

Present: Mayor - Larry Franzen
Council members Jeff Kennedy
 Jim Aden
 Roger Dudley
 Gary Norseen
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple
Attorney Steve Vinton
Police Chief Randy Olson

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present including but not limited to: Trudy Else, Steve Linegar, Mike Houchin, Joan Windrum, JP Thomalla, Shane Gruber, Donna Sheffield, Travis Sheffield, Roger & Carol Wahlgren, Chris & Deb Spencer, Jim & Pat Ambler, Burton & Lona Ristine, Lane Nordin, Karla Blasé, Joyce Hudson, Andy & Cassie Hilbers, Doug & Regis Swanson, Chris Galas, Blaine Peterson, Steve Peterson, Alice Sheffield, Jim Long, Kirt & Heidi Knoedler, Stan Gould, Anne Anderson, Jeff Whiting, Mike Gruber, George Dillon

Mayor Franzen opened the meeting and continued the public hearing 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.

The public hearing on a request from Travis Sheffield for a special use permit for the construction and operation of a funeral home at 27th Street and Avenue L was continued from August 15th.

Travis Sheffield introduced Stan Gould, architect for the building. He has addressed the concerns expressed by the Planning and Zoning Commission as follows:

- A scaled site plan has been drawn with a paved parking area on the north. The gravel parking area on the south will be paved as soon as financially possible. There are 59 off street parking spaces.
- The steel building will have a brick veneer 42” high, to windowsill height, on 4 sides and lap siding above it. There will be a circle sidewalk and a full canopy with brick pillars
- The roof will be steel.
- There will be landscaping along the back and south sides of the lot.

Doug Swanson provided a picture of the proposed building.

Citizens were given the opportunity to address the Council from the podium and the following points were made in opposition:

- Spencers are building a new home in the area and are concerned about other businesses in the future, traffic flow, and limited outdoor activities during funeral services. They provided a petition of citizens in opposition to the location.
- If lots in the Hilltop Estates Subdivision don’t sell because of the funeral home, more businesses could come in.
- The area should be maintained as residential only. Businesses belong somewhere else.
- Biggest concern is style of the building, shouldn’t allow metal structures.
- Reduced property values and concern about negative impact on the new subdivision
- Concern about the number of off-street parking spaces and large funerals lining Ave L
- If community can’t support two funeral homes, we’re left with a vacant metal building.

Points in support of the permit:

- Support new business in the community. Foresee no negative impact on the neighborhood.
- The Redevelopment Authority, owner of Hilltop Estates Subdivision, voiced three concerns to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Those concerns, siding, landscaping and paved parking lots, have been addressed, and if they are met, the RDA has no issue with the special use permit.
- In most communities funeral homes and churches are found in residential neighborhoods. We should welcome the business and the young people returning to town.

Other points and discussion:

- Discussed paving 20 spots on the south side now and landscaping the balance for now as an additional buffer to the residences to the south. That would provide 40 paved off-street parking.

- Have a green space between the building foundation and entry sidewalk.
- The area is zoned R-2 and as such is limited to the type of businesses allowed – schools, churches, funeral homes, nursing homes, hospitals – and only then by special use permit.
- The permit is about the business and the impact on the neighborhood, not keeping / returning young people to town.
- Funeral homes and nursing homes are not businesses in the sense of retail traffic at the front door.
- Business survival is not Council decision.
- Concerns and requests of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Redevelopment Authority have been met.

Norseen moved, Kennedy seconded, to close the hearing at 7:28 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Kennedy, Norseen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to approve the special use permit with the following conditions:

1. No metallic siding
2. Brick facing 42” high from the foundation
3. All parking paved, a minimum of 40 stalls
4. Appropriate landscaping around the perimeter
5. Green space between the building and sidewalk

Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Norseen, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

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

- City Council minutes – August 15, 29 & 30
- Treasurer’s Report - July
- Planning & Zoning Commission – August 22 (continued from August 8)
- Police Report - August

Roll call vote: Yea – Norseen, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City except #1920, \$105,164.92; Public Works Division \$132,810.29; and the August 24 payroll of \$29,665.07. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Norseen, Aden, Dudley. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Norseen seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Tree Service. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none.

- Administrator Clymer received a letter from the NE Library Commission regarding a meeting on the 19th in North Platte.
- The clerk received a letter from Bob Bullock that Wayne & Sharon Gunther had resigned the care of the Lake Helen War Memorial and Don & Sharon Abbot would be replacing them. They are open to donations for flags for the memorial.

Ordinance 810 was proposed for second reading was found to be in error, stating a change to I-2 when it should be I-1. Therefore the ordinance was reintroduced and the three reading waived.

Dudley introduced Ordinance 810 as corrected, entitled:

An ordinance amending Ordinance No 490, changing a portion of the R-3 zone in the city limits of Gothenburg, Nebraska to I-1 zone; directing a change of the zoning map to reflect such amendment, repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and providing for an effective date

and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. The motion was seconded by Kennedy, and on roll call vote, the following Council members voted “Yea”: Norseen, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. “Nay”: none.

Ordinance 810 was then read by title whereupon Council member Norseen moved for final passage and Council member Dudley seconded the motion.

Mayor Franzen then asked the question “*Shall Ordinance #810 be passed and adopted?*” On roll call the following voted “Yea” – Kennedy, Dudley, Norseen, Aden. “Nay”- none.

Mayor Franzen signed the ordinance in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

As a result of a recent trash haulers meeting, the haulers have requested a 50-cent increase in rates due to the cost of fuel. Discussion was had and it was decided to survey are communities’ rates and consider the increase January 1.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, approval of a one-day license to sell wine at a Chamber of Commerce sponsored Beef and Wine Tasting event on October 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Stone Hearth Estates, 110 20th Street in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none.

Norseen moved, Kennedy seconded, approval of a one day license to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business After Hours event on September 8, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 818 Avenue I in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Kennedy, Norseen. Nay – none.

Anne Anderson discussed Harvest Events. The Bed Races are scheduled for Saturday, the 16th, racing from Ave G to Lake Ave on 15th Street. She asked that 15th Street be barricaded prior to the parade to keep vehicles off the ‘raceway’. Discussion revealed that this would also block a delivery access to the Methodist Church for their dinner following the parade. It was decided to move the races to 16th Street.

In keeping with the Hippie theme, there will be a “Woodstock” at Lake Helen with hot dog roast, 60’s music, Frisbee golf and sand volleyball on Saturday evening. Council had no objection.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, approving draw down #7 for Senior Center project CDBG funds in the amount of \$6677.00 Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Norseen seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2006-9, allowing alcohol in Lafayette Park pavilion for River City Roundup on September 29. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Norseen, Dudley. Nay – none.

Council had no objection to Job’s Daughters holding a dance for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at the tennis court on Avenue I. The dance will be from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. on September 16.

The 2006-07 budget proposal carries a tax request of \$407,927.22, keeping the levy the same as last year at .318786 plus the airport for a total levy of .35472.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the budget for publication and setting September 19 as the hearing date. Roll call vote: Yea – Norseen, Dudley, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Two bids were received for auditor services for the next three fiscal years:

Dana Cole	\$6850 FYE 2006	}	plus \$1800 for a single audit if required
	\$7250 FYE 2007		
	\$7650 FYE 2008		
Robert J Meyer	\$6750 FYE 2006	}	plus \$1500 for a single audit if required
	\$7000 FYE 2007		
	\$7650 FYE 2008		

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, accepting the bid of Robert J Meyer for audit services. Roll call vote: Yea – Norseen, Aden, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Lengthy discussion was had on dispatch services. Choices are to continue as is, consolidate with Dawson County, or consolidate with North Platte. As proposed our budget includes dispatch because the expense is there regardless of what we do. Regardless if we go with Dawson County or North Platte, we will have a video phone in the police lobby for 24 hours a day. Gothenburg currently dispatches for Brady emergency services and according to Mike Gruber, Fire chief in Brady, they will go to North Platte if we go with Dawson County.

No action was taken on changes to dispatch services, and Administrator Clymer and Chief Olson will prepare a report on the various options, cost, and technology required for the Council to review.

Council member Norseen resigned his West Ward council seat effective September 20 citing additional job duties that will restrict his time for Council activities.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. The next regular meeting will be September 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Larry Franzen Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk