

Regular City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers

December 15, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson  
Council members Jeff Kennedy  
Randy Waskowiak  
Verlin Janssen  
Jay Richeson  
City Administrator Bruce Clymer  
City Attorney Mike Bacon  
City Clerk / Treasurer Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Ken Christensen, Jennifer Chancellor, Skyler Chancellor, Zack Rittyarn, Savannah Ostendorf, June Blauvelt, Chaseton Roberts

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.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – December 1 & December 10
- Police Report - November
- Planning & Zoning Commission meeting – December 8
- Building Permit report - November

Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$31,277.83; Public Works Division \$383,298.12; and the December 3 payroll of \$34,373.35. Roll Call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- There will not be a quorum for the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting; therefore, it was decided to postpone the meeting to January 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Employee Recognition Dinner will be January 8 at the shop.

Miller & Assoc. received three bids for improvements to the northeast corner of Highways 30 and 47:

Tom Franzen Construction (TFC)	\$77,800.00
Paulsen's Inc	\$95,000.00
TL Sund Constructors	\$116,482.50

On recommendation from Miller & Assoc. Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, acceptance of the bid from TFC in the amount of \$77,800.00 for the improvements to the northeast corner of Highways 30 and 47. Roll call vote: Yea - Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Richeson moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 926 establishing a franchise with Source Gas, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay – none.

Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 927 amending Section 152.058 of the Municipal Code to require foundations under manufactured homes, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

Item 5d.) *Discuss allocation of funds for Downtown Revitalization Grant* was removed from the agenda and not discussed.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, approval of Drawdown #12 on the Downtown Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$26,813.00, and payments to owners: Matt Olsen, \$7500 & \$1275, Matt Olsen \$7500 & \$2693 (Energy and Façade on two buildings); Mary Schwanz 2550.00 Energy; 1<sup>st</sup> State Ins \$5295 Energy. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Administrator Clymer discussed the proposed ban of paper lanterns with Fire Chief Mark Ballmer and Police Chief Randy Olson. Both were in favor of the ordinance due to the fire danger in dry areas. Therefore, Janssen moved Kennedy seconded, introduction of Ordinance 928 banning paper lanterns. Roll call vote: Yea –Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

In discussion of the proposed sidewalk repair / replacement program, Ken Christensen questioned if the walks are to be replaced at their current width or if the City would require wider sidewalks. Many people walk, the City has considered establishing a walking trail around town, and the newly installed sidewalks along Ave I are wide.

Administrator Clymer responded that the zoning ordinance requires minimum four foot wide sidewalks and if the Council decides to designate some areas have wider sidewalk the ordinance would have to be changed. While a trail system has been discussed, a definite route has not been determined. If a trail system becomes reality, the width of the walkways would be discussed and established at that time. This program deals with sidewalks already in place.

Janssen moved, Kennedy seconded, to establish a program whereby property owners are notified to either repair or replace their sidewalks. If the repairs are not made, the City Council will determine whether or not the City will have the repairs done and the owner assessed for the cost. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay – none.

Corporate Plan Management has prepared Amendment #1 to the employee health plan. Two items, defining *dependent* and amending *medical expenses*, are requirements of the Affordable

Care Act. The policy currently does not have an ‘open enrollment’ period; therefore, employees must make a change to their policy within 30 days of a qualifying event, such as marriage or birth. If an employee does not meet that requirement a dependent cannot come onto the insurance. Likewise, if an employee is covered under a spouse’s insurance and finds it necessary to find other insurance, that employee cannot come back onto City insurance. The intent was to keep employees from moving in and out of insurance coverage. As requested Amendment #1 includes reinstates an open enrollment period in December of every other year.

During discussion, Council felt it better to have an annual open enrollment period. Janssen moved, Richeson seconded, approving Amendment #1 to the Employee Health Protection Plan with the change to an annual open enrollment period in December of each year. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen. Nay – none.

In October 2014, the owner of the property at 1618 Avenue F applied for, and received, a building permit for improvements to the building. In June, 2015 the owner was sent a letter giving him 90 days to finish the construction. At this time it is still incomplete. Atty. Bacon advised that the City Prosecutor can file a misdemeanor court action resulting in a \$100 fine every 24 hours until the project is complete.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, directing the City Prosecutor to commence action under the Municipal Code against the owner of the property at 1618 Ave F for completion of the renovation project. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Richeson, Waskowiak, Kennedy. Nay – none. The next meeting will be January 12, 2016.

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Joyce Hudson, Mayor

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Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk