

Time to pay piper for '09 paving improvements

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 15 January 2010 14:44 -

City council creates way for homeowners, businesses to pay assessments.

Bills for paving assessments were sent Friday to affected residents and businesses.

Following a public hearing at a Jan. 5 meeting, the Gothenburg City Council approved a resolution that puts into place a mechanism that charges property and business owners for the \$564,293 project.

Property owners on 22nd Street between Avenues H and J and Avenues G and H and on 23rd Street between Avenues G and H and on Fifth Street from Avenue D and Lake Avenue have 15 years to pay the assessments that include a 5.5% yearly interest rate.

The first payment, which is interest free, is due on or before Feb. 24.

During the hearing, the council convened as the board of equalization and heard comments from a handful of affected residents.

Amounts range from \$46,101 assessed to Pony Express Chevrolet to \$1,065 for a property owner on Avenue G.

Assessment costs were based on whether or not new paving adjoined the front or sides of property per linear foot.

Linear foot charges ranged from \$71 to \$117 which are multiplied by footage.

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Another public hearing, where no one spoke, was to hear comments about an alcohol catering license for OK Bottle Shoppe.

An ordinance, which council members passed on first reading during their regular meeting, established a \$100 fee for a catering license which can be renewed each year.

City administrator Bruce Clymer said the action allows OK Bottle Shoppe to serve alcohol at city and other functions.

The Gothenburg Chamber of Commerce, along with other businesses, sometimes hosts business-after-hours events where alcohol is served.

Clymer said the resolution makes sense because OK Bottle Shoppe would be serving alcohol as a business with liability insurance.

His concern as a Chamber board member, he said, is the liability the Chamber would have if someone got into trouble at or after a business-after-hours event.

Monte Kenning, owner of OK Bottle Shoppe, would still have to request a special designated license to serve alcohol at such events.

Council members also passed an ordinance on first reading which adopted general licensing provisions dealing with alcoholic beverages that are consistent with existing city code.

In other business, the council:

- approved payments to Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers for the extension of

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sewer on 11th Street. They included \$2,101 for sewer construction observation and \$983 for recorded drawings of the sewer.

- agreed to take \$3,656 from downtown revitalization grant funds to pay Nan's Headhunters for an awning installed at the business.

- heard a request by Blaine Peterson to put in diagonal parking on Avenue D across the street from Peterson's Supermarket. Peterson said the store needs more parking and that he would return with son Steve Peterson to formally ask for the change.

- learned that the city received a \$7,500 check from Gothenburg Memorial Hospital to help pay for the stone directional sign at the south entrance to town. Kennedy said he has a landscape design finished for the area around the sign and would like feedback from the council.

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