

**CITY OF GHENT**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL/EDA MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2025**

The regularly scheduled City Council/EDA meeting for the City of Ghent was held on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Doug Anderson, Mike Warren, Adam DeRoode & Zac Boerboom. Absent is Tim VanKeulen. Administrator/Clerk, Dawn Vlaminc & Public Works Director, Jesse Christianson

**OPEN MEETING:** Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order @ 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Warren to approve the minutes of the March meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Warren to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**APPROVE CLAIMS & EXPENSE REPORT:** The Council discussed ways to increase transparency with the expense report. Next month, Dawn will include the prior month's approved claim report with the current expense report so that members are able to compare/line up the disbursements. The bank statement will also be included as another layer of transparency.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** No comments were heard.

**LYON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT:** Sheriff Wallen was present with the monthly report and update on dangerous dog hearing. We also asked for input regarding controlling nuisances relating to a proposed chicken ordinance.

**DANGEROUS DOGS:** We received a signed waiver of hearing and/or consent to the destruction of dogs from Gibb Marchant. We need this from Katrina Davis also in order to avoid the upcoming hearing. The hearing has been changed to Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2:45.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** A motion was made by Warren and seconded by DeRoode to open the public hearing to hear comment regarding the local board of appeals and equalization. All in favor, motion carried. Mark Buysse reviewed the value information for Lyon County. There were no changes in values for 2025. No public comments were heard.

**LYON COUNTY ASSESSOR CONTRACT:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom to approve the three year contract for assessing services with the Lyon County Assessor's Office. All in favor, motion carried.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:** As no comments were heard, A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by DeRoode to close the public hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT: AG PLUS PILE OF DIRT:** The City has been fielding complaints regarding the "pile of contaminated dirt" that Ag Plus has stored to the south side of their property. The majority of the complaints are about the strong smell and concerns about health issues. Moving forward, complaints & concerns should be directed to Josh Hilbrands, the manager of Ag Plus. Josh informed us that the pile will be re-tarped in the next couple of weeks. After being tested a decision will be made for disposal this fall.

**CHAPTER 91 ANIMALS: ORDINANCE REVIEW:** We have been receiving requests to have chickens and rabbits. A review of our current ordinance has exposed a lack of detail in regard to domestic animals. Also, the requirement to have chickens is 10 acres of land, which prevents all current residents to own chickens. Council heard comments from Chassidy DeRoode and Margaret Gawarecki in favor of a change in the ordinance to allow chickens. Council reviewed a sample ordinance from the City of Vesta which is quite restrictive. Dawn will make the noted changes and do additional research before bringing to the May meeting. Dawn will email the draft ordinance to interested parties.

**FLOODPLAIN PERMIT: BRYAN & ANNETTE GADES @ 3162 State Hwy 68:** A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom to approve the Permit #2025-1 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**WIDSETH: WATER/ SEWER IMPROVEMENTS:** We will be submitting an updated plan on the IUP list for 2026. We will continue to work with Ottetail.

**BOLTON & MENK:** We have been successful in securing a Small Communities Planning Grant for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience in the amount for \$69,977. These funds will be used to plan the berm along the south edge of the bike path in the Bluebird First Addition. Paperwork to finalize the grant needs to be completed before any work can commence.

**TRAIL GRANT:** New requirements have been placed in this grant that we cannot meet. We did not apply.

**GWORKS ONBOARDING:** Our onboarding has been pushed from April to June. Dawn continues to hear poor feedback from other cities as they onboard. She is doing additional research with other utility billing companies in case we decide to make a change.

**SOURCEWELL:** Dawn reminded council of the opportunity for cooperative purchasing with sourcewell.

**COUNCIL CHAIRS:** Our council chairs are starting to fall apart. A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Warren to purchase one chair at a time as they continue to break. A sample chair was available for approval. All in favor, motion carried.

**ARC-GIS:** We have received our lead line inventory in a GIS program that we will need to support. The annual cost is \$1100. Dawn will include this in our 2026 budget and asked council to consider adding another layer to include our EAB tree grant requirements. Dawn will bring details and costs to the May meeting.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Boerboom to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Vlaminc  
Administrator/Clerk