

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson	Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon
Council members	Jeff Kennedy	Police Chief Randy Olson
	Jim Aden	
	Roger Dudley	
	Jeff Whiting	
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer	
City Clerk	Connie L. Dalrymple	

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Jennifer Wolf, Eppie Sisneros

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearings 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.

It is necessary to rezone the ethanol site from Agriculture to I-2 to allow industrial construction.

In order to proceed with the CROWN Housing project east of Avenue J between Jefferson and Washington Streets extended, it is necessary to declare the area blighted and substandard. The property is currently unusable and there is no infrastructure. The designation will allow TIF to pay for the water, sewer, and streets.

During discussion, Jen Wolf of Dawson Area Development indicated she had received notice that the Dawson County housing grant that would have included the CROWN project had not been approved. We can resubmit the request in February for the next grant cycle. Mrs. Wolf feels the blight / substandard designation is the only way to assist in infrastructure installation and also feels it will enhance our chances with the grant if it's already in place.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to close rezoning hearing at 7:06 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, approving the zoning change from AG to I-2 for the ethanol site, as requested. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley, Aden. Nay – none. An ordinance proposal will be presented at the January 2 meeting.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded to close the blight / substandard hearing at 7:07 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – one.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2006-22 designating the area east of Ave J between Jefferson and Washington Streets, extended, as blighted and substandard. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Aden, Dudley. Nay – none.

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

City Council minutes – December 5

Tree Board minutes – December 6

Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – December 12

Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, except #1047, \$24,305.21; Public Works Division \$224,935.51; and the December 14 payroll of \$27,384.59. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claims #1047 to the Animal Hospital. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

- Employees will be off Friday afternoon, December 22 and Monday December 25.
- Administrator Clymer received notice we have been approved for a 1.2 million dollar grant for road and water line construction to the ethanol plant site. All property owners in the area of the proposed road have been contacted at least once regarding the road proximity to their property. The originally proposed design has been changed some but as yet there are no firm commitments on right-of-way.

- The Clerk received the certification of votes cast electing Hudson, Whiting, and Dudley.
- The Senior Center renovation is nearing completion.

Jennifer Wolf of DAD reported to the Council that the focus of her office in 2006 was Education through several programs: EDGE, Homebuyers seminars, Leadership training, ABLE. Their office has increased their full time staff by two employees, John Bell and Deb Jensen, but has not requested a dues increase.

Her 2007 focus will be Marketing. They will establish a countywide web site, partner with the I-80 Coalition on advertising Nebraska, work toward certifying their member communities as economic development communities, and expand the ABLE program.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, introducing Ordinance #812 increasing trash rates by 50 cents per month on January 1. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none.

Electrical rates will also increase 1.5% per Ordinance 779 passed in 2003. NPPD's wholesale rates will increase 3%.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. The next regular meeting will be January 2, 2007.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk