

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

Also present: Shane Gruber, Robert J Meyer, Jack Ostergard

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

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, Strauser seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes - March 2
- Treasurer's Report - February
- Planning & Zoning Commission - Jan thru March

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

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$34,181.96; Public Works Division \$324,669.40; and the March 4 payroll of \$31,475.25. Roll Call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Open forum:

- Thank you to the Rotary Club for their roadside cleanup. They gathered 16 bags of trash along 27th Street and Avenue M.
- Aerial photos of the community are planned for this week.
- Administrator Clymer received a letter from David Haynes, Plant Manager at Baldwin, requesting assistance in getting a traffic light and turning lane at Highway 47 and 1st Street. He feels the traffic entering and exiting the Baldwin site warrants them. Administrator Clymer forwarded the request to Gary Thayer of the Department of Roads and suggests this area be included in the transportation study. Council members felt part of the issue is traffic speed on Highway 47 and if we're not allowed lights, perhaps reduced speed limits should be posted.
- A lawsuit has been filed against the property owners at 1514 Avenue A. Owners will have 30 days after delivery to answer the suit, then a 30 day appeal period before we can take action to remedy the suit allegations.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to advance Ordinance #855 regarding utility rates, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Robert Meyer provided a draft copy of the 2008-09 audit of all funds. He reported all areas are in order, debt is being paid down, and all spending is within budget parameters. There is \$700,000 in outstanding warrants for paving that will be bonded this fiscal year. Tax increment financing funds are coming in.

The Public Works Division had a net loss of \$48,000 due to increases in cost of power from NPPD. Last year there was a gain of \$148,000. The City will need to consider increasing electrical rates.

Meyer thanked the staff for providing material and information needed. The audit will be submitted to the State by March 31. Any questions should be directed to the firm prior to that time.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, accepting the 2008-09 audit as presented. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of \$17,721 to Paulsen, Inc for work done on the Police Dept renovation. Voice vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay - none.

The original plat of Terry's Business Park Subdivision did not include Lot 5 on the west end. Since he has constructed a building on that parcel, it needs to be included in the subdivision. The Planning & Zoning Commission has approved the corrected plat.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, approving the corrected Terry's Business Park Subdivision plat. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

According to Jack Ostergard, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is dissolving the local chapter. They propose using their remaining funds to buy a granite bench. The VFW is asking the City to install a concrete slab with post holes in each corner to set the bench on and permission to place the bench 30 feet southwest of the Veteran's Memorial at Lake Helen. The VFW will plant a shade tree behind it. The project should be done this summer.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the placement of the bench as proposed. The City will install the concrete base. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be April 6, 2010.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk