Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 25 February 2010 22:52 -



Heat pump causes high utility bill.

J Buddenberg installed a heat pump at Electric Rain Inc. to conserve energy.

But his sewer bill has increased dramatically.

Buddenberg attended the Feb. 16 Gothenburg City Council meeting to ask if the council would change its utility rate ordinance for heat pumps.

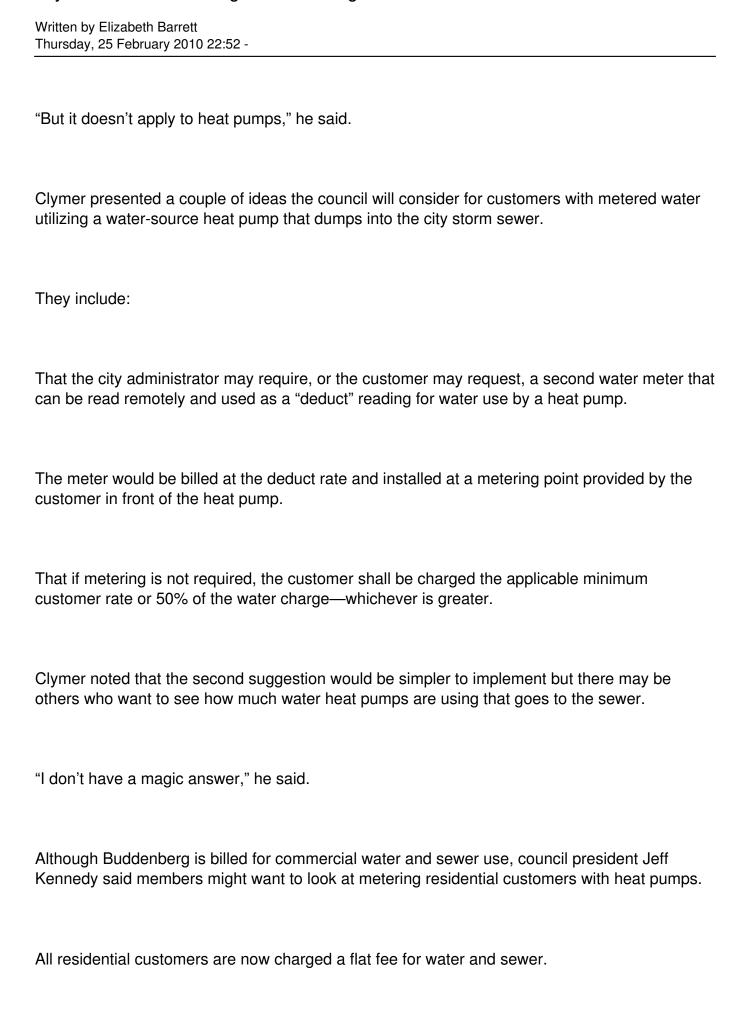
The problem, he said, is caused when water used by the heat pump flows into the city storm sewer.

A percentage of a commercial customer's water use is charged on the sewer bill.

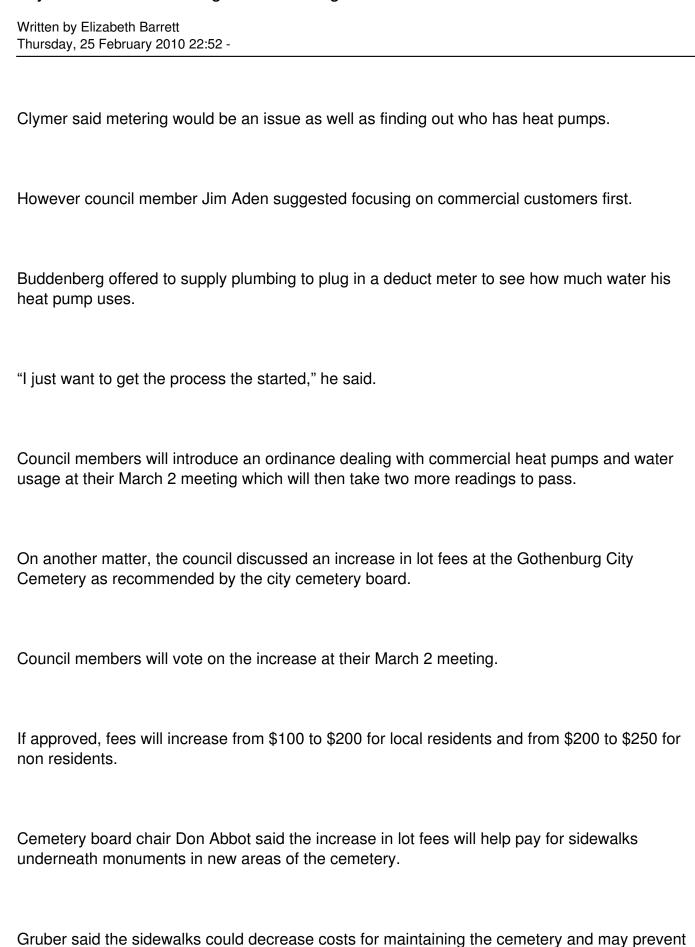
City administrator Bruce Clymer said there's a city ordinance dealing with outside watering that is metered which doesn't drain to the sanitary sewer.

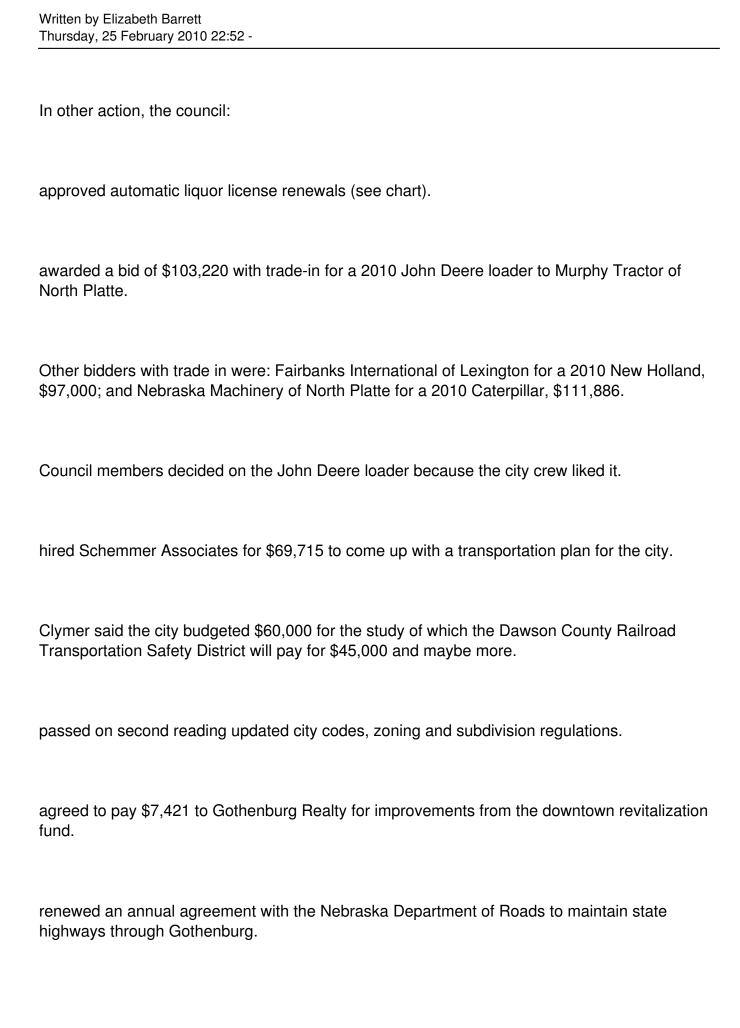
But there isn't one relating to heat pumps.

For outside water, Clymer said a metered customer may be charged a flat sewer rate from April through October which is equal to the highest sewer charge in any one month from November through March.



the heaving and settling of monument foundations.





Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 25 February 2010 22:52 -

voted to draw down \$2,000 to pay Dawson Area Development for administrating a Community Development Block Grant for downtown revitalization funds; another draw down of \$14,921 from the downtown revitalization fund and \$3,300 to DAD for administrating a CDBG grant for 2008 street improvements.

endorsed Terry Kruse Construction of Cozad as the contractor for the owner-occupied housing project in Gothenburg.

The project is \$19,993 with the United States Department of Agriculture's contributing \$7,500.

learned that the city has applied for a Nebraska Energy Office grant for LED lighting which uses less power and has a longer life span than traditional bulbs. A sample light will be installed at the intersection of Countryside Lane and Avenue M for the public to see.

heard that Gothenburg is celebrating a 125th birthday this year and that plans are in the works to dig up a time capsule buried in Ehmen Park.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com 308-537-3636