

Present: Mayor - Larry Franzen

Absent: Jeff Kennedy

Council members Jim Aden
Roger Dudley
Gary Norseen
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple
City Attorney Mike Bacon
Police Chief Randy Olson

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Eppie Sisneros, Shane Gruber, Jeff Whiting, Gary Reiber, Mark Montgomery, Sally Jochum, Dean Kugler, Anne Anderson, James Houchin, Joyce Hudson, Cathy Kennicutt, Claudine Kennicutt, Jim Long, Travis Mason, George Prince, Nancy Fisher

Mayor Franzen opened the meeting and public hearings at 7:00 p.m. Advance notice and a copy of the agenda were given to the Council and members of the press. City Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available for public inspection on the north wall of the Council Chambers.

Cathy Kennicutt requested a special use permit to operate a digital screen-printing and embroidery business from her home at 2015 Lake Avenue, an R-1 zoning district.

Mrs. Kennicutt noted she intended to operate part time and when business allows, will move to a downtown storefront. She had received concerns, as had the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council, from two neighbors about increased traffic in the alley. The homes on that block front on Lake Avenue / Highway 47 and the residents use the alley for off street access to their homes and garages. She does not anticipate an large increase in traffic, an occasional delivery truck but no long term parking blocking the alley.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, to close the hearing at 7:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, to allow the special use permit for a home occupation at 2015 Lake Ave as requested by Cathy Kennicutt and recommended by Planning & Zoning Commission. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay- none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

The public hearing on a request to rezone Block 22, Hiles & Reynolds Add'n was taken up at 7:04 p.m.

Jim Long purchased Block 22 and vacated Ave C in Hiles & Reynolds Addition and wants to construct a warehouse and bee keeping operation. It is currently zoned R-3 and he would like an industrial zoning for the current business plan and to allow future possibilities to develop. He feels I-1 zoning fits his plans better than I-2 regulations.

During discussion it was noted that I-1 zoning, while a small part of the area, would provide a buffer between the adjacent R-3 and I-2 (heavy industry) areas. The entire area may require scrutiny during the comprehensive plan now in progress.

James Houchin, homeowner to the east of the proposed change, expressed concern about the size of any warehouse construction and safety of his family with the bee operation, as well as increase heavy traffic.

Mr. Long intends to build on the west part of the block and all work would be inside. It is possible a few bees would escape but safety is priority. There will be more traffic than is usual now but not highway volume or size.

Norseen moved, Aden seconded, to close the hearing at 7:11 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Norseen. Nay- none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Norseen moved, Aden seconded, approving the rezoning of Block 22 and vacated Ave C in Hiles and Reynolds Addition as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Aden, Norseen. Nay- none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy. Atty. Bacon was directed to prepare an ordinance to affect the zone change for the August 15 meeting.

Aden moved, Dudley seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes- July 18

Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – July 28

Roll call vote: Yea - Norseen, Dudley, Aden. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$76,277.55; Public Works Division \$78,510.91; and the July 27 payroll of \$33,455.08. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

- Administrator Clymer received notice that the grant for security fencing at the south side well was approved. We are getting fence prices and it appears there may be enough money to start fencing a second well.

Three bids were received for park mower:

Husker Ag:	Grasshopper 723	\$13,021
		<u>- \$5,000</u>
		\$8,041

Fairbanks Farm Equip:	Grasshopper 723	\$6,102 including mulching kit ,twin bagger & trade
	Grasshopper 729G2	\$7,702 including mulching kit, twin bagger & trade 29HP gas engine

Discussion was had on the 23 horsepower vs. 29 horsepower engine, air-cooled and water cooled engine.

Aden moved, Norseen seconded, to accept the bid from Fairbanks Equipment for the 29 horsepower engine. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Norseen, Aden. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Norseen moved, Dudley seconded, to advance Ordinance #809 to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Norseen. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, approving a three year lease with the Chamber of Commerce for the Pony Express Station at a rate of \$2500 / year. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Consolidating dispatch services in Dawson County has been under discussion for approximately two years. Investigation into community and county needs, cost of equipment and oversight is ongoing. Recently Cozad agreed to join County dispatch services, which leaves Gothenburg as a stand-alone dispatch center. Dawson County plans are to dispatch from the current center for now and make future changes as needed.

Disagreement continues concerning methods of funding the dispatch center. Lexington wants an equal division funding between Cozad, Lexington, and Gothenburg. Since Gothenburg has a lighter call volume, a 'cents per valuation' cost or 'cost per call' seems more equitable.

The County received a grant of Homeland Security funds for a 6-person console unit to be purchased by March 2007. If Gothenburg continues to stand alone, there will be considerable cost to upgrade equipment to meet State and Federal requirements.

Sheriff Reiber made the following points:

1. Three chiefs and the Sheriff would make up the committee overseeing the center
2. Funding must be a City Council / County Commissioners issue
3. Regardless of Gothenburg's decision, the County will remain co-operative with all towns as is currently the practice.
4. A new building to house dispatch services is still under discussion using Homeland Security Funds.

The Council agrees consolidation is the direction to go but is concerned about financial issues. No action was taken.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, approving the draw down for CDBG funds of \$17,773 for the Senior Center project. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Aden moved, Dudley seconded, approval of a design contract with Miller & Assoc. for 1.5 miles of road from Highway 47 to the ethanol plant site. Fees will be an hourly cost not to exceed \$88,800. Roll call vote: Yea – Norseen, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy.

Council received a property tax request of \$45,792.79 from the Airport Authority. The request will be considered during preparation of the 2006-07 budget now underway.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Kennedy. The next regular meeting will be August 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Larry Franzen Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk