December 2, 2008 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson

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, Mark Ballmer, Delvin Seil, Keith Marvin, Anne Anderson, Steve Johnson

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

City Council minutes – November 18

Treasurer's Report - November

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$49,824.68; Public Works Division \$169,377.95; and the November 27 payroll of \$30,346.96. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. The claims to Miller & Associates are for Street Improvements and will be paid by registered warrant.

Whiting moved, seconded by Strauser, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Aden, Strauser. Nay – none.

Attorney Bacon administered the oath of office to incoming Council members Jim Aden and Jeff Kennedy. The Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m. with the following members seated:

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

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to name Jeff Kennedy Council President. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Open Forum:

- The Gardenaires Club decorated the corner of Highways 47 and 30 with the help of the City crew. The tree is one removed from the cemetery.
- Mayor Hudson commended the Fire Department for the work done, and continuing, following the Cop-op elevator explosion on November 20 and presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the community for their dedication and service.

Fire Chief Mark Ballmer gave a brief update on the explosion and current status. According the video recorded by the Ampride security camera, there were definitely two explosions, possibily three, at 3:25 a.m. The 911 call was received at 3:27 a.m. and the department was on scene at 3:32 a.m. The elevator was running at capacity due to the late harvest and the explosion occurred in the bin that loads trains. The fire is still smoldering and will not be out until the corn, dirt, and debris can be removed.

There was a 10-foot wall of fire the entire length of the elevator. Larry Moses ran through it to get out of the building. He was taken to the burn center in Lincoln but returned a week ago. He will have some skin grafting but is doing fine and will return to work.

Much of the steel was removed today and the new leg started leaning. Most of the steel debris was removed from atop the elevator so it wouldn't fall on the railroad tracks. The elevator will be rebuilt after damaged parts are removed.

The blessing is the time of the accident. The video shows traffic on Highway 30 at 3:20 a.m. and there certainly would have been more damage and injury during the daytime hours.

- The owner-occupied housing grant documentation has been moved to the December 16 agenda.
- According to Atty. Bacon, Dawson Area Development and the City of Cozad, along with Gothenburg and Lexington have been working diligently to understand Tenneco's issues to make their manufacturing plant profitable here. Proposals were offered to Tenneco on December 1 but we have no answers yet. The Governor has made calls on behalf of Cozad and Dawson County. The Lt Governor, along with Department of Economic Development personnel and Cozad administration visited the Tenneco officials.
- Dayton-Phoenix Co. will take over the HIPP Wholesale building and will employee 10 20 people. The company pays well and offers good benefits. They remanufacture parts for trains. Dawson Area Development was the lead in attracting the company.

Administrator Clymer reported that after advertising three times, only one bid was received for the ReTree Nebraska grant. The Department of Economic Development prefers more that one bid but has approved receiving only one in this instance. The Re-Tree Nebraska funds will be used at the Gothenburg Cemetery and the proposed project is budgeted at \$13, 800.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, to award the bid for the Retree Nebraska project to Kennedy Landscape Service at a cost of \$10,425. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

As a result of the general election on November 4, Whiting moved, Aden seconded, to introduce Ordinance 840 prohibiting the addition of fluoride to the city water system. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Aden, Whiting. Nay – none.

The Community Sign Committee has met on several occasions the last months for the purpose of developing a community and directional sign. The final choice is a v-shaped concrete structure designed by StoneCo to be placed south of McDonald's on the west side of Highway 47. It will be 13 feet wide and 12 feet high on a berm. The design offers an excellent view from the south heading into town and from the north leaving town. The south side will name the community, have the Pony Express logo, and provide general direction to the Pony Express Station, Hospital, and School. The north view will have the quote: *Success tomorrow depends on choices today*. This design can also be incorporated into smaller, strategically placed signs giving direction to the business area, Lake Helen, 4-plex fields, etc.

The sign is \$15,000 but the total cost is anticipated at \$38,000 with foundation work, a berm, lights, and landscaping. The school and hospital may contribute to the cost and with donations and a grant the City cost is anticipated at \$14,000. There is also the possibility of a YCIP donation and some lodging tax funds. If there are no donations forthcoming, the City's cost goes to \$30,000.

At this point the committee needs direction from the Council to purchase the sign and solicit donations. Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Aden, to order the community sign as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Aden, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Anne Anderson and Bruce Clymer will contact the school and hospital to discuss donations for the sign.

According to Section 9-208 of the zoning regulations and the user fee resolution, contractors on large construction projects can provide their own qualified building inspector. Central Nebraska Seed Company has requested Dean A Prochnow be the building inspector on their upcoming project.

Aden moved, Strauser seconded, appointing Dean A Prochnow as building inspector for the single application of CNSC construction. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Aden. Nay – none.

Mr. Keith Marvin of JEO Consulting Group reviewed the proposed Downtown Revitalization Plan that resulted from public participation meetings in October. Projects in the plan include physical, economic development, and marketing and are comprehensive in nature. Specific projects in each area include:

Physical:

Façade Improvement: Similar to the Main Street Program, they are a mix of grant and low interest revolving loans.

Signage: for downtown area as a continuation of the community sign project.

Accessibility: could be coupled with the façade improvements and would address issues such as high thresholds and narrow doors.

Awning Assistance: making funding available for store awnings

Economic Development: Some of these are already in place and should be continued and expanded

Expanding existing businesses and starting new

Business incubation

Education programs to improve and / or develop business

Business retention – explore all areas of leadership development

Marketing:

On-line shopping and web based proposals

Keeping businesses current, merchandising and displays, consistent hours of operation

Identifying funding sources

Marketing analysis

The next step is to submit the plan to the Department of Economic Development and to apply for \$250,000 CDBG funds to use in implementing the plan.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the Downtown Revitalization Plan as proposed by JEO Consulting Group. Roll call vote: Yea – Aden, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Aden, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none. The next regular meeting will be December 16, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor	Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk