

Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting

6:00 p.m., Monday, June 16, 2025

Civic Center Community Room

Present: Mayor, Evan Esau; Council Members, Amanda Voth, Sam Griffin, John Stucky, Duane Adrian, Ariel Kraus; City Clerk, Jennifer Bliss; Public Works, Alex Goossen; Police, Anthony Voth; City Attorney, Reece Hiebert; Free Press Reporter

Guests: Friday Otuya – Nex-Tech, Ella Burrows – Nex-Tech, Cindy Stucky & Gretchen Bookout – Goessel Public Library, Glenn Herman, Luanne Soukup, Kelli Willis

Call to Order:

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

Consent Agenda:

- **S Griffin moved, seconded by J Stucky to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting on May 19th and the financial report. Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

- Cindy Stucky attended the meeting to introduce the new library director Gretchen Bookout.
- Cynthia Goerzen spoke to thank the council and say goodbye to the council as this is her last meeting.
- Kevin Lehrman has asked for a variance to be allowed to build a proposed garage that will sit further forward than his home does on the lot. The Goessel Code 4-111d states that new construction must sit in line with the existing structure and he is asking this to be varied.
- **J Stucky moved, seconded by S Griffin to allow Kevin Lehrman a variance to place the proposed garage further forward than his house not to exceed 20'. Motion carried.**
- Friday Otuya presented the official fiber internet roadmap for the City of Goessel. He also presented a list of topics for the Nex-Tech academy.

Illegal Dumping/Burnsite Ordinance:

- Start a draft and send to Reece for his approval.
- Did not have a chance to investigate signs for the burn site at this time. Need to verify that an ordinance was passed initiating a fine prior to putting it on a sign.

Mowing/Code Violations Fines:

- Draft a fine structure for mowing. Increase the current fine from \$50 to \$75-\$100 per hour. First offense for mowing fine \$100.

Public Works:

- Sump Pump Survey – he has visited with people who have requested his help to determine the connection type for their sump pump. We are at a point now that we need to select a contractor or contractors that would be willing to work with us to do the work. Randy Shafer, Goering Hardware and Paul Goerzen. Alex believes there are currently 7 sump pumps that are running into the sewer.
- Asphalt Millings – Alex spoke to John Unruh and he said the price remains the same if we are wanting to place more millings down. Mayor Esau would like to keep moving forward with the asphalt millings. The plan would be to eventually do all the streets in town.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by A Kraus have John provide 3 truckloads of asphalt millings per month based on the \$885 quote given in May, for the next 4 months through September. Motion carried.**
- While mowing the sewer ponds with the tractor the spindle bolt came loose and broke the pulley. They no longer produce the part needed to fix the finish mower. Get some ideas and costs for the next council meeting. What is compatible with our current equipment.

Police:

- Nuisance Properties – the recent grass and weed violations have been resolved.
- Habitual Offenders – grass and weeds, junk vehicles habitual offenders

- Code Enforcement Officer – Kelli has shown an interest in doing the code enforcement for the city along with Anthony. She does not desire to have the entire position on her own.
- **J Stucky moved, seconded by A Voth to purchase a new computer for Jennifer not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried.**
- Shirts and use of the city truck for her to use during her job duties as public officer. Start with a polo shirt to identify her as an employee.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to authorize Mayor Esau to appoint Kelli Willis as the public officer not to exceed 10 hours per week to be paid out of the general/police fund at her current wage to be reviewed after 90 days. Motion carried.**
- Part-Time Job Description Update – Mayor Esau has drafted a new description and will send it out for the review of the council and to Alex and Anthony for their review.

City Clerk:

- Fireworks discharge dates and times
- **A Voth moved, seconded by S Griffin to allow the discharge of fireworks on July 2nd from 10 am to 10 pm, July 3rd through July 5th from 10 am to 11 pm. Motion carried.**

Other Business:

- Emergency Preparedness Plan – make noted changes to present to
- Disaster Response Plan
- Community Room Rental Agreement Update – strike the last sentence in the proposed changes stating, “content that is violent, explicit, or offensive is strictly prohibited.” Change the fee for cleaning to \$50. Add any damage, broken or misplaced item will be charged at replacement cost.
- T-Mobile Grant Update – received a quote from Voth Construction for the parking lot. Jennifer will fill out the grant application based on this quote.
- Fire Board Documentation – reviewed an email with the viewpoint of the fire department.
- Harvest Festival – gave an overview of the sponsorships and current estimated expenses.

Adjournment:

- **S Griffin moved, seconded by D Adrian to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried.**



Evan Esau, Mayor



Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk