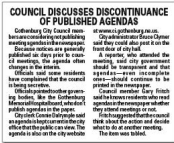


## Eastside gets initial OK to expand clinic

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Friday, 15 April 2011 14:02 -

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### Veterinarians want to apply for TIF funds.

Following a request for tax-increment financing prior to Redevelopment Authority approval, the Gothenburg City Council approved a memorandum of understanding for the expansion of Eastside Animal Center.

The memorandum is between the city, the Redevelopment Authority and Taproot, Inc.—which is the corporate name for the vet clinic.

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

At their April 5 meeting, the council members heard city attorney Mike Bacon say favorable building weather is necessary for Eastside owners Randy Burge and Ryan O'Hare to get work started and finished.

Because their clinic is busy and crowded, Bacon said the owners want to expand west of the existing clinic at 805 I St.

“We’ll consider this and go forward and do the paperwork later,” he said.

In February, Burge and O'Hare bought Gothenburg Animal Hospital from Dr. Roger Dudley.

Dudley closed the business to become the state epidemiologist for the Bureau of Animal

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Industry.

Burge and O'Hare also hired three Gothenburg Animal Hospital employees.

Under the memorandum agreement, Taproot, Inc.:

Must do its best to acquire the property and start construction no later than May 30. City officials said Wendell Brott owns some of the land wanted for expansion.

Verify that the project would not be economically feasible without the use of TIF and would not occur in the RDA area without the use of TIF.

Agrees to hold the city harmless from any suits, liability, expenses, etx. resulting from connection with the memorandum.

The city, in turn, will work to consider declaring the project blighted and substandard to make it eligible for TIF.

Mayor Joyce Hudson was authorized to execute the agreement.

Because a formal agreement has not yet been agreed to, more information about the project was unavailable.

On another matter, the council discussed and decided to send a survey to residents with water source heat pumps.

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City officials want to find out how many non-metered electric customers are pumping and dumping water into the sanitary sewer since paying to treat clean water is an added expense.

Currently, commercial businesses with water-source heat pumps have their water metered.

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