

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 20, 2012
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Robert Meyer, Jill Rubenthaler, Brian Reetz, Pastor and Mrs. Bill Ivey, Kynlee Strauser

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, approving the consent agenda that included:
Council minutes – March 6
Treasurer’s Report - February
Planning & Zoning Commission minutes – March 13
Library Director’s Report – Jan thru March 2012

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$26,712.29; Public Works Division \$77,308.61; and the March 15 payroll of \$32,663.48. Roll Call vote: Yea –Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- Beth Ivey spoke to the Council about the tennis courts. Nets need to be replaced and she would like to see backboards in place to assist those learning or practicing tennis.

Response: We’ve had plywood back boards that rotted and then used a different material and made them wider. Unfortunately, making them bigger and wider caught more wind and they were damaged easier. Discussion was had on the possibility of a concrete wall with a paved area for learners.

The courts by the swimming pool are the hardest to maintain because of the high water table there. The freeze / thaw cycle causes the posts and court to be pushed out of the ground. We’ve reset the posts, raising them six to eight inches but had the same problem.

We had the engineers look at the court but they had no suggestions for the tennis courts due to the ground water level, which is also exactly why the swimming pool is built up so high.

Two nets were donated last year and were used at the courts by the pool. The city will look into nets and asked Mrs. Ivey to share any information she might have with Administrator Clymer.

- First grader Kynlee Strauser asked Council to put swings in Ehmen Park. She is too big for the baby swings and one of them is broken. She would like to see more little swings and some bigger ones.

Response: The City is unaware of a broken swing and will fix it right away. The big swings were removed at the request of the insurance company, and were not replaced when the new playground equipment was installed.

- The new cemetery kiosk will be installed on Wednesday, the 21st.

Brian Reetz, representing the Groundwater Foundation spoke to the Council about his company's efforts to educate people, through municipalities and the school systems, about care, preservation, and restoration of groundwater. Groundwater is used for human consumption, irrigation, and recreation. Once contaminated, it's very costly to clean and is only restored through natural rain flow. He encouraged the City to take action and join the Groundwater Foundation effort with hazard waste collections, and by encouraging the use of shower timers, having pitchers of water in the refrigerators instead of letting water run while getting a drink, and shutting off water while brushing teeth or shaving. We can also allow information at the library and become a "Groundwater Guardian Green Site". Wildhorse Golf Course and Monsanto Learning Facility are already "Green Sites".

Accountant Robert Meyer of RJ Meyer Assoc presented the 2010-11 audit of City and Public Works Division accounts and made the following points:

- Nothing was found during the audit to require particular attention but additional entries will be made as of yearend to finalize accounting.
- The City has complied with all budget requirements.
- Receivables are being collected in a timely manner and in some cases ahead of schedule.
- The council demonstrated fiscal responsibility in calling bonds and reissuing them at a lower rate that resulted in a \$20,000 interest savings.
- Utility rates are kept reasonable and cover costs. The water and sewer departments are at, or nearly at, break even, and the electrical department generates revenue.
- Tax revenue is positive.
- Fixed assets are good, equipment is upgraded.
- All funds are covered by securities.

A draft copy of the full audit is available for Council review. Mr. Meyer is available to answer any questions and will prepare final copies for the State Auditor by March 31.

Strauser moved, Whiting, seconded to accept the draft of the 2010-11 audit as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

The Todd Becker Foundation conducts Christian community outreach events known as *Blockstop Summer Tour*. Their main focus through school assemblies and summer events is to deter teen alcohol consumption. The summer tour is an evening event that includes a short concert, speakers, and food. They would like the use of Lake Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets from 11 a.m. to midnight on Sunday, June 10. They have contacted all businesses in the area and found no objection. The event is backed by local churches.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Fritch, seconded by Strauser, to allow the Todd Becker Foundation to use Lake Ave on June 10 as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch. Nay – none. The City will provide street barricades but the event sponsors will be responsible for setting and removing them. Since they are using Lake Ave, the sponsors are also asked not to block the street sooner than necessary.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to approve the Special Designated License requested by Monte Kenning of OK Bottle Shoppe for an April 27 Business-After-Hours event at 520 10th Street. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Discussion was had on the presentation made by GIS Workshop on March 6. The information and mapping provided would be helpful and is well done but concern was expressed at the short time frame allowed to get the process going and the annual \$7500 maintenance fee. No action was taken.

The Sun Theatre Board would like to thank the community for their support of the theatre, the digital projector project, and other interior renovation projects by hosting an event on March 31 that will include hamburgers and two free movies. They'd like to block the street in front of the theatre for the event that will conclude by 7:00 p.m.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to allow the Sun Theatre Board to block 10th Street from Avenue D east to the alley on Saturday, March 31 as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be April 3, 2012.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk