

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 20, 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 (Zoom).

2. ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes – April 6, 2020

B. Routine Annual Dust Control-Authorizing the acceptance of the bid from Northern Salt, Inc. (NSI) from Forest Lake with the bid amount of \$1.13 per gallon

C. 2019 Water Meter Replacement Project – Change Order No 2: Approving Change Order No 2 from Ferguson Water Works on the 2019 Water Meter Replacement Project for a deduct of \$26,797.23. The original contract amount for this project was \$604,812.95 and the final contract amount came in at \$578,015.72 or \$26,797.23 below the original contract amount.

D. 2019 Water Meter Replacement Project - Pay Estimate No. 4 for \$92,694.06 to Ferguson Waterworks.

E. Payment of Claims \$477,660.14 (ACH 248E-285E \$190,220.22 and Checks #77385-77453 \$257,439.92)

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND UDVIG APPROVING THE CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A-E.

Ayes: Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer, Udvig and Robinson
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 Imp. Project – Postponed to May 4, 2020

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

0. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

11. **REPORTS**

A. Department Reports –

1. Public Works Monthly Reports/March

Public Works Director Jason Windingstad gave an update on staffing hours during this Pandemic. Starting April 27 the whole staff will be back with the summer hours doing the proper cleaning and social distancing of course. We have had the on call staff coming in, and then switched to a four person-rotating shift until starting the 27th.

Windingstad also gave an update on the meter change out and answered Feldman's questions on what was all left to be changed out. In addition, Feldman said he liked on the report the lift stations are now listed separately.

Robinson stated I know this was on the consent agenda but had questions on the seal coating prices. Windingstad answered the question on how and why some residents would pay the contractor directly.

Both Udvig and Muehlbauer didn't have any additional questions but said they liked the report.

Bauer asked if we are seeing more sanitary wipes being flushed now. Windingstad stated not really it is all in about educating the people. Bauer responded by saying good report.

2. Community Development – 1st Quarter Report

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom gave an overview of the

departments First Quarter Report in 2020. Thunstrom briefed the council on the Economic Development progress, Housing Development, Building Department, Administration, and Code Enforcement. Thunstrom stated she would answer any questions the council may have on the report. The council had a couple questions on some of the Code Enforcement and where they are in the process, vacant property and if there were any updates on some of the commercial buildings for sale. Otherwise they agreed good report.

3. Police Department – 1st Quarter Report

Police Chief Todd Schwieger gave an overview of the Police Departments First Quarter Report of 2020. Chief Schwieger would like to acknowledge the four officers who were recognized for their extraordinary efforts at the 2019 annual awards ceremony. Officers Chris Bulera, Nate Schwieger, Brandon Stemme and Reserve Officer Richard Sieber were presented with the St. Francis Police Department Award of Commendation for outstanding service and superior dedication to the St. Francis Police Department and Community in 2019. Most recently, we have been dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. Office staff have been taking turns coming in and working remotely. I would just like to say that all city staff is working well together, attitudes are positive and an honor to be part of it. Unfortunately, some community events will need to be either postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. We are still going to have the Drug Take Back this Saturday but shorten hours. With more people staying at home we have seen more domestic disturbances/altercations and driving complaints. We are trying to be as visible as possible.

Feldman stated it is important for residents seeing the police presences.

Muehlbauer said he is glad to see DWIs are down. Great report.

Bauer thanked the department for doing a great job and appreciate the report.

Robinson said great report and nice that you acknowledge the men and women doing a great job. Robinson also asked if the Chief had seen any pluses or minus with the cut of one school resource officer. Chief Schwieger stated the current SRO has to sometimes pick and choose which call has to be sent to the street car because they can't get to all of them. You do lose some personal interaction especially with the middle school this way.

Feldman asked if he had spoken with the School Superintendent about next school year. Chief Schwieger said I have spoken with her quite often lately but not specifically about the school resource officer.

Udvig said I think it wouldn't be an issue for the school district to bring one back if the budget wasn't an issue. Udvig said fabulous job and dedication to our community.

B. Councilmember Reports -

Bauer – thanked the staff and all that takes place behind the scenes. Also thank you to the fire department for staffing the station 24/7. I would like to thank and commend the city as a whole.

Udvig – thanked staff for all their hard work.

Muehlbauer – also thanked all the staff

Feldman – questioned the City Engineer if the street projects would still proceed. City Engineer Craig Jochum reported the Mill and Overly Project was bid out and will be

holding a pre-construction meeting soon. The 2020 Street Reconstruction and Watermain Project Improvement will be holding a public hearing on Monday, May 4 during the regular city council meeting. Once we hold the public hearing, we can award the bid, which came in very favorably. Discussion was held on the Poppy Street portion of that project that does need approval from the city of Oak Grove to do the project as presented. Hoping the cities can work together.

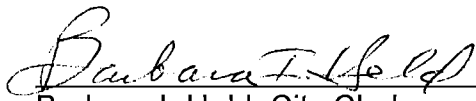
Feldman than asked each of the department heads how their staff was doing and how work was going. All the departments gave a recap of their departments but consensus was staff is doing as well as can be expected and really stepping up during this difficult time. Departments have been helping each other out when needed.

C. Upcoming Events -

May 4 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm
May 18 City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm
May 20 Planning Comm. Meeting @ 7:00 pm

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:52 pm.


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk