

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

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Work Session was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Steve Feldman, Council members Kevin Robinson, Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer and Sarah Udvig. Also present were City Attorney Dave Schaps, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, and Public Works Director Paul Teicher.

2. **Norhill Estates**

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom reported staff had been contacted by several residents of the Norhill Estates Subdivision regarding issues with a neighboring property. This property located directly north of this subdivision located in Isanti County and is currently running the business as a vineyard and bed and breakfast. They do old large events at this facility such as weddings. The business was granted an original CUP in 2016 with the residents in Norhill Estates never being notified of the land use application as required by State Statute. In 2018, they combines additional property to create the size it is today. Property owner just recently requested to amend his currently CUP to include camping. This time the property owners in Norhill Estates were notified of the amendment to the CUP and attended the public hearing. However, their public hearing comments were not considered for the CUP the Norhill Estates property owners shared their concerns with the noise, late night music and potential lack of restrictions around the business. The city received a petition from some of the resident of Norhill Estates asking for the city's assistance /support in any way. Two residents of the neighborhood were present at the work session if the council had any questions.

The residents in the attendance said they will try to work with the property owner and township to resolve any issues. After council discussion on the topic with the residents. The council will wait to hear back from the residents on how their meetings go with the property owners and township.

3. **Nuisance Property**

City Attorney Dave Schaps provided a memorandum for the Council giving them a background of the property at 22708 Rum River Blvd. Thunstrom went over the timeline and steps taken with the council. This issue started 2012-2013 with a fire in the home. Staff has attempted on multiple occasions to work with the property owner to resolve the building code and property issues. Staff also brought in an independent building engineers' report to determine if the house on the property can be brought up to City Code standards – which indicated with the appropriate

improvements – the house could be brought up to Code. To date, this property owner has not complied in making the necessary improvements and the property is still not compliant with the City Code and that is why it was turned back over to the attorney's office. Schaps stated this issue would need to come before the council at a regular city council meeting for action if the council wants to move forward. The council would give the property certain number of days to either bring the property back into compliance or the house would be razed. This document would then be filed with the court system. There is a challenge period for the property owner to contest it in court.

After Council discussion, they agreed to move forward with the process and bring a resolution back to a council meeting for action.

4. **Drake Street**

Staff was approached by a property owner located adjacent to Drake Street who would like to build a home. Two problems with the parcel, one the city requires you are to have an improved surface to build a home per City Code and you cannot have more than 16 homes on a cul-de-sac. Drake Street already has 16 homes. Maps and diagrams were provided for the council packet. When it was approved 1996, it was noted that future subdivision would finish the Drake Street connection to CSAH 24, this did not happen. The other parcels to the north have access to CSAH 24. It is unlikely the City has any interest in constructing this road but staff wanted to confirm this with the council. After Council discussion, they stated the applicant could apply for a variance or obtain an easement from another property owner.

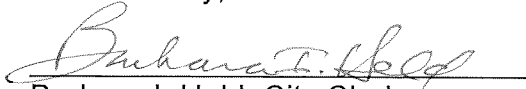
5. **City Buildings Discussion**

Mayor Feldman said this is the beginning of exploratory options for the city buildings. Have no idea how long this will take and to what extent will be done. We will discuss what is going to be done with the buildings. My goal is to have public included like we did with the St. Francis Forward program. Feldman said he put some notes down with possible ideas. After multiple meetings if nothing comes from it at least the city will have the information. Different ideas were discussed. Council provided direction that they wanted to more closely review joint structure options for city hall and fire. The council determined a joint structure on Bridge Street or on the Public Works site seemed to make the most sense. Staff stated they would bring these two options back whenever the City has another work session.

6. **Adjournment**

Mayor Feldman adjourned the work session at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by,


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk