

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson  
Council members Jeff Kennedy  
Jim Aden  
Roger Dudley  
Jeff Whiting  
City Administrator Bruce Clymer  
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon  
Police Chief Randy Olson

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Eppie Sisneros, Jennifer Wolf, Nancy Fisher & Ilona Jordison of the Gardenaires Club, Jared Slagle, Joyce Kolbo, Denise Romatzke

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and 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 an application for a Downtown Revitalization Grant was taken up at 7:00 p.m. The grant requests \$30,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to improve and rehabilitate the downtown area and reduce the slum and blight conditions that currently exist. Matching funds of \$7100 would be required of the City.

According to Jennifer Wolf of Dawson Area Development, the funds could be used for such things as promotions and programs, upper story housing and facades of existing buildings and historic preservation. The application is due March 19 and will require letters of support from the City and local businesses. This is a new grant and applicants are limited to the eleven Certified Economic Development communities, of which Gothenburg is one.

Denise Romatzke of Ribbons and Roses floral shop spoke in support of the grant by voicing her concern about the dwindling downtown area and help for the established businesses there. Economic development and pursuit of bigger retailers and industry is a good thing but she would like to see some assistance for the shops in the downtown retail area.

The Chamber Retail Promotion committee, Community Development Office, and Administrator Clymer will meet to discuss specific needs. The recent Comprehensive Plan provides excellent information for assistance developing the application and plan of action.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Dudley, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to proceed with the CDBG application for \$30,000 in Downtown Revitalization funds. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-6 authorizing signature of grant documents. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to appropriate matching funds to a maximum of \$7100 for the downtown revitalization grant. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy Aden, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none.

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

- City Council minutes- February 19
- Cemetery Board minute – February 25

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

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$54,680.48; Public Works Division \$88,197.70; and the February 21 payroll of \$57,591.38. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none.

Open forum:

- Nancy Fisher, representing the Gardenaires, expressed the club's willingness to work with the youth and assist the City in planting and maintaining flower areas including the area behind the Senior Center. They asked if any funds are appropriated and how to access them.

The Park Dept is new this year the budget limited but Mayor Hudson expressed the willingness of the City to assist as we can beyond the \$500 budgeted. The club should work with Tim Lauer as about eight organizations have contacted him as a result of the ad in the *Times* last week.

- Administrator Clymer informed the Council of the status and possible passage of LB 371 and the effect of it on municipal budgets and taxpayers. The bill would establish a defined benefit pension plan for all police officers.

Council member Dudley left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 827 updating construction codes on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Dudley.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 828 adopting the Energy Conservation Code, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approval of Mayor Hudson’s recommended appointment of Mark Ballmer as Fire chief. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

Two bids were received for installation of water and sewer infrastructure on Jefferson Street:

BSB	36,712.50	128,514.75	165,227.25
Van Kirk	41,754.00	82,795.80	124,549.80
Engineer Estimate	44,545.00	76,642.00	121,187.00

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to accept the low bid offered by Van Kirk Sand & Gravel of Kearney for the water and sewer installation on Jefferson Street. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Dudley.

Construction will begin following a pre-construction conference on the project at 10 a.m. on March 5.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Dudley. The next regular meeting will be March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk