

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW
DECEMBER 6, 2021
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer, Kevin Robinson, and Sarah Udvig

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Sergeant Ryan Larson, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Jenni Wida.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer, Robison

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0; Udvig absent for the vote

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes – November 11, 2021

B. Annual Charter Commission Report

C. 2022 Business Licenses- Resolution 2021-59 Adopting the License Renewals for 2022

D. Surplus Property, Resolution 2021-58 Declaring Surplus Property

E. LESO 1033 Program

F. Mid-term Planning Commission Member

G. Donation from Chops for Winning with Cops

H. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-H

Ayes: Bauer, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0; Udvig absent for the vote

Udvig returned to the meeting after the vote.

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Feldman asked if anyone wanted to speak. No one came forward.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS – NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Presentation on 2022 Proposed Budget- Resolution 2021-62 Certifying Taxes Payable for 2022; Resolution 2021-63 Adopting a Budget for 2022

Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill gave a presentation on the proposed 2022 Budget and Tax Levy. Mulvihill stated that the City's budget goals have been to maintain high quality and effective services, address priorities set by the City Council, and maintain a strong fiscal position. Mulvihill stated that after the public hearing tonight the final budget and levy can be approved. After approval, the final levy will be certified to the County so that it can be placed on the tax rolls for 2022. The 2022 levy was set at \$4,669,590 in September. This is an increase of \$435,000 over the 2021 levy but keeps the tax rate the same. This levy also includes \$470,000 for future City Hall and Fire Station improvements. The preliminary tax rate is 50.846%, and increase from the 2021 tax rate of 50.589%. The General Fund budget is balanced at \$4,876,320 on the revenue side and the expenditure side. The fund balance will be at 62.9% of revenues with the estimated 2021 balance. The proposed budget is also posted on the City's website. Mulvihill also showed in the presentation how a change in a home's valuation will affect property taxes.

Mayor Feldman thanked Mulvihill for her PowerPoint presentation, adding it was pretty explanatory. He stated the City is in good financial stability and he is very happy with what has been done over the past five years. He turned it over to the Council for any comments.

Muehlbauer stated he didn't have any questions at this time.

Robinson commented that it was a good report, really easy to digest for the common person like himself. He noticed that in periodicals from other cities that have had much larger increases than St. Francis. He stated that this is mainly because they haven't taken care of business in the past. These other cities have boasted that they have the lowest taxes around, the lowest taxes in the County. Robinson stated that now he has read recently in one of the periodicals that there was a 21% increase on their tax levy recently because they have let things go by the wayside. He stated that St. Francis hasn't done that. He is in his third year serving on the Council and feels the Council has been very prudent. He didn't have a problem with anything presented. Looking ahead, the Fire Station and City

Hall is not a want but a need, whether it is done in the next two, three, or even four years, preparations will have been made for it. If there are changes in the economy, the money has been set aside and that is what it is designated for. He felt Mulvihill has done a good job and the Council has done a good job as well as far as being prudent. There haven't been arguments about what is spent or why.

Bauer commented it was a great report. He questioned the difference between the levy at \$4,669,590, and expenditures and budgeted balance of \$4,876,320 which is a difference of \$206,730. Bauer was unclear how that plays in.

Mulvihill replied the overall levy is going to different funds. The General Fund is only seeing a portion of that levy, around \$3 million. Other revenues are included that make up to the expenditures, part of the levy goes to the debt services and buildings and streets. That's the difference between the two.

Udvig thanked Mulvihill for her report and making it easier to understand for those that don't know the ins and outs of the finances of local government. She commented that the City is in a good place right now which is in part because of the Staff and the Council. Udvig hoped they could continue to work together and to continue to govern the City.

Mayor Feldman commented before opening the public hearing, one thing that was done five years ago, and they continue to do, is that money must be spent to supply the services that the residents require. This includes plowing streets, mowing parks, and everything else that goes with it. Police, public safety and all that, public safety is 50% of the budget. A proactive and preemptive attitude has been taken here and money is spent with consideration to what kind of return on the dollar they get. They look out farther than just next year, but years down the road. He thinks what they have done here is position themselves well to be able to handle the expenditures that the City has with the growth that is happening. In other words, they are not trying to buy that Mercedes right away, but drive a Chevy and plan for the Mercedes down the road if that is what is wanted. When talking about the City Hall and Fire Station, that is in the works and has been in the works for a few years now, planning is taking place. When that will actually happen, breaking ground, is in a very preliminary plan stage but financial plans are in place to be able to do that in a fiscally sound way. Feldman feels they have some good thinking as far as keeping within the budgets and having them balanced each year, which is important.

Mayor Feldman stated he had said, when he ran in 2017, why can't government be run like a household budget, and they are proving that it can be. They plan for the future and plan accordingly and save for that. The City is able to provide for the services the residents require without going to their pocketbooks and asking for more money. He feels this is a good way to run a government. Mayor Feldman wished the Federal government would do more of it but on the other had he will take it at the city level and be happy about it.

Mayor Feldman opened the Public Hearing at 6:23 p.m.

There being no public comment, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Robinson asked Mulvihill when the debt service expires, the \$20,000 and \$20,000, which he knows goes on for a while, but as those expire, is the Council allowed to apply those payments that our household budget used to the 2017 situation or if that was something to discuss at another time.

Mulvihill replied the City can't levy a debt service anymore because the bond documents allow for a debt service levy. What could be done is absorb it into the General Fund and use it towards something else.

Robinson asked if it is not allowed to put additional payments towards, for instance the 2017 debt, the \$40,000 is being paid out but that is not allowed.

Mulvihill replied what is allowed is only a certain levy at each bond issue. Some changes can be made but the payments would be absorbed up in the General Fund and keep the levy going steady. That debt service is also paid in part from transfers from other funds.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING RESOLUTION 2021-62 TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET CERTIFYING TAXES PAYABLE FOR 2022

Ayes: Bauer, Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

Mulvihill stated the next item on the agenda is the approval of the budgets for all the different funds.

Mayor Feldman asked for comment from the Council. There were none.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-63 ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR 2022

Ayes: Bauer, Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Siwek Park Project - Resolution 2021-61 Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the Construction of Siwek Park in the Rivers Edge Development

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom introduced the resolution to go out bids for the plans and specifications for the Siwek Park. This Park is in the Rivers Edge Development off 237th Avenue, which is a brand-new park that the City has been working on for a couple of years. Working with HKGi, a grant was submitted to the State of Minnesota which received funding for the park. The grant is a 50% match grant, at a minimum the minimum has been met for the funds received. The plans and specifications were included in the case. HKGi has been working with Public Works and Community Development Staff to create the specifications. The next step is going out for bids which could be brought to Council by end of January or into February.

Mayor Feldman thanked Thunstrom. He stated that he, along with the Council, is very happy with getting a park in the City and a safe place for children is fantastic. The one issue Mayor Feldman had was that the original project cost estimate was \$490,000, in which the City received 50% or \$245,000 in grants from the State of Minnesota. Since that time, material prices have increased with the estimate reaching a high point of \$665,000. It has gone up \$175,000 in an estimate but the grant doesn't change, which is something he wanted to point out to Council. In other words, the State is not going to eat those prices, we, the City, have to.

Thunstrom confirmed this. She explained that the estimate is what HKGi has drawn up with the concepts of what has been selected for materials, the lighting, and the length of path. With that the bid also created alternatives so that price of \$665,000 also includes the alternatives that have to do with lighting and irrigation. The bid has been built so if it does exceed \$490,000 there are alternatives that could shave off to get it back to the original amount. This is a projected estimate, the bids could come in a lot lower, or higher and some decisions would have to be made at that time.

Mayor Feldman pointed out to Council that the estimate of \$490,000 is what the grant is based on and that is all the City will get. If the price goes out and they decide to go full blown on this the balance will come out of the City's coffers and not the grant. Feldman stated when he has bid a project, he has told the client to put in everything they want and then see how it works out with the pocketbook in the end. He suggested seeing how it bids out and when the numbers come back to Council he hopes they are happy with the park they get. He is confident in speaking for the Staff and Council in saying that a park is wanted for the children and it is a good thing. Mayor Feldman thanked Thunstrom and asked for Council comments.

Muehlbauer commented that from the talks the Council had about the parks moving forward that he didn't see why there would be an issue with it.

Bauer commented that he is concerned with the number of parking stalls being only six. In looking at the pictures, there is a grill and a gazebo for entertaining,

both parts of the playground, that six spots wouldn't be enough unless there is on street parking. He is not dissatisfied with it, it looks great but questions if the parking will be enough for the size of the park.

Mayor Feldman asked if six parking spaces is all there is.

Thunstrom replied there is street parking and being this park doesn't have tournament fields, there wouldn't be large events like that. The number of parking spaces is based on the land that is available. Street parking would be the backup.

Bauer commented that in thinking of the Anoka park by the river that there is a fair amount more parking than this park would provide, but this park pretty much has what that park has with less parking spaces. He liked the overall design of it.

Udvig commented that she is excited about it as well. She was thinking the same thing about the parking because it is a nice size park. Udvig felt it made sense because there wouldn't be big sporting events there. She noticed that there is one park bench that has no back and asked if there was a reason it had no back.

Thunstrom replied that the selections went through Staff regarding the uses and where they were located. Depending on where the bids come in, upgrades could be considered and this would be the bid that would be collected.

Udvig asked if the sizes of the benches were known because she didn't want them to be tiny and up high like some.

Thunstrom replied the benches are all standard sizes. The Staff is working with the ADA requirements.

Robinson agreed with Bauer that the six parking spots seemed minimal compared with what is available and the neighborhood it is going to serve. He didn't know if something could be done about it at a later time. Robinson referenced the Mayor's comments about the difference being \$170,000, and asked what the Council wants to cap the City's additional funds at and when that would be discussed. He referenced Thunstrom's comments that some things could be taken away and asked what things are nonessential. With \$170,000 there are other parks in town that have deficiencies that are needed and it has been discussed allocating funds, even from the General Fund, for that at a later time for that if possible. He questioned if a nice park could be designed with the \$490,000 that is available or would a lot of amenities be taken away.

Thunstrom replied that that will be the tough decision if the bids come back really high. How do things get scaled back without taking away something. She recognized that the neighborhood is full of children. Thunstrom has received responses that indicate that the children are excited for the park to come. Overall, she thought one of the things to consider is irrigation, some of the lawns struggle

when they are not watered, but is determined to be important. Potentially reducing lighting or scaling back on extending the trail all the way around. She felt it will depend on what comes back for the costs. When the bids are considered once they are in, that Staff and Council are not scaling back so much that hard that the park doesn't end up being a not very nice place to be.

Robinson commented that the elementary school raised over \$125,000 to complete their projects and the sister city on 221st has a park that has many parking spots, an awesome play complex for the kids, and a big bare space. It is not irrigated but serves its purpose. He imagined it has 25 parking spaces, maybe more. He has had his grandkids over there several times and it is easily accessed from the pond on the south. That might be something to consider at a later time. The park is a place for the families and kids who want a place to get out of their own backyards. He supports this and not oppose it but wants to be mindful of the cap. The City has already designated \$245,000 which took a lot of the park funds, a balance has to be found for that. He wanted the Council to be able to take a look and help with that so that the other parks are slighted.

Mayor Feldman asked Thunstrom if this park is basically for Rum River Bluffs and Rivers Edge developments mostly, but others in the City could use it also. His question related to the necessity of parking, where there isn't the need for more spaces beyond six if it is because there may be more walking traffic from homes in the area and if that was her idea.

Thunstrom replied that this park will serve a great deal of the neighborhoods. Because there won't be tournament fields or specific sports fields there, there won't be that draw. This will support the Rum River Bluffs, Rivers Edge, and whatever development continues to the North. There are a couple of unique features to this park. This park will be one of the first to have a Gaga pit in it. She wasn't sure about the popularity of that but could be something that would draw someone from another neighborhood in. With the street parking, these are standard streets so they are wide enough and able to hold cars on street parking. If additional parking was wanted plans would have to be moved around. Without the competitive sports fields and the amount of kids that are in the neighborhood she didn't see a lot of concern about it from her perspective.

Mayor Feldman commented he said that because his grandkids live in Minnetrista. In their neighborhood, they have a park that has no parking, it is all just walk traffic from the neighborhood and always busy when he is there. As far as the dollar amounts, he would like to see how the bids come in but wondered if there was any phasing in that could be done if the dollar amounts are really high. Can they phase in some of it so the bigger picture isn't affected. Mayor Feldman referenced Robinson's comments and agreed that he doesn't want to strip this park because of numbers. If it can't be done right, don't do it. He asked the Council if they understood. If the park is going to be cheapened, the City will end up with a park that the residents won't be happy with. He wondered if there was some way if the

numbers come in too high it could be done over a phase in period and see if numbers drop from one year to another, which has happened before.

Thunstrom replied she believed it is, noting when the grant was applied for, it was pre-pandemic so the material issues, the labor issues, none of that existed when the request was made for 50% of the \$490,000. Staff is hopeful that in the next year to see some corrections in that but if there is a situation where there was a need to phase in, it could be considered.

Mayor Feldman replied, yes because 2019 was different than 2020, and this year after starting the LiquorMuni addition, he has seen that between materials and labor as well. He suggested that the Council sees how it all plays out and hopefully they will get all that is wanted and it will be done in a wise way.

Mayor Feldman asked if there was any further comment. There was none.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: ROBINSON TO ADOPT SIWEK PARK PROJECT RESOLUTION 2021-61 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIWEK PARK IN THE RIVERS EDGE DEVELOPMENT

Ayes: Bauer, Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Feldman thanked Thunstrom for her work on this. He also thanked Beth from HKGi. He hoped that the City would enjoy a safe place for kids to play.

B. City Real Property Acquisition, PID 32-34-24-31-0020; Resolution 2021-60 Approving the Purchase of Property and Granting Signature Authority

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom introduced the resolution stating that over the past several years the City and EDA have worked to acquire many properties along Bridge Street, working in the Ambassador and Bridge Street intersection area. In recent conversations with Development, the DRC team and engineering team, it has come to light that additional access points are going to be important in the future in regards to the safety and traffic movement. There is a property that Staff has been working with that the owners are interested in selling the property to the City that would provide a second access point for the development of the EDA and City owned property in the center of town off of Bridge Street. It was discussed at the work session. For this acquisition Thunstrom has been in contact with the realtor that works with the City and provides services for that connection. Before the Council tonight is the resolution for purchase of the property and the concept.

Mayor Feldman thanked Thunstrom. He agreed that it was discussed at the work session. He felt it was a good idea because it makes that section of land, which

isn't really landlocked because it has one access off of Bridge Street, it now gives it two accesses, one off of Ambassador. The right in, right out could be taken away and put in a different effect, a roundabout that comes on Bridge and Ambassador. He felt it would make it much more appealing to a developer to develop with two, for sure, access points. That fits well with the St. Francis Forward Plan and the Comp 40 Plan. Mayor Feldman is in favor of it. He asked for Council comment.

Bauer commented that he felt it was very well vetted during the work session.

Mayor Feldman replied he thought so too.

Udvig agreed.

Robinson commented that he isn't one for buying more property but this is something that is really needed to help access this other piece. The County is making the City do some of this because of Ambassador and it will make it more appealing to developers. He thinks it should be done.

Muehlbauer commented that it allows the City to pursue the St. Francis Forward Plan given that the second access allows for more units in the area, something the Council was looking for to begin with. Otherwise, it would be limited to 16. Thunstrom confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman added that it is good for the City because it is property taxes and rate users with SAC and WAC charges. It really is a win-win that the City is getting this access point because otherwise, it is not landlocked totally because of the access to Bridge Street, but it is still a negative for developers so this makes it much more appealing. He thanked the Council for their comments.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: BAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-60 APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND GRANTING SIGNATURE AUTHORITY _

Ayes: Bauer, Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Feldman thanked Thunstrom and Beth from HKGi.

C. Fee Schedule- Ordinance 286 - Amending City Code Section 2-9-1- Fee Schedule- First Reading

City Administrator Joe Kolhmann introduced the ordinance with is a suggested change to the Fee Schedule. He stated there aren't a lot of them because the Fee Schedule was just updated in August 2021. Staff is recommending the consideration of increasing the "Unsubsidized" Water Access Charge (WAC) and Sewer Access Charge (SAC) for properties not located within the St. Francis City

limits. The proposed additional fees would be double what would be charged a development in the City of St. Francis. It would be a per unit charge for any development that comes forward.

Mayor Feldman clarified that this is for nonresident, nontax payer in the City. If someone lives outside on a shared area such as Oak Grove and sharing a common, as on Poppy Street where there is one lot, if they wish to connect to the City sewer system they would pay the charge being a nontax payer, nonresident of the City of St. Francis. There is a charge that the City charges residents and this charge is for nonresident, nontax payers. Mayor Feldman asked for Council comments.

Udvig commented that for the most part, it looked good, noting the Council had discussed everything not too long ago. Her only question was about the subsidized access charge. Udvig thanked Kohlmann for clarifying it.

Robinson questioned how it was determined to double the amount for the SAC and WAC on the outside.

Kohlmann replied that it was a number Staff came up with because it's not an exact calculation for WAC and SAC. It's in big numbers, big growth numbers, and big expenses for the plant. It is estimated. Staff figured for every Trunk and SAC and WAC charge that is added in the City there is some level of give and take that other users have subsidized on some level. Whether they paid for some Trunk fees or if the WACs and SACs have been decreased since that time so the Staff thought that double would mediate any type of subsidy that any St. Francis resident may have had.

Robinson referenced discussion last spring that took place when some of these were adjusted. It has been ten or 11 months since then. He asked if the City is competitive, noting there was a minor uproar a year or so ago about cities charging different things for fees and inspection feeds. Robinson asked Thunstrom if she felt like the City is dialed in where it should be to be competitive and still create the need for people to call Thunstrom and say they want to come to the City of St. Francis.

Thunstrom replied she believed so, noting the legislation continues to be a conversation and she has been monitoring it. There hasn't been a lot of progress but conversation has continued. She felt the fees and the schedule in St. Francis are on track and competitive with those around.

Robinson asked if there has been feedback with any disparaging comparisons or complaints.

Thunstrom replied there have been complaints about the fees but it is not because it is a comparison with another city, just because they are there in general. She

hasn't had any developers walk away due to the charges that are in place.

Robinson commented that these were vetted out pretty well the last time the Council spent some time on it. He thanked Thunstrom.

Muehlbauer asked a question he considered more rhetorical, if the Council is thinking of regionalization as a good thing or a possibility, if this is a turn off for that. He recognized that things are discussed if people come forward so this isn't a complete shut down of anything, but asked if that is more appealing to people, or if the higher fees are less appealing.

Mayor Feldman questioned if it would be a single lot versus a development. He imagined that some negotiations would happen if it were one hundred homes coming on versus one home coming on. He stated for public knowledge, that SAC is Sewer Access Charges and WAC is Water Access Charges. The permits in general are not expensive, it's the charges that are expensive but the charges for SAC and WAC are in place so they can maintain the system, the waste water facility, the water plant and so forth and all the infrastructure in between that supplies the piping to the developments, the piping to the houses and all of that stuff. He explained these charges are in place not to gouge, but to maintain the system over years, which is costly to do as the plants get older. He wanted people to understand that this is not a charge that the Council came up with, there is a reason the WAC and SAC charges are there.

Muehlbauer referenced the phrase "city limits" and asked if that refers to the geographical outline of St. Francis. Kohlmann confirmed this.

Bauer commented that his concern was the word "double". But then he looked at it and the SAC and WAC. He noted people are on the system forever, and St. Francis residents pay monthly for an upkeep fee for the services that are rendered so he feels it is a fair assessment for a single person joining the system. He noted they are paying taxes to a different city St. Francis is not recouping any monthly benefits for that, so he feels it is a fair assessment of how it is set up.

Mayor Feldman agreed adding that taxes aren't paid to St. Francis so it is for a nonresident, nontaxpayer. He noted a development is something that would be discussed by the Council because the City doesn't want to turn away a developer. It would be something that would have to be discussed.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG TO ADOPT THE FEE SCHEDULE
ORDINANCE 286 AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 2-9-1- FIRST READING

A roll vote was performed

Councilmember Robinson	Aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	Aye
Mayor Feldman	Aye

Councilmember Bauer
Councilmember Udvig

Aye
Aye

Motion carried 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NONE

11. REPORTS

A. Department Reports

None

B. Councilmember Reports

Udvig reported she attended the community tree lighting on Wednesday where there was a very good turnout. She thanked everyone who came. Udvig reminded everyone that on Thursday, December 16, 2021, from 4:00- 8:00 p.m. at St. Francis High School there will be an event to fill a school bus for MACE. There will be several activities for preschool, elementary, and middle school kids as well as food and beverages for purchase. There will also be a visit with Santa and tours of the new high school. Music will be provided by the Madrigal Singers and Jazz band. There will also be basketball games that night. The St. Francis girls play at 5:30 p.m. that night and the St. Francis boys play at 7:15 p.m. She extended an invitation to come out to support the community and kids.

Bauer reported that he also attended the tree lighting, which was well received, well attended, and a great event to see the community come together. He would like to see the community come together on Thursday, December 9, 2021, as well at the Santa on the Fire Truck event. He asked Fire Chief Schmidt if there would be a time for residents who wanted to volunteer, walk the City, and collect goods from St. Francis residents, to meet at the Fire Station.

Fire Chief Todd Schmidt replied he will confirm with the Captain tomorrow that they will start with Santa and go to the neighborhoods at 5:30 p.m. Logistics will be worked on if there are volunteers who are captain willing to help. He noted donations are also being collected at the Fire Station in the vestibule, which is unlocked and residents can come and make a donation at any time.

Bauer invited residents to come out to support the community of St. Francis and have a great time, noting Santa on the Fire Truck is a great time. He hoped the weather would warm up but has walked the route many times when it is cold out. The Police Department is also having a Santa event on Saturday, December 11, 2021, from 10:30- 12:30 a.m.

Muehlbauer reported he attended the work session with the rest of the Council on November 29, 2021, and was also at the community tree lighting.

Robinson recognized young people in the audience and asked if they are in attendance to see how city government works. He invited them to stay after the meeting if they have any questions. He indicated he was glad the youth were there and being involved. Robinson commented that someday, some of the youth may be sitting in the Council seats as well. Robinson reported that he also attended the Christmas tree lighting and thanked the Bridge Church for putting it together. It was well attended, fun, the weather was nice, and Santa showed up. The Fire Department did more than their part as usual. He commented that community is important and events only happen if people attend and that is what makes a community whole. Robinson also attended the work session, which was pretty easy and some things were worked out. He commented that the Council does things not behind the scenes and not out of eye sight, it is all recorded for posterity and for review, but the Council also works when they are not in meetings as there is other work to be done. He stated Staff supports the Council and vice versa; it is a pretty well-oiled machine.

Mayor Feldman reported he has been working on the LiquorMuni along with Staff, as the Council knows. The grand opening is Monday, December 13, 2021, until Saturday, December 18, 2021. The whole week is the grand opening week for what he considers the new Bottle Shop because it is expanded and remodeled. He thinks it is going to be liked a lot and hoped people will get out to see it the opening week. Mayor Feldman thanked John, Steph, Crystal, Corinne for all the hard work and patience they have put up with. He noted that even though he has done this for many times over the years, the last few weeks of the month get to him too. He shared that the store turned out really well. Mayor Feldman thanked Parish, Jeremy, and Paul for all their work with him on that and sticking with him to the end. He explained there are still some finishing touches to do this week but he is very pleased with the way it turned out. The reason this work was done was to be able to expand the product line to suffice for the new residents, the newer audience, to buy in bulk, and pass that savings on the residents. It also establishes St. Francis as a good destination place for pricing and product. He noted this is something that should have been done a long time ago but is something that was saved for, planned ,for and he thinks it was a lot of work but turned out really well and he is very happy with it. He stated all proceeds from the LiquorMuni go to keeping the tax levy down as for special projects and spending money in the City helps the City and is a good thing all around. Mayor Feldman thinks that just because it is the only store in town, that doesn't mean it isn't competitive and will be that. He restated the store turned out really good, it was a lot of hard work, and he appreciated the hard work by everyone.

Mayor Feldman commented, as he says at every meeting, that he appreciates the effort Staff makes with the Council, and the Council makes in getting the things done to service the customers, which are the residents. The Council is a customer service business and the residents are the customers. He noted the Council and Staff have really worked together to keep it open and transparent, make St. Francis

better than when they came in 2017, and he thinks they are doing just that. One of the things that is being worked on is getting the trust of the residents. He is a firm believer that when residents trust their government, there is really nothing that can't be done in a positive way in any city. Mayor Feldman related that back to the *Mayor's Handbook* that he read years ago which says when residents work with Staff, working with Council for a better city, he thinks that really does pan out and they are proving that is true.

Mayor Feldman stated that he realizes that the City has to spend money to supply the services that residents require but the effort is to spend money wisely and get a good return on the dollar. He thinks that is being done, have proven they will continue to do that, and have done that for the last five years. St. Francis is in good financial stability and will continue to be that because of the Council that looks far out, plans far out, but doesn't exceed what they don't have. Mayor Feldman stated he has seen other cities go to the tax payers continuously for shortfalls. He has seen school districts do that as well but the Council doesn't do that. Instead, the Council plans accordingly, they want to give residents what they want, and that is the endeavor. But at the same time, it will be done in a fiscally financially sound way, not spending what they don't have, or sell bonds to go into more debt. The City has never done that and won't do that.

Mayor Feldman thanked Staff and Council for all the hard work they have done. He noted people may think this is an easy job, but he can say that each Councilmember sat in the audience for several years before joining the Council and the distance between the seats may be a short walking distance, but the work that it takes to sit on the Council is a lot if it is done right. He thanked the Staff for all the work they do every day, stuff the residents don't see, the work sessions, the commissions the members are on, and things like that done continuously, which is a lot of work. He noted the payoff is making the City better, which is the gratification they get knowing they are doing just that. Mayor Feldman thanked everyone.

Mayor Feldman gave a reminder about Thursday, December 9, 2021, which is Santa and the Fire Truck at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 11, 2021, with Santa at the Police Department from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and, the Grand Opening of the new Bottle Shop the week of December 13-December 18, 2021. He gave an invitation to the Facebook page and the City website to see the specials, noting there are a lot of good deals to take advantage of.

Robinson asked if there will be a ribbon cutting or doing any sort of ceremony.

Mayor Feldman replied he wasn't sure he had energy for that and joked that he would need a week's worth of sleep after it is over.

C. Upcoming Events

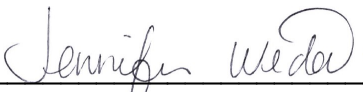
December 9, 2021 – Santa & The Fire Truck – 5:30 p.m.

December 11, 2021 – Santa at the Police Department – 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

December 13-18, 2021 – Bottle Shop Grand Opening
December 15, 2021 – Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
December 20, 2021 – City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 7:00 p.m.



Jennifer Wida, City Clerk