

Regular City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers

March 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor –	Joyce Hudson
Council members	Jeff Kennedy
	Randy Waskowiak
	Verlin Janssen
	Jay Richeson
City Administrator	Bruce Clymer
City Attorney	Mike Bacon
City Clerk / Treasurer	Connie L. Dalrymple

Press: *Gothenburg Times* - Beth Barrett

Also present: Frances Linegar, Niki Salomon, Russell Herbert

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.

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

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Roll call vote: Yea – Janssen, Waskowiak, Kennedy, Richeson. Nay – none.

Kennedy moved, Waskowiak seconded, allowing payment of claims against the City, \$112,075.57; Public Works Division \$114,836.02; and the February 25 payroll of \$34,375.00. Roll Call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Kennedy, Janssen. Nay - none.

Community Comments:

- The Downtown Revitalization Project planned to install 10 handrails where there are two steps from the street to the sidewalk in the downtown area. Administrator Clymer proposed locating one each at Strohmeyer's Dentistry, Home Agency, Nebraska Salt & Grain, Hicken Lumber, McMeen Physical Therapy, Midstates Realty, 1st State Insurance and three at Peterson's Supermarket. The handrails are not ADA bars, just a sturdy assist where there is more than one step up from the street to the sidewalk. Customers use the vehicle to assist with one step but it's out of reach for the second step up. He has asked the Chamber to review the locations. If necessary we may be able to install more. Council members suggested one at the theater and one on 9th Street on the south side of the Gothenburg State Bank where the handicap parking place is. Council was encouraged to contact the Administrator if they have other suggestions and he indicated the Downtown Revitalization Committee can meet to determine the final number of the handrails and their placement.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 26 at the 4-plex.
- Council member Janssen reported a citizen concern that the streets need to be swept.

Council had no objection to a request from Frances Linegar and Niki Salomon to base the Women's Resource Center Walk for Life from Ehmen Park on May 7. The walk will move from the park to the school area, and proceed north on Ave I to the hospital and back to the park. No street closures or extra power are needed in the park. The walk should be finished by 11:00 a.m.

As requested by Council at the previous meeting, Atty. Bacon drafted an agreement allowing the contractor to place storage containers on City property during the hospital construction which is to be completed by February 2017. The hospital will hold the City harmless of any damage and will keep weeds under control.

Kennedy moved, Janssen seconded, authorizing signature of the proposed agreement with the hospital allowing containers on City property from March 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. Roll call vote: Yea – Waskowiak, Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy. Nay – none.

Russell Herbert, representing Spotlight Funding dba *The Trading Post*, has leased the depot in Lafayette Park. The business handles fundraising for Sterling West Academy and will offer items for sale to benefit the school. For now *The Trading Post* will be open one day a week.

Council members discussed the need for a special use permit since the depot is located in a park instead of a commercial area. If located in a residential area, a special use permit would definitely be required. No one objects to the business but feels it necessary to comply with established regulations. Requiring the permit would be a change from City practice, given the similarities to operation of the Pony Express Station. Atty. Bacon said both businesses relate to public use and he is comfortable with or without a special use permit; however, the Municipal Code does not make allowance for special use permits in areas zoned *Public*, therefore it would be necessary to change the code.

Janssen moved, Waskowiak seconded, approving the lease agreement with Russell Herbert for the depot in Lafayette Park as proposed. Requirement 4(b) of the lease, *Maintenance of the building exterior in a suitable appearance*, will be stricken from the agreement. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Waskowiak, Janssen. Nay – Kennedy.

The Board of Health requested Alvin Poen be notified that he is operating a repair business in a residential area and ask him to make application for a special use permit within 30 days. The time has expired and he has not made the application and continues to operate the business. Atty. Bacon will assist the Zoning Administrator in drafting a cease and desist notification and if that does not produce a response Atty. Bacon will proceed as allowed by law.

Waskowiak moved, Kennedy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Roll call vote: Yea – Richeson, Janssen, Kennedy, Waskowiak. Nay - none. The next regular meeting will be March 15, 2016.

Joyce Hudson, Mayor

Connie L. Dalrymple, City Clerk