

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: Jennifer Wolf, Shane Gruber, Paxton Gruber, Jerod Slagle, Brian Woldt, Travis Mason, Anne Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gunlock, Lisa Pula

This meeting was postponed from the regular meeting date of January 20 due to lack of a quorum at that time. Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearing at 5:03 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 Community Redevelopment Block Grant Funds to be used for downtown revitalization taken up at 5:03 p.m. Jennifer Wolf of Dawson Area Development reported on the application that resulted from the planning process of the last few months.

Thirty-one surveys that allowed businesses to prioritize their needs and preferences for use of the grant funds were returned and incorporated into the application budget. The budget is distributed among four items: façade improvement, accessibility, energy efficiency, and establishing a revolving loan fund.

Funding will be available in late spring, after the contract is approved by the Department of Economic Development and special conditions are met. Mrs. Wolf cautioned everyone not to begin any improvements or sign contracts for improvements before the city receives a Notice of Release of Funds. Work before release of funds will not be considered for grant funds.

Signage is not allowed under the CDBG program but a business could apply for BECA funding through Dawson Area Development.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to close the hearing at 5:23 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approval of the Downtown Revitalization Plan as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, passage and approval of Resolution 2009-2 authorizing signature of the application for Community Development Block Grant funds to revitalize the down town area. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing signature of documents relative the application:  
Statement of Assurances and Certifications  
Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan  
Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:  
City Council minutes – January 6 and January 15  
Cemetery Sexton report – 2008  
Treasurer's Report – December  
Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – January 13  
Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$74,791.05, except #1868; Public Works Division \$368,720.13, except #4901; and the January 8 payroll of \$30,447.67. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claim #1868 and #4901 to Quality Fire Extinguishers. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

**OPEN FORUM:**

- Administrator demonstrated the updated City web page he designed and implemented.

Ordinance 842 regarding utility rates is as presented last meeting. Since there were comments about water and sewer rates, Administrator Clymer contacted the Nebraska Rural Water Association and they have agreed to do a water / sewer rate study at no cost. It should be done in February.

Discussion was had and it was decided to file an amended ordinance with no change to the water and sewer rates until after the rate study. The amendment will be available at the February 3 meeting.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to advance Ordinance 842 to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc noted that the request for payment from Van Kirk Bros on the Avenue I sewer project is for stored materials that are already in City possession at the shop. Aden moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of request #1 in the amount of \$23,072.63. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Mayor Hudson’s recommended committee and personnel appointments and the Fire Dept roster:

<b>Board of Adjustment:</b>	Dan Yancy Steve Johnson Dick Nelson	<b>Cemetery Board:</b>	Dick Larson Cindy Cooper
<b>Housing Authority:</b>	Cindy Soller Al Ballmer	<b>Library Board:</b>	Matt Coplen
<b>Community Redevelopment Auth:</b>	Pam Slack	<b>Recreation Committee:</b>	Tim Strauser Libby Franzen
		<b>Tree Board:</b>	Diane Trullinger

<b>PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:</b>	City Attorney	Mike Bacon
	City Prosecutor	Willard Weinhold
	City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L Dalrymple
	Police Chief	Randy Olson
	Police Sgt	Matthew Langley
	Police Officers	Ryan Randolph
		Joe Humphrey
		Dustin Cullen
		Jill Ostergard
	Fire Chief	Mark Ballmer
	Electrical Inspector	Mike Libich
	Building Inspector	Doug Swanson
	Back-up	Shane Gruber
	City Physician	Dr. Craig Bartruff
	Municipal Engineer	Miller & Assoc

<b>Fire Dept Roster:</b>	Ron Alexander	Brock Anderson	Allen Ballmer
	Mark Ballmer	Dennis Bihlmaier	Chris Brede
	Shane Butterfield	Dan Butterfield	Justin Carlson
	Eric Coulter	Richard Crown	Dustin Cullen
	Adam Finke	Craig Franzen	Dale Franzen
	Larry Franzen	Lyle Franzen	Troy Franzen
	Justin Geiken	Wade Geiken	James Hecox
	John Hecox	Jon Hudson	Joe Keiser
	Kent Kline	Dan Meisinger	Phillip Miller
	Travis Miller	Troy Munster	Mark Ostergard
	Mike Ostergard	Robb Ostergard	Aaron Pelzer
	Koby Rickertson	Christopher Scott	Chad Stull
	Casey Russman	Walter Trimble	Garland Underwood
	Lane Van Natta	Jason Wagner	Michael Wagner
	Dan Walker	Keith Williamson	

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

At the December 16 meeting Travis Mason presented options for drainage along 6th Street east of Highway 47. The survey work done since that discussion indicates the plan for a pipe and open ditch will work. It would also be a project completed if 6<sup>th</sup> Street was ever paved. Since the estimated cost of \$130,000 to \$180,000 is not budgeted, Council will consider it again at budget time.

According to the Personnel Policy, each January the Council sets the employee floating holiday, considering recommendations from the Employee Relations Committee. This year the Committee has asked to replace the floating holiday with individual personal time hours. No matter when the floating holiday is, someone is on call and requires a complete shutdown of City operation for a day. The change is comparable to other communities our size according to the Nebraska Pay Survey.

There is also a request to consider allowing four weeks vacation after 20 years service. The policy currently provides 40 hours in year one, 80 hours in years two to ten and 120 hours after year 15. A couple options were presented, also with reference to the Nebraska Pay Survey. One is to add eight hours of vacation time each year after 15 until 20 years service yields 20 days vacation. The other is to revamp the vacation schedule beginning with year one.

Council had no objection to the floating holiday request but would rather discuss the vacation policy at a later date. Both requests would require a change in the Personnel Policy.

Jennifer Wolf of Dawson Area Development notified Council that the Rural Fire Board has requested State tax credits for the expansion of the fire hall at 602 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to re-appoint Bruce Clymer as representative to the West Central Nebraska Development District. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

After a brief discussion on changing Council meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 or 5:30 p.m., it was decided to leave the time as is. While the Council members would like an earlier time, it's probably easier for the public to attend 7:00 meetings.

Brian Woldt, Dawson County Civil Defense Director, visited with Council about a Hazardous Mitigation Plan that Central Platte Natural Resources District is preparing. The plan will focus on storm shelters, flood control, availability of generators for emergency facilities, etc. CPNRD will fund the entire cost of plan preparation but would like each City to appoint a representative to gather local information and attend a meeting on the plan in Elm Creek on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, appointing Chief Randy Olson to represent Gothenburg in the Hazard Mitigation Plan process. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Aden, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk