

Special City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

September 13, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson	Absent: Council member Gary Fritch
Council members	Jeff Kennedy Tim Strauser Jeff Whiting	
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer	
City Attorney	Mike Bacon	
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple	

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Joan Windrum, Ken Christensen, Scott Bartels

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 public hearing on the 2011-12 budget of municipal funds and the hearing to set the tax levy were opened at 7:00 p.m.

The final budget proposal is as approved for publication on September 1, 2011. The total budget of \$18,368,080, excluding cash reserve, carries a tax request of \$521,741.54 based on a levy of .331650.

There being no discussion or comment, a motion was made by Whiting, seconded by Kennedy, to close the hearings at 7:02 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to approve an additional 1% restricted funds authority. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adopt the 2011-12 budget of all municipal funds as presented. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the final levy of .331650 as proposed, which includes the airport levy. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2011-6 setting the 2011-12 tax levy at .331650. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

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

City Council minutes - August 16 and 25, September 1

Police Report - August

Treasurer's Report - August

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$56,460.50; Public Works Division \$438,272.43 and the September 1 payroll of \$33,447.25. Roll Call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Community Comments: There will be a *Tree Walk* in Ehmen Park on September 22 at 5:30 p.m. A tree, donated by the State Arboretum, will be planted at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Tree Board and Kennedy Tree Service.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to amend the agenda to include: *Consideration of Hilltop Estates request for License to Maintain*, due to construction time frames at the facility. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Ken Christensen asked Council to consider vacating the triangle area of platted, but unopened, 6th Street on the west side of 1st Avenue. He's also interested in vacating the triangular piece on the west side of 1st Avenue abutting 4th Street. Those parcels are otherwise too small for anything but will square up his parcel. Usually vacated streets go half and half to the owners on either side. Ken would like to have the entire parcels to avoid irregularly shaped lots.

The parcels could be conveyed to the Redevelopment Authority, then to Ken. Council had no objection at this time but no action was taken.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, approving Shawn Bickford as volunteer fireman. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

The Redevelopment Authority has approved, and is now requesting from the City, \$250,000 from sales tax for a grant to Frito-Lay to assist with the cost of rebuilding infrastructure damaged by fire. The grant document contains language requiring them to maintain operation of the facility for a period of time. The tax increment financing is complete and the facility is on the tax rolls at a value of \$12 million.

According to Scott Bartels, Frito-Lay Manager, the company has invested \$1.5 million to rebuild the dryer damaged by the fire. The manufacturer has recommended a pre-cleaning system for the dryers at a cost of \$4 million. It will provide a better and safer product and enhances safety to patrons and employees.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to approve a grant of \$250,000 from sales tax funds to Frito-Lay as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Dr. Bartruff is planning to pave the entire west parking lot at Hilltop Estates Care Home, taking storm water drainage to the north crossing our utility easement and NPPD's irrigation pipe. Contractors are planning to lay pipe next week and the next Council meeting is October 4. A License to Maintain will be required to allow them to cross the City's easement and take drainage water into the ditch on 27th Street.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving a License to Maintain with Hilltop Estates Care Home. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch.

Strauser moved, seconded by Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Fritch. The next regular meeting will be October 4, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk