

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

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Allen Weidman, Mike Peters, Delvin Seil, Tiffany Tiedeman, J & Pam Buddenberg, Dave McKim, Susan Casad

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.

The Owner Occupied Housing Grant is scheduled to be closed out in September. Contractors have 90 days to complete the repairs. There are two new projects ready to begin once the Council approves the contractor. Since there will be three weeks until the next Council meeting, that would delay construction, taking completion into September and forcing a request to the Department of Economic Development for an extension on the project.

Strauser seconded, Kennedy seconded, to amend the agenda to include:

Approve contractors on Owner Occupied Housing grant:

Homeowner #08-HO-3074-05 - Lamonte Schlake of Schlake Construction - \$19,753.00

Homeowner #08-HO-3074-06 - Terry Kruse of Kruse Construction - \$16,483.00

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

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes- June 1

Police Report - may

Board of Adjustment minutes- June 4

Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - June 8

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$97,497.01, except #1920; Public Works Division \$264,920.77; and the June 10 payroll of \$36,169.29. Roll Call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Aden. Nay - none.

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

Open forum:

- A contract for \$11,670 has been signed to convert the civil defense sirens to AC with DC back-up. Materials will arrive in 6 - 8 weeks.

- Following receipt of a letter of violation from the Dept of Health & Human Services regarding arsenic levels in the water from the 16th Street well, the well is on emergency use status. Emergency use does not mean "low use" such as summer only. Only a catastrophic situation, such as losing use of one or two of the other wells, will allow use of the well. Even then, the only way the well can be put into service is through a notification process with customers and HHS. The letter of violation has been rescinded and that leaves three wells servicing the community.

- There have been reports of ground water and sewer water backing up into homes due to recent excessive rain. Normally the waste plant handles about 504,000 gallons / day and our maximum peak flow was 1,670,000 gallons/ day. On June 14, after approximately 9.2" of rain, 2,291,040 gallons went thru the waste plant, an increase of 621,040 gallons from our previous peak. All three pumps are working constantly and the plant has handled it remarkably well but water is still backed up from the waste plant to homes, mostly below 12th Street and East of Avenue G. All sewer and water lines are full.

We installed a new sewer line east of Avenue I a couple years ago but even it couldn't handle all the water. Our engineering firm is working on a city-wide sewer study and will plot the addresses of homes with back-up issues in an effort to gain more information toward a resolution to flooding problems.

Comments received from those present included:

- Tiffany Tiedeman - 702 Washington: The Red Cross told them it's a City problem and not a Red Cross issue and it's not safe to stay in the home. They've maxed their insurance and still have costs. At this point they can't stay and can't go. Where do they go for help? She also did not appreciate the \$10 dumpster fee required for a situation she did not create. She's aware of 17 houses, all in approximately the same area, with issues this time and in the past.
- Jay & Pam Buddenberg - 802 11th Street: A plumber told him back water prevention devices don't work, so he didn't install one. This is the third time they've had water and sewer in their basement. He'd like the City let them know if we know water is backing up. They also feel the new school construction and development further north contributes to the problem.
- Delvin Seil 816 11th Street: Would like to see drainage ditches cleaned and made deeper and be sure culverts are in place in drive ways.

Responses from the Mayor, Council, and Administration included:

- The dumpster fee resulted from an effort to control length of time dumpsters set on public ways as a result of safety concerns. Fees are set by the Council and the office is directed to collect.
- Within two weeks of the last issue and request for action, there was a process in place to install the new sewer line. The City is sympathetic and will react again until we get the matter resolved.
- Rain water is not normally aimed at the sewer but excessive water raises the pressure and it then forces its way into pipes where it's not supposed to be causing back-ups.
- The sewer study should be complete soon and there will be a public hearing allowing questions.
- We'll find out about the use of back water valves.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the transfer of \$27,574.47 to the Redevelopment Authority for payment of interest on the Gothenburg State Bank economic development loan (\$24,886.47) and liability insurance (\$2688). Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy Aden. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing a donation of \$2000 to the Rotary Club for the annual fireworks display. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting, Aden. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve LaMonte Schlake as the contractor on #08-HO-3074-05 for \$19,753.00 and Terry Kruse as the contractor on #08-HO-3074-06 for \$16,483.00. Both projects are part of the Owner Occupied Housing Grants. Roll call vote: Yea - Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be July 6, 2010.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk