

City to help Building Blocks with expenses

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 14 February 2013 14:48 -

Council agrees to pay for new door, will look at other ways to assist

Not many will argue that Building Blocks Childcare Center & Preschool fills a need in Gothenburg and the surrounding area.

Not only in caring for about 49 children a day but also by employing eight full-time and three part-time employees.

For that reason, Building Blocks board president Andrew Nickerson asked local city council members to look at the big picture of what the center provides.

At the council's Feb. 5 meeting, Nickerson asked not only for \$3,675 to pay for a new front door and installation but also to consider other ways the city could help.

The childcare center leases the building, that sits on school-owned property, from the city.

"We're trying to maintain, improve and grow the facility," he said, noting that there's a lot of deferred maintenance.

Nickerson said they'd like to replace five more doors, several windows and eventually carpet.

Although the board does fund raising for expenses, he said it's often not enough.

"How can we move ahead with major expenses?" Nickerson asked.

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City administrator Bruce Clymer suggested that the board establish and maintain a fund for repairs.

The council agreed to pay for the new door and also asked for monetary figures from the child care center.

In other action, the council approved a revised agreement with Dawson Area Development for the city to turn over \$258,337 to the organization in reuse loan funds.

DAD will then re-loan the money for economic development projects in Gothenburg.

Council members decided to have the downtown revitalization committee or another local board accept applications for loans and then make recommendations to the DAD board.

“It would be nice to have input on how the remaining funds will be used,” said mayor Joyce Hudson.

On another matter, the council introduced an ordinance that amends I-2 zoning regulations to accommodate sexually oriented businesses by special use permit.

In other business, the council:

decided to establish a committee to review Community Development Block Grants grant proposals.

agreed to allow a muscular dystrophy organization to use the north part of Lake Helen for a Dawson == County MS (Muscular Dystrophy) walk on May 25 to raise money to find a cure for the disorder that weakens a person’s muscles.

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granted a couple of requests for special licenses to serve alcohol at events—for OK Bottle Shoppe to serve at a business-after-hours event at Horizon Ag on Feb. 22 and for Gothenburg Links to serve at a Ducks Unlimited event on March 1.

gave Jay Lewis permission to use Ehmen Park for a car show on June 29 that will raise money for the Dawson County Relay for Life.

Lewis said last year that more than 100 cars showed up for the event.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636

| CITY PERSONNEL, COMMITTEES NAMED | |
|---|---|
| Personnel and committee appointments for 2013 were recently approved by Gothenburg City Council members. | Fire chief—Mark Ballinger |
| City personnel are all reappointments from 2012. For city boards, officials still seek members for the cemetery and tree boards and recreation committee. | Electrical inspector—Mike Liblich |
| Reappointments | Building inspector—Doug Swanson; Shane Gruber, backup |
| Cemetery board —Keith Block | Physician—Dr. Craig Barruff |
| Housing authority —Eric Tiller | City engineer—Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers |
| Planning and zoning —Louie Rovitz, Eppie Stenores | 2011 fire department roster |
| Community Redevelopment Authority —Matt Williams | Ron Alexander, Brock Anderson, Trevor Anderson, Al Ballmer, Mark Ballmer, Dennis Bihmaier, Shane Butlerfield, Dan Butterfield, Justin Carlson, Eric Crutcher, Richard Crown, Adam Frako, Craig Franzon, Dale Franzen, Larry Franzen, Life Franzen, Troy Franzen, Justin Galken, Wade Galken, James Hecox, John Hecox, Tyrel Hiss, Chris Horn, Jon Hudson, Joe Kaiser, Kent Kline, Dan Meisner, Phillip Miller, Travis Miller, Tom Moutser, Mark Ostergard, Mike Ostergard, Rob Ostergard, Aaron Petzer, Kelly Ricksen, Chris Scott, Casey Ruzman, Garland Underwood, Lane Van Natta, Jason Wagner, Michael Wegner, Dan Walker and Keith Williamson. |
| Library board —Sue Ostergard | |
| Personnel reappointments | |
| Attorney —Mike Bacon | |
| Prosecutor —Willard Washold | |
| Clerk/treasurer —Cornie Dalrymple | |
| Police chief —Randy Olson | |
| Police officers —Matthew Langley, Ryan Randolph, Joe Humphrey, Jill McCandless and Aaron Petzer | |