

Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., Mon., October 16, 2023
Civic Center Community Room

Present: Mayor Evan Esau; Council Members Duane Adrian, Amanda Voth, Dean Snelling, Sam Griffin; City Clerk, Jennifer Bliss; Public Works, Karen Dalke; Free Press Reporter; City Attorney, Reece Hiebert

Absent: Ariel Kraus, Anthony Voth

Guests: Darin Neufeld – EBH Engineering, Matt Voth, James Masters, Valarie Guerrero, Jared Unrau, Glenn Hermann, John Stucky

Call to Order:

- Mayor Esau called the regular council meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

- **D Snelling moved, seconded by S Griffin to accept the minutes of the regular council meeting and the financial report. Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

- John Stucky wanted the city's position on a situation he is having with Mark Talbert. West Branch Excavating did the digging for the water line to John's shed. John has received 3 letters from Mark's attorney. The request is asking for John's waterline to be moved completely from Mark Talbert's property. Both residential meters are located on Mark's property and have been since the 70's. The assumption is that the city has an easement for the meters to be located where they are. There is not a current way to fulfill the demand that is being asked since the meter is on Mark's property. Is the city interested in moving the meter or do we state that it is in an easement and it is going to stay that way? Reece is going to look into this matter.
- The fire department has glow bands to give out for trick or treaters during the first responder Halloween event.
- Glenn asked what safeguards we have in place to keep us out of legal trouble. Is there someone we can turn to. Having the inspector will be a safeguard.

Handbook Policy Updates:

- Proposed change: Lunch break of 15 minutes or less are paid. You are allotted up to an hour. It is at your discretion as to whether you take a break.
- Proposed change: Vacation leave – section h. If an employee takes vacation time and they have compensatory time they will need to use the compensatory time before any vacation leave is used.
- Proposed change: change the wording to longevity bonus. With the excluded positions as currently listed.
- Proposed change: Sick leave – section g. In the event an employee takes sick leave they will use any accrued compensatory time first.
- Proposed change: No employee shall be entitled to a cash payment in lieu of health insurance. Remove everything after unless.
- Proposed change: Add core values statement to the city loyalty section.
- Proposed change: Looking at the holidays. Add Juneteenth as a paid holiday.
- Proposed change: Evaluation of employee – change to department head and full-time employees not everyone. Part-time at the discretion of the council and mayor.
- Proposed change: A Voth would allow accumulation of vacation time from year to year. Full-time employees can carry over up to an additional 80 hours and part-time employees can accumulate an additional 40 hours.

Park/Flood Project:

- Matt came and presented a letter that he gave the city the option to use when seeking an easement.

- Reece mentioned a couple routes that we could take. One of them is providing a nuisance complaint and the remedy being the city abating the condition and assessing the cost. This would allow the city to not have to seek an easement and it would be treated as a one-time cleanup. An official easement depending upon how it is written would allow the city future options to clean out the creek. Darin stated that he has gone through the register of deeds and cannot find easements for that section. Asking for an easement first would be our best option. We can be given an easement or buy the easement. Matt is offering to allow us to use the letter he has drafted along with an official letter asking for the easements. Survey for the bounds of the easement may be needed depending on how the easement is written. Darin will get pictures to the clerk to include with the letter drafted by the attorney. 15 feet from the center of the creek on either side.
- Darin with EBH wanted to provide information to the council on a Wildlife & Parks Grant that could help fund pedestrian paths and bridges in the park for the disc golf course. The grant is due by the 17th of November. In-kind work is an option for this grant but it would need to be detailed on the people and equipment that work on the project. As long as you don't hinder the water flow a bridge would be allowable. There would be a presentation in early December in front of the board that would be required to try to get the grant. It would cost us nothing for Darin to apply for the grant for us. Do we want to proceed or wait until we have a more comprehensive park plan and go for a grant then?
- Darin briefly mentioned that routing water East of K-15 does not look like an option since there is a 2ft difference in elevation from K-15 to the first house along K-15. To remove the 2ft, we would need to cut into the front yard of that house.

Building Inspection/Code Enforcement:

- James Masters attended the council meeting to discuss the needing of a building inspector and code enforcement. He mentioned his certifications and how he feels he would be a fit for our city. He is fairly booked up but he would be glad to help in any way that he can. He usually contracts out by the inspection. He did mention that he does charge a lot because his time to drive out here, his reporting time, and inspection time all need to be covered. \$150 with a 2 hour minimum.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to hire James Masters on an as needed basis. Motion carried.**

Public Works:

- There is a possibility that the Talbert meter and Stucky meter are coming off of 1 line but we wouldn't know unless it was dug up.
- Transmission on the tractor and what she would like the council to have done with it. She would like a front wheel assist to help when it is muddy and a cab would also be helpful with the dust. She spoke with a few dealers to find out the best option. It was brought up that a lease might be an option and we would not be responsible for maintenance. Take it in and find out what is wrong with it and see what it would take to fix it.
- Will winterize the park next week and read water meters.
- Start installing more water meters.

Police:

- Nothing to report.
- Discussed a part-time application that had been submitted. Will get it to Anthony for his review.
- Nuisance properties are in the works and continuing in the court process.

Clerk:

- Updated the council on the Purplewave auction.

Public Officials Reports:

- Complete the employee handbook and then start the policies and guidelines document.

Other Business:

- Goessel Housing Authority – we have finally received the by-laws for the housing authority and now know the need for the board. Kevin Gaeddert, Jonna Showalter, Valarie Guerrero, Misti Griffin, and Christina Valdois are interested in serving on the board.

- **Mayor Esau appointed Kevin Gaeddert, Jonna Showalter, Valarie Guerrero, Misti Griffin and Christina Valdois and work with the proper people to schedule the first board meeting.**

Adjournment:

- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.**

Evan Esau, Mayor

Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk