

**CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2021**

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 a virtual setting via Zoom.

A. Oath of Office

Each of the incoming elected officials; Mayor Steve Feldman, Council members Joe Muehlbauer and Robert Bauer had previously taken the Oath of Office with an effective date of January 4, 2021 at City Hall, oath administered by City Clerk Barb Held.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Public Works Director Jason Windingstad, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Feldman asked to add 9C. Obstructions in Streets Letter to the agenda.
MOTION BY ROBINSON SECOND MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS AMENDED.

Ayes: Muehlbauer, Robinson and Feldman.

Nays: None

Motion carried 3-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes – December 21, 2020

B. City Council Work Session Notes – October 13, 2020

C. City Council Work Session Notes – November 9, 2020

D. City Council Work Session Notes – December 28, 2020

E. Resolution 2021-01 - Appointments for 2021

F. Resolution 2021-02 - Declaring Police Department Forfeiture Vehicle Surplus Property

G. Payment of Claims \$159,899.49 (Checks #'s 78541-78581)

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND ROBINSON APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A - G.

Ayes: Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman.

Nays: None

Motion carried 3-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann asked if anyone watching would like to speak to the council on an item not on the agenda. Hearing none the council continued.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

None

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Senior Housing Project – Concept Plan**

City Planner Beth Richmond gave a power point presentation on the proposed senior residential development. Anderson Companies, LLC submitted a concept plan for a 4-story, 125-unit senior independent living to assisted living and memory care facility. The development would be located on the vacant city owned parcel south of Bridge Street and east of the Rum River. Richmond stated after the presentation of the project the City Council is requested to provide feedback to the applicant on the proposed concept. The Planning Commission met on December 16, 2020 and provided their comments. The Commissioners provided feedback to the applicant but overall were supportive of the concept of the senior housing on this site.

During the presentation Richmond spoke on the Land Use approvals that will be requested along with the close proximity to the Rum River Management District and the challenges that may bring, streets and access, site design, public spaces, pedestrian and trails along with stormwater.

Feldman spoke on the rezoning of the property to a PUD (Planned Unit Development). Richmond said the current concept plan identifies a number of conflicts within the Urban District regulations. PUDs are allowed within the Urban District if certified by the DNR. Discussion was held of the possibility of moving the building farther to the east.

Developer, Greg Anderson stated we are flexible in moving the building somewhat, however we do like it where it is.

Feldman said the City has been good steward of the river. I understand you want to be as close the river as possible. I do like what you are requesting and that you are somewhat flexible because the DNR is not always flexible.

Robinson said he really had no extra comments other than he would like to echo some of the comments the Planning Commission made that were listed in the packet. Would like the stormwater pond to be somewhat decorative. Asked if there is a turn lane or

not, I suppose it is up to Anoka County being it is a county road. Robinson said he too likes the concept.

Feldman said I know Anoka County was talking about a tunnel under Bridge Street for the pedestrian trail, that would be a benefit too. Maybe make some type of public plaza by the stormwater pond. I believe this will be a good attribute to Bridge Street. Also hopes the DNR works with you.

Muehlbauer said he echo's pretty much to the comments both of what Feldman and Robinson have said. One question was the L shape parcel on the south end of this project that looks like it goes to 229th. Richmond stated that was a road right away that we will be looking to vacate due to the amount of wetlands in that area. Muehlbauer also hoped the DNR agrees with your plan and I like the concept.

Feldman stated so this is being proposed as a 4-story building with 125 units. Anderson stated yes, and we are hoping to have the building permit submitted to the city by June/July. Discussion was held on the code changes that potentially will take place in August. Census was the council like the concept plan.

B. Schedule a Work Session

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann asked the council to schedule a date for a Work Session. This will be a continuation from the previous one that was held on December 28, 2020. After discussion the council agreed to hold a Work Session on Monday, January 11, 2021 starting at 6:00 pm to continue their discussions.

C. Obstructions in Streets Letter

Robinson stated he received several calls from residents that received letters on street obstruction. Included with the letter was a tri fold that seemed strongly worded. I have heard from people in the Smith Lake Development and around 242nd and Nightingale who received them. Not sure why it went out to a whole area. I understand we don't want people plowing snow across the road or into the street, we need to protect the snowplow drivers. But the bottom line, send it to the offenders not blanket everyone. There were a lot of jacked up residents. I previously received one of these too.

Feldman said frustration can build up if questions go unanswered. Agree with getting to pinpoint them better.

Muehlbauer said I think the issue is the way the letter is worded, comments were on Facebook. Not sure if it was a blanket letter sent to a whole neighborhood. Do we have proof they did it? I too think it is worded a little strongly. I understand why the residents would be mad, looks like we are accusing them of something without any proof. Some comments said the city is money hungry. Can we maybe better word this letter? The ordinance we have in place is for safety but this letter says "official warning" without proof they even did anything wrong. Its like they are guilty without due process.

Feldman said just like other code violations once people are made aware of it they usually come into compliance. Maybe the first letter sent could be more of an informative letter, letting them know if they continue what it could lead to.

Public Works Director Jason Windingstad said I will take full responsibility, that letter came from my department. The process was not followed on how we handle obstructions in streets. Was there frustration from my staff, yes. We need to do more of an education process. Agree it should not have been a neighborhood blanket letter. Had a meeting today with staff and we will follow the process next time. Feldman said again, maybe an informative letter of the State Law could be sent first letting them know if it continues it will lead to a fine.

Muehlbauer said I would have been angry at first but then maybe understood after talking about it. Thank you, Jason, for addressing it and taking responsibility for it.

Windingstad said we can take a look at the letter because this is not the type of letter that is sent to educate the people. I will look what other cities send and will work with the police department on the enforcement side too. We are fortunate to have a code enforcement officer on staff. Feldman asked what is the frustration amongst the drivers. Windingstad people push the snow out of their driveways across the road or onto the road and it makes ridges of snow that freezes. It is dangerous for drivers and the snowplow drivers when they hit them. Windingstad we'll make sure next fall we put it in the newsletter too.

After more discussion the council agreed moving forward to single out the offenders, re-educate the people of the State Law by getting it out on Social Media and newsletters.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann asked if anyone watching would like to speak to the council on an item not on the agenda. Hearing none the council continued.

11. **REPORTS**

A. **Department Reports** – None

B. **Councilmember Reports** -

Muehlbauer – just a reminder January 18th city offices are closed. Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 19th. I start my out of town job on January 17th. If we continue with Zoom meetings I should be able to make them. I will contact Joe Kohlmann or the mayor if I cannot make them.

Robinson – had nothing to report.

Feldman – asked City Engineer Jochum if Riverbank Lane project was close to be completed. Jochum stated he was waiting for the final paperwork from the contractor for the final pay request. Feldman asked Community Development Director of the potential second stimulus grants for businesses. Thunstrom stated Anoka County has

a program that businesses can contact them directly. Anoka County has started reaching out to businesses too.

Feldman said be safe and be careful. I have a lot of hope for 2021. Happy New Year and appreciate everyone.

C. Upcoming Events –

Jan 18 City Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Day Holiday

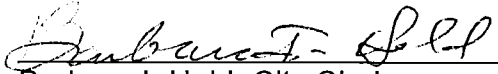
Jan 19 City Council Meeting – 6:00 pm, Zoom meeting

Jan 20 Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm, Zoom meeting

Jan 4 City Council Meeting – 6:00 pm, Zoom meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:15 pm.


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk