

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

May 17, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Absent: Council member	Tim Strauser
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Gary Fritch
	Jeff Whiting
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Dan Yancy, Travis Mason, Dalcy Pfeiffer, Anne Anderson

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, Fritch seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

- City Council minutes - May 3 as corrected to indicate that Strauser voted "Nay" on second reading of Ordinance 865 regarding fireworks
- Police Report - April
- Cemetery Board minutes - January 3 & February 7
- Treasurer's Report - April
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - May 10
- Library Director's Report - March thru May 2011

Roll call vote: Yea - Kennedy, Fritch, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$52,923.94; Public Works Division \$291,699.51; and the May 12 payroll of \$36,230.40. Roll Call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Community Comments:

- Administrator Clymer has asked for proposals to mow the hay at the cemetery.
- We have received a reimbursement of \$24,102.95 from FEMA for damage to the lift station.
- The gazebo that was received from the hospital has been moved onto a concrete pad at the swimming pool. Lawn / patio furniture will be ordered for it. The gazebo will replace the structure that was to be built to provide shade at the kiddy pool.
- Administrator Clymer will serve on the executive board of the landfill agency.
- NPPD has offered early retirement to about 77 employees and has implemented an extensive process to restructure the organization and hire new employees. Administrator Clymer has been asked to serve on the restructuring committee.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 864 regarding trash rates on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 865 regarding fireworks, on third and final reading. Voice vote: Yea - Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, approval of a one day license to sell beer, wine, and distilled spirits at the Firemen's Ball on June 25, 2011 and to block the street at the Fire Hall for the duration of the event, 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy Fritch. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

The Cemetery Board is working to place a computerized directory at the cemetery. Anticipated cost is \$25,000. The Board has approved a form for anyone wanting to make a donation to the project and it would simplify the budgeting process if a separate bank account was established.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to establish a separate bank account to receive donations for the computerized directory at the cemetery. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Yancy Insurance submitted the City health insurance claims history to re-insurance carriers for bid. One bid was \$25,000 higher than the current carrier. The current carrier has a small increase and has removed all lasers. For several years we have maintained the side fund at the 85% level but the number of claims has reduced the balance. Since there is not a large increase in premium this year it might be good time to increase it to 90% to raise the balance. If no change is made to the side fund, premiums would remain the same, 1550.38 / month (family). At 90%, side fund funding, \$1620.63 / month (family) and at 100%, 1626.95 / month (family).

Discussion was had and a motion made by Fritch, seconded by Kennedy, to renew the employee health insurance with the current carrier, effective June 1, and to raise the side-fund to 90%. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

The one year plan on our 1 & 6 Year Road Program includes Lake Avenue from 4th Street to the UPRR tracks. We are not obligated to do any of the projects but Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc offered three options with estimated costs:

1. Replace the full width of the street with six inch deep concrete, repair drainage and install two blocks of water line under the street for \$414,800.10.
2. Leave the curb intact, mill the street center four inches and replace with asphalt. It should last 10 - 12 years and cost \$193,703.46 but does not include replacing water lines.
3. The businesses along the street do not use the roadside parking area so we could narrow the street to 32 feet, replace concrete 6 inches deep and replace two blocks of water line for \$368,163.68.

Discussion was had on bonding the cost or budgeting without bonding. If and when the project is done, it makes the most sense to do the water lines at the same time. Recent repairs to some of

the water line revealed it is over 50 years old. It was pointed out that spring jobs usually get the best prices and budget discussions will be coming up soon. Administrator Clymer will talk to the bonding agent about costs and provide information for discussion later.

Shane Gruber and Bruce Clymer met with Miller & Assoc to formulate a water main improvement program in format similar to the 1 & 6 Year Road Program. It is a list of 13 projects, and the probable cost of each, that could be undertaken in increments or in total. If all the projects were done and the cost bonded for 15 years, it would raise water rates \$15 / month. Discussion was had on each project and three projects were identified as priorities: Project #1: 11th Street water. Project #2: 10th Street water. Project #7: Avenue D / Canal Undercrossing Replacement. Shane and Bruce are willing to meet with any Council members interested in further details. Additional discussion can occur during budget preparation.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, to approve the Taproot Subdivision plat. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, approving Mayor Hudson's recommendation appointing Justin Dowdy to the Tree Board. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser.

The depot in Lafayette Park is currently unused. The building has been moved once, has no heat or air conditioning system and little insulation. It also needs paint, new wiring and plumbing, roof, and ADA accessible restrooms. It's estimated to require \$300,000 - \$400,000 to make it functional. Options offered were:

- Request bids to paint and continue to put money into it
- Establish a fund drive to remodel and repair
- Tear it down
- Sell it to a private owner
- Apply for funds to move it to the northeast corner of Ave G and 10th Street
- Move it to some other area for community use.

Discussion was had but the only decision made was made was to not request bids for painting at this time.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Strauser. The next regular meeting will be June 7, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk