Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 26 July 2012 14:05 -



# Resolution passes despite objection

Angled parking on downtown city streets shall prevail except on a portion of the west side of Avenue D where parallel parking is allowed.

That's what Gothenburg City Council members decided at their July 17 meeting when they passed a resolution to include a cul-de-sac west of Avenue G on Ninth Street.

Re-striping of parking spaces on downtown streets brought the matter to light, said city administrator Bruce Clymer.

Parking stalls in front of a residence owned by Jason Fiese, at 612 Ninth Street, were to be striped as diagonal parking but the notification was met with resistance, Clymer said.

"So we decided we'd better do a resolution," Clymer said.

Local attorney Steve Windrum, who was employed to represent Fiese on the matter, said he thought perhaps a neighbor or property owner had complained about his client's parking.

Windrum suggested there might be a different forum to resolve the matter rather than by a resolution.

Parking perpendicular to the curb, which Fiese has done, uses less space than diagonal

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parking, he pointed out, and backing a vehicle to the curb takes up even less room.

Windrum said he thought space should be a consideration because of congestion with Hicken Lumber next door.

He noted that backing a truck perpendicular to the curb makes it easier for his client to unload items.

Council members said they had no problem with perpendicular parking if someone needs to load or unload temporarily.

Enforcing a parking resolution and getting a conviction would be difficult without a resolution designating the type of parking allowed, Windrum said.

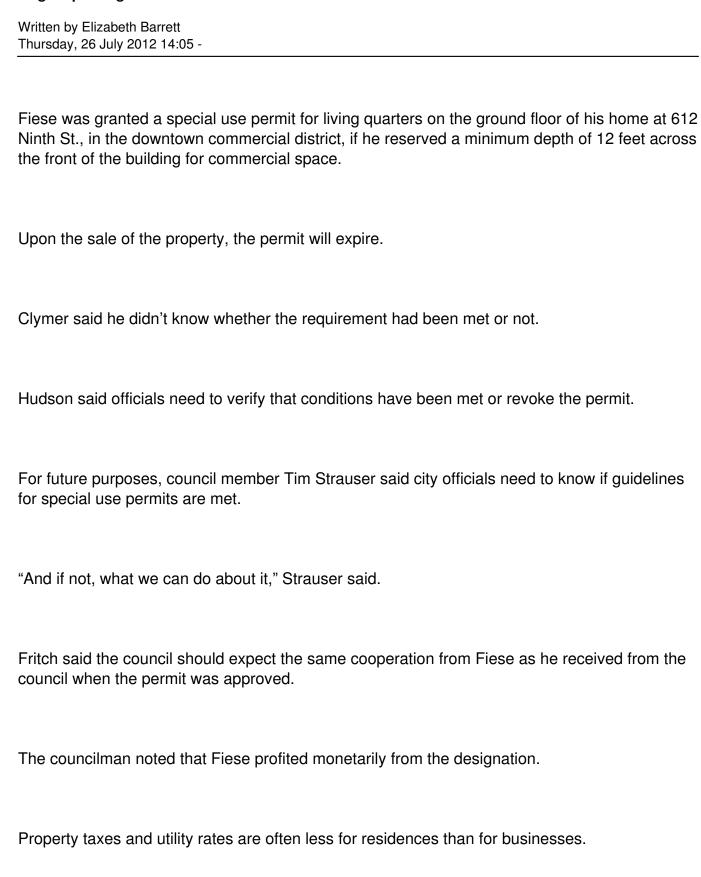
Council member Gary Fritch said there isn't designated "back-end" parking in other areas of town and asked whether the city should identify different areas of parking throughout the downtown.

Without designated parking, Mayor Joyce Hudson said there would be no uniformity to vehicles parked.

"It's public parking and a public street, not just for the people there," Hudson said.

In addition to approving the resolution, the council decided to ask the city attorney about designating areas to load and unload items.

On a related matter, resident Tom Shea said he didn't think a special use permit issued to Fiese in 2011 had been met.



The council plans to discuss the issue with the city attorney at the Aug. 7 meeting.

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In other business, the council:

chose RJ Meyer & Associates of North Platte for city auditor services at a cost of \$8,700 in 2012, \$9,000 in 2013 and \$9,300 in 2014. A single audit, which city officials said would likely be needed this year, would cost \$2,500.

The Meyer contract was higher than the other bidder, Contryman Associates of Scottsbluff, but council members said they were more familiar with RJ Meyer of North Platte, who has done the audit in the past.

Contryman bid \$8,500 for 2012, \$8,700 for 2013 and \$8,900 for 2014.

renewed a contract with Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Energy of Lincoln to do an electrical cost of service study for the City of Gothenburg.

JK Energy Consulting of Lincoln also submitted a proposal for \$6,250 compared to NMPP's bid of \$2,930 in four installments that totals \$11,720.

Clymer said he'd prefer to stay with NMPP Energy, who has done the study in the past and who he described as a good resource.

reviewed and accepted changes in agreements with haulers of solid waste. One of the major changes is that Mike's Sanitation will get paid \$2.50 per trash container for picking up waste in downtown receptacles.

adopted, by resolution, a Central Platte Natural Resources District Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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Such a plan is encouraged by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for communities to assess risks and vulnerabilities should a natural disaster occur. If that should happen, Clymer said the city has a better chance of getting federal funds with a plan in place.

voted to pay \$292,985 to Paulsen Inc. of Cozad for Lake Avenue paving improvements.

On a related matter, the council will pay \$3,294 to Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers of Kearney for observation and management of the same project.

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