FRITCH

Councilman proposes council adopts rules

The news that an adult entertainment nightclub cannot be kept out of Minden prompted proactivity from a Gothenburg city councilman.

Plus the fact that folks are talking about an all-nude juice bar scheduled to open in November near the city square in Minden.

Council member Gary Fritch said the First Amendment protects businesses but “if the community decides we don’t want one, we can’t pass a zoning law” to prevent a business from locating in Gothenburg.

Minden’s city council apparently couldn’t do anything about stopping the juice bar “Confessions” from coming to town but is now considering restrictive ordinances.

For example, an Omaha World-Herald article said the council is considering passing an ordinance that limits the hours the club can operate and another that would limit locations for other adult businesses.

Fritch said he brought the issue for discussion to see if other council members might be interested in looking at ordinances of other cities with sexually oriented businesses like North Platte.

“It might be better to be proactive before a business comes in,” he said. “I think we need regulations.”

Fritch said rules could keep such a business away from churches and day care centers and limit hours of operation.

Council president Jeff Kennedy said he recalls talking about passing regulations when a strip club opened up south of Cozad a few years ago.

“I think most people would like to see something,” Kennedy said.

Tim Strauser, another council member, suggested that city attorney Mike Bacon research some ordinances of other cities and make one applicable to Gothenburg.

Fritch said the ordinance needs to go deeper than regulating just strip clubs and adult movie stores as does one used by the City of North Platte.

The issue will be revisited at a future council meeting.

On another matter, the council decided to give Linda Crisman, and her son, Rex, more time to trim a cherry tree at 820 11th St.

City officials said they received a complaint about the tree blocking the view of the street from an alley so checked out the complaint and sent the Crisman’s notice to trim it.

The Crisman’s were at the meeting and said several trees throughout town were blocking streets.

City administrator Bruce Clymer agreed but said the city usually acts on those about which they receive complaints.

Rex said he would cut down the tree and drive around town to find others hindering views and complain to the city.

Kennedy suggested removing a branch to solve the problem. Linda agreed, as soon as the leaves have dropped.

In other business, the council:

approved a request from OK Bottle Shoppe for a special designated license to sell alcohol at the current Five-Star Flooring Building on Nov. 1.

Hecox Dentistry, which bought the building, is having an open house that day.

passed a resolution, for the third time, regarding a Rural Economic Development Grant that establishes a revolving loan fund and a loan fund committee to review applications.

The resolution stipulates that the Gothenburg Improvement Company is the recipient of a $60,000 loan from sales tax funds to help create an industrial site in the southeast part of town.

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