

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

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Ken Christensen, Jessie White, Kye Schram, Blaine Peterson, Al Childers, Lois Stanton, Joe Payne, Laurie Brown

The Tuesday, February 20, meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 21, due to lack of a quorum.

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearing at 5:00 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 purpose of the public hearing was to consider an application for Community Redevelopment Block Grant funds in the amount of \$350,000 to be used for construction of the road to the ethanol plant site. We have received \$1.2 million in EDA funds and the block grant funds would further offset the \$2.6 million cost of the road, water and sewer.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to close the public hearing at 5:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to proceed with the application for \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – February 6
- Cemetery board minutes - February 5
- Treasurer's Report - January

Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$27,013.48; Public Works Division \$253,381.33; and the February 8 payroll of \$26,100.81. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

- We are requesting applications for lifeguards.
- Today's Times carried an ad that Schaben Sanitation is discontinuing the recycling. Administrator Clymer is meeting with Schaben representatives on Thursday regarding a different recycling setup instead discontinuation. It will be on the March 6 agenda.
- Mayor Hudson and Administrator Clymer met with Mayor Richardson and Jim Hawks in North Platte to discuss dispatch services. The North Platte dispatch center will be installing an antenna on the Qwest tower for better service. North Platte dispatchers have been to Gothenburg, riding along with Police to become familiar with the community. Chief Olson is working on security at City Hall.
- Since receiving a request for paving north of the hospital, Administrator Clymer met with Jen Wolf, DAD Director and Jeanne Janssen, Housing Authority Director regarding the cost affect of paving to Crestview Housing. If surveys reveal that 50% of the target area is low to moderate income, we could apply for Community Development Block Grant funds to offset the paving cost. We will proceed with the survey process with the intent of submitting a CDBG Public Works grant in 2008.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 814 updating the Fire Safety Code, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 815 adopting the Life Safety Code, to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Dudley, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, approving the automatic renewal of liquor licenses:

Norm Lambertus - Bar-W Lounge	Class IB (Bottle Club/Beer Off-Sale)
R & C Petroleum dba Time Saver #18	Beer Off-Sale
Pizza Hut	Beer On-Sale
Pete's Lounge	Class I (Bottle Club)
Walker's Steakhouse	Class IB (Bottle Club/Beer Off-Sale)
Lakeside Bowl	Beer On-Sale
OK Bottle Shoppe	Package
Pit Stop, Inc	Beer Off-Sale
Randazzle Cafe	Class I (Bottle Club)
China Cafe	Beer On-Sale

Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2007-3 authorizing the placement of signs prohibiting concealed weapons at City Hall, the swimming pool, maintenance facility, waste treatment plant, library, and Lafayette Park pavilion. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Two bids were received for a 2007 replacement of the 2006 Bobcat according to the rollover plan we've used the last few years:

Murphy Equipment	\$1950 without new tires and bucket
Fairbanks International	\$1600 with tires and bucket and moving the strobe lights and relief valve from the 2006 Bobcat skidsteer.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, accepting the \$1600 bid from Fairbanks International for a 2007 Bobcat. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Kim Kitzing and Chad Burkholder of Orscheln Farm & Home Store reported the store has been evicted from the Union Pacific Railroad property due to All Points Co-operative construction of additional grain storage. They must vacate by March 8 and need a display area for their outdoor merchandise. They would like to sublease the area in the southwest corner of Highways 30 and 47 currently used as a green space park area and the parking area on the southeast corner. They need an area large enough to display and store merchandise and still be able to maneuver a forklift to remove items when sold. Both areas are smaller than what they currently have and they will need a space for interior storage as well.

Council expressed concern about the 'eyesore' of merchandise storage and corral panels for fencing, especially in light of the new comprehensive plan focus groups wanting the Highway 30 corridor cleaned up and more attractive. At the same time it's difficult to hamper retail. Orscheln is not in favor of landscaping because they want their merchandise visible, not just stored.

The east site is low and would require fill to keep merchandise out of the mud. Discussion was had on the possibility of using the small city parking lot by the alley north of the store and using both sites along Highway 30 temporarily and contacting Mark Ostergard, owner of UPRR lease by the east elevator. The railroad should be asked to transfer the lease to Orscheln or have permission to use it.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to have Administrator Clymer ask Mr. Ostergard to contact Chad at Orscheln to discuss a sublease or lease transfer with the railroad. Mr. Clymer will also request permission from the UPRR to allow Orscheln to place merchandise on the City's leased property on the east side of Highway 47 temporarily. The issue will be revisited in six months to determine permanent options. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Jessie White and Kye Schram have requested platted 6th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues be vacated. Their home at 602 1st Ave. sits very close the right-of-way. There are no utilities in the right-of-way as private water and sewer lines serve the property but there is a power line running north and south across the property. Administrator Clymer pointed out that the properties to the east and west of 602 1st are owned by other parties, leaving this property landlocked if the street is vacated.

Attorney Bacon agreed that if the street is vacated, the landlocked property would have no street access as required by zoning and subdivision regulations. Vacating the street would violate our own regulations. At the present time the city has no intention of opening the 80 foot platted street and if we

did, the roadway would likely be 35 - 40 feet leaving significant right-of-way for the owners to use as yard space and buffer from the street.

No action was taken on the request.

The Tail Twisters 4-H Club is looking for a community project and inquired about flowers in Ehmen Park or at the War Memorial at Lake Helen. Watering is a concern at both places. Administrator Clymer has planted and maintained perennials in the bottom tier at Ehmen Park but more flowers could be added. In the past, the Gardenaires have done flowers but may be looking for assistance. Mrs. Brown will report to her 4-H Club and talk to those working at the War Memorial and meet again with Administrator Clymer.

Contracts for water, sewer and paving design from Miller & Assoc were authorized earlier but, since the EDA grant was approved, the contracts need to reflect use of federal funds. Therefore the revised contracts need to be approved.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the amended contract with Miller & Assoc for design of water services to the ethanol site. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to approve the amended contract with Miller & Assoc for design of the water well relative to the ethanol project. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Whiting moved, Dudley seconded, to approve the amended contract with Miller & Assoc for design of paving improvements to the ethanol site. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Dudley, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to approve the amended contract with Miller & Assoc for design of sanitary sewer services to the ethanol site. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Administrator Clymer reviewed the process for right-of-way acquisition for the road to the ethanol site. Acquisition requires a review appraisal for a preliminary determination of value, and an appraiser certified by the Nebraska Dep't of Roads to conduct the negotiations. Since the entire process will be audited, the Redevelopment Authority has hired Midwest Right-of-Way Services to take us through the process. Time will be an issue as appraisal and acquisition will take longer than we had anticipated and the terms of the EDA grant contract require that road construction begin no later than 24 months after award of the grant and be completed within 36 months.

The State is concerned about the proximity of the proposed road to their salt shed. Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc drafted a plan for them and anticipates a response from them in 30 – 45 days on going thru their property.

Attorney Bacon reported that the Redevelopment Authority recommends approval of a loan of \$20,000 from the Sales Tax fund to Jeff Kennedy for improvements at his business site to accommodate a green house Kennedy Tree Service purchased from JB Nursery in anticipation of expanding his business to include seasonal bedding plants. The loan would be at one-half the prime interest rate for a term of seven years and be collateralized by a second mortgage position.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, approving the loan as recommended by the Redevelopment Authority. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pay \$36,523.01 from sales tax to Gothenburg State Bank for interest on the Pony Express Greenhouse second TIF loan. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden. TIF payments are deposited into the sales tax fund.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden. The next regular meeting will be March 6 at 7:00 pm.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk