

Strip clubs, others now regulated by city

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Wednesday, 26 December 2012 20:39 - Last Updated Wednesday, 26 December 2012 20:41

Businesses must locate in specific zoned area

Restrictions are now in place if a sexually-oriented business decides to settle in Gothenburg.

The Gothenburg City Council, passed on final reading, an ordinance that restricts operators of such businesses from locating in certain areas.

Under the ordinance, passed at a Dec. 18 council meeting, businesses must:

Locate in I-2-zoned (light industrial) areas of town.

Be a minimum of 1,000 feet from hospitals, schools, churches and other religious facilities, residential areas, parks, libraries, youth and community recreation center or other sexually oriented businesses.

Existing businesses, that sell adult magazines secondary to the primary business, are allowed on a grand-fathered basis.

On second reading, council members approved a water management plan for the city that restricts usage during drought or other emergency conditions.

Council member Duane Oliver noted that an ordinance needs to be in place “in case we need it.”

Following a public hearing, the council reconvened and voted to give Sterling Central, a private Christian school, a special use permit to erect a sign 10 feet from the property line.

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The 6-foot-high sign will bear the name of the school “Sterling Central, Gothenburg Campus” and will be placed in the Eagle Crest Subdivision between 1710 and 1720 Ave. A.

City planning & zoning commission members recommended granting the permit which is needed since school officials want to place the sign more than 5 feet from the building.

On a related matter, Gordon Block—representing the school—asked about the erection of a sign near the school letting motorists know they are entering a school zone.

Block said he had talked with police chief Randy Olson about the matter.

Mayor Joyce Hudson said the request would be placed on the next meeting agenda.

“I realize we’re not a public school but we’re accredited just like the public school,” Block said.

In other business, the council:

okayed a request for a special designated liquor license for Gothenburg Links to sell alcohol during a hospital foundation fund-raising event at the downtown Nebraska Salt & Grain building on Feb. 9.

authorized the signature of an agreement with Energy Pioneer Solutions that directs payments of utility customers to Gothenburg State Bank instead of the company.

Clymer said the Hastings company, that makes energy-saving improvements in the homes and businesses of utility customers who agree to the service, has a loan with the bank.

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decided city offices would be open during regular hours on New Year's Eve and have the next council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, since the first Tuesday of January 2013 is New Year's Day.

If city business needs to be taken care of before the Tuesday, Feb. 5, meeting, the council will have a special meeting.

were told by council member Tim Strauser that the Rotary Club is working with the school to spruce up the "ugly corner," on the northeast corner of Lake Avenue and Highway 30, with murals painted on the walls of the buildings on the corner and perhaps a sign about the history of the town.

Strauser learned that some downtown revitalization money is available for improvements. A committee of Rotary members and the downtown revitalization board will meet after the first of the year for more discussion about the project.

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