

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

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

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.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.), City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Public Works Director Jason Windingstad, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes – November 16, 2020
- B. Accept Resignation from Fire Fighter Renee Wedan
- C. 2021 Agreement for Residential Recycling Program with Anoka County
- D. Police Department - Surplus Property (Vehicle Forfeiture) Resolution 2020-52
- E. Replacement of the UV Bulbs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- F. Police Department Policy Updates
- G. Payment of Claims \$ 541,340.72 (ACH 302E-303E \$214,524.33 and Check #78479-78540)

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

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. **Schedule City Council Work Session with City Administrator**

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann stated he would like to set a work session to discuss the potential disbanding of the public works union. They will vote to whether or not disband at the end of the year. What needs to be reviewed is whether or not some of their contract items will be carried over, such as the purchase of boots, uniform allowance, etc. If we add this to the personnel policy that too would also need to be updated which there are other items in there that need addressing. One other item is with the addition of Nowthen Fire contract how does that impact our fire and assistant fire chiefs' and what their roles are moving forward. The city council set the work session for Monday, December 28, 2020 starting at 6:00 via Zoom.

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 – Public Works Monthly Reports**

Public Works Director Jason Windingstad gave an update on the fiber optics to the bottle shop. Most of the underground work is done. They do have to finish up some inside work which will take place on Wednesday. Windingstad also reported they are reviewing the draft of the Wastewater Permit. Hoping to have the finalized soon and will bring the report to the second meeting in January, 2021. Also working on the Emergency Response Plan and then gave a recap of the monthly reports on all departments. Working on cross training employees. Parish Barten is leading that training.

Council all agree good report again. The council had some questions on the wastewater permit and the decommission of the ponds why it took this long and sampling that will no longer be needed. Windingstad said he will go further into detail when he presents the report to the council.

B. **Councilmember Reports -**

Bauer – wanted to give a shout out to Renee Weldan and thank her for her years of service on the fire department. A great loss but understand people need to move on too. I am thanking her as a former member of the fire department and as a councilmember.

Udvig – I too want to thank Renee for her service to the fire department. I want to thank all firefighters that helped with the Santa and the Firetruck I only heard great reviews, good job. Also, want to thank the police department for collecting toys again

this year. I also want to thank all employees and your effectiveness of your work. Muehlbauer – just want everyone to know that I maybe going out of town for work starting in January. If we continue to do Zoom meetings it should be okay. Will keep you informed.

Robinson – attended last Planning Commission meeting and the senior housing project was discussed at the meeting. Good questions were asked and feel this will be a real positive and good impact to the City. Also want to thank William (Bill) Murray for all his years on the Planning Commission. Plus want to thank Renee for her time on the fire department.

Feldman- asked City Engineer Jochum about Riverbank Lane Project. Jochum stated that project should be finalized and the pay request will be on a future agenda for approval. Feldman said he spoke with Engineer Shane Nelson about the easement on the Gary Zimmerman property. Feldman said I especially want to thank staff on their work keeping the CARES Act money in the city. First gave it out to the businesses that requested money and the rest was spent on items for the city. At the next meeting, Joe, Rob and I will be starting another term serving on the council. I believe we have gotten a lot done and there is still more to do. We are getting their trust back and working for them. We are all working for the betterment of the city. I feel good on what we have done.

Feldman also asked how all the departments were doing and how was the staff dealing with the pandemic. All agreed things are going as good as can be expected with everyone hoping 2021 will be a good year.

Discussion was held on how to handle the oath of office for the three re-elected members. After a brief discussion with the city attorney on the different options, it was decided all three members will go to city hall and City Clerk Barb Held will administer the oath of office to them. It will be recognized at the January 4, 2021 meeting the oath was already administered but with an effective date of January 4, 2021.

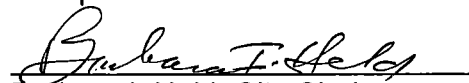
Feldman wished everyone a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

C. Upcoming Events –

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 6:42 pm.


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk