

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 4, 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 Robert Bauer, Joe Muehlbauer, Sarah Udvig, and Kevin Robinson. 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 MUEHLBAUER SECOND ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.

Ayes: Robinson, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer and Udvig

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. City Council Minutes – April 20, 2020

B. Rivers Edge 3rd Addition – Developers Agreement

C. Payment of Claims \$ 142,925.07 (Checks #77454-77500)

MOTION BY UDVIG SECOND BAUER APPROVING THE CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-C.

Ayes: Robinson, Muehlbauer Bauer, Udvig and Feldman.

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

None

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. 2020 Street Reconstruction and Watermain Improvement. Project

Mayor Feldman stated tonight we have a public hearing on the 2020 Street Reconstruction and Watermain Improvement Project. Mayor Feldman opened the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann indicating we will be taking comment through connecting to our Zoom meeting. Instructions to connect have been posted on our website. The City also received two letters contesting the assessments. They were from 3717-226th Avenue NW and 3724-226th Avenue NW in St. Francis. Both letters discussed the financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Kohlmann stated the first person that would like to address the council is from a call ending in 0366.

Tim Holen, PO Box 457 St. Francis, asked when do you plan on starting the project. City Engineer Craig Jochum stated the contractor is hoping to start in early June. Holen also asked what side of the street would the sidewalk be on, east or west. Jochum stated the sidewalk was listed as an alternate bid on the project. It was recommended it be on the opposite side of the hydrants, so it would be the east side. Holen said there are some tight boundaries on the east side by the hardware store. Holen then asked questions on the elevation and how the drainage would flow, curb height in comparisons to the driveways. Jochum explained some of the drainage would flow south and explained the new type of curbing that is now being used. Holen asked this will include new waterline connections? Jochum said yes. The size of the watermain service was also discussed for the hardware store. Jochum stated it will be a 8" main with I believe a 6" service for the hardware store. Holen asked if a 6" line was good enough for a sprinkler system. Could we possibly get an 8" for an up charge? Holen also asked if the power lines were going to be relocated. Jochum stated unfortunately they do not want to do that. Feldman asked is it up to Connexus(Energy)? Jochum said yes. Holen stated he liked that you answered a lot of my questions I had. I do want new waterlines for our homes. Thank you for your time.

Kohlmann stated he will just go down the list of people in the order that they called in.

Scott Schumacher, 23155 Butterfield Drive. Schumacher stated he does not have any questions, just listening.

William Strom, 3712-225th Lane, I did sent in an email with questions and they were all answered by the engineer, I am here to listen.

Daisy, no comments to add.

Jason, no response when asked if he wanted to make any comments.

Dale Tracey, 23135 Butterfield Drive, said his biggest concern is if they make the road wider or put the sidewalk in, how much of his driveway will he lose. He asked if there was any way he could put in a wider driveway to accommodate his vehicles that include a work truck. Jochum stated he could take a look at it to see what can be done.

Brian Jones, 3624 226th Avenue, stated the curbing is currently so steep, will that be removed? Jochum stated the new curb standard has more of a role to it and yes, the

old curbing will come out. If you want to look at some of the newer curbing, you could go to the Rivers Edge, Rum River Terrace or Rum River Bluffs developments.

Michelle Lang and Jason Anttila, 3805 226th Avenue, asked if the end of their driveway is removed for the work will it get replaced. Jochum stated typically the contractor will replace back 15' from the curb. Jason asked more about the assessments and billing. Jochum stated this if the first of two public hearings. Likely the next one will be in October where the council will discuss the length of the assessment along with the interest rate.

Mike B, no comments.

Tim Holen asked if he could make another comment. You (residents) want to get rid of the old service lines during this project. I know we are using North Anoka Plumbing do redo all our lines from the curb stop to the houses.

Mayor Feldman asked if there were any more public comment and with none, being heard closed the public hearing at 6:34 pm.

1. Resolution 2020-22 Accepting Bids for the 2020 Street Reconstruction and Watermain Improvement Project

Feldman asked Jochum did Connexus Energy said they wouldn't put the power lines underground? Jochum said yes, they said they would stay overhead. In the past the Council has usually went out for a 15-year term of the assessment with a 1% over the bond rate %. You can pay it off up front or at any time during the term of the assessment. Numbers are not final yet so the final assessment is still to be determined. If you look in the packet, you will see a list of all the bidders with a base bid along with alternate bids. The alternate bids were for the consideration of a 27-foot-wide street and 5-foot sidewalk in lieu of a 32-foot-wide street with no sidewalk.

Dale Tracey stated having a sidewalk is a lot safer and believe a narrower street makes the road seem safer. Feldman agreed a narrower road is safer as the traffic seems to go slower.

Jason Antilla said I do not live along Butterfield but said a sidewalk is nice but would look at the cost.

Bauer said he is leaning towards a 27' wide street with a sidewalk. Give residents a safe way to walk to parks. Narrower streets seems to slow the traffic down but not sure, which side of the street the sidewalk should go on is better.

Udvig echoed what Bauer stated. Where ever you can put sidewalks the better and safer. Thanked the residents that voiced their comments tonight.

Muehlbauer stated I agree a lot what both Bauer and Udvig have said. I too like to keep the cost down for residents.

Robinson acknowledge the couple people who wrote in and their concerns with how COVID-19 has affected people. These projects have been discussed by prior administration and is overdue. I am interested in safety for our residents. I would be for the 27' wide street and sidewalk but best accommodate the residents the best we can.

Feldman stated if we wait, we would not be sure what kind of pricing we will get. The base bid prices ranged from \$2,182,045.79 to \$3,007,556.55. Even with the sidewalk alternate bid of \$162,222.00 we are still under \$400,000 under the engineers estimate. I would suggest to move forward with the 27' wide street with a sidewalk.

Jochum said there is one more item up for discussion, tree replacement .Do you want to keep that in the plan? The entire council agree to keep the tree replacement in the project. Jochum said we would only be replacing ones we have to remove for the project.

Muehlbauer thanked the people who commented. There has been some questions out there on what do my taxes go for. Your taxes do go for your roads but the assessment is for the water/sewer improvements on this project. If you have questions, please call our City Administrator Joe Kohlmann and he will explain where your taxes are spent. Feldman agreed, call city hall if you have questions. He also added your participation is important.

Robinson said Connexus Energy isn't moving the power but were they asked? Public Works Director Jason Windingstad said we can ask again. Feldman asked are they aware of the extent of this project? Windingstad said we can discuss it again at the pre-construction meeting.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND ROBINSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-22 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BIDS FOR THE 2020 STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT INCLUDING THE ALTERNATE BID FOR THE BUTTERFIELD DRIVE 27-FOOT-WIDE STREET AND A 5- FOOT SIDEWALK AND INCLUDE THE TREE REPLACEMENT.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**
None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Drake Street – Encroachment Agreement

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom reported a parcel located off Drake Street is looking to build a new single family home. However, this parcel does not abut a public right-of-way. BGS, the City's attorney's office worked with the land owner's attorney along with the contiguous property owner to develop an

encroachment agreement to allow for access. With this encroachment agreement, the landowner will be able to build a home. This topic was discussed at the September 24, 2019 work session.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND UDVIG APPROVING THE ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT ALONG DRAKE STREET.

Ayes: Muehlbauer, Bauer, Udvig, Robinson and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

11. REPORTS

A. Department Reports – Fire Department 1st Quarter Report 2020

Fire Chief Dave Schmidt briefed the council on the 1st Quarter in 2020. Chief Schmidt highlighted the calls for service, significant events, response times, emergency medical responses, and community engagement. COVID-19 has also included a lot of planning and a lot of work but there has been a great amount of community support. I would like to mention that at the St. Francis Firefighters Relief Association annual firefighters dinner three fire fighters were recognized for their years of service; George Bichler and Jon Faanes for 10 years of service and Sam Strassburg for 20 years of service. Some of the Community Events included; a Girl Scout station tour, receiving pictures of cleaning our around hydrants, February Food Drive for NACE Food Shelf that collected close to 200 pounds of food and supplies, and were special guest readers at the St. Francis Library. Chief Schmidt said he would like to end his report by thanking the support of the Council, City leadership and the community has been incredible during this difficult time.

Feldman thanked the fire department and all staff; we are working together as a city. Bauer said good report and like reading about staff. Do you think 24 hour staffing is working well? Chief Schmidt stated Oak Grove has just recently went to it. Instead of having seven plus people coming to each call we are limiting the number of staff at the station at a time plus we are cleaning as we go in and cleaning as we go out. Don't want to get even 4-5 firefighters out because of exposure, we are just not big enough. Bauer stated he has read some department have stopped going to potential COVID-19 calls. Chief Schmidt said we are taking all precautions on all calls. We have been fortunate to have supplies on hand from the onset. Bauer said thank you for the report.

Udvig thanked the chief for the report. I am thankful you came on full time when you did. I also like the community involvement.

Robinson said thank you for the experience and patience you show. We are grateful for our police, fire, public works, administration and all city staff; you are doing all the heavy lifting.

Muehlbauer stated good report. Are you going to continue with the 24 staffing throughout the stay at home order? Chief Schmidt said we will continue until the stay at home order is lifted. We probably won't change out the procedures we put in place.

B. Councilmember Reports -

Robinson – not much more to add. Glad to see people supporting local businesses. Still a little disheartening to see caution tape on playgrounds.

Udvig – Nothing much more to report.

Muehlbauer – viewed the virtual Joint Fire Council meeting with the mayor. Thanked all staff.

Bauer – thanked the residents that viewed the meeting tonight and made comments. You can also come to all meetings. Just a reminder that hand sanitizing wipes are not flushable.

Feldman – We are raising money for the school playground at the liquor store. I noticed Anoka Municipal does the same thing. I received some calls from the Riverbank Lane residents wondering when the contractor is coming back out to finish the project. Jochum stated we are just getting our inspectors back to work this week, so maybe next week. Feldman stated I did tell them we are still holding money back from the contractor until it is finished and we accept it. Patience is a key word especially during these times. Working on the mail drop at city hall, so it can take larger packages. Also the software for the utility billing for the meter change out should be getting better. If residents have a problem, let us know. We can't correct what we don't know, give us a call. Thanked all staff, like the police, fire and public works presence out on the streets. Letting the residents know we are here for them. Team effort. Just a reminder filing dates are May 19, 2020 to June 2, 2020.

C. Upcoming Events -

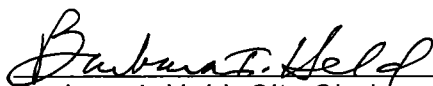
May 18 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm

May 20 Planning Comm. Meeting @ 7:00 pm

June 1 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:39 pm.


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk