

Valuation from building permits drops 65% in last year

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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No new businesses or single-family homes built within city limits in 2010.

Valuation in Gothenburg tapered off last year but there wasn't a \$4 million hotel to tally like in 2009.

The value of new construction in the city dropped to its lowest point since 2005 when the value of city building permits equalled \$1,429,533.

City clerk Connie Dalrymple released data Tuesday which estimates values from what people calculate project costs when applying for building permits.

The figure is significant, Dalrymple said, because it indicates whether or not a community is growing.

With the exception of 2010, growth could describe the city in the three prior years.

In 2008, monetary worth from building projects topped out at \$9,258,064.

Much of that worth was generated by the building of Monsanto's Water Utilization Learning Center, the relocation of the Orscheln Farm & Home store and the building of a new Franzen Inc. store.

Economic development happened on a slightly smaller scale in 2009 when developers Terry

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Jessen and Diana Unterseher built the Comfort Suites Hotel.

That year, building permit values totalled \$8,468,930.

Building permits in 2010 were issued for a triplex, estimated at \$298,000, and five duplexes (\$990,000) as part of the Jefferson Square building project.

There were no building permits issued for single-family homes compared to two in 2009 and one triplex, which Dalrymple said is unusual.

At least one new home has been built in the city since she started keeping track in 1998.

Five permits, totalling \$150,600, were issued to change or add on to residential properties.

That compares to \$50,400 in 2009.

Businesses making changes or additions included LandMark Implement Co., the city police department, Brand Electric & Grain Equipment Co., bulk storage added to Central Platte Agronomics Inc. and bins at Nebraska Salt & Grain Co.

Those businesses accounted for \$1,327,350 in valuation compared to \$2,820,409 for business additions and other changes in 2009.

There were no permits issued for new businesses in 2010.

Like last year, Dalrymple said the downturn in the economy has affected

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