

Minutes of the Goessel City Council Meeting

6:00 p.m., Mon., January 9, 2023

Civic Center Community Room

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

Guests: Joe Uhlman & Reece Hiebert – City Attorney & Next Attorney, Rose Mary Saunders – Ranson Citycode Financial, Anita Goertzen

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 minutes from the December 19th regular council meeting and the financial report. Motion carried.**

Recycling Center Nuisance:

- North Newton is holding their city council meeting at 7:00 p.m. and have a line item to discuss their current agreement with South Central Recycling and consider terminating the agreement. Mr. Uhlman emailed their city attorney discussing the issue. The attorney, administrator, and council know that there is an issue in our town. Though there wasn't an exact invitation to attend the meeting, it would be beneficial to attend the meeting. Mayor Schmidt does not want it to seem like we are trying to undermine the business and put them out of business. Amanda and Evan plan to attend the meeting to express our concerns and let them know of the complaints. His business is not registered with the secretary of state so it is unlikely that he carries insurance. We could draft ordinances that would require insurance for businesses but at this time there is nothing on the books that require this. Business license requirements could be put into place.
- Joe has spoken to Mr. Base about the deed issue. It has not been resolved so the city will proceed with the court proceedings against the registered owner of the property, Mr. Base.

PER Agreement/Grant Proposal – Park Project:

- CDBG round is going to be opening up. We will not need to do a door-to-door survey since one was completed in 2019. At that time the city qualified for LMI status. The application got moved back to May 1st and they are also doing another round in the fall. The PER agreement with Schwab Eaton has been presented to complete the necessary information for the park project. This would fall under community facilities which would be a maximum of \$600,000 with a 25% match. GO Bonds are currently the cheapest option for matching funds. It may be possible that we could wrap the paving of the parking lot in with the park project if the state statute allows. Resolution authorizing the city to do the project would all that would be needed for the application for the matching funds. Ranson Financial also submitted a proposal for the grant work. If we want to proceed, we would need to accept both proposals. Dean would like William Mann to attend the meeting so that we could talk to him to discuss some options for the park.
- It was brought up that there are other projects that are a higher priority than the park. It was decided that we would like Rose Mary to write up our grant options to make it easier to compare them and then decide which project we would like to proceed with.

Water Rates:

- Presented a proposal for water rates. The proposal contains a 3% increase across the board for water rates. This would make the proposed rate for water \$31.75 for 5,000 gallons of water and the state average for this amount is \$33.77. If the council would approve this proposal an ordinance will be written and presented next month to officially change the rates and would set when they take effect.

Nex-Tech:

- We have not heard from the representative of Nex-Tech yet. They were supposed to get in contact with the Mayor and meet at the water tower and this meeting has not yet occurred.

Tornado Siren:

- Talked to TBS Electronics about getting UHF/VHF radios to make the tornado siren operate with radios again. Clerk is waiting on numbers from them to make the system work. They are contacting the fire chief to figure out what equipment if anything is available to be used with the siren. They do believe it will be possible to get the system up and running fairly easily. We will discuss again once more information is available.

Public Works:

- She wants the council to consider purchasing the truck that she found at Hillsboro Ford. It has been in the schedule to be replaced for several years. The current Ranger has around 91,000 miles on it. Newer pickups will have more things that will go wrong. Dean will investigate some options. No decision was made at this time.

Police:

- Penny Morgan has asked for a list for everything that she needs to fix. Chief Voth is not comfortable with making this list and Joe agrees. We need a building inspector to make that determination before moving forward. It was suggested that a home inspector on an as needed basis may work. The concern of them not being appointed was brought up.
- Still trying to find another officer to fill the vacancy left when Kaylan resigned.

City Clerk:

- February meeting will be moved due to availability of council members.
- Citywide cleanup is scheduled for July 1st. Citywide garage sales are June 17th.
- Amanda, Ariel, and Dean are up for reelection this year.
- Asked for permission to purchase another fireproof safe to store the official city minutes in. On Amazon the safe is \$1,200. Consensus was to allow for the purchase of the safe.

Reserve Fund Resolutions:

- **D Snelling moved, seconded by D Adrian to approve the reserve resolutions with the change on the Equipment reserve fund to state vehicle replacement instead of specific vehicles listed. Motion carried.**

Other Business:

- Amanda talked to John Unruh about the cleaning creeks. There are permits that will need filed. She will have more information next month.

Adjournment:

- **D Snelling moved, seconded by D Adrian to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried.**

Ben Schmidt, Mayor

Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk