

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 1, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Gary Fritch
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
Attorney Steve Vinton
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Cherry Alger, Steve Walker, Tim Lauer, Norm Lambertus, Representatives of Project Mile including Jack Bauer, President of Cozad High School Future Business Leaders

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.

Council member Strauser noted that the February 15 minutes contained an error in the vote to extend alcohol hours of sale as he had voted "Nay". Thereupon, Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

City Council minutes - February 15 as corrected.

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

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$63,313.71; Public Works Division \$159,194.63; and the payroll of \$32,643.52. Roll Call vote: Yea - Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- The Police Department has received notification of award for a mini-grant for breath testers.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 860, regarding flood plain regulations, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Two options were offered on an ordinance changing liquor license hours of sale. The first listed hours of sale by class of license and the second had hours of sale for all classes. Administrator Clymer provided the result of a survey of area community's liquor sales hours. None has adopted the 2 a.m. allowed by law.

The February 15 discussion had hours until 1 a.m. Monday thru Saturday, and noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Representatives of Project Extra Mile spoke in opposition to the extension and change of hours citing the message adults send to children about alcohol consumption, endangering lives while driving after another hour of drinking, and the stress on law enforcement.

Cherry Alger of Pete's Lounge applauded the work of Project Extra Mile but also commented that not everyone that comes to the bar leaves drunk and no owner knowingly sells to minors.

During discussion, Council member Whiting noted that, according to the survey, Gothenburg has more stringent hours of operation and he would like to see us move forward with small adjustments to hours of sale. Council member Fritch has no problem with the 1 a.m. closing but struggles with the noon opening on Sundays. He finds it hard to believe that the majority of patrons want alcohol with lunch.

Steve Walker replied that the main reason is for Sunday golfers in the summer. They can buy off-sale and he'd like to provide on-sale service as well.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to introduce Ordinance 861 setting alcohol hours of sale at 6 a.m. till 1 a.m. Monday thru Saturday, and noon till 10 p.m. on Sundays for all classes of licenses. Hours of sale will be extended to 1 a.m. when New Year's Eve falls on Sunday. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - Strauser, Fritch. There being a tie vote, the Clerk called for the vote of the Mayor: Hudson - Yea.

The resolution for no-parking on Platte River Drive was tabled until the March 15 meeting.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving the renewal of Maintenance Agreement #56 with the Depart of Roads. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

The current budget includes \$8000 for a used pick-up or gator for the Parks Department to use hauling equipment and employees to work sites. After discussion with staff, it's felt that a gator similar to the one we now have is more useful and can be used by other departments. There is a 2005 John Deere 4-wheel drive, Pro-Gator with approximately 1100 hours that is available as the result of a repossession from a golf course operation. It has a diesel engine and crated cargo box. It also had a hydraulic PTO for the sprayer and attachments for a snow removal blade. We could reasonably anticipate an additional 10 years use as we average 225 hours per year. Sale price is \$12,500. The unit can be available for viewing at the March 15 meeting.

Council all agreed they would appreciate seeing the unit prior to approving the purchase.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the Special Designated License requested by Monte Kenning of OK Bottle Shoppe for an April 14 and 15 open house and business After Hours event at Gothenburg State Bank. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, approving the final Drawdown, #18, on the Downtown Revitalization Project and payment to Dawson Area Development. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Proposals will be received by Miller & Associates at 2 p.m. on March 11 for televising sanitary sewer lines. Miller will tabulate the proposals and make recommendation to the Council.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing signature of Drawdown #20 for \$19,551 and payment to the contractor on the Owner Occupied Housing project. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none.

The Owner Occupied Housing grant is scheduled to close March 1 but there are two homes under contract but incomplete. All should be finished by June 2.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, approving the extension of CDBG Project OOR 08-HO-3074 and the revised implementation schedule for completion June 2, 2011. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 15, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk