

Lake Helen restoration plan approved

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 27 April 2012 13:50 -

NDEG, Game and Parks Commission, others will pay \$82,000 bill

The wheel is now in motion for the rehabilitation of Lake Helen.

Gothenburg City Council members approved a \$82,000 contract for a lake restoration plan at their April 17 meeting.

The council hired Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers of Kearney to design and prepare bid documents for the dredging of, improvements to and restoration of the lake.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and other outside sources, will pay for the design work through grants and other funding.

On a related matter, the council introduced an ordinance that would allow gas engines, at speeds no higher than 5 mph, on Lake Helen.

Currently, only non-powered or electrically powered vessels, at a speed no more than 5 mph, can operate on the lake.

Council members support the measure to put Lake Helen in a state boating publication and become eligible for money to build a boat ramp and parking area at the lake.

On another matter, the council introduced a measure that changes acreage requirements in agricultural zones.

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New farmsteads must now be 10 acres but if an existing farmstead is part of a farm property, owners can reduce the acreage to five acres to sell the farm property.

The proposal had earlier been approved by the city's planning and zoning commission.

In other action, council members approved a lease agreement with Hamilton.net, Inc. to keep communication equipment atop the city water tower.

Hamilton will pay the city annually, \$4,200 for each of the first five years, \$4,400 for each year six through 10 and \$4,620 for each of the years 11-15.

Mark Sellers, company network administrator, explained that Cozad Telephone was the operator of the equipment which is now owned by Hamilton.

When Cozad Telephone owned the equipment, there was never a formal agreement.

In other business, the council:

voted to pay a \$21,780 claim to Miller & Associates for designing the paving, and other improvements, to three blocks of Lake Avenue.

appointed residents to fill two committee vacancies—Dee Miller will serve on the cemetery board and Angie Richeson on the library board.

passed, on second reading, a law that revises existing city codes to bring them in line with legislative changes.

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proclaimed April 20 as Arbor Day in Gothenburg.

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