

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson
Council members Jeff Kennedy
Gary Fritch
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, Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc, Cherry Alger, Steve Walker, Norm Lambertus, Atty. Lisa Jorgensen

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearing 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.

The public hearing at 7:00 p.m. was to consider the One Year and Six Year Road Improvement Program. The purpose of the hearing is to establish a program of street improvements and is the planning tool required for Highway Allocation funds. The plan can be modified and we are not bound to it.

According to Travis Mason, the three blocks on Lake Avenue, south of 7th Street, is the only project on the one year plan but we may consider some improvements on Highway #30 using asphalt to overlay.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Strauser, to close the hearing at 7:04 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2011-1 approving the One and Six Year Road Program as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Kennedy, Franzen, Whiting. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Fritch seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes - January 4
- Police Report - December
- Treasurer's Report - December
- Library Director's report - Nov thru Jan

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$33,263.44, except #1323; Public Works Division \$394,851.70; and the January 20 payroll of \$33,495.92. Roll Call vote: Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, allowing payment of claim #1323 to T & T Corp. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Governor Heineman's proposed budget will eliminate Staid Aid to Cities next fiscal year. Gothenburg currently receives \$30,000 state aid.
- The Employee Recognition dinner will be January 28
- Two legislative bills will be considered at hearing, LB183 regarding abandoned boats and LB206 regarding abandoned campers.
- Atty. Lisa Jorgensen reported on the Judge's decision regarding the Wilson suit. Wilson had no standing on the fence issue as he is not the homeowner but the City received a default judgment on the owners who did not respond. Wilson does have standing on the signs as a matter of free speech. She suggested including a time frame in our ordinance for the approval / denial and appeal procedure for sign permits. She will work with the Building Inspector and Administrator on a proposed ordinance for Planning & Zoning and Council to consider.

Cherry Alger of Pete's Lounge, Steve Walker of Walker's Steakhouse, and Norm Lambertus of Bar-W Lounge, asked for the option to sell alcohol until 2 a.m. as allowed by the legislature. Pool leagues, wedding receptions, and class reunions were examples given. Walker also asked Council to consider allowing sales at noon on Sunday's instead of 4:00.

Administrator Clymer noted that the legislature allows sales until 2 a.m. if the City adopts an ordinance to allow it. The question was included in the recent community survey and the response was overwhelming opposed to extended hours.

Discussion was had and it was decided to put the question on the February 18 agenda, hoping for personal feedback from the public.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, to authorize signature of Drawdown #15 on the Downtown Revitalization Project. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, introducing Ordinance #860 regarding the revised Flood Plain Map from FEMA. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, approval of the Mayor's recommended Committee and Personnel appointments:

Board of Adjustment:	Tom Shea (P & Z representative), Mike Hilderbrand
Cemetery Board:	Ervin Haynes, Duane Oliver
Housing Authority:	Sandy Smith
Planning & Zoning Commission	Tom Shea, Dan Tinlin, Deb Mroczek, Pam Slack
Recreation Committee:	Tot Holmes, Angie Barkmeier
Tree Board:	Jeff Kennedy

Personnel Appointments

City Attorney	Mike Bacon	
City Prosecutor	Willard Weinhold	
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L Dalrymple	
Police Chief	Randy Olson	
Police Sgt	Matthew Langley	
Police Officers	Ryan Randolph	Joe Humphrey
	Jill Ostergard	Aaron Pelzer
Fire Chief	Mark Ballmer	
Electrical Inspector	Mike Libich	
Building Inspector	Doug Swanson	
Back-up	Shane Gruber	
City Physician	Dr. Craig Bartruff	
Municipal Engineer	Miller & Assoc	

Fire Dept Roster

Ron Alexander	Brock Anderson	Allen Ballmer	Mark Ballmer
Dennis Bihlmaier	Trevor Anderson	Shane Butterfield	Dan Butterfield
Justin Carlson	Eric Coulter	Richard Crown	Adam Finke
Craig Franzen	Dale Franzen	Larry Franzen	Lyle Franzen
Troy Franzen	Justin Geiken	Wade Geiken	James Hecox
John Hecox	Tyrel Hite	Chris Horn	Jon Hudson
Joe Keiser	Kent Kline	Dan Meisinger	Phillip Miller
Travis Miller	Troy Munster	Mark Ostergard	Mike Ostergard
Robb Ostergard	Aaron Pelzer	Koby Rickertson	Christopher Scott
Chad Stull	Casey Russman	Walter Trimble	Garland Underwood
Lane Van Natta	Jason Wagner	Michael Wagner	Dan Walker
Keith Williamson			

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

As a result of a questionnaire regarding water needs we received a letter from the State for help in the form of a State Revolving Loan for installation of residential water meters. A public hearing will be required if we go forward with the project. If not interested now, we can pursue it another year. The needs survey indicates approximately \$4 million, a minimum of \$1200 per household and \$5 to \$10 / month on utility bills to install water meters. That does not include meter reading and maintenance. Most of the cost is capacity of the mains, maintenance and equipment, not water.

Discussion was had during which Councilman Fritch commented that of the four communities he's lived in, two had water meters and two did not. When water is metered people watch what they use and do not water lawns, for example. Therefore, there is less income from water but the expense continues. However, if water availability or line capacity is the concern, water should be metered. No action was taken, hoping from community feedback on the question.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving Drawdown #16 on the Downtown Revitalization Project for \$2500 and payment to Dawson Area Development. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Drawdown #17 on the Downtown Revitalization Project for \$4950 and payment to Dawson Area Development of \$3900 and Home Agency \$1050. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none.

The Downtown Revitalization grant project has resulted in an investment of over \$1 million dollars in our downtown area.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be February 1, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk