

MINUTES
Goshen City Council Commission
May 13, 2025 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen City Council was held on May 13, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Goshen Community Center.

City Council

Call to Order: Mayor Stroud @ 6:31pm

Roll Call: PRESENT - Paula Anderson, Curtis Vaughan, John Vaillancourt, Colton Martin
Shawn Mayfield, Birch Wright. City Attorney Brian Hogue in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

Old City Business - Add item C (Resolution for purchase of second city police vehicle)

Add Item D (Update Org Chart)

Add Item E (Opening of Bids)

New City Business - Swap E (Mills Branch Park Maintenance) with F (Special Session Follow-Up Mayor)

Add "AND Comprehensive Maintenance Plan" as part of Item G

Birch Wright made a motion to accept the amended agenda; Colton Martin seconded

Public Comment: Bernadette Boyle - has concern when using the community building; no access to convenient parking that s being taken up by the bike riders (using handicap spots) - can we move them to the next parking lot over (back parking lot) to avoid elderly people that have to park too far away. Mayor indicates he's had other complaints and there will be signage put up once they are received.

Vote for amended agenda: All in favor; none opposed

Approval of Minutes April 8, 2025

Changes requested by John Vaillancourt -

- 1.Goshen Property O/S City Limits;
- 2.Jerry Jackson position

Changes requested by Paula Anderson

- 1.Grammar/typo(s)
- 2.Replacing parts in police vehicle
- 3.Funds related to police vehicles

Changes requested by Colton Martin

- 1.Vote for Chief Travis' proposal was incorrect and should've been 'no'

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Curtis Vaughan seconded

Public Comment: None
All in favor; None opposed

Approval of Financial Report

As of 04/30/25 the General Fund has \$1,036,473; includes Cash out of CDs being added back into the General Fund (additional \$415,437)

Street Fund has \$288,172; Police ACT988 Fund has \$10,717; CD Balance is \$651,413; State Park/ARDOT funds combined \$3,075; Farmers Market fund \$4221

Jerry Jackson says we are sitting at 28% right now. If we annualize that, we are looking coming in at right about target at \$225,000 for the year; still shooting to be net neutral (balance out at the end of the year); no contingency plans this year that we have made approval for; still outstanding is the police car engine (we did not have that built in anywhere); building contingency, we are looking at pulling some of the CD funds (has occurred already) and the rest will be used from this existing fund instead of adding to the CD balances; everything else is on budget as it should be.

Mayor pointed out an addition by KaSeana (Capital Expenditures) in the Council paperwork making comparisons (for police vehicle) / what was allocated, what was spent, what we are getting from insurance for the totalling of the other vehicle and cost of engine replacement and put that into the purchase of a new vehicle, we are only out \$13,000 out of the Capital Expenditure for that. Mayor wanted to make comparisons with replacement of engine, in case the engine went out in that vehicle, so Mayor called McClarty Daniel - quoted with parts and labor @ \$8900 (Mayor wanted to have as a baseline) - if, for some reason, the vehicle that we spent \$43K in 2019, the engine did go out, this is what the cost would be to replace it ; Jerry Jackson says this amount can be absorbed; it won't make any difference to our budget.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the financials; seconded by Paula Anderson

Public Comment: None
All in favor; none opposed.

Police Report (7A) - Chief Tr

196 calls for service. 44 total charges, 3 criminal, 3 PCS/PDP charge, 1 warrants, 30 Moving citations, 1 DWI/DUI, 64 Warning citations.

Birch Wright thanked Chief Travis for adding 'jake brake' patrol and also asked about (new) animal control calls; Abby (staff) added that when dispatched, for animal control, whenever 911 is called regarding animal control, then our officers are dispatched but some calls still filter through to City Hall directly.

Curtis Vaughan asked if there was any resolution on a police call RE a Goshen resident in a police vehicle 2 weeks ago (accident). Chief Travis updated that Nathan (officer) had a bumper scrape; car was taken to Premier Collision and it is below the deductible for it will be paid for directly (not via insurance) and it will be buffed out.

Mayor discussed letters received in support of our police and they were heartfelt and we owe them (police) a lot of gratitude for what they provide to the City of Goshen. (Letters that have been sent in were presented on screen).

Infrastructure and Facilities Report

City Park - Continued mowing and general upkeep at City Park; spread mulch at the base of trees at south entrance. Mulch is free with the City of Fayetteville.

Roads - Repaired washed-out barrier on Spring Park Lane

Graded and re-leveled washed out gravel on Spring Park Lane using the box blade

Unblocked three culverts on Goshen Tuttle to help prevent flooding

Removed storm debris from N. Sharp Lane after heavy rainfall

Maintenance - inspected and cleared two Goshen bridges of debris and blockages

Future Projects:

Seal the fence at the south entrance

Paint metal support poles

Continue installing new street signs for all streets in Goshen

Install a welcome stone at the Community Bldg and North and South Park entrances (Gibson monument says north park entrance stone should be completed next week and ready for pick up)

Patch potholes on city streets

Seal cleaned concrete on Oxford Bend Bridge and Blue Springs Rd bridge - important because after you seal and clean concrete, it shows up favorably on our inspections and the lifespan is longer (pictures presented)

Birch Wright commented if the City can call ARDOT to repair another/new pothole coming toward Goshen, down Slaughter Mountain. Mayor will call and make the request.

Mary Smith (Goshen resident) - she received a call from the Arbor Board regarding the mulch around the trees (at the South entrance of the park) being laid in a 'volcano' style and it needs to be pulled out so the bugs don't get in and kill the trees. Mayor said that will be addressed when the second load of mulch arrives.

Goshen Fire District Report

April, 2025 - 2 building fires; 1 forest/woods/woodland fire(s); 29 medical assists; 1 motor vehicle accident with injuries; 1 w/no injuries; 1 gas leak; 1 unauthorized burn (anything from burning something they are not supposed to not calling it in and getting permission per Chief Travis); 2 Dispatch and canceled enroute; 3 authorized controlled burns; 1 smoke scare; 1 odor of smoke; 1 lightning strike (no fire); 1 gas leak (natural gas/LPG).

Chief Travis added shout out to fire dept for recent call regarding report of a (possible) body in a cave on the river; boat was taken out and thankfully there was nothing to it.

Planning Commission Financial Report

No change in finances; Liz Mashie provided a letter for Mayor Stroud read aloud - dated 5/13/25 - Mayor read aloud:

"Dear Mayor, Council, and Citizens,

Your Goshen Planning Commission is pleased to recommend for approval, 3 updated ordinances regarding Signage, Driveways, and Lighting. We welcome your thorough review tonight and in the coming weeks as you decide on these important topics for our town. This commission has spent countless hours over many months considering several versions of these documents. We did our research, held healthy debate, and came up with ordinances that we hope you'll find consistent with our common goals for Goshen. We are a growing community

but a close one, balancing growth with our love for the rural hills and valleys. I hope you'll see that in these recommendations. A huge thank you is due to Lacie Lawson for making all of this happen, from the City side. We could not have hosted such robust discussions, enjoyed the insight of industry and other towns standards or come to such well-considered ordinances without her help. It is Lacie's hard work, with the leadership and support of our own Mayor, Russell Stroud, that pushes us forward to the best Goshen we can be. We are proud to be a part of it.

Sincerely, Liz Mashie"

Building Inspection Report - JD (inspector)

For April 2025 - 27 field inspections (a variety consisting of final, pool, solar, rough-in); attended conference for 8 hours of electrical CEUs and 8 hours of heat and air; 8 hours of plan review; foam insulation, egress (basements and attics) - Total was a 40 hours conference.

Parks and Recreation Report - Danielle Edwards - in April meeting the project of the parks was discussed, identifying that Design Scapes has completed the planting of the trees and is now working on the irrigation; the need to provide mulch to each tree (and moving it away); the need to clean up the areas around the trees (removing the rocks to allow the better grass coverage); ARDOT Tap Grant went out for bid, which we should be opening bids tonight, so that we can get this project under way; discussed improving the water crossing area just below the spring house, using native stones as a small culvert; City Hall is working on ordering new signs for all the trails in the park to be marked better for people to be able to see; discussed volunteer clean up day on May 3 - several volunteers - cleared significant amount of debris - a total of 6 dump trailer loads were hauled off and dumped in the dry pond behind the community building. Volunteers that showed up were Andrew Eton, John Irwin, Curtis Vaughan, Mike Nimmo, Mayor Russell Stroud, Ivan Ivankof, and Danielle Edwards. Also discussed, the positioning of the disc golf course between the north entrance and the story book tree after the clean up is complete in this area. Updates on the Grants - Abby (office) and Mayor Stroud gave updates on the applications for the ARDOT Tap Grant, which the City applied for this year, which is the plan for the Phase II to connect the Phase I trail to the pavilion that we want with the ARDOT Grant.

See Attached Addendum A for Statement made by Danielle Edwards

Colton Martin asked Danielle - at the last meeting, Council decided to put a pause on clearing the creek - when the volunteers came around, where was the communication breakdown? Danielle says what we removed was previously dead trees on the ground. Colton Martin reported that there were chainsaws used next to the river (clear cutting anything in your way to get to those limbs) and Danielle defended that the trees (on the ground) needed to be cut. Colton felt there was clear cutting being done to reach the limbs and that there were people 'seen' down by the creek, even after Council came together at a 3-hour meeting and put a pause on it; Colton would like to see Council's decisions need to be followed. Birch Wright disagrees - says Mike Nimmo talked about the dead stuff and the need to cut to it to get to it. Colton re-iterated that there was a pause put on it and John Vallaincourt concurred pausing anything by the water . Mayor Stroud added that (after listening to the audio) part of getting dead fall out means (sometimes) having to cut small pieces to get it out - Mayor didn't see anybody cutting significant vegetation anywhere close to the creek. Birch Wright said, intent was so that the day could go on, that the dead stuff could only be pulled out by cutting to get to it. Colton stated about the 3-hour special session meeting where this was debated and feels it was clearly stated to stay away from the creek to clear vegetation and remove limbs. John Vaillancourt supports and recalls the same as what Colton is stating, to pause anything by the water (don't cancel the clean-up but there's plenty more to do other than cutting things

around the creek and ponds). Mayor respectfully disagrees - says what was said was that dead fall could be removed, which happened to be along the creeks edge and in order to get to the dead fall, you do have to sometimes take out small vegetation to get to the dead fall and Mike Nimmo did ask that question in the special session meeting. Mayor wants to move on with the agenda and Colton Martin wants to continue the discussion; says there's nothing there anymore and it's down to the ground. Colton would like to hear from John, Paula, Shawn, and Curtis; Mayor went around the table for recollection(s) of special session meeting:

Birch Wright - we talked about pausing, if the day was going to continue (which BW is a big supporter of), Mike Nimmo made the point of in order to get the dead fall out we may have to cut around that to get to it; does not recall anything about don't get in the creek.

John Vaillancourt - recalls exactly what Colton Martin is expressing - don't cancel the clean up but there's plenty more to do there then cutting things around the creek and the ponds.

Paula Anderson - recalls both ends of the spectrum; can see where it would be unclear as to what can actually be cleared; what can we not clear; she recalls saying go ahead and get the dead fall but how that is interpreted with can we cut live material to get to the dead fall or not; doesn't feel that there was anything conclusive determined; but did make vote that we did not want things clear in the stream area;

Shawn Mayfield - remembers distinctly talking about trees that needed to be taken out and that would be allowed other than clearing a path into that but whatever was on the ground, dead fall, could be cleared.

Mike Nimmo said that there were no weed eaters out there; Mayor says the only two with chainsaws were the Mayor and Mike Nimmo.

Curtis Vaughan - commended the small group of volunteers that worked to put 6 dump trailer full loads of debris - says Colton Martin is correct that they were within the 25' buffer zone but we did have to clear cut to get to the dead fall to pull that out. Work stopped after Colton arrived and they moved to the other side of the park and finished going eastbound on the northside of the trail picking up dead wood.

Mayor Stroud - was in attendance at the volunteer day and Colton Martin came to him with concerns and he offered for Colton to go talk to Mike Nimmo. Mike says that Colton never did come talk to him. Colton stated to Mike Nimmo that 'you were asked to get out of the creek' and also feels that the meeting (a 3-hour waste of time per Colton) when they (Council) met and discussed what was to be done and 'you (Mike) went and did the complete opposite'.

John Coger (Public) - Shared his thoughts that this is a ridiculous amount of time being spent on this subject - John was in attendance at the Special Session and his understanding was that everyone was in agreement that no spraying, no clear cutting by city employees but the volunteers were allowed to go in and do what they needed getting the dead fall w/in 25' of the creek or wherever in the park. Colton Martin says that getting the dead fall is not the issue; taking a chain saw and cutting all of the vegetation around the dead fall is the issue (per Colton). Colton re-iterated again (and John Vaillancourt supported) that the council said to 'pause the activity until we can figure out what we need to do w/in the 25'.

Mayor stopped discussion and advised that the video will be reviewed and if there was a statement that we were NOT supposed to be in there, it will be brought to the Council next meeting. Mayor maintains that he is respectfully disagreeing with Colton - that he has reviewed the video twice and doesn't believe that was what was stated. What's done is done; everything he saw was deadfall w/in the 25' buffer zone.

Colton Martin made a motion to continue this conversation; John Vaillancourt seconded

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes); Colton Martin (yes); Shawn Mayfield (yes); Curtis Vaughan (yes); John Vaillancourt (yes); Birch Wright (no)

Colton Martin continued discussion - says there's a section in the special session meeting where it is specifically asked should volunteer day be canceled because we want to bring them out there and we want to clear out the creek. Colton said, 'no, you don't need to cancel volunteer day but we don't need volunteers doing something that they shouldn't be doing'.

Old City Business

Review of Parks Master Plan

Abby (office) advised that the table of contents (formatting to be less confusing) was changed and lettering was fixed too (at the bottom of document).

Parks Master Plan Ordinance 2nd Reading

Paula Anderson made a motion to waive the rules and read and title only: John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anderson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

As read by Brian Hogue (Attorney): "An Ordinance establishing the process for adopting the Master Plan for the parks in the City of Goshen and amending said Master Plan"

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the 2nd reading; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anderson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Resolution for purchase of 2nd police vehicle

Birch Wright made a motion to read and title only; John Vaillancourt seconded

All in favor; None opposed

As read aloud by Brian Hogue (Attorney): "A resolution approving the purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the City of Goshen Police Department"

John Vaillancourt asked about the amount for last vehicle - Mayor says \$59K; \$70K was in the budget and approved. Chief Travis added it's a little under \$60K.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Revised Organizational Chart

Mayor stated that since the Chief of Staff position will not be overseeing anyone, specifically, that position has been removed from the org chart. Brian Hogue added that if the org chart is approved, it will need to be brought back with a resolution.

Colton Martin asked about the Mayor being involved with all of the commissions. Mayor responded that the current ordinance reads that Mayor appoints and Council approves. Colton asked if that's a 'new line' added; Mayor will need to look at old organization chart to confirm.

Shawn Mayfield asked for clarity on reporting structure of the police department, which is Mayor/Chief/Captain/Lt./Sargent/Corporal; each one answers to their higher up. The resolution that Brian Hogue drafts will abolish the old.

Opening of Bids

Building Bid(s) - One of the contractors was not able to get the bid sheet; City Hall wants to wait until next month so the one contract can have a chance to submit; the one other contractor bid is ok with allowing this. Mayor would like to wait on shop bids.

John Vaillancourt made a motion to table; Paula Anderson seconded.

Paula Anderson asked about metal prices changing w/in the next month; doesn't want it unfair to one company due to waiting (unfair advantage). Brian says to reach out to them and if they want to resubmit, they can. He also encouraged the reach out should be via email or letter to create an audit trail. , they can. Mayor will reach out to the contractors.

Public Comment: None
All in favor; None Opposed

Other Bids - Opened in Front of Attendees

Culvert Bid(s) (15 total culverts to be replaced)
M&M Excavation out of Sulphur City - \$133,500
Tomlinson Asphalt \$183,642
Stewart Asphalt and Paving \$134,210

Mayor advised that we've used M&M for culvert replacement on Fire Tower and they did a great job but recognizes that sometimes the lowest bid is not always the best scenario but the fact that we've worked with them before is helpful. John Vaillancourt says Tomlinson is high by comparison to the others; Birch Wright agrees - asked if there's a value to take M&M and Stewart and do a reference check (we are already referenced on M&M per Mayor); Mayor confirmed they have to pull bond but he is fine to get references for Stewart. Brian says before Mayor can start working with anyone on a contract, we have to bring a resolution back and do one for each and a decision can be made next month, if that's what the council chooses. Mayor will do a check on Stewart and bring back both back next month for decision by Council.

Lacie (Staff) asked about if decision is made next month, does that push the job back or can we go through both contracts - Brian says they need to provide us a contract before next meeting and that we can't do anything anyway. Mayor says we'll ask for references and contracts on both and bring it back next month.

ARDOT Project (ARDOT Trail)

We have a \$315K allocated for the project from the Grant Award Budget which includes city contribution - we have to come up with \$63K (allocated for project)

Steep Creek, Greenbriar AR - \$618K (with all picnic tables)

Alternative 1 (4 picnic tables) - \$568,204.87

Alternative 2 (2 picnic tables) - \$580,000.00 (GINA'S notes / believe Alt 1 and 2 numbers need to be swapped out but this is what was read aloud at meeting)

No picnic tables - \$543,000.00

APAC Central - \$372,967 (with all picnic tables)
Alternative 1 (4 picnic tables) - \$347,567
No picnic tables - \$322,167

Paula Anderson asked if the picnic tables are ADA compliant; Mayor says, no, because it's not ADA compliant to go across the bridge
Shawn Mayfield asked for clarity on picnic tables; Mayor says the tables are concrete base platform to sit on, the rock picnic tables are set in the concrete are a good size and made of stone

NEC, Rogers AR - \$331,490 (w/6 picnic tables)
Alternative 1 (Going to 4 picnic tables) - \$313,744 (\$35,492)
Alternative 2 (Going to 2 picnic tables) - \$295,988 (\$17,746)

Diamond C Construction, Gentry AR - \$397,759 (with 6 picnic tables)
Alternative 1 (Going to 4 picnic tables) - \$4500 per unit - \$388,759
Alternative 2 (Going to 2 picnic tables) - \$4500 per unit - \$379,759

Decision is NEC minus 2 picnic tables (still getting 4 picnic tables) - Mayor will get proposed contract from NEC and bring it back to Council meeting next month. We have 45 days (for acceptance), so there is adequate time to bring it back and have a resolution.

New City Business

Ordinance Adopting Sign Regulations - Paula Anderson would like to do first reading tonight but wants citizen input before passing.

Paula Anderson made a motion to read and title only; suspend the rules for a first reading; Curtis Vaughan seconded.

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anderson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: "An Ordinance repealing Ordinance #156 and adopting new sign regulations for the City of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes"

Open for discussion: Curtis Vaughan noted that on page 12, sec 9, para E, #4 - Curtis Vaughan asked for it to be removed. (electronic signs are not allowed to change more than once per hour without variance approval); Birch Wright asked if this addresses existing or new signs; Mayor says new signs only. Birch feels it is written well and the variance can be utilized, in Curtis' case; Curtis says if #4 is removed then no one has to worry about the variance and there is a \$200 savings (application fee for variance). Mayor added the spell out of the variance process, which is, everyone can do the variance process; it goes through Planning. If approved, anyone (on either side) can still challenge it and take it to Council (appeal). If Planning denies, then you can appeal it through the Council.

Public Comment: Lacie (Staff) the reasoning behind the 1-hour; electronic signs allow for picture changing but there is safety issues, lighting issues with this - how often do you want to see it change, Curtis? Lacie says if you remove #4 (as Curtis requested) then a sign can change however often you want. Curtis wants it to change more than 1x per hour (maybe every 30 seconds). Lacie says traffic studies have been done (as documentation) and Curtis asked for her to bring that to the next meeting - she agreed to do so. Chief Travis doesn't want digital signs that flash because that can cause epileptic seizure(s) and then we have an accident to deal with.

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the first reading; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anderson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Driveway Ordinance - Tabled and has to go to the public hearing first

Ordinance Adopting Lighting Regulations

Repealing Ordinance 107 and adopting new outdoor lighting regulations for the City of Goshen, AR

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only for first reading; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anderson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Ordinance read aloud by Brian Hogue: "An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 107 and adopting new outdoor lighting regulations for the City of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes"

Colton Martin - Page 5, Section 7 Item B, there's an exemption that is broad for street lighting; would like to see us not do an open exemption. Mayor says we went to the Arkansas Dark Sky Society and we (Planning) took this from their input because we don't have control over street lighting outside the city's control. State highways are guided by AR Dept of Transportation and they often use different kelvin (4000 and 5000) so we have no control over that. Brian Hogue added that it can be restricted to utility companies and private entities (not just street lighting but any lighting). Shawn Mayfield asked about new subdivisions going in - if that developer went to utility compan(ies), then they would get what the utility companies use (pole light) and that would be 4000 kelvin (non compliant).

Public Comment: Lacie (staff) says street lights are maintained by POA and aren't utility company owned but Mayor says they 'could be' and that needs to be addressed in this ordinance; Lacie added that Carroll Electric currently has utility lighting that offers 3000 kelvin and Ozarks Electric is looking at adopting utility pole lighting at 3000 kelvin. If that happens, it would match our ordinance.

Brian says he'll look into it and go back to Planning Commission to figure out.

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve for first reading; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Vote Roll Call: Paula Anerson (yes), Colton Martin (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Ordinance Adopting Variance Request Policy is tabled

Special Session Follow Up

Mayor Stroud addressed this: Any instance where there's an item on agenda that is heavily focused on his Administration or his employees that work for him at City Hall, he would appreciate, if he has availability for a meeting, and that was done for this Special Session.

There's no FOIA issues to call the Mayor and ask if he's available for a meeting so feel free to do that in the future and he (Mayor) will do his best to try and accommodate. Mayor wants to clarify he appreciates the passion that all have to see the parks maintained and that we move forward in a positive way to get things done in the park. Prior to his administration, the parks were maintained solely by volunteers. Since taking office in 2023, the City started taking responsibility based on a comprehensive maintenance plan developed by Chuck Jacobus (as part of the Parks Commission) and it was put into place with the comprehensive management plan. It helped get funding from HUD when we applied for the Grant. That document was what Mayor used to go back and look at to determine City responsibilities that we need to do to maintain these trails. Mayor wants to have a good understanding of what's in all of the documents that he's reviewed and assure the agencies that we want to work with them and we want to make sure that we are using best practice(s). Part of a park clean-up and the process of determining what is safe and not safe for the public. Example of Poison Hemlock - it's a poison plant at every level (leaves, roots, stems, seeds, ingesting can kill someone - respiratory distress, respiratory arrest, seizure, loss of motor control - they are lethal). Once the plant gets to a stage where it's large and dry it can get airborne and that can be breathed in by anyone in the park. This is a major concern that these need to be taken care of because it's a danger to our public. He also has concerns about falling limbs from dead trees where people will be walking; doesn't want someone walking under a tree and have a limb (or whole tree) fall on them. Yes, we've (City Hall) received many complaints in 2024 about vegetation being overgrown, we have a thick ironweed population along the stream (it's not a good soil retentive vegetation/shallow roots/significant erosion). Where there's erosion we need to have a plan to prevent that. One item would be planting native shrubs that have roots to hold the soil together/things that hold the soil better/identify trees that are beneficial and then stake those so that they are not destroyed/mowing over those; Mayor felt that he/city hall was trying to address erosion by cleaning up an area where we've had multiple complaints, downfall and dead wood that need to be removed that you could not see without cleaning it up. In his opinion he doesn't feel they did anything damaging to the area because our plan was to go back in and repair the area with native seeds, plants, grasses, and trees. He has not moved forward with that due to a complaint that was issued to the Park Commission and told staff to hold off until we have a resolve to this. Felt what was recommended by the Council at the Special Session meeting was not a problem and it was appropriate until we could all get back and talk about what the plan would be for the future. Mayor feels we still need to look at our comprehensive management plan as a guide - it is a tool to use as a City to be doing best practices.

Prior to his administration there were no safety guidelines in place/training/precautions. We've gotten rubber gloves, boots, and signs up for precautions to be taken. Also have maintenance people enrolled in classes for full circle training. Currently waiting on final test results and then will have certification in the next week or two. Mayor/City Hall (since his administration) he has offered training to the staff, including his personal training (because he is certified as an applicator) on things to look for. Discussions have taken place with Dave (Maintenance) that we do not spray close to water sources because it can be affecting on fish and aquatic life. Glyphosate (Round Up) is the treatment of choice for anything close to water and that's what's been used.

We have a mowing contract (for hay) and they are allowed to use herbicide for invasive species (no thistle) and there are many - how do we notify people if we are spraying in the park - Mayor says we have signs that tell people to not be in that area. City is trying to get more education on removal of invasive species - we are not here to damage or destroy any of our eco system in the park.

There was a document on 3/17/25 that was referenced by Ken Smith as a new maintenance plan which is NOT a maintenance plan; It was an AI generated document that Mayor uses to keep track of certain discussions. Mayor says there needs to be clarity of understanding as to how we are taking care of the park, why we feel it's important, and where we want to go with it. We want to eradicate some ironweed in there (it's not good for having a view of the street and it's not good for retaining soil). Also want to plant pollinating vegetation; we don't have milkweed (we'd like to plant for butterflies). Mayor re-affirmed what both he and Danielle Edwards have conveyed - if there's a city staff issue, please bring that to city staff or the Mayor and we can address it.

Council Comment: Birch Wright said his understanding was that Colton had reached out about the special meeting. Mayor assured Birch that did not happen; he was advised by Gina Swanson (recorder/treasurer) who received an email from Colton (of which there were only Colton, Paula Anderson, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright included on it) which stated (paraphrased), ***“schedule a meeting for Tuesday; we have these members who have already confirmed are available (Colton, Paula, Birch, and John)”*** and that was it. Birch responded that he was led to believe that the meeting needed to happen on that week due to the volunteer day being that Saturday based on what the perception was of what was going to happen (an immediate need of why we had to have it that week). Mayor responded that anyone could have reached out (to him) and asked, “what's the plan for the clean up” and Mayor could've responded that, “it's all dead fall”, which is what the plan was from the beginning - remove the dead fall and help develop the disc golf course. Colton added that he did reach out (to Mayor) on Monday (after the meeting was already scheduled) to see if Mayor had any other availability and Mayor did not.

Council Comment: Paula Anderson says we, as a city, need to be an example as to what needs to be done right and how to do things and that we are doing them correctly and by the law. If we don't have the appropriate certification, we don't need to be spraying. Mayor responded that for year previous, while Paula Anderson was on Council, the maintenance person had NO training or certification or protective gear, etc. and had been spraying Glyphosate the entire time he had been hired and that Paula Anderson had been on Council at that time but had never made a point or argument about it during that time, ever.

Mayor says if he had thought for one minute that they (maintenance) didn't/weren't getting their certification (due to taking the wrong course), then they wouldn't have been spraying. They had the training but not the certification and Mayor takes full responsibility for that and apologizes; he doesn't disagree with Paula on that (our guys need to be certified). The reason that he didn't want them spraying Glyphosate on everything is because it kills everything (the grass) and that further degregates the soil. The other concern is poison hemlock - it looks like a carrot and if you get the root out, it looks like a white carrot and kids think they can eat it and they can (potentially) die. Mayor wants to protect our citizens - if there's a dead tree falling down or poison hemlock where people are frequenting, that is a problem.

Public Comment (Mary Smith) - Does the City have a permit right now to buy the chemicals for the City of Goshen? Mayor says, no. The only chemical that needs the permit is 2-4-D; every other chemical that is at City Hall, does not require a permit

Public Comment (Ken Smith) - See Addendum B (para-phrased)

Mayor Comment to Ken Smith's Statement: Mayor says the 3/17/25 memo that Ken Smith is referencing is from PLAUD, an AI recording device and it helps him to back and reference his meetings with people; it's a memo, not a maintenance plan. It is heavily focused on spraying because they had questions about what future things were going to be occurring in the park. Also, Mayor called HUD (spoke with Pedro) to clarify anything that's been done would violate the assessment prepared by Ken and he said that nothing we've done would violate anything in the HUD agreement. Mayor has also reached out to all the other entities (forestry, fish and wildlife, dept of ag, etc) to come do a walk-thru to help with planting to address soil erosion. The Mayor is not opposed to redo the comprehensive plan (requires \$\$) but let's look at how we would fund that.

Birch Wright asked for clarity from Ken if he feels something illegal has been done. Ken says, no - we need to update our master plan is the point he is trying to make. Birch re-iterated that it is NOT a maintenance plan at all; it's a memo created from an AI device. Mayor states that they have always followed the comprehensive maintenance plan that was prepared and adopted in 2022 and that is where he looks for his guidance on how to direct his staff. Ken added that on 4/14/25 when he was approached by State plant board officials about spraying along the creek and about the removal of streamside vegetation. Ken told them that he didn't know anything about it. Ken is still confused about the role of the parks and rec commission - one thing they are to develop a master plan and bring it to Council and you would think the park management plan would start with them and so it was Ken's thought (right or wrong) the appropriate thing was to go to Parks and Rec with his concerns and then he started getting push-back; felt that parks and rec was the point of contact, honestly.

Birch Wright - asked Ken Smith for clarity that the State Reps that stopped him on 4/14 indicated that there was an 'anonymous' complaint. Ken confirmed, yes, that was what he was told. Ken asked Mayor if we are still waiting on a report from the State Plant Board - Mayor says the Plant Board told him that they have 30 days to release their findings. Mayor has also reviewed the past 2 years of State Plant Board Meetings and there has never been any kind of citation or fine for a violation at this level (for this type of complaint). Jerry Jackson offered that if we were to implement some of the options and visions of a plan like that, we'd have to expand staff. We are currently understaffed and would not be able to do 1/3 of what is required.

Colton Martin - supports Ken's offer to revise the Plan (gratis) - says 'we have an expert here making this offer' (stated this support 4x at the meeting). Mayor says that the Comprehensive Management Plan would be something that does not just include Ken Smith; it would take multiple agencies and he doesn't believe that can be accomplished for free. Ken is happy to do it but if City wants to handle it a different way, that is fine too; he just wants to move forward positively. Mayor is concerned about bias as well as some inaccuracies in the Environmental Review. He will get with Ken Smith at a later date to go over those inaccuracies. Mayor added that in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, park commissioners don't do any of the things that were included in there and they never have. Mayor has followed the City's instructions of what the City is supposed to do - but there is an entire section in the Maintenance Plan about what the park commissioners were supposed to be doing but it's never been done. Mayor agrees that updating both of them is probably a good idea; has no problem with the commission working on an updated maintenance plan as well for Council approval. Mayor asks

that you recognize that there are 2 employees that are maintaining the park; outside of that, it is volunteers. Volunteers are there to only help - not to damage.

Paula Anderson asked to hear from Brian (attorney) regarding the AI document (memo) and asked him to address concerns about AI documents and taking them 'at their word' because that's the only document we have and all documents created with AI, for the City, are still able to be requested via FOIA. We might want to consider adding some disclosure to AI documents.

Colton Martin asked Ken Smith if it's the Comprehensive Management Plan that he thinks we need to update or is it a different document. Ken feels the Comprehensive Management Plan is a good and sound document. The Environmental Review revealed that we needed to add management needs to our park management plan - some mitigation measures need to be added (streamside management, spot spraying, hand removal of invasives, etc).

Brian Hogue offered that the parks commission role is to work on the Comprehensive Management Plan but says it would be appropriate for Ken Smith to participate in meetings and add input but ultimately the structure supports that it has to come from the parks commission.

Kyle McGurk (Public) - asked about the trees that were cleared on volunteer day - are they standing or fallen trees? Mayor responded that the only trees removed at the volunteer event were dead fall (on the ground) and outside of the riparian zone. Kyle asked were the trees/dead fall in the mowed areas or the riparian areas? Mike Nimmo and Mayor say, both. Kyle asked how that habitat (in the riparian areas) that do help with erosion control, how in those unused areas (not mowed) how do those pose a safety risk? Mayor responded, only those dead trees where they can fall on people, those are the only dead trees we want to remove (it's a public safety hazard); Kyle asked that if the Comprehensive Management Plan is amended, to try to state that the 'ideal' situation would be to remove those trees during the specified time periods (Sept/Oct) and Mayor agreed. Mayor further stated that the only standing vegetation removed was outside of the buffer zone; there were some removed in the riparian zone that is outside the 25' buffer. All of the dead fall that was in the riparian zone, we tried to remove because they are affecting mowing; the buffer zone (25') to not go closer to the creek for mowing; there was no statement that we were not going to mow in the riparian zone; the whole area, the lower guild to the storybook tree is now being mowed so we can use that for our disc golf (between the creek and the bluff). The 25' from the creek to the bluff will remain mowed; it is part of the riparian zone, yes. Kyle: was there a plant survey that was done before the area that was mowed that was deemed not to be native - was that done (a survey)? Mayor says, no.

Cheryl Nimmo (Public) - A comment directed to Colton Martin and his comments about Mr. Nimmo - "My husband is one of the most honest people that you will ever meet and for Colton to say that he has done something or sent something to my husband, and my husband says, no he didn't, I can guarantee you he didn't. You did not approach him (Mike).

Colton rebutted with 'there is a photo of him in the creek and all of the vegetation is down and I asked him to get out. This is coming from Cheryl, who also says I never e-mail her back'. Mayor advised Colton that it is not appropriate to argue with citizens of our community. Colton responded, 'with that one, yeah, it is'. A member of the community yelled out, 'how much longer are we going to have to do this'; Colton responded, "2 years"!

Mary Smith (Public) - This park can provide recreation, education, and environmental services. Mary says she talked to Mayor at an Arbor meeting and asked, 'why are you clearing to the creek, that is a riparian zone?' Mary indicates that Mayor responded with "there is no law against it". It is Mary's understanding that they were

under some promises to HUD for the money and felt it was a legally questionable thing to do to abandon it. She has photos of what it looked like when it was cleared, after being sprayed over and over.....1-minute to speak time limit was met.

Mills Branch Park Comprehensive Management Plan

It's a 62 page document that Mayor encourages everyone on Council to go through and read and understand it. It's also a part of this adopted by Council in 2022; Mayor encourages Council to read and understand that as well. Mayor is open that if Council wants changes to that, that Council let parks commission know what changes you (Council) would like and let the parks commission work on that and submit those changes back to Council. Mayor will follow the changes that have been recommended and Council approves; he will not vary from that. Council will have full control of it.

Ken Smith (Public) - asked if Mayor was talking about the 3/17/25 document or the Beavershed document? Mayor stated again that the 3/17 document is a memo and needs to be referred to as a memo (and it was a mistake that it went out). The two documents that Mayor is referring to are the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan that was developed by Chuck Jacobus (when he was on the parks commission) and the Beaver Watershed Alliance document. The Master Plan and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan are two separate documents that Mayor is asking the Council to review.

Street Fund Amendment

Culvert Project - Mayor states there is no way for us to keep those in separate line items; it has to be reallocated by the budget. Paula Anderson - if it has to be readjusted after we got our bid in? Mayor says, no, we will need it for gravel and maintenance. Mayor wanted to make sure we had at least another \$15K but we actually have \$20K. Asphalt apron on park road will move forward once Crossland vacates the south park entrance. We need approval to change the categor(ies).

John Vaillancourt made a motion to approve the reallocation of funds; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Certificate of Deposits

Update - Withdrew (closed) 3 CDs for \$415,437.22 and was moved to the General Fund for the construction of the new shop building. Two remaining CDs rolled over at 4.25% interest; this leaves us with \$651,413.04 in CDs. The next ones to mature will do so on 10/7/2025; at that time we can decide on what to do with those.

Comments:

Paula Anderson (Council) - May we get more recent ordinance updates for lighting and signage out to the public for their input. Signs are a big change to the city and we should have a better communication of that to the citizens so that they can have some response time. Brian responded that they can be published; Shared email list can be utilized and it can be put on website and it can be posted in the regular posting areas (community bldg, post office, two gas stations).

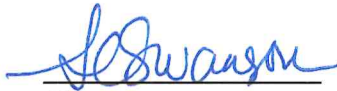
Colton Martin (Council) - Has concerns about hiring practices and that they should be reviewed and suggested they need restrictions. Directed at Mayor that he has concerns that he has hired/paid 5 of his close friends; concerned about 'optics'. Jerry Jackson responded that Colton is alluding to him being one of those people.

Jerry reiterated that he is not an employee, he's not being paid, he's not in a decision-making position. Mr. Jackson is in this role because of his qualifications. Colton agrees that his financial background is amazing but does not think that the appointment of Mr. Jackson and two others (he calls friends of the Mayor) is appropriate. Birch Wright stated anytime there is a new administration, they can bring in anyone they want as long as they have the core qualifications and that's just how it works - municipality, public industry, private industry; you can't have your spouse or brother working for you (nepotism) but other than that, you can hire who you want. Mayor added and backed that his hires have been exceptional. Colton Martin doesn't feel that the community 'knows' this is happening and accused Jerry Jackson of being 'biased'. Jerry Jackson says he is not biased simply because he supports the policy of the administration.

Mary Smith (Public) - Has concern when mowing straight to the creek, they are taking out pollinators. The bird, butterfly, and firefly habitat are being taken out. The minimum of 15' (riparian zone) shouldn't be mowed or sprayed; should be taken out manually. Mary feels there has been damage. Staff have not been trained on what to keep and what to leave. We can provide 3 landscaped access points to get the public in and leave everything else alone; it would be easier and cheaper on staff.

John Vaillancourt made a motion to adjourn; Colton Martin seconded
All in favor; None opposed

Adjournment at 9:40pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor