

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 4, 2014
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett KRVN – Ben Schwartz

Also present: Todd Geiken & Jory Flesch, Frances Linegar, Shane Gruber, Brandon & Katie Beth Kauffman, Jennifer Wolf

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 18 & 19

 Police Report - February

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

Oliver moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$29,662.05, except #4901; Public Works Division \$68,427.57; and the February 27 payroll of \$32,571.02. Roll Call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Whiting, Oliver. Nay - none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Whiting moved, Oliver seconded, allowing payment of claim #4901 to Quality Fire Extinguishers. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver. Nay none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Community Comments:

- Candidates having filed for Council seats included:
 - Mayor – Joyce Hudson
 - East Ward Council – Bruce Clark, Jay Richeson, J Buddenberg, Lee Koubek
 - West Ward Council – Koby Rickertsen, Verlin Janssen
- Dick Parsons will retire from the Street Dep't on March 26
- There will be a *Listening Session* in conjunction with the area wide Housing Study. The meeting is open to planners, lenders, realtors, and residents and will discuss the overall housing environment. The meeting will be here in Council Chambers on Wednesday, the 12th at 2:00 p.m.

There is potential for a housing project in the area of Goshen Subdivision, Goshen 2nd Subdivision, and Reynolds Subdivision between Avenues J and K, at Jefferson and Washington Streets. The area should be R-3 to accommodate the density of multi-family housing. The Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the change in zoning.

Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to introduce Ordinance 887 that will update the zoning map by changing the area bounded by Jefferson and Washington Streets between Avenues J and K to R-3 from R-2 zoning designation. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Council had no objection to a request from Katie Beth Kauffman to use Ehmen Park on May 3 from 8 a.m. to noon as the start / end location for a Walk-for-Life to benefit the Women's Resource Center. The walk is intended to be a family event and will be approximately two miles starting at the Pony Express Station, proceeding to the school, then the hospital area, and back to the park. It will avoid major streets.

Mayor Hudson, Shane Gruber, and Administrator Clymer met with Todd Geiken and Jory Flesch regarding the care, maintenance, and use of the Legion ball field. A new Legion Board has been formed and is trying to revive the ball program. They will working on the structures and the field and anticipate costs of \$50,000. There has been a good response to the project and there will be a kick-off soon. Monetary pledges have been received to start the project but most of the work will be voluntary.

There will be two groups of ball players, the Seniors of 17 – 18 years and the Juniors at 15 – 16 years. They are hoping to start a younger group of the 13 – 14 year olds coming off Little League. The season starts May 13 and runs through August including state tournaments. The group is hoping to host some area and regional tournaments to raise revenue.

The problem at this time is that they do not have equipment for field maintenance. The recommendation from the meeting was to ask the City to mow the field for \$2000 for the season. The City will normally mow once a week unless it's needed more often and will mow only the outfield, behind the bases, and outside the fence line. The City will not mow the infield or along Avenue I, or do any trimming or other duties. The grass clippings will not be bagged. Fees will be paid at the end of the season and the agreement will terminate at the end of two seasons.

Discussion was had and a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Whiting, directing Atty. Bacon to draft an agreement for mowing the Legion Ball Field as discussed. Terms include a \$2000 fee for the service that will be paid at the end of the ball season and the contract will not extend beyond two seasons. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

The plan for Phase II of the downtown Revitalization project is due March 28 according to Jennifer Wolf of Dawson Area Development. The \$350,000 grant requires a 25% City match and has been budgeted as:

- \$20,000 grant administration
- \$45,000 Business Revolving Loans

\$75,000 Energy Efficiency
\$125,000 Façade Improvement
\$15,000 Sidewalk Hand Hold Structures
\$40,000 Improvements to the northeast corner of Hiways #47 & #30
\$30,000 Parking lot surfacing (downtown lot)

Council had no objection to the budget as proposed. There will be a 7 p.m. public hearing at the March 18 meeting to approve the grant application. At that time the overall plan must be ready and we have to know how the City's 25% match will be used in the project.

There will also be a hearing on the 18th where the public will be allowed to comment on the plan.

Administrator Clymer offered a resolution that will allow special designated liquor licenses to be approved by the Police Chief or the next in command in the Chief's absence. If it is a first time applicant, the application must go before the City Council. All other Liquor Control Commission laws apply.

Oliver moved, Kennedy seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2014-2 designating the Police Chief to approve special designated liquor license. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Kennedy, Oliver. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

The current Street Dep't budget includes \$160,000 for a new street sweeper. There was no objection to seeking requests for proposals for a new sweeper.

Whiting moved, Kennedy seconded, to authorize signature of Drawdown #1 in the amount of \$8000 and authorizing the payment to Dawson Area Development for administration services on the Downtown Revitalization project. Roll call vote: Yea – Oliver, Kennedy, Whiting. Nay – none. Absent and not voting – Strauser.

Representatives of the school were included in the Safe Routes to School project. The grant application was submitted looking only at routes to school outside the campus due to the application deadline. The school has now contracted with Alfred Benesch & Co of Omaha to conduct a traffic study to determine needs, routes, and provide guidance at the school. The study will cost \$24,000 and the school has asked the City to participate in the cost and to be a part of the discussions with the engineer.

Council member Kennedy commented that if the Safe Routes project goes forward it would probably be a good idea to have a Council representative on the school's committee and offered to represent the City if requested. He also suggested input from the police department.

Council member Oliver agreed, but did not think the City should be financially involved in the study. The Safe Routes application process included some school personnel, considered a wide area away from the school, and involved City engineers. The proposed study is for the school only.

Mayor Hudson agreed and recommended that the City not participate financially but she had no objection to City representatives sitting on the school's committee. Another option would be to wait until the study is complete and see what it entails.

Kennedy moved, Oliver seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Oliver, Kennedy. Nay- none. Absent and not voting – Strauser. The next regular meeting will be March 18, 2014.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk