

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

June 5, 2012
7:00 p.m.

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

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Shane Gruber, Anne Anderson, Reed Miller, Duane Oliver

Mayor Hudson opened the meeting and public hearing 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.

The purpose of the public hearing was to approve a redevelopment plan for Taproot, Inc. (Eastside Animal Hospital). After purchasing the Animal Hospital, the owners of Eastside made a \$400,000 addition to their business. No funds were advanced on the project but they requested \$75,000 in tax increment financing, over 15 years. If the TIF is insufficient to meet their obligation, they will be required to make up the difference. The Redevelopment Authority has approved the plan.

Discussion was had and Kennedy moved, Whiting seconded, to close the hearing at 7:05 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Fritch, Whiting, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Whiting moved, Fritch seconded, to pass and approve Resolution 2012-10 approving the redevelopment plan for Taproot, Inc. and authorizing the tax increment financing as proposed. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Strauser, Fritch, Whiting. Nay – none.

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

City Council minutes – May 15 & 30

Police Report - May

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

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded allowing payment of claims against the City, \$85,380.85, except #1920; Public Works Division \$196,712.90; and the May 24 payroll of \$39,214.40. Roll Call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, allowing payment of claim #1920 to Kennedy Landscape. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

Community Comments:

- At the special meeting on May 30, Travis Mason of Miller & Assoc. was asked to prepare a Lake Helen site plan for Council consideration on June 19. Once the plan has been discussed by Council, meetings will be held for public input.
- The Lake Avenue project is underway and the water has been off for quite a while as contractors install the new line.
- The electric crew began working on the underground installation on Avenue A.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, to advance Ordinance 876 vacating a portion of 8th Street and the alley adjacent to Sander's Furniture to third and final reading. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay – none.

At the May 15 meeting, Miller & Assoc. was asked to provide a 'per street' cost on the sanitary sewer improvements. Some of the 15 projects were then combined resulting in eight projects at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. Projects are numbered by priority due to ground water infiltration and the water level.

Project 8, 11th Street from Ave I to Cottonwood Dr. and south to the waste plant along with a line from Ave M east, then south and back west to the waste plant, relieves the existing 15 inch sewer main. It includes a lift station to expand sewer service east to businesses on Hiway 30. Projects 6 and 7 are manhole repairs only so if we decide to replace the line, new manholes would be installed. Projects 1 thru 7 take some water off lower areas, but not Hiway 30 or the UP tracks. Projects 1 thru 5 would help significantly but can't be quantified as the area is always at or under the water level. Once the pipes are sealed, the ground water level will rise. Shane Gruber said that areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, all south of 7th Street are cleaned yearly because of gravel and sand issues.

In the fall, we will be eligible for a State Revolving Loan but user fees must be sufficient to make the loan payments. USDA funding is also a possibility as is traditional financing. We need to decide on which projects we want to undertake and then go forward. Grant funds are awarded in the fall and the State is aware of the project. There will be further discussion on June 19. We may be able to do several projects at one time without an increase in sewer rates.

The current utility rate ordinance provided for a 40 cent increase in rates to help fund Clean City week. The balance of the \$15.40 residential fee was 25 cents for the grass / tree lot, 50 cents to the City for billing, and \$14.25 to the haulers. The additional 40 cents was charged to the customer but paid to the haulers instead of being held for Clean City costs. Proposed ordinance 877 changes the language to recoup the funds from the haulers but has no effect on the customers. All three haulers have been made aware of the issue but there has been no response from them.

Council member Fritch introduced Ordinance 877 entitled:

An ordinance setting forth all utility fees and charges in a comprehensive schedule for the City of Gothenburg; providing for repeal of all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and providing for an effective date

and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. The motion was seconded by Council member Whiting. On roll call vote, the following voted “Yea”: Kennedy, Strauser, Whiting, Fritch. “Nay”: none.

Mayor Hudson declared the motion adopted by a full vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said Ordinance.

Ordinance 877 was read by title and Council member Kennedy moved for final passage. Council member Strauser seconded the motion. Mayor Hudson asked “*Shall Ordinance #877 be passed and adopted?*” On roll call vote the following voted “Yea”: Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. “Nay”: none.

The Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency was established by a mutual service agreement among member communities. In the years since then, some communities have terminated their agreement and others no longer use the Lexington landfill. With so many non-users still listed as members, it’s become difficult to get a quorum for meetings. Therefore, LASWA has asked all member communities to confirm their desire to remain a member of the Agency.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, to continue Gothenburg’s membership in the Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency. Roll call vote: Yea – Fritch, Kennedy, Whiting, Strauser. Nay – none.

The annual Harvest Festival will be held on September 15 and will include several events on and along Lake Avenue which is State property.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving the proposed September 15th Harvest Festival events including use of Lake Avenue (Highway 47) from 27th Street to 9th Street as the parade route. The event will be from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The City will meet all signage regulations and provide the additional insurance as required by the State. Roll call vote: Yea - Fritch, Whiting, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay - none.

There will be an antique tractor relay across Nebraska, moving east to west along the Pony Express route, on Thursday, the 7th. The tractors will be displayed in front of the Pony Express Station from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The council had no objection to blocking 15th Street between Lake Avenue and Avenue F for one hour and will provide barricades.

Kennedy moved, Strauser seconded, approving Mayor Hudson’s recommendation appointing John Kreuzer to the Redevelopment Authority, replacing Pam Slack who has resigned. His term will expire January 2014. Roll call vote: Yea – Whiting, Fritch, Strauser, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Fritch moved, Kennedy seconded, approving Mayor Hudson's recommendation appointing Richard Tracci to the Tree Board. His term will expire January 2015. Roll call vote: Yea – Strauser, Whiting, Kennedy, Fritch. Nay – none.

Strauser moved, Whiting seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Kennedy, Fritch, Whiting, Strauser. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be June 19, 2012.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk