

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 5, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor – Joyce Hudson Absent: City Clerk Connie L. Dalrymple

 Council members Jeff Kennedy
 Duane Oliver
 Tim Strauser
 Jeff Whiting
 City Administrator Bruce Clymer
 City Attorney Mike Bacon

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Phil Euhler from NMPP Energy, Jen Wolf of Dawson Area Development, Barb Nuxoll and Jim Long.

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.

Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, approving the consent agenda that included:

 City Council minutes – February 19

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

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$131,207.08, except #1868; Public Works Division \$132,707.13; the February 28 payroll of \$38,796.07. Roll Call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Oliver moved, Whiting second, allowing payment of claims #1898 to Quality Fire Extinguishers. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Oliver. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- Money from ACE was received. It was decided to put on the March 19 agenda to decide how to spend the money.

Strauser moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass Ordinance 882 regarding sexually explicit businesses, on third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting. Nay – none.

A Rate Study was completed and a presentation was provided by Phil Euler of NMPP Energy. Rates are calculated to have an average increase of 5% with a plus or minus of 1.5% for each rate class. Therefore, no rate class will have an increase of less than 4%, or more than 7%. Mr. Euler also presented charts showing Gothenburg is very competitive in our rates according to the NPM Energy annual survey. Further discussion was had and Kennedy moved, Whiting

seconded, to introduce Ordinance 883 and directed Atty. Bacon to redraft the ordinance to correct the dates the ordinance will become effective. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Jen Wolf from Dawson Area Development announced that DED Downtown Revitalization Funds are available. Although the City has previously received this grant, we are eligible to apply again. The first step is to apply for Phase I – which is a Planning Grant. Planning grants may be applied for as high as \$30,000. However because Gothenburg previously went through this process, Ms. Wolf indicated it was her feeling that Phase I does not have to be that extensive. The Phase I application will be completed by March 19th. There is no fee from DAD to put together the application and the application is due by March 29th. If Phase I is approved, the next step is to apply for the funds in Phase II. If Phase II is funded, funds will not be available for approximately 18 months from now. Motion by Oliver, seconded by Strauser, to apply for Phase I in the amount of \$10,000, allocate matching funds of 25% of project costs, and to have a Public Hearing regarding the application on the March 19th agenda. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2013-3 authorizing application for a Rural Economic Rural Economic Loan and Grant (REDLG) in the amount of \$300,000. The purpose of the loan is to provide funds to the Gothenburg Memorial Hospital for an extensive upgrade of their Electronic Health Care Record system. The Hospital's total cost of the project is \$823,000. If the grant is approved by the USDA, the city will be required to put up a match of 20%, or \$60,000 – making a total loan to the Hospital of \$360,000. The City will use economic development sales tax funds for the \$60,000 match. The loan to the hospital will have a 7 year payback at 0% interest. The money paid back by the hospital will go into the REDLG reuse fund for future projects. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving a License to Maintain for Jim Long for a private sewer line on City right-of-way. Roll call vote: Yea - Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay - none.

Whiting moved, Strauser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Oliver, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 19, 2013.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Recorded by: Bruce Clymer, City Administrator