

Council tackles request for private drive license

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 11 October 2013 14:08 -

Last Tuesday's meeting of the Gothenburg City Council took only about half an hour.

Yet, a request from Eric McPherson for a private drive license on an unopened street south of Dawson Tire & Wheel took up most of the Oct. 1 meeting.

McPherson, who owns the business, has bought property east of Dawson Tire and south of neighboring Central Platte Agronomics Inc. from the Gothenburg Redevelopment Authority.

He said he intends to erect a building on the property which has been used as a hay field.

McPherson wants the drive, that would be on unopened Fifth Street off Cottonwood Drive, for truck access to the property.

City administrator Bruce Clymer said the RDA had problems selling the triangular-shaped piece of land because potential buyers couldn't get to it.

If a license is granted, Clymer said Fifth Street is still platted so the license "could go away at any time."

Because the license would be non-exclusive, he said the council would consider allowing anyone else to use the drive if requested.

Council president Jeff Kennedy said he thinks there's a need to provide businesses an opportunity to operate.

The council decided to table the request, have the city attorney draft agreements either for a

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private drive license or for the city to vacate the drive.

Members will act on the agreement at a later meeting.

On another matter, the council granted a request by Gothenburg Chamber of Commerce director Anne Anderson and Pony Express BBQ Challenge organizer Mike Eberle to host the second annual challenge at Lafayette Park on April 25 and 26, 2014.

Eberle said he already has commitments from 17 teams to return for the event, adding that certified judging classes and table captain classes will again be offered.

The council discussed whether to again allow participants free camping and hookups for three nights and days since others who have events there might also want the perk.

Members decided there was enough payback to the community to offer free camping.

Council members also approved an annual agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the city to maintain state highways as they pass through town.

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