

Special City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

September 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Joan Windrum, CPA, Stan Jordan, Lois Stanton, Sydney Gruber, Dan Holbein, Joe Richeson

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearings at 7:03 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 meeting and hearings were held open pending arrival of a quorum.

At 7:18 p.m. Council member Tim Strauser arrived, a quorum was determined, and the meeting and 2012-13 budget hearings resumed.

The final budget proposal is as approved for publication on September 4, 2012. The total budget of \$20,703,428, excluding cash reserve, carries a tax request of \$570,526.98 based on a levy of .310255.

Lois Stanton had questions on the budget and Joan Windrum explained that the purpose of contingency funds is to allow the City to meet special needs, such as storm damage, without having to amend the budget. The utility budget is met solely with user fees, not taxes. The special revenue funds, such as the KENO Fund, Capitol Projects and others are all in / out items, and are not supported by property taxes. The proposed wholesale rate increase from NPPD is 3.93% and the City will request 4.2%. The difference allows the City to purchase and maintain equipment and meet personnel costs.

There being no further discussion or comment, a motion was made by Strauser, seconded by Kennedy, to close the hearings at 7:25 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, to approve an additional 1% restricted funds authority. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to adopt the 2012-13 budget of all municipal funds as presented. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the final levy of .310225 as proposed, which includes the airport levy. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Strauser. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

Fritch moved, Strauser seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-30 setting the 2012-13 tax levy at .310255. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay - none. Absent and not voting - Whiting.

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

City Council minutes – September 4

Police Report – August

Treasurer’s Report – August

Library Director’s Report – July 10 thru September 10

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$172,514.11; Public Works Division \$138,309.08; and the August 30 payroll of \$36,413.41. Roll Call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Community Comments: none

Troy Daum has purchased the property at 915 Lake Avenue and will move his Five Star Flooring business there. He has made some modifications to the interior and wants to improve the exterior by adding new windows, brick, and stucco to the façade. The building currently sits about 2.5 inches over the property line and the brick will extend it six inches further. He has already made purchase agreements for new windows, doors, and the brick and will lose the price if the question is not settled by October.

Discussion was had and since Council will not meet again until October 2, a motion was made by Strauser to introduce Ordinance 878 entitled:

An ordinance vacating the Easterly twelve inches of Lake Avenue adjoining Lot 6 and Lot 7, Block 4, First Addition to the City of Gothenburg, Dawson County, Nebraska; providing the for reversion of title to said portion of vacated street; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and providing for an effective date

and to waive the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days. On roll call vote, the following voted “Yea”: Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. “Nay”: none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a three-fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said ordinance. Ordinance 878 was then read by

title whereupon Council member Kennedy moved for final passage and Council member Strauser seconded the motion.

Mayor Hudson asked *Shall Ordinance 878 be passed and adopted?* On roll call vote, the following voted “Yea”: Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch. “Nay”: none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Mayor Hudson declared Ordinance 878 adopted and signed it in the presence of the Council. The Clerk attested the signature.

Kennedy moved, Fritch seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-31 naming municipal depositories for fiscal year 2012-13. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Stan Jordan has proposed repairing found bicycles and donating them for distribution to children at Christmas time. Administrator Clymer will prepare and post the necessary notice offering the bikes for sale by sealed bid as an entire lot. Bikes will not be sold individually.

There are three bridges in Gothenburg: the bridge west of Lake Helen that is closed to traffic, one on 1st Street and one on 4th Street across the tailrace. In the past the County has done the inspections on our bridges as well as those across the County. They no longer want the responsibility of providing that service and have asked communities to make arrangements to inspect their own bridges. Miller & Assoc. will inspect the two bridges we use for a fee of \$300 each and then enter the information into the State’s data base. The inspections need to be done in October.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, to approve the agreement with Miller & Assoc. for bridge inspection as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Due to their fiscal year ending September 30 and the involvement of the Game and Parks Commission in the Lake Helen restoration project, the Department of Environment Quality has requested an amendment to their contract with the City. The amendment will lower the contract by \$15,000 for this year but next fiscal year’s contract will be increased by \$15,000.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, authorizing Mayor Hudson to execute the amended agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Administrator Clymer reported he’d attended a meeting of the Central Platte Natural Resources District Western Projects Committee in Grand Island recently and received a favorable response from the board for a request of \$100,000 to the Lake Helen project. Jay Richeson and Brian Keiser are local residents and board members familiar with the lake and were supportive of the project.

After Administrator Clymer sent a 60-day repair or demolish notice on the fire damaged property at 218 9th Street he was contacted by Dan Holbein, a neighbor who wants to purchase the property. The property is currently uninhabitable but Mr. Holbein has made arrangements to purchase and demo the property himself, saving the good lumber for a future addition or garage. He is currently replacing fire damaged siding on his own home and cannot afford the approximately \$10,000 to have someone demolish it. There is also a mature tree in the front yard that would have to be removed to get large equipment onto the property. He cannot get it done in 60 days and asked Council for up to two years to accomplish the demolition.

The Council would like to see Holbein have the property but is uncertain about the length of time requested. Atty. Bacon said the City would have the option to condemn the property and clear the lot if the demolition is not completed in the allotted time. A reasonable extension would be fine but long term becomes problematic. He asked that the issue be tabled until the October 2 meeting.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting. The next regular meeting will be October 2, 2012.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk