Nay": none. Absent and not voting - Whiting. Mayor Hudson then declared Ordinance 866 adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

Gothenburg Rodeo Club request for waiver of water fees was moved the June 21 meeting.

There are overhead power lines in the utility easement from Avenue A to Avenue B between 18th and 20th Streets and in the easement between Grand Crescent and Highland Drive between Lake Ave and Avenue F. The power poles are old and deteriorating and since they are located in an easement instead of an alley, it always disturbs people's property to work on the lines. It's very difficult to get equipment into the area so poles must be cut in sections to be removed and

holes hand dug to set new poles. Discussion was had on removing the overhead lines and putting them underground.

According to the Policies & Procedures Manual, if the City changes the electrical service from overhead to underground and the customer already has underground service, we connect them. If it's overhead service, the owner has two choices: 1. If the owner converts to underground service they must contract with an electrician to make the connection and the City will contribute \$500 toward the cost. The approximate cost is \$1000 to \$1200 for the homeowner. Cable TV lines are usually buried with the power lines.

2. If the homeowner doesn't want to convert to underground, the City will leave the pole and overhead line but they become the property of the homeowner and the homeowner's responsibility to maintain and replace them when needed.

If the City contracts with a company to make the conversion we will be required to develop specifications, consult an electrical engineer, advertise the project, and request bids, all of which increases the cost. The electric crew is willing and available to do the conversion.

The Housing Authority has multiple properties on both projects as may other owners and discussion was had on an amount to be contributed to help offset costs. Further discussion was had and it was determined that the Grand Crescent / Northaven Heights project is the most urgent of the two. This project will be taken up again at the July 5th meeting.

With the passage of LB589 the City is expected to indemnify the State for any special events on state roads or rights-of-way, such as parades and car shows. The state has provided a request form that must be submitted 30 days before any event. Liability insurance is the responsibility of the event organizer so the City can include the insurance on its policy and the event organizer will reimburse the cost.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to implement the State Highway Dep't policy and form for local events. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, approving the health insurance plan document with the addition of the language regarding spouse eligibility on other policies that was omitted from the document. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting. The next regular meeting will be June 21, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

