

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Jim Aden
Tim Strauser
Jeff Whiting
City Administrator Bruce Clymer
City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

Absent: City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Bertha Daharsh, Delvin Seil, Joan Windrum, Eppie Sisneros

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearings on a special use permit and the 2008-09 budget 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.

Bertha Daharsh has requested a special use permit for a 6-foot fence on the front property line at 110 W 16th Street. It would diminish truck and traffic noise and help cut down on dirt and dust. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval at a public hearing held at their September 9 meeting.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to close the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approving Special Use Permit #2008-3 for a six foot fence at 110 West 16th Street. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

The public hearing on the 2008-09 budget of municipal funds and the hearing to set the tax levy was taken up at 7:05 p.m.

The final budget proposal is as approved for publication on September 2. The total budget of \$24,446,036, excluding cash reserve, carries a tax request of \$442,318.92 based on a levy of .309224, the same levy as last year.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to close the hearings at 7:10 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve an additional 1% restricted funds authority. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Strauser, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adopt the 2008-09 budget as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Aden, Whiting. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2008-20 setting the 2008-09 levy at 0.309224 resulting in a tax asking at \$442,318.92. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

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

- City Council minutes- September 2
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – September 2 & 9
- Police Report – August
- Treasurer’s Report – August
- Library Director’s report – July - September

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$40,289.01; Public Works Division \$324,723.53; and the September 4 payroll of \$40,574.11. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

OPEN FORUM:

- Administrator Clymer received notice of award of \$6900 grant funding for trees in the cemetery. It represents 50% of the \$13,900 project.

- Administrator Clymer contacted the State Dept of Roads requesting a traffic study regarding the possibility of signal installation at Highway 47 and 4th Street. The State says signals at that location do not meet federal guidelines but the Department is looking into the possibility of a left-turn lane.
- Administrator Clymer also wrote Gary Thayer, the area Department of Roads engineer about the concerns for guard rails on the canal bridge at 27th and Lake Avenue.
- Jim Aden has been approached about a location for young people to gather.
- Delvin Seil asked about the progress of the skateboard park.

Lengthy discussion was had on the proposed hike / bike trail from 27th Street at Lake Avenue to Wild Horse golf course. We submitted to the state a Notice of Intent to Apply for funds and met with state officials at the proposed site. If we want to proceed with the application for funds we need to file a final application and a resolution indicating start and ending points of the trail and the ability to meet the 20% share of the construction cost and the ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

The State is not interested in a ‘trail head’ destination, preferring that the trail connect to a road system in a neighborhood. Administrator Clymer notified the golf course to discuss the trail but is unable to meet with them until the 25th and the application is due the 26th.

The cost of the trail has risen substantially since first discussing it two years ago. The total estimated cost is \$673,884, of which \$173,884 would be City responsibility. Since the maximum grant would be \$500,000 there is a chance we’d be awarded less which would increase the City’s match share. If costs are higher than the estimate, the City is responsible for 100% of the additional cost.

Concerns expressed by Council members included:

- 80% of the project is outside city limits
- Golf Course Board support of the project
- Very costly, although all still favor a trail system, there may be a better location
- Security may become an issue
- Maintenance along the trail area may be difficult since it’s rural

As a result of the discussion, no action was taken on the trail application at this time.

Nebraska Public Power District has established an Energy Wise program where wholesale customers are allotted funds based on the amount of electricity they sell. Gothenburg will receive \$13,013 to use in promotion of energy efficiency. Administrator Clymer has established guidelines for the use of the funds that will make money available for compact fluorescent lighting, high efficiency heat pumps, and commercial & area lighting efficiency.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to approve the program rules for the NPPD Energy Wise Program as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be October 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk