

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

February 21, 2012
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Jen Wolf, Brent Block, Laurie Moody, Ron Ahlmer, Cemetery Board members Jerry Jobman, Keith Block, Duane Oliver, Ervin Haynes, and Cindy Cooper

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 – February 7

Treasurer's Report - January

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

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$59,245.31; Public Works Division \$60,672.68; and the February 16 payroll of \$41,953.89. Roll Call vote: Yea –Whiting, Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Connie Dalrymple was selected by the employees as 2011 Employee of the Year.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Ordinance 871 regarding speed limits, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, approving the automatic renewal of liquor licenses:

Norm Lambertus - Bar-W Lounge	Class IB
R & C Petroleum dba Time Saver #18	Class B
Western Staab (Pizza Hut)	Class A
Pete's Lounge	Class I
Walker's Steakhouse	Class IB
Lakeside Bowl	Class I
OK Bottle Shoppe	Class D
Pit Stop, Inc	Class B

Randazzle Cafe	Class I
China Cafe	Class A
Pamida	Class D

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

The Cemetery Board has been working on a computerized kiosk at the cemetery to provide information on grave locations and possibly more detailed information such as obituaries and pictures, etc. The current budget holds \$10,000 with the intention of an additional \$10,000 for next budget year and \$10,000 in donations. The Board is now proposing a \$20,050 project utilizing half of the existing restroom building by making the other half a unisex facility to save construction costs. Internet USA can provide wireless internet service and pricing is based on the speed desired. The City of Alliance uses the kiosk being considered and Keith Block has visited it and found it to be very good.

The new proposed budget is: \$15,900 Kiosk including installation
 2,000 cost to remodel building using city labor and a mason
 2,000 in-wall air/air heat pump to for temperature between 40 -
 90°
 70 internet router
 80 IT cost for internet work
 \$20,500

On-going costs include: \$25 - \$45 / month for internet connection
 1200 / year for vendor support but we could use a local IT support
 person.
 1200 to replace the screen every 4 – 5 ears according to the vendor
 Updating records will either be by city personnel or the sexton

The kiosk company could install it in April; however, the Cemetery Board is aware of budget constraints and understands waiting until next budget year but they are ready to proceed with the project.

Several questions were brought up regarding the effect of temperature on the computer, vandalism, and outside links to the system. According to the Cemetery Board, heat is a greater concern than cold on the computer. There are street lights in the cemetery and police patrol to inhibit vandalism. There is a link on the City’s web site that has cemetery maps and burials.

Discussion was had and it was noted that there is \$25,000 in the budget to remodel the concession area at the 4-plex using KENO funds. It’s late in the season to start that project so we could use those funds. All are in favor of the project this year but also favor re-budgeting the concession area and getting it done, too.

Kennedy moved, Whiting second, to proceed with installation of the kiosk at the cemetery as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Miller & Assoc. have estimated the cost of water, sewer, and street infrastructure to the industrial site southeast of town, familiarly known as the ethanol site, to be \$1.3 million. According to Jen Wolf of Dawson Area Development, the City is eligible to apply for a Rural Economic Development Grant of \$300,000 to use against the cost of that infrastructure. The City will be required to provide a \$60,000 match which will be loaned to GIC at no interest, and also used for infrastructure. When repaid, the funds are ours to re-loan on other projects.

The Gothenburg Improvement Co has also applied to the State's Site Building Fund for a \$500,000 grant.

The remaining \$477,000 of the total estimated cost will be from sales tax and will be repaid in the form of tax increment financing so there will be no bonds or outside loans to burden tax payers. The site is high priority by the State and is the target for a couple of businesses there. Even if no prospects materialize now it is a good utilization of funds and site preparation.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Fritch and seconded by Strauser, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-3 authorizing application for the \$300,000 grant, and 0% interest loan to the GIC. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, establishing the Rural Economic Development Grant Revolving Loan Fund plan. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Only one bid was received for the City's general liability insurance. Employers Mutual Co (EMC) is our current carrier through First State Insurance. They have submitted a bid of \$90,856.00. Most of the \$20,273 decrease from this year's premium is worker's compensation.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to approve and accept the First State Insurance bid as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

Dawson Area Development has submitted a pre-application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant hoping to receive an invitation to apply for \$8.5 million to be used for the construction of rail lines to the ethanol site. If approved, an additional \$8 million would come from private investors adding a total of \$16 million to the City's tax base. No action is required until the actual application is made.

Council member Fritch commented that Gothenburg continues to be a growing community and adding \$16 million to the tax roll would be a huge benefit. Atty. Bacon noted that Gothenburg's valuation has nearly tripled in 20 years because of similar projects. Our valuation in 1980 was \$39 million and is now \$150 million and this year Frito-Lay will come back on the rolls adding \$12 million more.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 6, 2011.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk