

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

May 21, 2013
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Mrs. Patrick Lafleur, Reed Miller

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and continued the public hearing from April 16. 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 purpose of the public hearing was to consider a request for special use permit from Patrick Lafleur to operate a sno-cone business from their home at 1721 Avenue D through the summer months. Mrs. Lafleur told Council their intent is to have customers park along 18th Street, cross the back yard and enter the north door of the garage at that fronts on Avenue D. They feel this will eliminate traffic congestion on Avenue D.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the request as proposed at their May 14 meeting.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Oliver, seconded by Strauser, to close the hearing at 7:06 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Oliver. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Oliver moved, Strauser seconded, to approve the Special Use Permit for a summer sno-cone business at 1721 Ave D with access from 18th Street as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Oliver. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

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

- City Council minutes – May 7
- Treasurer's Report - April
- Planning & Zoning Commission minutes - May 14
- Library Director's Report – March 12 – May 13

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, allowing payment of the claims against the City, \$45,184.34, except #1920; Public Works Division \$478,697.81; and the May 23 payroll of

\$38,207.08. Roll Call vote: Yea - Oliver, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Strauser moved, Oliver seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape Service. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

We received 15 Statements of Interest for the proposed owner-occupied housing rehabilitation project. A full grant application is due to the Department of Economic Development by July 19.

Discussion was had and Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, to proceed with the application to rehabilitate five homes at a maximum of \$25,000 each. The loans to homeowners will be forgivable after five years if the grantee continues to own and live in the home. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Kennedy, Strauser. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Administrator Clymer presented Council with a proposed inter-governmental funding agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality for the Lake Helen rehabilitation project. Originally, the DEQ funding share was \$416,431. The amount is decreased to \$286,431 for purposes of this agreement because DEQ is not funding the alum treatment at this time although they will probably include the alum treatment later since it is a required aspect of the project.

Oliver moved, Kennedy seconded, authorizing signature of the inter-governmental funding agreement with DEQ as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

There will be approximately 600 BRAN (Bike Ride Across Nebraska) riders here on June 4. Chamber Director Anne Anderson asked permission for them to use the shower facilities at the swimming pool as they will be camping on the school practice fields. They should arrive in the late morning and be done at the showers by the time the pool opens in the afternoon. She also requested additional police presence in the area while they are here. Council had no objection.

The tractor relay also will be moving through town on June 4 and the Chamber Director asked to close one block of 15th Street in front of the Pony Express Station for approximately one hour between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. The Chamber will put the barricades up and remove them when finished. Council had no objection.

The Farmer's Market will be on Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. beginning July 11 and ending September 26. They would like to block 10th Street from Lake Ave east to the alley.

The Chamber has a cement post Lincoln Highway marker and medallions that they would like to permanently place off-street at the corner of Highways 30 and 47. They are working with the Rotary Club to paint and spruce up the area for the Highway Centennial this summer.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Strauser, seconded by Oliver, to allow 15th Street in front of the Pony Express Station to be closed on June 4 for the tractor relay and to allow closure of 10th Street from Lake Ave to the alley east for the Farmer's Market as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Oliver, Strauser. Nay – one. Absent and not voting – Whiting.

Council member Kennedy left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Community Comments:

- Administrator Clymer demonstrated the new digital aerial photo showing comparisons with the old map we were using. The new map was purchased by the Redevelopment Authority for \$4000.

As proposed at the April 16 meeting, sewer improvement resulting from the sanitary sewer system study consists of two projects: one costs \$493,000 and includes Areas 1, 2, 3 all south of the railroad tracks. It has the most impact in eliminating groundwater infiltration. The second is Area 4 and consists of a new line from the waste treatment plant north to 11th Street. There is less infiltration in the area but it is considered to be a 'green project' by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). As such it qualifies for \$100,000 loan forgiveness and a 25% decrease in interest rates making a 20-year loan rate 2.25%.

There will be a public hearing on June 4 at 7:00 p.m., which is a requirement of the DEQ, to discuss with the public the cost of the project and how much the cost will impact the users. If the Council wishes, they can present two options for public information. Administrator Clymer reviewed some cost scenarios based on what projects are done. Funding will not be available until October and bids should be let sometime in January or February 2014; therefore, Council could delay the decision until after the hearing.

There being no quorum, no decision was made and the meeting was closed at 7:50 p.m. The next regular meeting will be June 4, 2013.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk