

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Jim Aden
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple
City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Eppie Sisneros, Nate Wyatt, Louis Bovitz, Joan Windrum, Nancy Fisher, Mike Houchin, Linda Grabenstein, Gary Habe, Tip Ronnekamp

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

- City council minutes – August 5
- Treasurer’s Report – July
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – August 12

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$48,564.25, except #1920; Public Works Division \$457,023.81; and the August 7 payroll of \$35,270.26. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape Service. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Nate Wyatt presented a proposal for administering the employee pension plan. Benefits of the proposal include:

- on-line payment, account review, and statements
- timely reporting with consolidated accounting
- eliminate the one-year “sit out” penalty if an employee takes a hardship withdrawal
- gives vested employees the discretion to invest city match funds as their own contributions
- one-one discussion, enrollment, and investment planning with employees
- reduced administration costs

Changes would occur on the plan year beginning October 1.

Council had no objection the proposed pension plan changes and a resolution of adoption will be considered September 2.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, naming the committee members to review proposals, interview planners, and make recommendations for the downtown revitalization project. Members include Mayor Joyce Hudson, Council members Jeff Kennedy and Tim Strauser, Administrator Bruce Clymer, Anne Anderson, Jared Slagle, Steve Peterson, and an ex officio Dawson Area Development representative. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

GRN 2nd Subdivision currently is platted into eight 70 foot lots. The proposed replat would result in seven 80 foot lots making them more hospitable to the planned home construction by the CROWN Housing developer. Lots would also be more saleable if the CROWN project does not materialize.

Linda Grabenstein lives in the area and voiced several concerns to the replat:

1. It is a low-lying area and will require a lot of fill to eliminate drainage into crawl spaces.
2. Noise from the Parker-Tech plant should be minimized by a noise barrier but trees take 20 years to grow to sufficient size.
3. Construction materials should be purchased from local businesses.
4. There are already many homes for sale. Gothenburg is not destitute for housing.

Gary Habe, plant manager at Park Tech Seal has no objection to construction of the homes but would like some guarantee that once built, there are no issues or complaints about the machinery noise from the plant.

Administrator Clymer reminded all that the area has been platted for many years, this would realign the lots. Water and sewer has already been installed and there is a contract for paving. Re-platting the lots just improves the area for what will happen sooner or later. The streets are designed to take water away from the lots but its unknown at this time if homes will be built on concrete slabs or have crawl spaces. The contractor knows that the present lot 8 will have to be raised.

Attorney Bacon said noise is a nuisance issue and nuisances can not be grandfathered but an ordinance could impose noise limits. If that occurs, no lender will provide funding and enforcement becomes a big issue. Insulation, windows and doors are better now and eliminate a lot of outside noise. The CROWN Housing developer will be the landlord and buyers will live there before becoming the owner.

Following all comments, Mayor Hudson reminded everyone that while comments and concerns are appreciated, the proposal only realigns an existing subdivision. The Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended approval.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the replat of GRN 2nd Subdivision. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving the Airport Authority tax request of \$62,540. Funds will be used to repair and replace taxi-way. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, setting a budget work session on Wednesday, August 27, at 5:30 p.m. and budget hearings on September 16 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-18 approving a Facility Planning Grant application for \$28,650 for the sewer system study. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Nancy Fisher, representing the Gardenaires Club, spoke with Council about painting the north and east walls at the intersection of Highways 30 and 47. Steve Peterson, owner of the east wall gave them permission to paint a mural. The school art class is willing to submit ideas for a mural and do the work if the City is willing to pay for the materials.

Council had no objection but asked that the owner of the north property be approached for permission to paint that wall. The Council wants to approve the mural design before it's begun. Council also expressed their appreciation for the flowers and Christmas tree on the corner.

Proposed ordinance authorizing gap paving of Avenue I from alley south to 22nd Street was not discussed because no information was available from the bond attorney.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be September 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk