

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

November 3, 2009
7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Council member Tim

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Travis Mason

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.

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

City Council minutes – October 20
Police Report – October
Annual Treasurer’s Report – 2008-09

Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$65,763.20; Public Works Division \$75,762.68; and the October 29 payroll of \$29,839.08. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Open Forum:

- We’ve received \$6900 from the Statewide Arboretum for the trees planted at the cemetery
- The crew removed snow is half across town picking up downed tree limbs from the October 29 storm
- Comfort Inn Suites groundbreaking was November 1
- There will be a presentation of the new flood plain map for the public in the Council Chambers from 3 – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and at the 5:30 p.m. Planning & Zoning Committee meeting.
- Beginning next month, utility billing by postcards will cease. Bills will be mailed in an envelope thru Billflash, a Utah company that works with our Caselle billing software. The service is very economical and the security allows us to print account numbers. The full page sheet also has a graph of usage for the past year. It will also allow for mass mailing inserts. Billing and due dates will not change.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approving Drawdown #2 for \$8535 on the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, approving Drawdown #3 and payment of \$2234 West Central NE Development District on the Owner Occupied Housing Project. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Whiting, moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Drawdown #4 and payment to West Central NE Development District of \$3208 on the Owner Occupied Housing project. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to open the platted alley east of Avenue L from 23rd Street to 26th Street including 23rd Street for one-half block east of Avenue L. The street will be opened full street width. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

The sanitary sewer project east of Avenue I was changed to include a sewer line on 11th Street that was never connected to the original line. Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve Change Order #4 of \$31,454.66 for an additional 300 feet of sewer line. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Council reviewed the proposed update of municipal codes in preparation for having them available on the web site. The code will incorporate the Nebraska Basic Law statutes as prepared by American Legal Publishing. Some changes discussed, approved, or still under review include:

- Maximum fine for code violations increased from \$100 to \$500
- Language in regulations regarding sales of alcohol. Hours of sale will remain the same.
- Updated language on peddlers and hawkers.
- Removed requirement for a bingo license
- Updated curfew language according to state statute
- Removed some land usage language that does not apply to our subdivision and zoning codes
- Deleted the regulation regarding election signs
- Updated statute on removal of police officers
- Updated various language changes such as job titles, reference to citizens addressing meetings, and department names
- Incorporated state statute changing height at which grass and weeds become a nuisance (from 12” to 8”)
- Removed some fees and rates to be incorporated into the Fees Resolution
- Burning permits will not be required from DEQ, only the local Fire Chief.

Detailed discussion and further review will be had on:

- Limiting the number of animals allowed per household
- Identifying dangerous animals

- Implementing an animal adoption process
- Defining length of time to complete construction / reconstruction / maintenance projects
- Putting inoperable boats, trailers, and campers under the nuisance statute
- Not allowing fireworks in Lake Helen Recreation Area on July 4th

Attorney Bacon will research unresolved items for further discussion at the November 17 meeting at which time the code will be finalized for adoption and publication.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser. The next regular meeting will be November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk