Special use permit approved for structure east of cemetery

After more than three years of meeting in a borrowed church, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church is planning to build their own place of worship.

At the Aug. 20 meeting of Gothenburg City Council, that followed a public hearing, members granted a special use permit to construct a church east of the city cemetery.

Although the structure is not in city limits, a permit is needed because zoning jurisdiction extends a mile outside of Gothenburg.

Mike Lee, of the Brown Church Development Group of Kearney, said the church would be erected on a five-acre plot and would include a parking lot with 78 stalls.

Lee noted that the congregation is made up of 230 to 250 people and that the church was established in 2011.

Since May of 2010, the congregation has met at the Seventh day Adventist Church in Gothenburg.

Following another public hearing, the council gave a special use permit to Viaero Wireless to erect a 140-foot communications tower on the west edge of Gothenburg but within the city's zoning jurisdiction.

The planning & zoning commission approved both special use permit requests.

On another matter, the council noted and filed a claim with the city's insurance company for $250,000 in property damage that local resident Ed Imler submitted.

During an incident Imler said occurred on Oct. 8, 2012, he described how his house and contents were lost during a fire when his home was not properly secured by the Gothenburg Police Department.

In a letter to the city, Imler said the damage occurred when he called an officer to his home, at 1010 18th St., because his spouse was out of control and damaging the house.

Imler said he was ordered to leave the house and, because his wife was not taken into protective custody, the home was later destroyed by fire.

He said he also suffered emotional distress.

City attorney Mike Bacon said the insurance company will investigate the incident.

In other business, the council:

decided to approve an interlocal, cooperation agreement with the Nebraska City Managers Association so District 20 can apply for a grant to buy an electric vehicle.

Officials said the city will act as a go-between so the school district might have a better chance of getting the grant.

adopted and updated a section of the city's policy statement on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that includes Clymer as the city's ADA coordinator.

tabled a request to vacate an alley east of Avenue L.

set a work session for the 2013-14 budget for Aug. 27 and the public hearing for the budget on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

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