

Concrete work starts on Platte River Drive

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 15 April 2010 16:31 -

Council okays curb, drain, street repairs.

City officials figuratively mobilized equipment to fix concrete problems on Platte River Drive.

At their April 6 meeting, Gothenburg City Council members okayed an approximate \$25,000 to repair curbs, replace storm drain tops and widen the street in southwest Gothenburg.

Work began this past week.

City administrator Bruce Clymer brought the list of repairs before the council because Paulsen Inc. of Cozad and its equipment is already in the area building a new Comfort Suites Hotel.

As a result, the city won't have to pay mobilization fees

Clymer said much of the curb is breaking up along the drive next to the Plaza Shell service station.

"Cars and trucks are driving off the curb and busting it up," he explained, noting that metal is also sticking out from some of the drains.

Paulsen Inc. is widening the drive on a curved area, replacing concrete and lowering curb height.

Clymer said the project could be financed through the street department in which \$87,000 is budgeted for miscellaneous projects this summer.

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When asked if any other projects were more important, Clymer mentioned grinding out Lake Avenue pavement between Highway 30 and Fourth Street but said it probably won't happen this year.

Money from the budget could also be used to pay down bonds.

Council members agreed that the curb and drain situation on Platte River Drive will continue to deteriorate if it's not repaired especially with increased traffic to the new hotel.

On another matter, business owners who use heat pumps now have a fairer way to be charged for water use.

The council voted on final reading to allow commercial customers to choose whether or not to install a second water meter that can be read remotely and used as a "deduct" reading for water used by a heat pump.

The meter would be billed at the deduct rate and installed in front of the heat pump.

If metering is not required, the customer can choose to be charged the applicable minimum customer rate or 50% of the water charge—whichever is greater.

However the city can request the installation of a deduct meter if officials can't determine how much water is released into the sanitary sewer.

J Buddenberg had requested the change after installing a heat pump at Electric Rain Inc.

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His sewer bill increased dramatically as water used by the heat pump flowed into the city storm, instead of the sanitary, sewer.

Council members also entered into a 12-minute closed session to discuss real estate negotiations.

No action was taken upon reconvening.

In other business, the council:

- gave the go-ahead for police officials to hire Nebraska Safety and Fire Equipment, Inc. to upgrade the fire alarm system in a room at city hall that is being remodeled for the police department. The cost is \$4,025.
- granted a request from Gothenburg Tree Board members to apply for a \$5,000 grant from the Central Platte Natural Resources District. If granted, the money would be used for landscaping around a city directional sign on south Highway 47.
- approved a \$6,947 payment to Blase Strauser Memorial Chapels & Monuments from downtown revitalization grant funds.

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