

Tire warehouse moving into industrial park

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, 09 September 2010 19:25 - Last Updated Wednesday, 22 September 2010 16:39



Eron Properties plans to build 16,000 square-foot structure.

The Gothenburg Improvement Community's industrial park is gaining a new occupant.

Eric MacPherson, of ERON Properties, plans to build a 16,000 square-foot building on Cottonwood Drive north of Central Platte Agronomics.

Following a public hearing at a special meeting Aug. 31, the Gothenburg City Council approved a redevelopment plan to acquire the property and build a warehouse to store tires and include office space and parking.

"He has a significant business in industrial tires sold in the United States and Canada," said city attorney Mike Bacon.

MacPherson also owns Dawson Tire Service Inc.

Because the property is in a flood zone, the redevelopment plan calls for ground fill to raise the area where the warehouse will be built.

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As a result, the council declared the property blighted and substandard which makes it eligible for tax increment financing.

TIF supports a project by allowing the tax revenue generated by the property to help pay for its development.

The company will receive \$60,000 in TIF funds.

COUNCIL TAKES MEETING OUTSIDE

The reconstruction of Gothenburg State Bank's drive-through banking facility brought about the question of where to install a city handicapped parking space.

After some discussion inside, members continued their meeting outside to study the issue.

They considered a space on the east end of parking in front of Peterson's Supermarket on Ninth Street.

However they eventually decided to create the space on the west end of parking in front of the police station front door on Ninth Street.

A handicapped space in Peterson's Supermarket parking lot west of the police station will return to conventional parking.

Council members also approved a six-month extension for the Community Development Block Grant the city received to complete owner-occupied housing improvements.

During a public hearing, West Central Nebraska Development District housing specialist Ginger Featherngill said the program in Gothenburg was coming to a close.

WCNDD administers the grant.

The city received the \$236,000 grant for low-to-moderate income homeowners in September 2008 but applicants were slow to respond.

Today, Featherngill said 10 homeowners—enough to spend the grant money—have applied

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and have contracts. Four projects have been completed.

The extension approved by the council will allow for home improvements for two more applicants to be done after the Sept. 29 deadline.

Featherngill noted that government requirements such as lead-based paint training make it difficult to find qualified contractors to do the work.

“All of the homeowners seem pleased with the repairs. We’ve installed a lot of furnaces and windows,” she said.

In other business, the council:

approved the following amounts to be paid to the following organizations and businesses for improvements from the downtown revitalization grant: \$993 to the Gothenburg Rural Fire Department, two payments of \$6,903 and \$7,020 to Nelson’s Appliance and Repair, Inc. and \$5,000 to Peterson’s Supermarket.

okayed payments to the following contractors for improvements under the city’s owner-occupied housing— Mark Davis of Davis Construction in North Platte, \$18,850 and Scott Poppe of Anytime Any Kind Construction of Kearney, \$20,000.

granted a request from Monte Kenning for a special license to serve alcohol at a business after hours/grand opening event at Comfort Suites hotel this Saturday.

reviewed and approved the 2010-11 budget for publication and hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

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