

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

Absent: Police Chief Randy Olson

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Ken Christensen, Louis Bovitz, Robert Meyer & Mike Steele of RJ Meyer Assoc, Marilyn Cheever, Eppie Sisneros

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.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:
City Council minutes - March 18

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the Public Works Division, \$75,255.81, except #4901; City, \$87,031.55 and the March 20 payroll of \$30,003.63. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claim #4901 to Quality Fire Extinguishers. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Aden, Whiting. Nay – none.

Open Forum:

- Marilyn Cheever addressed the Council about the number of geese at Lake Helen and the damage and unsightly mess they leave on the walk trail and grass, as well as the possibility of disease. The park is for people, not a wildlife refuge. Council expressed their agreement and explained the many things tried to discourage the geese and the complications of drastic measures and federal laws protecting migratory birds from harassment. The City is open to suggestions.
- The Department of Economic Development has received our application for a downtown revitalization grant. There will be a site visit on April 23 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the downtown business people need to be involved in this visit.

Bob Meyer of RJ Meyer Associates discussed the 2006-07 audit of City funds and has submitted an unqualified report. The city is in excellent financial condition, all funds are insured, bonds and other claims are timely paid and debt is being reduced.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to accept the audit as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, approving the Mayor's recommended appointment of Louis Bovitz to replace Rod Franzen on the Planning & Zoning commission. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Gothenburg Feed Products has asked that the north 180 feet of platted Avenue A in Block 33 of Vail's Villa Addition be vacated to accommodate construction by Nebraska Salt & Grain.

Council member Dudley introduced Ordinance 829 entitled:

An ordinance vacating a portion of Avenue A; describing the boundaries thereof; providing for reversion of title to said portion of vacated street, retaining easements located in the vacated portion of said streets; 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. Council member Kennedy seconded the motion and on roll call vote, the following voted “Yea”: Aden, Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. “Nay”: none.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a full vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said Ordinance which was then read by title.

Council member Dudley moved for final passage and Council member Whiting seconded the motion. Mayor Hudson asked the question: *Shall Ordinance 829 be passed and adopted?*” On roll call, the following voted “Yea”: Whiting, Aden, Dudley, Kennedy. “Nay”: none.

Mayor Hudson declared Ordinance 829 adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council and the Clerk attested the signature.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, introducing Ordinance #830 prohibiting use of tobacco products at the recreation complex, including the swimming pool, and parking areas. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Dudley. Nay – none.

According to Section 9-208 of the zoning regulations and the user fee resolution, contractors on large construction projects can provide their own qualified building inspector. Nebraska Salt & Grain has requested Jason Suelter of Structural Design Group be the building inspector on their upcoming project.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, appointing Jason Suelter as building inspector for the single application of NSG construction. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

At the present time the State does the commercial electrical inspections. Electrical Foreman Mike Libich does the residential electrical inspections for a fee of \$30. Although not licensed, Libich is grandfathered by State regulation. Inspections are required for new home construction or when a main breaker is changed.

If the City were to allow the State to do residential inspections as well, foreseeable changes would be:

- All liability would be removed from the City

- Inspectors would have continuous training in the latest code regulations

- Fees would increase, approximate fee is \$185 (based on panels and circuits) vs. \$30 from the City on a 200 amp service

- Applications for inspections would be filed on the I-net by either the homeowner or electrician

- The State collects all fees

- Inspections would not be as timely. Currently inspections can usually be made within 24 hours.

It would become one to two weeks.

Discussion was had and Council member Aden is not in favor of losing control and relying on the State. He’d rather see a local electrician become certified and have the City retain control over the timing and fees. Administrator Clymer will solicit input and recommendations from local electricians and find out what it takes to have our own inspector certified and trained, and report at the next meeting.

Kennedy moved, Wendelin seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk