

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Jim Aden
Roger Dudley
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple
City Attorney Mike Bacon
Police Chief Randy Olson

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Ken Christensen, Shane Gruber, Chris Healey, Cindy Soller, Katy Soller, Ted Steuban, Faye Kniss, Eppie Sisneros, Trish Wagner, Jerry Hudson, Steve Johnson

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting 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.

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

City council minutes – October 16
Cemetery board minutes – October 1
Police Report - October

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

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City except #1047, \$100,179.91; Public Works Division \$96,987.22; and the October 18 payroll of \$28,204.32. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claim #1047 to the Animal Hospital. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Open Forum:

Ken Christensen expressed appreciation for the sidewalk along 20th Street at the Senior Center.
Mayor Hudson expressed appreciation for \$2000 for playground equipment from Pamida Stores.
The embankment on the north side of E G West Park is being scaled down and the dirt taken to Lake Helen to raise the old sand volleyball court area.
Gothenburg received awards at the NCIP banquet in Lincoln recently.
Council member Whiting reported receiving nice comments on the parks

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 820 vacating a portion of 4th Street east of Hiway 30, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none.

Discussion was had on proposed user fees, deposits, and rentals. Definitions will be included and labor costs simplified. The last resolution was approved in 2000. A final resolution will be considered at the November 20 meeting.

Chris Healey again asked Council to reconsider his utility bill at Gothenburg Feed. Council took no action on the request because the rate ordinance had been correctly applied.

Aden moved, Dudley seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control Commission the approval of a special designated license for a tournament to be held at Lakeside Fun Center on November 18, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none.

Ken Christensen purchased the landlocked property behind the water tower at a tax sale and asked Administrator Clymer about an easement on the east side of the water tower to allow him access to the property. There is a line of cedar trees on Pine View Apartment property that if removed would give 25 feet for access. The Pine View Partners have now asked for a permanent alley if the trees are removed.

The Council is not completely in favor of an alley because maintaining a dead end alley is difficult but agrees that along the well site is the best access to the property. Attorney Bacon will research statutes regarding access to landlocked parcels and the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of a purchase agreement with SpecPro, Inc for \$46,825 to replace the skylights damaged by the summer hail storm. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none.

Chief Olson asked the Council to consider adoption of an ordinance prohibiting Level III sex offenders from living within 500 feet of a school, state licensed day care center, or church. State statutes give municipalities authority to enact such ordinances. Level III offenders are those deemed predatory and likely to re-offend. If offenders moved to restricted areas after July 1, 2006, effective date of the state statute, they can be compelled to move.

Several questions were fielded from those attending and ultimately Atty. Bacon was directed to draft the necessary ordinance for consideration at the November 20 meeting.

Discussion was had on a park mower with a ten-foot deck. The state bid on such mowers is \$40,020 from an Omaha dealer. The local John Deere dealer demonstrated a mower costing \$40,851.75. Warranty work would be done locally.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, approving the purchase of a John Deere 1600 turbo wide area mower from the local John Deere dealer at \$40,851.75. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Dudley. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be November 20 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk