

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

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Mr. & Mrs. Jay Buddenberg, Delvin Seil, Shane Gruber, Eppie Sisneros, Gordon Block, Tim Strauser, Jennifer Wolf, Kristy Peterson, Louis Bovitz, Anne Anderson, Don Miller, Marge Block, Mr. & Mrs. Derek Mitchell, Tyler Buesing Chase Dachtler, Jessie Lira, Eric Mitchell, Katy Mitchell, Jordan Olenhausen

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.

Administrator Clymer reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission met at 5:30 p.m., held a public hearing and recommend approval of the special use permit requested by Gordon Block and Eagle Crest Academy to use the existing building at 1720 Avenue A as an elementary school.

Louis Bovitz reported to Council that the Planning Commission heard comments opposing the school due to traffic issues - speed and parking - and concerns about the loss of tax dollars on the property.

Gordon Block replied that there is a maximum of seven or eight families using both schools. He asked council to consider a designated school zone but the school staff will use the area between the properties at 1710 and 1720 Avenue A for parking. He will address the speed issue with his people. As to the lost taxes issue, he reminded Council that his business, Sterling West, donated \$7000 toward the installation of the new playground equipment in Ehmen Park.

Don Miller, current owner of the property, said he felt there was more traffic and parking at the site when it was used as a medical clinic than there will be for an elementary school

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to close the hearing at 7:07 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the special use permit for Eagle Crest Academy at 1720 Avenue A as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

The public hearing on a grant application for owner occupied housing rehabilitation was taken up at 7:08 p.m.

Kristy Peterson of West Central NE Development District, urged the Council to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds for owner occupied housing rehabilitation. The grant would target ten owners with priority given to owners 62 years of age or older. Each home would be eligible for a maximum of \$20,000 for siding, windows, and weatherization. The grant would partner with USDA funding. Applications would be made to WCNDD, the main criteria being need and income. Since it is CDBG funds, the City as a governmental unit, must be the applicant.

Applications are due to the Department of Economic Development on July 25, awards made the end of August, after which the owner application process would begin. If a home requires more than the \$20,000 allotment, it will be dropped from the program and nothing done.

Whiting moved, Dudley seconded, to close the hearing at 7:12 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Dudley, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-13 applying for a Community Development Block Grant for owner occupied housing rehabilitation. Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting - Aden.

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

City Council minutes – July 1

Police Report – June

Tree Board minutes – June 25

Treasurer’s Report - June

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

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, except #1047, \$76,334.30; Public Works Division \$342,827.92; and the July 10 payroll of \$36,975.90. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

The Clerk noted the invoiced statement from Hicken Lumber reflected a donation of \$175 in materials for Trevor Franzen’s Eagle Scout project repairing the wall / fence at Lake Helen.

OPEN FORUM:

- The lot at 702 10th has been grassed and rocked and is looking nice
- The new playground equipment in Ehmen Park is installed. Gravel topped with crumb rubber from recycled tires will complete the project. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to recognize the organizations that donated to the project.
- During sidewalk sale days on July 17, there will be an opportunity for the public to view the Council chambers and some City equipment. Sandy will attend a table giving away CFL bulbs received from NPPD’s energy promotion, directing folks to the council room and selling chance tickets for the Relay for Life quilt and grill.
- Jeff Kennedy has received several comments about sidewalk obstructions, such as skateboard ramps, in the residential area. Administrator Clymer will talk to Chief Olson.
- Mayor Hudson has regrettably received and accepted a letter of resignation from Council member Dudley, effective July 31. He is moving out of the West Ward and can no longer serve. She extended best wishes and thanks for his good service. She will recommend a replacement for appointment at the next meeting.

Administrator Clymer has received a proposed contract from Miller & Assoc. for the study of the city’s sewer system. The Department of Environmental Quality has indicated there is a chance of receiving \$20,000 toward the cost of the study and will be providing a packet of information. He asked to wait on the study since it will be fall before the study can be done. Council agreed.

Miller & Assoc also proposed a contract for the design of a 15 inch sanitary sewer line running north and south along the east side of Avenue I. The contract includes surveying, preliminary and final design and bid specifications for a fee of \$14,000. A preliminary estimate (prior to design) of construction cost is \$140,000 to \$160,000. The design and bid specifications should be completed within 30 days. Work may begin in the fall depending on the contractor schedules.

Pam Buddenberg said they had no problem with the rain on Monday evening, but some of their neighbors did. She is still compiling bills for damages submit to the City.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, authorizing signature of the contract with Miller & Associates for professional services leading to the construction of a 15 inch sanitary sewer line on the east side of Avenue I. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 837 regarding City Administrator duties, to 3rd and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Two Requests for Proposal were received for the administration of CDBG 08-DTR-006, downtown revitalization:

West Central Development District	\$1500
Dawson Area Development	\$1500

Both are qualified offices but DAD was instrumental in the grant application process, therefore Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to award the administration contract for CDBG 08-DTR-006 to Dawson Area Development. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, authorizing Mayor Hudson to sign all documents relative to special conditions of the planning portion of CDBG 08-DTR-006:

Grantee Implementation Schedule
Environmental Review and Level of Determination

Financial management Certification
Authorize Mayor and City Clerk to request CDBG funds

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

Request for Proposal documents will be sent to planners this week. The study must be complete by January 1, 2009. Administrator Clymer encouraged involvement of the business community in the planning part of the process.

Nebraska's tree population is aging and recent winter and summer storms have taken a toll. The Nebraska Forest Service is working with the Statewide Arboretum on a program to plant one million trees on public property in the next ten years. The local Tree Board has reviewed Gothenburg's situation and feel the new section of the cemetery should be a priority. The Cemetery Board agrees, therefore the Tree Board requests approval to begin the application process for a grant of \$13,700 for 7000 large, maturing trees. The grant requires a 50% match that can include in-kind labor.

Dudley moved, Whiting seconded, to apply for the tree grant as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

LB 245 requires communities our size to bring the fluoride in our water system to a specified level by June 1, 2010 unless fluoridation is voted out at an election of the people. We have equipment since an attempt at fluoridation in the 1990's but it is obsolete. Equipment will cost approximately \$6000 for each of four wells plus daily testing.

Brief discussion was had and a motion made by Dudley, seconded by Kennedy, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-14 to put the question of adding fluoride to the Gothenburg water system on the general election ballot in November 2008. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Last Tuesday Council members Whiting and Aden, Administrator Clymer, and Mayor Hudson met with skateboarders and parents. They looked at the existing pad north of the pool and all felt it would work as a site. The youth decided \$20,000 in basic skateboarding equipment would be sufficient and they are willing to raise \$10,000 through donations and grants if the City will contribute \$10,000.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to allow the use of the concrete north of the swimming pool for skateboarding and the commit \$10,000 in the 2008-09 budget for equipment. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control Commission, approval of a one-day license to the Chamber of Commerce to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business-After-Hours event sponsored by Nebraska Salt & Grain on August 8, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 115 West 16th Street in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Dudley moved, Kennedy seconded, to recommend to the Liquor Control Commission, approval of a one-day license to the Chamber of Commerce to dispense beer, wine, and distilled spirits at a Business-After-Hours event sponsored by Gothenburg Tire Company on August 15, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 302 8th Street in Gothenburg. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Dudley. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Kennedy moved, Dudley seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-15 setting August 5, 2008 as the date for a public hearing to allow objections to a proposed Resolution of Necessity for Sewer District 33, the 15 inch line proposed for the east side of Avenue I. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Dudley, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden.

Whiting moved, Dudley seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Dudley, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Aden. The next regular meeting will be August 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk