South-side projects targeted

Gothenburg City Council members continue to winnow the list of sewer repair projects.

At their June 19 meeting, members prioritized projects and asked Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers for more specifics—such as funding—for each project.

All of the projects are south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks where the most infiltration of groundwater occurs.

They include repair of sewer on portions of Second Street, west Fourth Street, on the east and west sides of the trailrace canal and point and manhole repairs along Cottonwood Drive.

City administrator Bruce Clymer is looking into the city's chances of acquiring a $100,000 loan or grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

After sewers in the worst areas of the city were televised, the engineering firm came up with a plan for $4.7 million in improvements.

On a related matter, the council entered into a 10-minute closed session to discuss litigation about claims brought by several individuals concerning sewer damage.

Members took no action upon reconvening.

In other action, the council discussed angled parking along the west side of Avenue I in front of Gothenburg High School.

District 20 school board members are moving ahead with a plan that would add about 38 parking stalls.

The district plans to widen existing parking spaces which will mean a loss of up to 67 stalls.

Because Avenue I is a city street, school board officials needed a resolution which establishes angled parking.

Council members agreed to the plan.

Once the construction is finished, school officials will maintain the area to the street. Snow will be pushed into the street by school employees and city plow trucks will take it from there.

In other business, the council:

passed, on second reading, an ordinance to vacate property—part of Sander Furniture at the intersection of Highway 30 and Lake Avenue—that is on city and state right-of-way. The Sanders cannot obtain a clear title to the property unless it's vacated.

decided not to meet Tuesday, July 3, because of Independence Day.

passed a resolution for a deed of conservation easement between Central Platte Natural Resources District, Roger Wahlgren, LTD, R & J Wahlgren General Partnership and Connie Spence Revocable Trust.

The council passed the measure, so the Wahlgrens can sell water rights at pivot corners, at an

earlier meeting but a resolution is needed.

passed a resolution to establish a Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Revolving Loan Fund plan.

Members established the plan in February but learned they needed a resolution. To receive money from the City of Gothenburg Loan Fund, applicants would have to propose projects that meet certain criteria and significantly benefit the Gothenburg area.

decided to rent a special machine to fill street cracks with asphalt which is said to last up to five years. The machine, training and manpower will cost up to $15,000.

appointed Jarred Rickertsen to the Gothenburg Volunteer Fire Department.

agreed to find a way to allow Stan Jordan to fix bikes acquired by the police department and give them away to children at Christmas.

The bikes are currently auctioned.

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