

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

Press: Gothenburg Times - Beth Barrett Also present: Shane Gruber, Eppie Sisneros, Joyce Kolbo

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting 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.

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

City Council minutes – October 21 and November 13
Annual Treasurer's Report – 2007-08
Cemetery Board minutes- November 3

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

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$138,623.20, except #1920; Public Works Division \$327,691.12; the October 30 payroll of \$30,328.62 and November 13 payroll of 29,927.12. Roll call vote: Yea - . Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Aden seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape Service. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

OPEN FORUM

- Construction on the CROWN Housing units has begun. Foundations should be complete by next week and construction will continue over the winter.

Aden moved, Kennedy seconded, approving signature of Drawdown #1 of \$20,054 to Miller & Associates for CDBG 07-PW-014 street improvements. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Aden. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving signature of Drawdown #2 of \$1100 to Dawson Area Development for administration of CDBG 07-PW-014. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, to pass and approve Resolution #2008-24 allowing sale of excess property by auction on Nov. 29. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, signature of Drawdown #2 of \$5250 to JEO Consulting Group for CDBG 08-DTR-006, downtown revitalization. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Discussion was had on a proposed animal boarding agreement with the Animal Hospital. The agreement says animals will be held six days and then euthanized if not claimed. The Municipal Code specifies 5 days. Attorney Bacon prefers time specified in hours and the Council agreed on 120 hours.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the Animal Boarding agreement and fee schedule with the change discussed. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Aden. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to grant the Community Redevelopment Authority \$41,500 for 2008 assessments in Hilltop Estates Subdivision. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

The Holiday Magic Christmas kickoff will be Saturday November 29th from 4 – 6:00 p.m. Stores will remain open until 7:00 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee would like to close Lake Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets for hayrack rides, fire truck rides, Jingle Bell parade and other activities.

Aden moved, Whiting seconded, approving the street closing as requested by the Chamber. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Aden, Whiting. Nay – none.

Of the three bids received for a 2009 Chevrolet Impala police cruiser, Pony Express Chevrolet was the low bid, even less than the State bid. Plans are to replace the 2006 Impala cruiser with the 2009. The 2006 will replace the 2003 cruiser which will be sold at the spring auction.

Kennedy moved, Aden seconded, approving the purchase of a 2009 Impala from Pony Express Chevrolet for \$23,114.65. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Nebraska Public Power did an electric heat pump incentive analysis to determine if it's feasible for the City to offer rebates for installation of heat pumps. The result is that the City's rates are so low we cannot recoup any rebate in a timely manner, therefore, it is not in the City's best interest to offer rebates at this time.

NPPD will increase wholesale rates an average of 7% in January. At this time, it appears NPPD will increase rates 7 – 10% per year for the next several years. The City anticipates a 5% to 5.5 % increase to customers. We will have the Power Pool conduct a rate study to determine the proper rate for us. We are fortunate to have businesses and industries that operate year round giving us a high load factor that is reflected in our wholesale rates.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Aden, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk