

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

JUNE 21, 2021
6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman through virtual setting via Zoom.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Joe Muehlbauer, Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, and Robert Bauer (arrived at 6:22 p.m.)

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.), City Planner Beth Richmond (HKGi), City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Public Works Director Jason Windingstad, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, and City Clerk Diana Saenger.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: Bauer SECOND: Muehlbauer APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Robinson

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes – June 7, 2021
- B. Peddlers License – Chili Lime Truck, LLC
- C. Police Officer Eligibility List
- D. Accept Resignation from Deedee Goral
- D. Claims

Mayor Feldman asked to pulled item B for questions and clarification.

MOTION BY: Udvig SECOND: Muehlbauer APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, C, D, and E.

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

Nays: None
Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Feldman noted that there is a map shown on page 15 and asked if the “x” marks where he has been and whether the intent was to go into the neighborhoods to solicit for the food truck.

City Clerk Diana Saenger explained that the owner of the food truck wanted to leave it open to other locations because he has had a number of residents contact him about the possibility of having him in the neighborhood. She noted that he does not have anything on the books, but wanted to obtain his permit so he would have that option.

Mayor Feldman asked Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom how that would work.

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom stated that they can go into the neighborhoods, but there are some zoning requirements that they do take a look at and have to have permission from the property owner. For example, if it is in the street, they have to have permission from the City, if it is in a driveway, they must have permission from the property owner. She stated that going into neighborhoods is very common in many cities right now.

Mayor Feldman asked if any of the Councilmembers had additional questions or comments.

Muehlbauer stated that he sees this as a ‘no harm-no foul’ situation if that is how this individual would like to do business.

Robinson stated that he does not see a problem with it as long as the neighborhood is allowing it. He stated that at the very least, it will be an interesting experiment.

MOTION BY: Robinson SECOND: Udvig APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS B.

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman
Nays: None
Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Feldman noted that he had neglected to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance because it was not listed on the agenda. He asked that it be added into the next agenda following Call to Order.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann asked if anyone wanted to speak. No one

came forward.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. None

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. City Hall Security

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann gave a presentation on City Hall security and reminded the Council that this had been discussed at the work session last Tuesday. He stated that the discussion ended with 2 in favor and 2 unsure about doing the project, so the consensus was to bring it to tonight's meeting for an official vote because they anticipated that all 5 members of the Council would be present, however, that is not the case.

Mayor Feldman stated that the Council already knows that, per the workshop discussion, Councilmember Bauer will be a nay vote on this item. He noted that he had Webber reduce the estimate down by \$1,699 so it is down to \$16,630 because there were some unnecessary things that had been included. He explained that the City had allocated \$22,000 to replace the HVAC systems, however, when they had the existing units efficiency tested they were found to still be efficient. He stated that he is asking that the \$22,000 be re-allocated towards the change in City Hall security. He stated that there is a total of \$320,384 that has been set aside for maintenance to the building. He explained a possible issue with the door system being proprietary and noted that there is still 1 year left on the contract. He stated that right now he is going with the number from the vendor the City had dealt with for the Fire Station, which he thinks is a bit high for 5 doors at \$16,874.35. He stated that he does have another subcontractor taking a look and should have numbers from him within the next few days. He explained that the worst-case scenario is that this job would cost the City \$33,504.35 or 10.4566% of the total of \$320,384 set aside for maintenance. He stated that he suspects they will be in the existing building for 2-3 years, if not longer, and he believes that security is an issue. He stated that the City has security at the Fire Station and the Police/Public Works building, but does not have security at City Hall, which he feels is a mistake. He stated that he thinks this is the right thing to do and he would rather be safe than sorry.

Udvig stated that she is in favor of this because nowadays safety is very important and mental health issues and crimes are on the rise. She stated that she would feel horrible saying that they had set aside money for the HVAC system but cannot

spend money to protect the City workers. She understands that the City is planning to move out of the building in a few years, but she would feel horrible if it was put off for that reason and then something happened.

Robinson stated that it does seem like a lot of money right now, but over a period of time it will break down to "x" amount of dollars per year. He stated that he likes that during the work session the Police Chief Schwieger stated that he would do some instructional education with the staff, similar to what schools do in lockdown situations, to keep everyone safe. He stated that he thinks the City needs to do what is right, right now, and protect the staff as best as they can. He stated that \$35,000 is a lot of money but when you put a price tag on what this can potentially prevent, it will be well worth it.

Muehlbauer stated that he does care about the staff and does think they should be safe, he does not see putting the money into the existing building. He would like to take this moment to commend the police for doing their job and keeping everyone safe during the incident at Kwik Trip. He stated that he would like to plan for the future and put this money towards the building that they will moving into.

Mayor Feldman clarified that the City is planning to building a City Hall/Fire Station in the next 3-5 years. He explained that the designs are there and ready to go, but nobody knows what the economy will be like, so it could be longer than 5 years before it is a reality. He stated that he is not willing to take a risk on the City's employees not being safe, especially when the other City buildings have security measures in place. He noted that sometimes you just have to do the right thing and he feels this is one of those right things.

Udvig asked what it would cost to have security staff at the building rather than the proposed secure door system.

Police Chief Todd Schwieger stated that if he compared it to the School Resource Officer contract, that would be 8 hours/day for 171 days to cover the school year, which cost \$74,000 and for this you would need to add another 3 months.

Mayor Feldmann explained that he would like to salvage everything possible out of the existing building and bring it to the new building, including these doors. He stated that the concern about safety has been raised by a few staff members and the City has the money to do this. He stated that his opinion would be different if the City didn't have the money or if taxes had to be raised in order to do it.

MOTION BY: Robinson SECOND: Udvig APPROVING THE CITY HALL SECURITY UPGRADES.

Ayes: Udvig, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: Muehlbauer

Motion carried 3-1

Mayor Feldman noted that, for the record, Councilmember Bauer voted 'Nay'.

B. Ordinance 281, Second Series – Adding Chapter 6 “Bed and Breakfast Facility License” (2nd Reading)

1. Ordinance 281 Second Series
2. Resolution 2021-32 Authorizing Summary Publication

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom noted that this is the 2nd reading for the Bed and Breakfast facility licensing. She stated that this is an update as it was added as a new permitted use and zoning and will create business licensing that keeps them in a condition that are safe and healthy.

Councilmember Bauer joined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING ORDINANCE 281 SECOND SERIES – ADDING CHAPTER 6 “BED AND BREAKFAST FACILITY LICENSE”.

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Abstain: Bauer

Motion carried 4-0-1

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: MUEHLBAUER ADOPTING RESOLUTION 2021-32 AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

C. Rivers Edge Final Plat Approval

1. Resolution 2021-33 A Resolution Approving Final Plat and Plats for the 5th Addition of Rivers Edge
2. Approval of Development Agreement for 5th Addition

City Planner Beth Richmond gave a presentation on the Rivers Edge Final Plat. The applicant is seeking approval of 45 lots in the Rivers Edge subdivision which are a mix of traditional single-family and villa lots. She gave background history on the overall development for Rivers Edge which was originally brought to the City in January of 2018 and since that time the developer has been slowly platting off different sections of the development. She reviewed the first 4 phases of this subdivision and outlined the locations of the 5th Addition lots, street extensions, and drainage easements. This conforms to the approved Phase I and Phase II Preliminary Plat and will create Outlots A, B, and C. Staff recommends approval of the Final Plat, subject to conditions as well as the draft Developer's Agreement.

Mayor Feldman stated that he feels this is a good development and he supports it.

Robinson stated that as long as the stormwater calculations satisfy the City Engineer, he is happy to move forward with this project. He asked how Siewick Park got its name.

Richmond stated that she believes that is the name of the former property owner of this entire parcel.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: MUEHLBAUER ADOPTING RESOLUTION 2021-33 APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT AND PLANS OF THE 5TH ADDITION OF RIVERS EDGE SUBDIVISION WITH CONDITIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

MOTION BY: Muehlbauer SECOND: Udvig APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE 5TH ADDITION OF RIVERS EDGE SUBDIVISION.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

D. GPS Locators

Public Works Director Jason Windingstad explained that Public Works is considering replacing an outdated locator that is about 20 years old. They would like to replace it with a GPS locator all in one unit that uses software called MnCORS that is run by MnDot. He gave an overview of how this type of GPS locator would be used in the City and uploaded with the GIS system.

Mayor Feldman stated that he is a firm believer that whenever the City can do something in-house, they should. He stated that he thinks the City will get a lot of use out of this equipment.

Muehlbauer asked about the current equipment being out of date and if the City has the wires already run and in place and that is how they are found.

Windingstad stated that the City Ordinance states that any water line or service line that runs into the City has a tracer wire ran with it. He explained that when they originally started running tracer lines with the water lines, they were not being hooked up correctly. He stated that if they are put in correctly, you can take the locator and hook it onto the source, such as a water meter, and there will be constant continuity running through it. For the ones that do not have tracer wires, this locator will also allow them to stick a ground rod in and hone in on the location. He stated that having this available will allow them to do much more than they have been able to do and his goal is to locate all the curb stops in the City. He shared the example of the delay with the Bottle Shop project of at least a week, because

he couldn't get a contractor out to do just what could be done with this locator.

Muehlbauer confirmed that this is already accounted for in their budget.

Mayor Feldman noted that he had spoken with Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill earlier today and she explained that the funding for this equipment would come from the two Enterprise funds and is from money that has been set aside for maintenance.

Bauer stated that he thinks this will be a wise way to spend money because it will help the City do things that they would otherwise have to contract out for, so he will support it.

Robinson asked if the City had to pay any annual licensing fees for the software.

Windingstad stated that MnCORS is the software that is used and is provided by MnDot so there is no cost to it. He stated that the only cost will be a data charge because it is hooked up through satellite for the GPS, which means there will be a monthly Verizon bill. He noted that he does not know the amount, but it should be less than is used on a personal phone because it won't be in constant use.

Robinson asked if there would be any updates and calibration needed down the road that the City would have to pay for.

Windingstad stated based on his research there will be no charge for updates. He stated that the GPS calibrates itself and for the locator, you can usually tell if they are not working.

Robinson asked what type of training would be necessary to use this equipment.

Windingstad stated that to be a good locator there is training, but is free, and is put on by Minnesota Rural Water who also uses the same unit he is recommending for the City. He stated that he will probably send 2 employees at a time to the training.

MOTION BY: Robinson SECOND: Bauer AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A METROTECH GPS LINE LOCATOR FROM UTILITY LOGIC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,459.00.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

E. Bottle Shop Full-Time Liquor Store Clerk

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann stated that the Council had discussed this at their last work session and stated that the majority of the Council were in favor of moving forward with this position. He noted that he had sent additional information to the

Council that was not available at the work session via e-mail. He stated that the position is proposed to be a Grade 4, Step 1, which would equate to \$22.56/hour.

Mayor Feldman reminded the Council that discussion of the part-time position has been tabled. He stated that the liquor store is self-sustaining and pays for itself and also contributes \$60,000/year to the City. He does not like that the State comes in and makes strong recommendations for how this should be run when it is something that is good for them. He stated that this is our City and he feels the Council and citizens should be able to choose what they would like to do for the good of its residents. He stated that he does not think Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt would come to the City and ask for a full-time employee if he did not need it. He asked Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps the legalities of why the City would be pushed to do this one way over the other.

Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps explained the Minnesota Pay Equity Law that will look at gender classification and the City's pay plan. The State will do some testing of the different positions and who is in those positions and provide feedback to the City. He stated that there is always a concern out there about hiring decisions, gender, and pay scale and noted that it has a lot of moving parts. He stated that he believes that is why staff has come with the recommendation that they have presented. He clarified that the Minnesota Pay Equity report would not just look at this one position but would look at all the positions in the City.

Mayor Feldman stated that he does not think gender should matter when it comes to pay scale and the only concern should be whether they can do the job or not. He stated that he doesn't think the Council thought about gender at all when discussing this position, but only thought about what they felt would be a fair wage. He asked what the ramifications would be if they went with the pay rate as discussed at the work session.

Schaps explained that the State will be looking at the structure of the pay plan and whether the classes in there are either male or female dominated and see if there are any compliance issues. If the State were to flag something, they would come back to the City who would then have the ability to take a look at it and potentially make some type of remedial action. If the City did not do that, the State could impose a fine.

Mayor Feldman stated that there is a full-time employee that has worked there for about 20 years and this proposed salary is just about equal to that salary. He stated that he has to wonder how she would feel if someone new came in and made the same amount that she is making that took her 20 years to reach. He reiterated his disagreement with the gender issue and feels this should just be about the person and whether or not they can do the job.

Muehlbauer stated that he agreed with Mayor Feldman that gender is irrelevant to this position and should just be whether or not they are qualified to do the job. He

stated that because the City decided to go all in with the liquor store expansion, he thinks it is important to provide the staffing necessary. He stated that he is not very happy with the pay scale being what is proposed or the thought of having to deal with the extra gender issues. He stated that, in his opinion, the City cannot move forward with the lower starting rate that was discussed at the work session without creating more problems.

Udvig agreed and would like to give the Liquor Store Manager Schmidt the employees that he needs. She noted that she was unable to attend the work session but Mayor Feldman got her up to speed on the discussion that took place. She stated that she also has concerns about the pay rate and noted that it is a very sensitive topic right now and can be very hard on the morale of the employees but she does not want the City to get into legal troubles. She stated that she is in favor of hiring for this position.

Robinson stated that he is also disappointed with the State meddling into what the City can and cannot do because it should not be any of their concern and, in his opinion, is an overreach on their part. He stated that he thinks that 6 months of retail expertise in the position profile is kind of low and would like to see a year or more. He suggested that perhaps a future discussion may be about doing away with part-time employees entirely and only having full-time employees. He stated that his major concern is the expense of \$7,000 P.E.R.A on top of the salary as well as the \$15,000, on the high end, for health care. He noted that this means that there is another \$22,000 on top of the \$22.56/hour salary, but noted that this position will take away one part-time position so there will be some trade-off. He reiterated his disappointed that the State can mandate what the City can and cannot do. He stated that he would support doing whatever the City has to do without getting in trouble and being flagged. He stated that he has faith in Liquor Store Manager Schmidt to get the right people in position and thinks the City should move forward with this action.

Mayor Feldman asked for an explanation of the duties of this full-time position.

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann gave a brief overview of the job duties and responsibilities for this position.

Mayor Feldman asked if it would be possible to start this position at \$20/hour and then after a 6-month probation period raise it to the Step without being crucified by the State. He stated that he is old fashioned and would like to see somebody have to work to earn something.

Schaps stated that he believes that the City would have some flexibility in that situation. He reminded the Council that the report is submitted to the State every three years.

Robinson asked if there would be a background check and drug testing.

Kohlmann stated that they will most likely do a background check but does not think there has been regular drug testing other than for Public Works employees in order to be MnDot compliant. He stated that he has not looked into that but is possibly something that could be done.

Bauer stated that he just cannot get there with the salary. He stated that if you look at the environment in and around St. Francis, other liquor store employees are not even getting close to that amount. He stated that he would like to draw a line in the sand and have the State prove to him that somebody in St. Francis, as a liquor store employee, should be making \$22.56/hour. He stated that he feels the City employees should be making the same relative amount as what their constituents make. He noted that he has worked with County employees that do not make that much and they have a much larger load of tasks and responsibilities than this position will have. He stated that he is baffled that the leadership of the City will not do a reclassification study and would like to know where Grade 1, Step 1 is in this process. He stated that this position is being proposed as a Grade 4 and reiterated that he just cannot get on board with just continuing to say the City has to go along with the State and that this was not about gender. He reiterated that he cannot get to \$22.56/hour for this position. He stated that this new employee will start making the same money as the person who has been at the liquor store for 20 years and will surpass them, which means that person will probably walk away. He stated that the starting salaries are outrageous and thinks the City leadership needs to sit down and re-evaluate this point system thing that has the City paying way more than what the residents are making. He stated that he hates to 'throw Joe on the sword', but he cannot support this. He gave the example of Educational Assistants at the school and noted that they are only making \$12-\$13/hour and they are doing much more than what this liquor store employee would be asked to do. He stated that he is not even sure that school teachers start at \$22.56/hour. He stated that he does not think any of the residents will be supportive of a liquor store employee making \$22.56/hour.

Mayor Feldman stated that the bottom line is that Liquor Store Manager Schmidt needs a full-time employee and this is a self-sustaining enterprise. He suggested that rather than going by the step program, the City could go with a 6-month probation period and start the salary at \$19/hour which equates to \$39,520/year or \$20/hour which would be \$41,600/year. He stated that he understands the sentiments of Councilmember Bauer and also shares many of the same frustrations with the State's involvement.

Robinson stated that he also understands Councilmember Bauer's passion for this issue and appreciates everything he shared. He noted that he, personally, had held the same flag for a long time, but does want him to cast aspersions that the rest of the Council is spineless, gutless or doesn't have courage to go against the grain. He stated that this is a situation where they each have to weigh their options and move forward with their opinions. He stated that he respects Councilmember

Bauer's right to draw a line in the sand and 'plant his flag' on this issue, but asked that Councilmember Bauer also respect the opinions of the other Councilmembers.

Mayor Feldman asked if his suggestion to start this at a lower salary would be possible.

Schaps stated that the Council has the final decision on this issue and if there is an issue in the future, it will be addressed at that time.

Muehlbauer stated that he thinks the City has some flexibility with this issue and noted that if this person chooses to stay with the City for 10 years, they will end up at the maximum pay based on the step system. He would like to start with the first 6 months at \$18/hour which was discussed at the work session and then increase to \$19/hour after that for the next 6 months. He stated that he agrees with Councilmember Bauer and is baffled that a liquor store employee would make that much money. He stated that it is a City job, is self-sustaining, and, in his opinion, by going forward with the expansion the City committed to going all in and trying to make it successful. He stated that he does not agree with the \$22.56/hour, but understands that is sort of what the City is linked to because of the State. He reiterated that he would like to see the lower starting salary with a probationary period before there is a pay raise. He stated that he works in the HVAC field and having a probationary period is very common.

Mayor Feldman shared the concern raised by City Administrator Kohlmann that there may not be applicants for the position if the pay rate is \$18/hour because of the way the market is right now. He reiterated his suggestion to start the position at \$19/hour with the hope that it may attract more individuals interest.

Muehlbauer stated that he is not necessarily opposed to it and, in general, thinks starting lower is better. He asked if Councilmember Bauer still had the information he had shared at the work session about salary averages for a full-time liquor store employee.

Bauer stated that it was \$16-\$18/hour and he thinks if the salary is \$18/hour that will get some employees from nearby liquor stores interested in the position as well, because they are making less where they are located. He stated that he can get behind \$18/hour because of where the market is right now, but reiterated his concern that there are County employees that are only making \$16-\$17/hour. He stated that he would still like the City to sit down and re-evaluate the point system from the State and perhaps use an outside agency to do a job classification study for the City based on its demographics and regional location. He reiterated his concern about this position making the same as the long-term employee. He stated that he wouldn't blame the long-term employee if they quit and then just reapplied and started again because they would start at the new, higher, salary.

Kohlmann stated that the Assistant Liquor Store Manager, at the top end, makes

\$5/hour more than the top end of this job. He stated that saying that this position will make the same as the existing long-term employee is not accurate and noted that he would be happy to get some quotes for a full-compensation study for all City employees if the Council would like.

Muehlbauer stated that he doesn't think there is anything wrong with putting the position out there at a starting rate of \$18/hour and just see if there are applicants. He stated that if they are not getting applicants, then the Council can discuss increasing that rate to \$18.50/hour or \$19/hour.

Mayor Feldman noted that he had spoken with Liquor Store Manager Schmidt and he was supportive of the \$18/hour and was really just looking for getting the help he needs. He stated he would support the suggestion made by Councilmember Muehlbauer. He asked City Administrator Kohlmann to repeat his statement about what the Assistant Liquor Storage Manager makes.

Kohlmann explained that the Assistant Liquor Store Manager makes \$33.54/hour.

Mayor Feldman stated that they had gotten the impression from Liquor Store Manager Schmidt that the salaries would be closer.

Kohlmann stated that he was not sure where that information came from.

Mayor Feldman asked each Councilmember to share their opinion on the salary and probation period that have been proposed.

Robinson stated that he would like to avoid litigation down the road and noted that just because the City makes money it does not mean that the money has to be spent. He will support whatever will work to keep the City out of hot water. He reiterated that he totally disagrees with the State situation and their overreach.

Udvig stated that she agrees with Councilmember Robinson.

Mayor Feldman asked for Assistant City Attorney Schaps legal recommendation in this situation.

Schaps stated that the Council can make the decision about what they would like to do and this information will get submitted to the State. If there is an issue and the State flags it, they will notify the Council and work towards a solution.

Bauer reiterated that he would support this position starting at \$18/hour and after the probationary period moving to \$19/hour.

Mayor Feldman stated that he is going to recommend the City start at \$19/hour and move to \$20/hour following the probationary period and then moving to the full \$22.56/hour so the State can see that the City is not being cheap.

MOTION BY: Udvig SECOND: Feldman AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF THE FULL-TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK POSITION WITH A STARTING SALARY OF \$19/HOUR FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS, IF THEY SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD THAT THE SALARY BE INCREASED TO \$20/HOUR, AND IF THEY SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE SECOND PROBATIONARY PERIOD, THE SALARY BE INCREASED TO THE FULL STEP AMOUNT OF \$22.56/HOUR.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann stated that there is no one present in the meeting that is not part of the City's team.

11. REPORTS

A. Administrator Report – Verbal Update

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann stated that he had met with MnDot representatives and the City was approved to use WSB as the consulting engineering which was the City's preference. He noted that the next steps will be to meet with WSB to iron out the scope of the work and begin moving the Highway 47 project forward.

Mayor Feldman stated that he feels the Council feels the criteria for this project should be based on: Safety; Access to existing businesses; Expansion of commercial base.

B. Public Works – Monthly Streets and Parks; Water/Sewer

Public Works Director Windingstad stated that with the new GPS locator Public Works will be able to complete their culvert inventory for the watershed. The Emergency Response Plan put together by WSB has been approved and should be active starting next week. He noted that the crack fill and seal coating will also be starting next week. He stated that he has been spending quite a bit of time up at the Bottle Shop to ensure everything is going well and will continue to do that as needed.

Robinson thanked Public Works Director Windingstad for paying some attention to the City entrance sign on Round Lake Boulevard.

Udvig noted that she is happy to see the Public Works employees out working around the City and noted that they are always very friendly and happy to explain what they are doing when she has stopped to talk to them.

Bauer asked if the City can use any of the reclaimed water to flush the pumps and

help break up the solids and put the water back into the system.

Windingstad stated that they do actually use their re-use water for that and can also use it to put on the gravel roads as well as for irrigation of the grounds.

Bauer noted that he would like to see the City be able to get to the point where the reclaimed water would be used to flood the ice rinks or run the reclaimed water back into the water treatment facility.

Windingstad stated that they are not quite there yet and the City's focus right now is to just keep getting the users up.

C. Council Member Reports

Udvig – Attended the School Board meeting and expressed her frustration with the repeated poor decisions of the school district. She stated that the School Board is holding a work session this evening on Critical Race Theory, even though they are not specifically calling it that and is very disappointed and frustrated that they have not done their research on this issue. She also attended the Planning and Zoning meeting. She heard that the Chamber of Commerce event was well attended and knows that people are really looking forward to National Night Out/Night to Unite. She explained that she has reinjured herself and will be slowing down a bit. She plans to do her best to attend all the Council meetings, but will keep everyone informed if she is unable to attend any meetings.

Robinson – Attended the Council work session. He stated that he had also attended the School Board meeting and was proud to see a lot of people show up for something they were passionate about. He attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and commended both City Planner Beth Richmond and Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom for their work to help those meetings run smoothly.

Bauer – Attended the festivities at the park over the weekend and feels it was well received and hopes that Pioneer Days does not fizzle out due to COVID and hopes that it can be back to a full-fledged celebration next year. He expressed his frustration with the school district and his desire that it be dissolved and absorbed by another school district. He encouraged the voters to vote to get the right people onto the School Board.

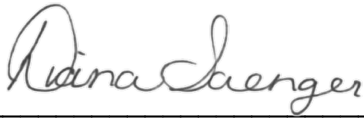
Muehlbauer – Not much to report, he was not able to make it to the community day festivities because he had to work.

Mayor Feldman – On June 11, 2021 he went to the Ambassador program at the Anoka County Fairgrounds and just wanted to note that those girls do a tremendous job representing the City. On page 5 of the off-week memo, it shared that the Fire Department was awarded a \$2,500 grant from CenterPoint Energy and those funds were used to purchase a new thermal imager. He thanked Fire

Chief Schmidt for his work in going out to get these types of grants. He and Councilmember Robinson will attend a Finance Committee meeting on June 28, 2021. He stated that he wanted to say that he is proud that the Council and City staff can work together to discuss and make decisions on hard things. He expressed his appreciation to staff, Council, and the public for their support as he and Councilmember Udvig work through their health issues.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 8:04 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diana Saenger", is written above a horizontal line.

Diana Saenger, City Clerk