

Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., Mon., November 20, 2023
Civic Center Community Room

Present: Mayor Evan Esau; Council Members Duane Adrian, Amanda Voth, Dean Snelling, Sam Griffin, Ariel Kraus; Public Works, Karen Dalke; Free Press Reporter; City Attorney, Reece Hiebert; Police, Anthony Voth; Leda Graybill

Absent: City Clerk, Jennifer Bliss

Guests: Keith Banman, Glenn Herman, Matt Voth, James & Gayle Voth, 3 students observing

Call to Order:

- Mayor Esau called the regular council meeting to order at 6:00 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:

- James & Gayle Voth are requested city water service due to well issues they are having. Meter itself would need to be within city limits. Discussion was held on the logistics and James & Gayle will contact the county road and bridge department to let them know.
- **D Adrian moved, seconded by D Snelling to approve the request from James & Gayle Voth to be connected to city water services. Motion carried with A Voth abstaining.**

Variance Template Application & Variance Request

- Council reviewed the variance application template that was prepared by previous city attorney Joe Uhlman. By consent they approved the template to be used in future variance requests.
- MDS cabinet shop has submitted an application for a variance request. Keith Banman attended on behalf of MDS to explain the planned expansion and request for a variance. They would like to vary from the current setback rule of 5' from the property line on the side of the building. They would like to build slightly closer to the bank to give them as much storage room as possible. The proposed addition would be a 20' x 74' addition. This has been brought to the attention of the building inspector would did not recommend approval of building so close as drainage could be an issue. It was stated that there will be 6" guttering on the building and they will accept liability for any issues that develop.
- **A Kraus moved, seconded by D Snelling to approve the variance and allow them to build closer than 5' to the property line. The building plan was not approved but left at the discretion of the building inspector. Motion carried with A Voth abstaining.**

Park/Flood Project:

- Park – prioritize components of the project. Council will come with their thoughts at the next council meeting.
- Flood Project – Reece discussed the problems that arise with pursuing easements. This will be a permanent obligation taken on by the city if we do easements. It will be costly and the land will need to be surveyed. To address the flooding issues, there are three options that the city can choose from. 1. Nuisance code – owner cost 2. Easement – city cost 3. Contracted limited time easement.
- Matt Voth stated that the community foundation will cooperate with the cities decision and are willing to help with the costs.
- It was decided that Reece will draft and send information packets and letters to the land owners requesting permission to inspect and plan the creek cleanout. Once the letters are signed and returned, Matt & Darin will proceed with the inspection of the creek bed.

Proposed Ordinance 307 – Building Permit Fees:

- This proposed ordinance was tabled until the next meeting when Jennifer is able to be present. There were questions on what the actual inspection fees should be.

Proposed Ordinance 308 – IPMC:

- Ordinance 308 was drafted to incorporate the International Property Maintenance Code into the Code of the City of Goessel per the building inspector's recommendation. Since Ordinance 307 was not adopted, this ordinance will become Ordinance 307 if adopted.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to adopt the Ordinance incorporating the International Property Maintenance Code into the Code of the City of Goessel. Motion carried.**

Employee Handbook & Policy Updates:

- Verbal consent was made and it was agreed that all the necessary changes to the handbook and policies had been made. The documents need formatted and presented at the next meeting for final approval.

Public Works:

- Haynes Equipment will be coming out to reinstall the repaired pump and perform the annual maintenance on the lift station. They have suggested that we have the wet well cleaned out and the bottom and discharge shoe inspected prior to this installation. Mayer Specialty quoted \$2,725 for this work to be done.
- Discussed the issues with the tractor. Prairieland Partners inspected the tractor and suggested some repairs they found that needed done. The total of these repairs was \$3,149.69. Council approved some of these repairs to be completed by Prairieland. Karen is to replace the fan drive belt and the tractor will be taken to Hutchinson Community College for the transmission repairs.
- **S Griffin moved, seconded by D Adrian to approve the selected repairs in the amount of \$1,699.93 and take it to HCC for the rest. Motion carried.**

Police:

- Ran traffic and gave a few warnings.
- Potential candidate for a part-time position. He is taking the challenge exam in December to recertify as a law enforcement officer. Anthony recommends offering the position contingent on passing the exam. Offering in the \$20 per hour range with total PD hours kept at 26 hours/week.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Adrian to offer the position contingent upon the exam passing. Motion carried with D Snelling opposed.**

Clerk:

- Reviewed the application from Shannon Nickel to be back-up city clerk.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to hire Shannon and back-up city clerk at \$15.90 per hour. Motion carried.**

Other Business:

- Christmas light contest. A Voth will update last years flyer and we will do the same as last year with the exception of not need to register this year. Winner will be announced at the January council meeting. Judging will be from December 17th-24th.
- December meeting moved to the 12th. Reece will not be available but will provide information.
- Housing Authority will be meeting 11/28. Evan and Jennifer plan to attend. Ardith will report and officers will be elected.
- Noon siren not sounding because of blown fuses. Should it be taken down? Karen will talk to Kyle about charge to take it down.
- Police car to be parked in the shop by the back door for winter.

Executive Session:

- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to enter an executive session with the City Attorney present to discuss employee raises for 20 minutes. Motion carried.**
- **Returned to normal session at 9:02.**
- **A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to enter an executive session with the City Attorney present to discuss employee raises for 20 minutes. Motion carried.**
- **Returned to normal session at 9:25.**

- A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to enter an executive session with the City Attorney present to discuss employee raises for 5 minutes. Motion carried.
- Returned to normal session at 9:31.
- A Kraus moved, seconded by S Griffin to give all employees except Jennifer a 4% raise, this includes part-time employees and the treasurer. Jennifer to get a 5% raise. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

- D Adrian moved, seconded by D Snelling to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Evan Esau, Mayor

Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk