

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

Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Eppie Sisneros, Shane Gruber, Matthew Williams, Trevor Franzen, John Burks, Jennifer Wolf, Louis Bovitz, Bruce Schaben and Jeff Westrick of Schaben Sanitation, Joyce Kolbo, Gary Mroczek, Gary Schultz, John Saathoff

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 purpose of the public hearing was to consider and approve a redevelopment plan for the Pelshaw commercial building project. Matthew Williams spoke on behalf of the Gothenburg Improvement Co. asking for Council support of the project that will construct a 15,000 square foot building on Lot 1, north of the Pamida Store at 718 4th Street.

The redevelopment contract includes:

\$400,000 tax increment financing funds issued up front through with sales tax monies.

Zero interest

The TIF loan will be secured by the tax stream of the developer, a second lien on the building, and the guarantee of Pelstar LLC and Bob Pelshaw.

The building to be constructed has been leased and an announcement will be made to the public next week.

Aden moved, Dudley seconded, to close the hearing at 7:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the redevelopment plan for the Pelstar commercial building project as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none.

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

City Council minutes – April 15

Tree Board minutes – April 17

Board of Adjustment minutes – April 25

Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – April 30

Police Report – April 2008

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$66,514.31; Public Works Division \$113,404.52; the April 17 payroll of \$29,296.63 and May 1 payroll of \$30,406.49. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay - none.

Open Forum:

- Administrator Clymer has been contacted by Christa Piesta who wants to have her June 9 wedding on the bridge at Lake Helen.
- We have received a plaque for 20 years as a Tree City USA and there will be new signs at the entrance to town, and a flag with the 20-year designation on it.
- Arbor Day was celebrated April 25 by planting a tree in the northeast corner of Ehmen Park in honor of Alvin Bringleon. Alvin was a long time member of the Tree Board and his family donated the tree as part of the commemorative tree program.
- The shop dumpsters were over run again this year for Clean City Week.

- LB245 becomes effective June 1, 2010 requiring communities with a population of 1000 or more to add fluoride to the drinking water. Voters may prohibit it by ballot.
- Administrator Clymer provided a spreadsheet of 20 communities of similar size to Gothenburg comparing bonded debt, valuation, tax levy, debt to valuation ratio, and valuation per population. Gothenburg ranks average or below in all cases. Information used was provided by the League of Municipalities.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-9 approving the Pelshaw redevelopment plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Dudley, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance #830 on third and final reading. The ordinance prohibits use of any tobacco product at city recreational area ball fields and swimming pool. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none.

Administrator Clymer reported the fees for ‘call back’ residential inspections involving the State Electrical Inspector are \$50 for the first call back, \$75 for the second and \$100 for each additional. This should be the cost of the electrician and not the homeowner.

Inspections are required on both the temporary and permanent service if the electrician sets the temporary service. If the City sets the temporary service and owns it, no permit is required unless additional items are added. Most communities that have had the State do inspections have had no regrets of their decision.

While the issue of the State Electrical Inspector taking over local residential inspections has been discussed for several meetings, and there has been no public comment on the issue, Council decided not to give up local control and no action was taken. Councilmember Kennedy suggested that if the City is to continue doing inspections it would be prudent to send Mike Libich to training and be sure he’s aware of updated codes.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-10 allowing the sale of excess property valued at \$5000 or less by order of the City Administrator. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control Commission, approval of a one-day license to the Chamber of Commerce to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business-After-Hours event sponsored by Pony Express Chevrolet on June 13, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 420 S Lake Avenue in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

CDBG 07-PW-014 allows \$13,000 for administration. After actual administration costs, \$1300 remains for single audit, if needed. Two firms responded to a request for proposals for administration:

- Miller & Associates – declined
- Dawson Area Development - \$11,700.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approval of the proposal submitted by Dawson Area Development for administration of CDBG 07-PW-014. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none.

Jennifer Wolf, of DAD, reported the environmental review required by terms of the CDBG 07-PW-014 contract has revealed no environmental issues and the statement will be forwarded to the State.

Whiting moved, Dudley seconded, to approve and authorize the Mayor’s signature of the environmental review record. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Dudley, Whiting. Nay –none.

Administrator Clymer discussed the information received from the three trash haulers on the impact of fuel prices on their business. The last increase was 50 cents per month and was January 1, 2007. Discussion was had and the City Attorney was directed to draft an ordinance increasing trash rates for consideration at the May 20 meeting. The amount of the increase will be determined at that time.

Avenue D, between 5th and 6th Streets, was abandoned several years ago but easements retained for the 12 inch sewer line, eight inch water line, and 25 inch storm sewer located there. Drainage issues there would be eliminated if the area was paved; therefore, Pony Express Chevrolet would like to purchase the west half of the street and pave it and then work with the engineers to eliminate drainage on the south corner. They would also like to purchase the triangle shaped lot on the west of the dealership because the west wind creates a sand blasting affect on care windows. The city has a substation, feeder line and gates on the property

Administrator Clymer will consult Atty. Bacon on requirements to sell any property and report at the May 20 meeting.

Cheryl Gunlock, owner of Mystique Antiques asked Council to not allow bicycle and skateboard riding on the sidewalks downtown. She recently purchased the building at 905 Lake Avenue and had to replace two front windows broken by bicyclists, probably accidentally. While the cost of replacing windows is disturbing, she fears for the safety of the riders if the plate glass should fall out and hurt them. Cyclists also knock over exterior signs.

Others reported near-misses when cyclists cross alley entrances and store entrances without looking.

There is a code in place that forbids riding bicycles and skateboards on sidewalks in the fire district. The City has been reluctant to enforce it because while we do not like them on the sidewalk, we certainly do not want children riding in the street either. Chief Olson has asked all officers to intercept bicyclists and inform them of the ordinance and ask them to walk their bikes downtown. They will also be making contact with parents, seeking their co-operation.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, introducing Ordinance 832, creating Paving District 101, 22nd Street between Avenues G and H. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Dudley, Whiting. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, introducing Ordinance 833 creating Paving District 102, 23rd Street between Avenues G and H. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Lafayette Park Depot –lease to Shiloh McVay for pre-school was removed from the agenda and no action taken.

During an informal general learning seminar with the Department of Labor regarding Fair Labor Standards, we found that while paying employees \$30 for “on-call” time, we are not adjusting their overtime rate to reflect the additional amount in calculating overtime. To eliminate accounting issues Administrator Clymer calculated the annual affect of “on-call” pay to be \$.20 / hour. The affected employees have no problem with a change; therefore, Clymer proposes changing the personnel policy to eliminate the on-call provision and adjusting hourly wages accordingly.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-11 removing language regarding “on-call” in the personnel policy. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Dudley. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approval and payment of \$14,315.40 by registered warrant to Paulsen’s Inc. for Jefferson Street paving. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Trevor Franzen, a member of Boy Scout Troop 177 proposed a community improvement project to earn his Eagle Scout badge. He proposes to repair and paint the broken cement railing on the southeast corner of Lake Helen. Hudson Construction has agreed to assist him and estimates the project to cost \$750. He has secured a donation of the cement from Paulsen’s Inc, and Hicken Lumber will discount paint and some materials. He may need some financial help from the City. The project will be complete by July 4 at the latest.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing the Eagle Scout project as proposed by Trevor Franzen. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

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

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk