

Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting

6:00 p.m., Mon., April 17, 2023

Civic Center Community Room

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

Absent: Duane Adrian

Guests: Dwight Flaming – Goessel Community Foundation, Anthony Voth (as resident), Lloyd Voth, Chad Lindeman, Ryan Hoopes, Brad Penner, Larry Lindeman, Marcia Hiebert, Dave Schrag, Steve Meyer, Glenn Hermann, Raechel Boese, Kale Funk

Call to Order:

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

Consent Agenda:

- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to accept the consent agenda which included the amended minutes from the March 20th regular council meeting and the financial report. Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

- Dave Schrag would like to know if the city would like to put in a wooden fence on the north side of the new development. This would give the development a uniform look and allow everything to weather at the same rate.
- Dave also discussed the housing authority, and he thought the city gaining control of the housing authority would be a good deal to allow the city to keep control and have a little more say in how the apartments are run.
- Glenn Hermann discussed the concern for Duane not getting a key to the shop. He commended Duane for trying to take initiative in taking care of his assigned area on the council.
- Anthony wants to address the council as a member of the community and not an employee. Are we proud of how the city of Goessel looks today? There is a disconnect between what the community wants and what the city acts on. We don't have a vision. What do we want the city to look like in X years? Think about the future we are creating. Engagement to bridge the gap between the entities in the community. How do we help people who own property? How can we make positive change in the community? How are citizens heard? He also presented a letter from previous employees of the city to address the council. The letter is attached to these minutes.

Goessel Housing Authority:

- Ardith wants the council to dissolve the current housing authority board. City council originally signed the housing authority notes through rural development and then appointed a board to manage the housing. If the city council dissolves the board they would then take over as the overseers of the housing authority. The board would provide guidance to Ardith when there are things that need done. Ardith has all the financial information on the apartments. She hires a site manager that takes care of the day-to-day maintenance of the apartments. This has been done in the past and it is possible. She would update us as the council wants. There will be questions for the attorney on the property being transferred to the city.

Goessel Community Foundation – Sidewalk Project:

- The GCF has been working to secure a T-Mobile grant to fund a sidewalk project. The grant previously was for the bridge that was put in at Bethesda. Due to a generous donation, they no longer needed this grant to fund the bridge. They are now proposing to put in sidewalks to connect the sidewalk that currently dead ends at the ball diamonds. The foundation would like input from the school and the city to come up with a proposed route. There would need to be a letter of support. The fire station would also want to join in and replace their front concrete at the same time. 500' new concrete \$25,000, 1/3 repair of the existing 1,700' approximately \$18,500. That would leave the rest for the fire station.

TBS Update:

- TBS came out and looked at the existing infrastructure. Everything looks good. They will be sending out a new quote but clerk has not yet received it.

Nex-Tech:

- Clerk asked other cities what they are receiving for their monthly lease fees. There was only a few that made over the offered \$600 and several more that were less. Start at \$600 and increase by 10% annually.

Building Inspection/Code Inspection:

- Would they be open to us grouping with Moundridge and if we would be allowed to piggy back with them and use the service.

Project RFQ's:

- Gave the council the proposals from the 3 firms responding to our RFQ's. Council will review these and we will discuss at the next council meeting.

Public Works:

- We have been working on the lead service line inventory.
- Dean has had some air in his water line. This usually indicates that the south well is pumping air.
- Let her know when you want her to grade the streets. She was waiting for rain before she graded and it took too long so she graded when it was dry. It caused dust but it did help the street.
- She would like to have lists for signs that need replaced. She has seen them so much that she doesn't pay attention to them and may not notice what needs done.
- She has been cleaning ditches. She has been keeping up with the mowing and locates.
- Bathroom door at the park got kicked in. It busted the door so it was repaired and the handle was replaced.
- Quote for replacement picnic tables.
- Still out of compliance with the sewer test results. We are following a compliance schedule with the state and if we continue to fail, we will be required to do something to fix our issues.
- The F250 will need new tires on it before the winter.
- Ted Lehrman's property is an issue. It needs to become a nuisance so that the process can be followed.
- Generator at the lift station had an issue. It had to be repaired because it could not start. Anthony mentioned that the alarm had been going off when he was out there dumping some branches and he silenced the alarm.
- Mayer Specialty sent a quote over to provide cleaning/maintenance of the sewer system.
- **E Esau moved, seconded by D Snelling to accept the 3-year contract with Mayer Specialty. Motion carried.**

Police:

- Steve Meyer discussed with Anthony. He has trailers filled with cardboard and plastic that is ready to be taken to another location. North Newton is on a 60-day contract with Steve while they are waiting for other bids.
- Middle of June on the police car.

City Clerk:

- Talked about the potential software problem. Clerk will get some numbers together to see if switching would be an option.
- Talked about the letter that county planning and zoning board sent. The purpose of the letter was to let the council know that the county plans to establish a "zone" around the city that would allow us an opportunity to help in the decisions that are made in that zone.

Other Business:

- Harvest Festival – we could build around already scheduled events. Talk to different organizations to do different events. Chad Lindeman spoke about some of the events he can recall. Carnival, 5K, car show, dunk, tank, face painting, street dance, chili cookoff, turtle races, fundraisers for the school, food trucks. People need to know that we want their help so that they can feel like they will be heard and they aren't wasting their time. Try to plan it around the time of the Community Foundation Golf Tournament. This year if possible. Work session to plan the Harvest Festival.
- Threshing Days Events – Hosting a community picnic in the evening. Coordinating with the Grocery Store to have them cater a meal? Food trucks? Contact James to find out if he is interested. Look into food truck options.
- City Logo –The decision was made to have a logo contest to allow input from the community in the design of the new city logo. Some suggestions were to have “Small town, big heart” include and to keep in mind the school colors. Give until the June meeting for the submission deadline. Advertise in the newsletter, on Facebook, at the grocery store, and in the newspaper. Work up some kind of vision statement.
- Discussed potentially live streaming the council meeting.

Adjournment:

- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried.**

Ben Schmidt, Mayor

Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk