

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

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2019**

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

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, and Accounting Tech/Deputy Clerk Jenni Wida.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. City Council Minutes – July 15, 2019
- B. City Council Work Session Notes – July 22, 2019
- C. 2019 Anoka Conservation District Rum River Stabilization Letter of Support
- D. 2019/2020 School Resource Officer Contract with St. Francis Area Schools
- E. Authorization Not to Waive the Statutory Tort Liability Limits to the extent of the coverage purchased with LMCIT
- F. Acknowledge Gambling Premise Permit –Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association @ The Ponds Golf Course- Resolution 2019-29
- G. River's Edge – Letter of Credit Reduction
- H. 2019 Anoka County Mitigation Plan – Resolution 2019-30
- I. The Ponds Liquor License Application
- J. Payment of Claims \$1,353,519.76 (ACH 267E \$1,104,839.47 and Checks 76194-76256 \$248,680.29)

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Tim Devaney was present with his wife and their builder Tim. They purchased 33 acres in St. Francis and are planning to build a house with an attached garage. Their permit was not granted for their garage as it exceeds the SF allowed per ordinance 10-18-6. They met with city staff to discuss options to shrink their garage from 1600 SF and or going through the variance process. They would like council to amend the ordinance and to take into consideration their lot size and the foundation footprint of the principal structure. This amendment would benefit them and future

residents. Their builder Tim spoke about other cities ordinances for their garage sizes. He stated that St. Francis' ordinance is directed more towards a city lot. Mayor asked, "Kate can you advise us on this?" Thunstrom stated that we did meet as a group to discuss because currently their garage plans are 700 SF over what the code allows. It is something that we have had other home builder's question, however with our current city code that is where we have them placed. Mayor stated I am sure we have other houses on big lots that go by the code. Thunstrom stated this statute is the same for our urban properties as it is for our rural properties. There is no consideration for our rural properties even though the lot sizes are bigger, but we cap it at 1000 SF. It's not taking into account the larger homes that are coming in. I know that they worked with Phil to design it as a storage space, but that adds extra costs with the insulation and footing requirements to try to break that up.

Mayor asked, If it was detached, how big can they go? Tim Devaney stated 5,000 SF. How deep is this garage? Tim Devaney stated, in some spots its 44 ft. Mayor asked if a variance was easy to get approved. Thunstrom stated that they are not easy to approve as they are set by guidelines and one of the things that will trip up something like this would have to be a circumstance beyond their control. Buying the property and creating the plans, they are not going in with a circumstance that is beyond their control, they are limiting this property due its size or shape. A variance is definitely an option, but it's something that becomes a grey area because they are not qualifying for those requirements.

Mayor stated that this could open Pandora 's Box, because should you get approved I am sure that there will be someone else standing in front of us wanting the same thing, if we skirt around the variance. I understand your point being on 33 acres. Tim Devaney stated that he was suggesting to revise the ordinance to keep the 80% of the foundation square footage, but remove the 1000 SF max.

Muehlbauer stated that he thought it was worse to do that. He thinks that if you just take something out of the ordinance that opens Pandora 's Box where if we were to look into we would look at acreage and size to where it would be open up based on lot size rather removing it from the ordinance.

Mayor stated that this isn't a decision we can make right now. We want to have this set up for future residents as well. He has Thunstrom what she would advise. Thunstrom stated that this is an open forum and they are bringing the suggestion forward. You would either give staff the direction to look into this further or if it's not something you want to look into you would give that direction. If we were to look into it further we would have to look at local examples from other communities and consideration for the lot size. We have differences from agricultural and residential. It comes from the direction if council wants to pursue this. Mayor asked Council what their thoughts are on this?

Robinson stated that he was curious about the setback of the home from the road. I think it is the cities responsibility to navigate this. I think we should be open-minded and we do want to welcome citizens and builders to come to Saint Francis. Muehlbauer stated that he is willing to discuss this further. Bauer stated that he would be in favor of changing the ordinance and suggested that the threshold be at 30 acres or more and not more than 80% of the homes foundation. Udvig stated that she wants to look at it further and that she is not opposed to changing the ordinance. Mayor stated that he wanted Thunstrom to direct Council to a work session as soon as possible to discuss.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

A. Anoka County Rum River Regional Trail Master Plan – 2019 Amendment Request

1) Resolution 2019-31 – Resolution of Support

Karen Blaska from Anoka County Parks Dept. gave a presentation on the Rum River Regional Trail plan. The presentation is in the packet.

Council will discuss in the future.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT ANOKA COUNTY RUM RIVER REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN – 2019 AMENDMENT REQUEST
RESOLUTION 2019-31 – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT. Motion carried 5-0.

B. BGS: Dangerous Dog – Fjeld

Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps read the Finding of the Facts.

Christina Fjeld stated her case and provided a document of text messages that were exchanged between her and the party that filed the complaint.

Schaps stated that the City Prosecutor's office will have discretion on the outstanding citations.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND ROBINSON TO DECLARE "SADIE" THE LABORDOODLE NOT DANGEROUS. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan

Mayor Feldman opened the public hearing at 7:54 PM. With no public comment Mayor Feldman closed the public hearing at 7:54 PM.

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann recapped the 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan. A copy of this plan is on the city's website.

Mayor Feldman stated that he discussed with Joe Kohlmann and he said the monies are in place and these can be out for 5-10 years.

MOTION BY UDVIG SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT THE 2020-2024 CIP PLAN. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ordinance 251, Second Series - Amending Chapter 10, Section 71, I 1 Light Industrial to include Storage Facilities within the permitted CUP and Amending Chapter 6 Business Regulation and Licensing adding Section 14 – Storage Units/Self Storage Units (First Reading)

Thunstrom read from the packet and the report. St. Francis was approached by three different facilities in three different zoning districts. Thunstrom stated that staff took the time review the zoning district within our code and looked at other cities to determine direction for these codes. She stated that we did not have anything in code for storage facilities. Thunstrom presented three updates to city code to provide direction for these types of facilities. If Council is in agreement with these changes and determine this as a first reading the new code would be effective September 22, 2019.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND BAUER APPROVING THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, SECTION 71, I 1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO INCLUDE STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE PERMITTED CUP AND AMENDING CHAPTER 6 BUSINESS REGULATION AND LICENSING ADDING SECTION 14 – STORAGE UNITS/SELF STORAGE.

Roll Call: Ayes: Udvig, Robinson, Muehlbauer, Feldman, and Bauer.
Nays: Motion carried 5-0

B Setting a Work Session for 2020 Budget Discussion

Council set the work session for August 14th at 5:30 pm at City Hall to discuss the 2020 General Fund Budget.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

11. **REPORTS**

A. Department Reports –Fire Department Quarterly
Fire Chief Dave Schmidt gave the Fire Department Quarterly report.

B. Councilmember Reports-

Udvig – Reminder about Night to Unite.

Bauer – Looking forward to meeting with the public at Night to Unite.

Muehlbauer – I will be at Night to Unite

Robinson – Thank you to the citizens and everyone who has made Night to Unite possible. Get out to know your neighbors. Help each other out.

C. Upcoming Events -

Aug 6 Night to Unite @ Community Park 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

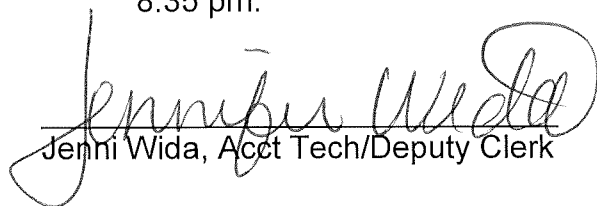
Aug 19 City Council Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 6:00 pm

Sept 2 Labor Day – Holiday (City Offices Closed)

Sept 3 Tues-City Council Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 6:00 pm

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 8:35 pm.



Jenni Wida, Acct Tech/Deputy Clerk