

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

May 15, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Gary Fritch
	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, Dan Yancy, Cody Cooper, Reed Miller, Duane Oliver

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.

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

- City Council minutes – May 1
- Police Report - April
- Treasurer's Report - April
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - May 8
- Library Director's report – March thru May 2012

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

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$60,866.47; Public Works Division \$290,682.24; and the payroll of \$36,699.27. Roll Call vote: Yea – Franzen, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Lake Avenue, 4th to 7th Streets, will be closed tomorrow until completion of the repair project.
- There will be an open house from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. to provide information to property owners on the electrical project.
- Paul Brakhage wants to meet next Thursday or Friday with the stakeholders in the Lake Helen reclamation project. There is a lot of public interest in the project and we need to be sure the public is aware of what we are doing. This meeting will not include representatives of DEQ or the Game & Parks Commission. Council members prefer a retreat format in the morning or no later than noon as some members of Council are not available in the afternoon / evening.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 874 regarding boats on Lake Helen, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 875 amending acreage requirements in AG zoning districts, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

The health insurance renewal from our current carrier reflects an overall 11% increase, retaining the \$20,000 deductible from the City's side fund. The side fund has increased to a comfortable level of \$294,231 after dipping to a low of \$43,000 in 2009. Our maximum exposure would be \$239,400.

Following discussion a motion was made by Fritch, seconded by Strauser, to renew the employee health insurance with the current carrier, continue the \$20,000 deductible and maintain the side fund at 95%. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch. Nay – none.

Reed Miller discussed the sewer system. There are 25 miles of sewer main, 65% is eight inch line and the rest varies at 10", 12" and 15" lines. The east side 15" line is in good shape but is full all the time as it carries most of the town. The 11th street line was redone to relieve that. While the sewer lines do need some work it is important to remember that the 2010 rain was a major rain event of 9.5" in about three days on already saturated ground. No system could handle that amount of rain even though the waste plant ran at full capacity for a long time.

Televising the lines revealed the most problems south of 12th Street. There were sags and cracks in the line. The worst place is a line by the overpass that has so much sand infiltration that the line refills almost as fast as it's cleared. Some of the services and manholes near the state yards need to be repaired also. There is a lot of ground water seepage.

Downtown lines are in bad shape and they will be a problem to repair because the streets are paved and businesses need to function. Repairs on dirt streets are easier.

Priority should be to work on the system from south to north. Some pipes can be 'lined'; some should be replaced, at a cost of \$2.8 million. About \$1 million would be paving costs. Complete repair / replacement of sewer lines north and south of Highway 30, is estimated to at \$4.6 million which translates to approximately \$310,000 / year payments for 20 years utilizing low interest money from State Revolving Loan funds. Miller will prepare 'per street' cost estimates on the entire project for further discussion at the June 5 meeting.

Roger Wahlgren LTD, R & J Wahlgren General Partnership, and Connie Spence Revocable Trust have requested City approval of their Deed of Conservation Easement with Central Platte Natural Resource District. They wish to sell their water right for pivot corners that are within our zoning jurisdiction. The Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the easement.

Fritch moved, Whiting seconded, approval of the Deed of Conservation Easement as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting, Fritch. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, approving Mayor Hudson’s recommendation appointing Dean Kugler to complete the unexpired term of Rodney Aden on the Airport Authority. He will serve till the end of 2012. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

The building occupied by Sander Furniture at 808 Lake Avenue is on City and State right-of-way. The Sanders cannot get a clear title unless property is vacated to accommodate the structure. The proposal has been submitted to the State for their approval.

Kennedy moved Strauser seconded, to introduce Ordinance 876 vacating a portion of 8th Street and of the alley adjacent to Lots 7 – 12, Block 9, First Addition to the City of Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be June 5, 2012.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk