

**Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m., Mon., February 13, 2023**  
**Civic Center Community Room**

Present: Mayor Ben Schmidt; Council Members Duane Adrian, Amanda Voth, Evan Esau, Ariel Kraus; City Clerk, Jennifer Bliss; Public Works, Karen Dalke; Police, Anthony Voth; Free Press Reporter

Absent: Dean Snelling

Guests: Reece Hiebert – City Attorney, Lloyd & Marlene Voth, Matthew Voth, Sara Hiebert - Bethesda

**Call to Order:**

- Mayor Schmidt called the council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Consent Agenda:**

- **A Voth moved, seconded by E Esau to accept the minutes from the January 9th regular council meeting and to approve the expenditure report with the amendment that the VISA card reflect a subtraction of the \$126 charge for ammunition. Motion carried.**

**Tornado Siren – Matt Voth:**

- Months have passed since Matt first approached the city about the tornado siren. Nex-tech had thought they had a solution to the issue but have since decided that the city should contact the manufacturer. Matt was able to reach the manufacturer and they proposed an update to the siren that would include a new computer setup to provide remote service for the tornado siren. The concern is the Windows system and the complication that it would add to the system. He suggested that we not go that route due to the high cost and complications. We then reviewed the TBS estimate that would provide a UHF/VHF radio system to allow us to set the tornado siren off with a radio. There will be options for backup power for the siren to be set off regardless of how it will be setoff. The recommendation would be to have Brad Grabar come out to make sure this option will work. Anthony would also like him to check the police radios while he is here and have them reprogramed.
- **E Esau moved, seconded by D Adrian to have Brad come out and inspect the tornado siren and components for the radio system that are existing to make sure this option will work. Item 7 for the radios is the option they would like to go with and they want to omit line item 6. Once Brad has inspected the system council would like him to provide an official estimate. Motion carried.**

**Nex-Tech Cell Phone Service:**

- Creighton stopped by and visited with Ben. It will not cause any interference with what is already there. The equipment will be pretty standard and they have used the same antenna elsewhere. Reece is looking over the contract and will send his revisions to Nex-Tech for negotiations. We will continue to pursue this option with the attorney negotiating a contract with Nex-Tech. Work will not be done until warmer weather so it was noted there is a little time to come to agreement with Nex-Tech.

**Water Rates:**

- **E Esau moved, seconded by D Adrian to adopt Ordinance #303 setting new water and sewer user rates effective March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Motion carried.**

**IBTS Proposal:**

- Discussed a proposal from IBTS offering services for building permits and inspections. The City of Moundridge uses this company. Have Reece look over the contract and we will discuss this next month for a decision. Some clarification on software needs to be given also to make sure the city is not agreeing to pay several thousand for software.

**Appoint Diane Vera:**

- **A Voth moved, seconded by E Esau to appoint Diane Vera to the Library Board. Motion carried.**

**Police:**

- Aaron is likely going to be resigning from the police department. He could no longer justify a 25-minute drive each way for a 2-hour shift. It was suggested that we provide payment for their travel time to help

recruit officers for the city. Any amount will need to be clearly spelled out. The attorney suggested stating a set flat rate amount to be compensated would be the best route. We can present an official proposal next month. The consensus was to pay \$20 for a minimum of two-hours of work.

- The current police car is not suitable for rural Kansas. The vehicle has been stuck in a small amount of snow which makes it unreliable in the event of an emergency call that needs immediate response. We are on the list for an AWD or 4WD vehicle and they estimated \$30,000 and it will include the light/siren package. Graphics on the vehicle would be a separate purchase. It was noted that JR Audio Kansas Emergency Vehicle Outfitter has been used by other agencies and would be able to get graphics for us. It is expected that March would be when a vehicle would become available. For the old police car, Chief Voth could notify another agency to let them know of the availability of the current vehicle or we could place the vehicle on an auction and set a reserve price.
- **D Adrian moved, seconded by A Kraus to pursue the purchase of a newer police vehicle not to exceed \$33,000. Motion carried.**
- March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> he is attending ALICE training.
- Discussed Reece making contact with Melody Hall about her property. Clerk had sent a letter inviting her to the council to discuss the property. She did not appear. The property has enough visual evidence to proceed with notifying them of the nuisance property. Decided to issue a notice to get the process started.
- David Johnson has not made any progress. Write up a new notice for them for Anthony to sign.
- Richards have not made any progress. Write up a new notice.
- Start the process over again with Morgan. This will keep things clean and on the same timeline as the other nuisance properties.

**Park:**

- A project to include upgrades to the equipment, bridge for the disc golf, a continuation of the current walking path to loop back around. Ask the engineer to attend to get an updated agreement with Schwab Eaton for the preliminary engineering agreement for a smaller project than originally discussed.

**City Clerk:**

- Water conference is at the end of March and the clerk and public works will be attending.

**GAAP Waiver:**

- **A Voth moved, seconded by E Esau to approve Resolution 23-07 waiving the GAAP requirements. Motion carried.**

**Other Business:**

- Recycling Center: On behalf of Bethesda, Sara Hiebert expressed their concern with the look of the property and it potentially deterring people from moving into our community. Lloyd and Marlene Voth also voiced their concerns. There was a complication that caused a delay in court but the next court hearing is scheduled for the March 8<sup>th</sup> for the nuisance hearing. There is a deed issue that is being resolved so that we can proceed with the court hearing. There is lots of concern regarding the mess and how it makes town look and the fire danger. Steve apologized for the mess and he expressed that he is working on cleaning up. Steve spoke to Jordan Nisley and is trying to work with him. Due to the size of North Newton and Bethel it is not feasible to put in a lot of money into a building or fencing. Pro Kansas recycling would also be an option for him to offload his recyclables to Wichita. He will be able to move the cardboard bales since he would prefer it be out of the weather somewhere other than here in the city. He needs DOT regulations in order to transport the recyclables to Wichita. He did not make any for sure commitments to getting the area cleaned up so we will keep moving forward with court.
- Regarding creek cleanup, there is no need for a state permit as long as we do no dirt moving or anything that would cause the bank to erode. For areas within city limits the clerk will keep a city permit on file to show the work that was done and that we have all the paperwork together in the event the state were to inspect our files. Clerk will also contact Sharon Omstead with the county and discuss situation.

- Business license updates. We want some kind of permit requirement for brick-and-mortar businesses. We do not want to include things such as summer mowers. We would like the requirement of the business carrying insurance in order to get a license.
- Planning and zoning ordinances. It was noted that communities our size don't normally go through the process of having planning and zoning ordinances put in place. Councilor Voth wondered if there is an in between from having nothing and having a full-blown planning and zoning ordinances. Reece thought that the IBTS contract may include some types of planning and zoning regulations. He will review the agreement and verify that.

**Executive Session:**

- **A Voth moved, seconded by E Esau to enter into executive session to have a consultation with the city attorney for 30 minutes with Anthony Voth present for the first 15 minutes. Motion carried.**
- Returned to normal session at 8:28 p.m.
- No motions or decisions were made following the executive session.

**Adjournment:**

- **D Adrian moved, seconded by A Voth to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.**

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Ben Schmidt, Mayor

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Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk