

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

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

5:00 pm Work Session with MnDOT
Melissa Barnes and Sheila Kaupee of MnDOT along with Beth Engum of Kimley-Horn presented to the City council four different options for the Hwy 47 Corridor Improvement. The different plans included roundabouts, J-turns and a tunnel. They spoke on safety, pedestrians, speed and controlled intersections. Council did have concerns and questions with four roundabouts, the tunnel and pedestrian safety.

6:00 pm Regular City Council Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

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 Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY UDVIG SECOND ROBINSON APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-G AS FOLLOWS:

- A. City Council Minutes – September 3, 2019
- B. Accept the Resignation of Planning Commission member Brittney Berndt
- C. Appoint Rich Skordahl to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy until the end of Berndt's term
- D. Pay Estimate #2 to North Valley Inc. for Kings Hwy/Riverbank Lane Improvement Project \$221,829.22
- E. Payment of Claims \$851,060.34 (ACH 268E-269E \$ 359,472.80 and Check # 76390-76467 \$491,587.54)

F. Hire Kim Sweet as a Part Time Liquor Store Clerk
Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Justin Miller, 1940 237th Avenue NW was before the council asking them to revisit the bee ordinance. Miller would like the council to remove the entire ordinance. Council indicated they would discuss this further at a future work session. Councilmember Robinson said he did bring this up previously at a work session and had contacted surrounding cities earlier this year. Robinson said he does have the information he could share with the council.

Shelly Kaunzner, 24439 Riverbank Lane NW wanted to thank the council for their street project. But with the smooth road comes faster traffic. Police Chief Todd Schwieger stated they have been in the area patrolling. Kaunzner also asked about getting additional lower speed limit signs. Public Works Director Paul Teicher stated he would work with the city engineer about the placement of the signs.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

A. **Community Service**

Mayor Steve Feldman presented Paul Teicher, Public Works Director a Community Service Award from Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA). The award is in recognition of long and outstanding service to his community in support of municipal utilities.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Ordinance 253, Second Series – Outdoor Storage (Second Reading)**

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom stated the change is mainly due to clarification. Parking surface specifically dealing with the pavers. The current code is being interpreted differently. Chapter 10, Section 16 D-3 is the area that is being amended. Referenced Section 19 as it relates to parking and driveways was updated this spring so references in Section F are no longer correct. Planning Commission held a public hearing with no public comment received.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND ROBINSON APPROVING THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 253, SECOND SERIES AMENDING CHAPTER 10, SECTION 16-15 ENTITLED "OUTDOOR STORAGE.

Roll Call: Ayes: Robinson, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer, and Udvig,

Nays: None
Motion carried 5-0.

B. Ordinance 253, Second Series - Summary Publication Resolution 2019-38
MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND BAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-38 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 253, SECOND SERIES, AMENDING CHAPTER 10, SECTION 15 D-3 ENTITLED "OUTDOOR STORAGE-RECREATION CAMPING VEHICLE, UTILITY TRAILER, BOAT, UNLICENSED VEHICLE AND PARKING" AND UPDATE CHAPTER 10, 15-F. Motioned carried 5-0.

C. Ordinance 254, Second Series – Accessory Structures (Second Reading)
Currently the City Code size caps the attached garage at 80% up to 1,000 square feet no matter the size of the house footprint. Staff is proposing keeping the maximum limit of 840 square feet on attached garages unless the footprint of the house is of a size that allows that to increase. Using a flat 80% limit, the increase will balance the house and garage based on the overall size.

MOTION BY UDVIG SECOND MUEHLBAUER APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 254, SECOND SERIES AMENDING CHAPTER 10, SECTION 18-6A ENTITLED "AREA, NUMBER AND HEIGHT LIMITATIONS".

Roll Call: Ayes: Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer Udvig, and Robinson
Nays: None
Motion carried 5-0.

D. Ordinance 254, Second Series – Summary Publication Resolution 2019-39
MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND BAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-39 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 254, SECOND SERIES, AMENDING CHAPTER 10, SECTION 18-6A. ENTITLED "AREA, NUMBER AND HEIGHT LIMITATIONS".
Motion carried 5-0.

E. Adjusting the Tax Levy for Bond Indebtedness – Resolution 2019-40
Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill referenced her agenda report explaining the need to adjust the tax levy for the bonded indebtedness.
MOTION BY ROBINSON SECOND UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-40 A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE TAX LEVY FOR BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.
Motion carried 5-0.

F. Preliminary Approval of Proposed 2019 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2020 and Setting Budget Hearing Date – Resolution 2019-41
Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill reported the 2020 Levy is proposed to be \$3,984,590 which is \$191,000 more than 2019 levy. This included the General Operating levy of \$3,616,000 and a debt service levy of \$368,590. Some of the notable contributors to

the levy increase are more funding for road projects and moving the fire chief from part time status to full time. The amount that is set tonight is the maximum levy amount with a final levy and budget being set after the council holds a public hearing on December 2, 2019.

Feldman stated this levy is utilizing the city's increased market value amounts to keep the overall tax rate about the same as the rate in 2019.

Robinson said roads, bridges, police and fire is what he believes is the council's highest priority.

Bauer said he would prefer to decrease the levy and question whether a city our size needs a full-time fire chief. Feldman responded, he is a true believer that every department head should be a full-time staff member.

MOTION BY ROBINSON SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-41 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED 2020 TAX LEVY AND SETTING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR DECEMBER 2, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

G. Furnace/AC Replacement at Fire Station

Fire Chief Dave Schmidt reported the fire station has a failed furnace unit that provides climate control to the training room, SCBA room, communication's room and the tool room. This is the second failure of the unit in just over a year. The unit was found to have a failed motor and circuit board and recommended for replacement. In the Building Improvement Fund for 2020 the 2 furnace units and 2 air conditioners are identified for replacement. It is my recommendation to replace these units a few months ahead of schedule, as we are unable to wait until 2020. Four quotes were received for these units. They are:

- i. NAC- \$15,819.00 – 92% eff. Bryant/Trane units 75k btu
- ii. RICCAR- \$14,625.00 – 95% eff. Rheem units 98k btu / 68k btu
- iii. YALE- \$14,900.00 – 80% eff. Lennox units 90k btu
- iv. YALE- \$14,400.00 – 92% eff. Bryant units 80k btu

The funds would come from the Building Improvement Fund and staff also anticipates a \$300 rebate from CenterPoint energy if the 92% energy efficient models are selected.

The council discussed in length this item. In the end, the council agreed to go with the more efficient unit quote from RICCAR with the Rheem unit.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ACCEPT THE FOUR QUOTES AND TO GO WITH A MORE EFFICIENT FURNACE/AIR CONDITIONING UNIT FROM RICCAR FOR A RHEEM UNIT WITH A QUOTE OF \$14,625.00. Motion carried 5-0.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None.

11. REPORTS

A. Department Reports – Public Works Monthly Reports

Public Works Director Paul Teicher gave his monthly report. Council thanked Paul for the report, very informative.

Mayor also reminded everyone of the Meter Replacement that is being done by Ferguson Waterworks.

B. Councilmember Reports-

Robinson – reminded everyone of the MnDOT Open House, speak up now. This is your chance.

Muehlbauer – also stated everyone needs to come to the MnDOT Open House this Thursday at the First Baptist Church. Some people said the five of us should speak for them. I believe in the power of numbers, important everyone shows up to let them know what you think.

Bauer- get your thoughts out there on the corridor, even on the east to west corridor. Have your voices be heard. I am not a HVAC person so I am counting on your expertise. I am however a twelve year firefighter. I am not anti fire but would like to see the city not spending money out of control. I would like to see a 5% cut in the budget.

Udvig – I attended the school board meeting last Monday. They are working through the start of the school year and the construction. I too will be at the MnDOT Open House on Thursday night.

Feldman – said the Open House this Thursday is very important. Thunstrom stated the Business Meeting with MnDOT has been scheduled for October 3rd. I agree with Muehlbauer. It is one thing for five of us to speak but if you get 200 people speaking that is what gets people to listen. They will answer your questions. Discussions about city buildings is because we want to be pre-empted and proactive. We will be discussing this in work sessions. I also want to say the last 20 years this city has been run mean and lean. That is why today we are we spending money but are we getting a return on the dollar, yes. That is why Rob I said to you many, many times and I will go on record. Show me a cut with a benefit behind a long-term dividend and I will look at it sincerely with full due diligence. But to cut just for cut sake I will not look at it at all. For the first time in twenty years, we have a solid fire department with a chief, assistant and captains. Back in 2017, we had six hours of interviews for a new fire chief. We are not over spending budgets, I don't agree with that at all. We are spending money in the proper way. Including new and improved plow trucks. We are spending money where we probably should have spent it years ago and they didn't. If you have questions on the Riverbank Lane/Kings Hwy, first please be patient with the change. If you have questions call city hall. We will look at the speed limit signs. Don't hassle the contractors. City Hall will be closed October 14th for Columbus Day. If you have questions on the MnDOT event you can go to our website and look at our newsletter or click on the Our Community tab.

C. Upcoming Events -

Sept 18 Planning Commission @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 7:00 pm
Sept 19 MnDOT Open House @ First Baptist Church 4:30-7:30 pm
Oct 7 City Council Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 6:00 pm

Oct 14 City Offices Closed – Columbus Day

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:07 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara I. Held", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk