

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

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Wendell Brott, Dick Larson, Eppie Sisneros, Jennifer Wolf, Anne Anderson, LouAnn Houchin, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pape, Pastor Matt Groenke, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Lobdell, Lori Clymer, Travis Mason, Mr. & Mrs. Tim Keiser, Denise Brittenham

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.

Wendell Brott has requested a special use permit to operate an auction house at 619 15th Street, an R-1 zone. The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on August 14 and recommended the permit be denied.

Several objections were voiced:

- Paul and Lavon Pape live across the alley from the proposed auction house. Such a business would destroy the quiet of the neighborhood and the increased traffic is dangerous, especially for children at the school. On auction days the streets would be lined with vehicles, limiting visibility. Activities at American Lutheran Church and Ehmen Park are short term and generally quiet, auctions houses are noisy.
- Bruce Lobdell feels residential areas are not the place for the increased traffic, noise, and parking issues that an auction house would bring.
- Pastor Groenke feels Brott has a right to make a living but is concerned about Sunday activities at American Lutheran Church. Parking is difficult as it is and noise is a distraction at worship. Worship and funerals requires parking on both sides of the street.
- Other objections included limited, or no, access to private property from driveways and alleys on auction days.

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

No action was taken on the permit, thereby denying use of the property at 619 15th Street as an auction house.

The public hearing on a request for special use permit to place a four-foot by four-foot sign at the Gothenburg Historical Museum at 1420 Ave F was opened at 7:06 p.m. The sign would identify the building as a museum and the Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the permit.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to close the hearing at 7:08 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Aden, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to approve Special Use Permit 2007-5 for a sign at the museum as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Aden seconded, to approve the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes – August 7
- Police Report - July
- Treasurer's Report - July
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – August 14

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$131,551.00; Public Works Division \$320,121.64; and the August 9 payroll of \$29,240.18. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Aden, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Open Forum

- Administrator Clymer reported the requested sidewalk along the north side of 20th Street from Lake Ave to the Senior Center is 150 feet long. A four-foot walk, six inches deep, would be \$2700, six feet, \$4050, and eight-foot would be \$5400. One-half the cost is concrete and if the City does the installation the cost would be half. According to Tom Shea, if the City helps with the dirt work the cost would be one-third less.

Discussion was had on the width and it was noted an eight feet wide sidewalk would be ready for any future trail system as has been discussed recently. If the City does the dirt work the eight-foot width would not cost more than proposed for complete contractor construction.

- Interviews will be today and tomorrow for water / sewer utility worker position.
- A proposed county-wide housing survey to determine housing needs will cost Gothenburg approximately \$600 in postage.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 818 on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none.

Dudley moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2007-11 authorizing removal of the stop sign on Avenue G at 15th Street. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Dudley. Nay – none.

Jennifer Wolf, Director of Dawson Area Development, reported on the activities of her office the past year. The office continues education through several programs: EDGE, Homebuyers seminars, Leadership training, ABLE. They have submitted applications for \$4.6 million dollars in grant funds and have received \$3.1 million with \$940,000 pending. Among other projects they've assisted in the recruitment of a call center for Lexington and a purchaser for Evan's Bakery. The office increased their full time staff by two employees a year ago without an increase in dues. The successes of the past year have proven the need and ability of the staff and DAD is requesting an increase in dues from \$15,000 to \$18,000 for 2007-08. Dawson County schools contribute financially to one staff position.

Chamber Director Anne Anderson reported on plans for the Harvest Festival around a Fiesta theme. Plans are underway for bed races, car show, Pooch Parade, and two parades. The kids parade will be Friday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. and the Festival parade will be Saturday, the 15th, and will follow the same route as in the past, at 10:30 a.m. There has been a request for a location for a 30-foot climbing wall and a paint ball concession.

Discussion was had on the location for bed races. Avenue F is wider and the 14 hundred block would be used for staging, and the 15 hundred block for the actual race. There needs to be something along the route to keep spectators off the street. The car show will be on 15th Street after the parade and 16th Street is occupied with vendors after the parade.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, approving the proposed routes for the kid's parade on September 14th and the Harvest Festival parade on the 16th, subject to approval from the Nebraska Department of Roads. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Aden, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Dudley seconded, approval of a one-day license to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business After Hours event sponsored by McMeen Physical Therapy, September 21, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 523 10th Street in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none.

The Department of Economic Development has reopened a round of Public Works Grants to assist in street construction. Street Improvement District #100 consisting of two blocks has been petitioned in and there is potential for two additional blocks. District #100 is estimated to cost about \$249,600.

If we want to submit a grant application we must first do a target area survey, requiring 100 % participation of the property owners. If over 51% of the owners are LMI (low to moderate income) we can apply for a maximum \$250,000 grant. If successful, any owner affected by the paving that is 60% or less LMI will not be assessed for the paving costs. Any grant funds left over can be used to match city costs, i.e. intersections and alley approaches.

Since total participation in the survey process is required, the survey will be brief and delivered door to door as opposed to mailing it. It was decided to send a letter in advance detailing the need for the survey, when it will be delivered, and by whom. The grant application is due November 1 and the City will be the applicant.

The 2007-08 budget work session will be Tuesday, August 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to include Dawson Area Development dues at \$18,000 in the upcoming budget. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

It is certain NPPD will increase wholesale rates substantially in 2008 but it is yet undetermined how the rates will be structured, therefore the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool rate design study has been delayed. At this time it appears the increase to Gothenburg customers will be 7%. Further discussion and action will be taken at a later date.

Mayor Hudson would like to appoint a committee consisting of herself, a council member, crewmember, and citizens to develop ideas on the placement and kind of play equipment for the parks. Some local organizations have offered to donate funds and a grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation is possible. Council had no objection to the committee formation.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be September 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk

