

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

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

Guests: Matthew Voth & Dwight Flaming – Goessel Community Foundation, Glenn Herrman, Rose Mary Saunders – Ranson Financial, Dave & David Johnson – nuisance property, James Kraus

Call to Order:

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

Consent Agenda:

- **D Snelling moved, seconded by A Voth to accept the consent agenda which included the minutes from the February 13th regular council meeting and the financial report. Motion carried.**

Goessel Community Foundation Flood Information – Matt Voth:

- Matt & Dwight presented a letter to the council regarding the flooding issues within the community. They would like a task force created to explore solutions to the flooding issues we have on the North side of Main Street that includes the grocery store and the fire station. The task force would include 2 members of the city council and 1 member of the foundation. The foundation has secured \$1,000 to start the process and there may be other options available with approval of their board.
- The clerk has applied for additional funding to perform a flood study in addition to the available funding that the community foundation has. Request for qualifications to several firms to see the response and select the firm we would choose. Rose Mary can send me a draft of a request for qualifications.
- We should proceed with a project. Jennifer is willing to serve on the task force, Councilor A Voth and Mayor Schmidt are also willing to serve on this task force. Jennifer will serve as the main contact between the task force and the city. They anticipate others from the community will be involved in some of the discussion and to offer suggestions or ideas for the engineer.

Park Project:

- Evan provided a drawing of proposed walking paths to loop the current path back around and connect.
- Walking path by itself – Sunflower Foundation, KDOT transportation alternatives. CDBG itself could cover everything else. CDBG would be a minimum 25% match. Sunflower Foundation allows in-kind work to help lower costs. They offer dollar for dollar. KDOT transportation alternative is 80/20. A sidewalk project would be required to be ADA compliant so mulch would not be a feasible option.
- Pickleball court was brought up as an option to use the current slab that is not being used. New fencing around the basketball court.

Fireworks Permit Application – Froese:

- **E Esau moved, seconded by D Snelling to issue the fireworks permit to Bill & Kellen Froese. Motion carried.**

Nex-Tech Cell Phone Service:

- Reece has come to an agreement on the contract with Nex-Tech on all terms except for the automatic renewal. The contract included an automatic renewal period of 5 years, 4 times in a row to a 20-year term only Nex-Tech would have the option to cancel. They negotiated and got it down to 2 10-year terms that could be canceled at the 10-year mark by the city if we so choose. The current lease amount is \$600 monthly. It was suggested to ask double that amount to \$1,200 per month.

IBTS Contract:

- Has been reviewed by the attorney. It is a league approved ordinance so there is not much wiggle room on the terms of the agreement. There are still some things that do need fixed and proposed before the agreement is signed. We would also need to update certain ordinances to fit the agreement and fees. IBTS would help to update those areas.
- Reece spoke with the City of Newton and a building code enforcement person is not the same as inspector for the purpose we are looking for.

Library Appointments:

- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Adrian to appoint Bonnie Janzen and Cindy Stucky to the library board. Motion carried.**

Police Officer Application:

- The Chief of Police with the City of Canton, Mark Barnett, has applied for a part-time position. He has experience and comes with the knowledge of small-town policing that would be beneficial to the city. He would be able to use his current duty radio and have it programmed to work in Marion County.
- **A Voth moved, seconded by D Snelling to hire Mark Barnett at a rate of \$23.32 per hour, \$20 per trip for at least a 2-hour shift and work a maximum of 8 hours per week unless the situation calls for more. Motion carried.**

Public Works:

- Gave an update on equipment. The sewer machine has some issues and some leaks. We paid \$10,400 in 1991 for the used 1982 sewer machine. It is stored inside because it has water in it. There is a temporary gas tank on it because the old one is rusted. The John Deer tractor is a 1995 and has 1600 hours on it. The fuel gauge does not work. Front cylinders are leaking. Champion Grader is a 1991 with 6,330 hours on it. We bought it in 1998 for \$42,000. It has numerous leaks. We have spent lots of money to have the motor rebuilt and lots of work done to it over the year. Rhino finish mower bought in 2008 for mowing the lagoon ponds. We have replaced 2 of the tires and rims, pulleys, belts, bushings and it is still sloppy. The water wells were put in during the 60's. We acid washed the south well twice now. The pipe coming in to town needs to be a 6-inch pipe but is currently 4-inch and that slows down the water pressure coming into town. The nitrates are also high and need to be addressed. Can we re-drill at those existing sites?
- Shop and office have been re-keyed. Some things have come up missing and equipment has been messed with. We hadn't rekeyed since 2008 and there were lots of keys that have gone missing.
- The chlorinator leaked and rusted everything in the room and she has ordered a new one. Water well on Wednesday had every hose clamp loosened and was leaking water everywhere so the locks on the well are being rekeyed as well.

Police:

- Mayor Schmidt wants to keep the departments separate. If there are search warrants, they want to use the public works shop for they can contact public works. Council disagreed.

- **D Adrian moved, seconded by A Voth to issue a key to the shop to the police department.**
- Completed ALICE training. He will now complete training at the school.
- Johnson nuisance property. The Johnsons' appeared to discuss their property. Compliance with ordinances or removal of the building would bring them out of violation. The court process has not been started. The judge would be able to look at what has been done in the process and would be able to grant more time if court action is pursued.
- Hall has requested a list of things that need to be looked at similar to Morgan.
- Meyer will be discussed further in executive session. The property has been transferred.

Streets:

- There is some wash boarding that needs addressed. Karen will grade them if we get some rain.
- Bruce Funk asked if we would consider opening 1 side of Marion for parking instead of both being closed. Options to open up more parking in anticipation of a higher-than-normal crowd.

City Clerk:

- Reminded council that the water conference is next week. Public Works and the City Clerk will be attending.
- The auditor is scheduled to be here on March 30, 2023.

Other Business:

- Tornado Siren Update
- Planning & Zoning
- Business license updates.
- Floodplain/Creek Cleanup
- Animal Control – James Kraus is wondering what we want in an animal control officer. He has a lot of experience in this area. What are the expectations and responsibilities? He is not available during the day if there are dog issues that are called in to the city office. During the day issues would be not be able to be provided by him. He would offer to try to help take care of the skunk problems by trapping them. Where to dispose of, where to dispatch. Keep this in our minds he just wanted to present the opportunity that he is willing to do so.
- Ben met with a member of Senator Marshall's office and discussed some of our issues.

Executive Session:

- **E Esau moved, seconded by A Voth to enter into executive session to have a consultation with the city attorney for 5 minutes. Motion carried.**
- Returned to open session at 9:16.

Adjournment:

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

Ben Schmidt, Mayor

Jennifer Bliss, City Clerk