

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 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 Anderson), City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A- E AS FOLLOWS:

- A. City Council Minutes – January 7, 2019
 - B. Pay Request No. 29/Change Order 1 – Final Payment for \$167,665.00 to Gridor Construction for Waste Water Treatment Facility
 - C. Pawn Shop Application – Saver's Pawn, 3220 Bridge Street Suite 101 & 102
 - D. Authorization to Hire Lisa Stoll as an Office Assistant contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment backgrounds and testing
 - E. Payment of Claims \$1,226,085.88 (ACH 247E- 250E \$1,060,143.11 and Checks #75351-75419 \$ 937,946.26) *Does not include the Gridor Const. Payment.
- Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

A. Citizen Awards: Samantha Stewart, Alycia Simons and Adam Klinkner
Police Chief Todd Schwieger read statements about all three of these people and how they stopped that night of November 20, 2018 and helped at the scene of the accident. Chief Schwieger presented Adam Klinkner who was first to respond

and provided aid, Alicia Simons a paramedic but was off duty who was at County Market and came to help and Samantha Stewart, not a normal route home, parked and ran to start resuscitating one of the girls and continued even after police arrived. Chief Schwieger stated they didn't have to stop but they did and to all of us they are true heroes. By their actions, that evening I believe it saved lives. Therefore, it is with great pleasure to give all three the St. Francis Police Department Citizens Award, *In recognition of their quick-thinking, courage and extraordinary actions that saved lives on November 20, 2018.* All three received a well-deserved round of applause.

Feldman said its amazing when you hear of all the negative out there during the day time and then you see something positive like this it regenerates your thoughts about humanity and people in general. A very good positive thing to see. Thank you very much.

B. GFOA Award:

Mayor Feldman presented Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill the 2017 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the 7th year in a row the City has received this award.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Animal Control Contract -

Feldman reported it came down to three vendors but one in no longer in business, Quiet Oaks. We have done a lot of research on this along with Attorney Dave Schaps and City Administrator Joe Kohlmann. Comes down to two contracts we will make a decision on either Gratitude Farms or North Metro Animal Care and Control who branched off from Dover Kennel.

Udvig stated we have done a lot of research on this and meet with people. Whomever we go with everyone needs to respect each other and respect our decision. Respect each other on social media too.

Bauer said he also did his research. Called numerous cities and the ones I called renewed their contracts with Gratitude Farms. They size dogs to the kennels, both places love their dogs. I do like flat rates. I don't care for Dover changing the contract and not following our contract. They sent in their own. Spoke with the Police Chief and asked if there were complaints on Gratitude Farms. Chief Schwieger responded by saying, no complaints to his understanding.

Muehlbauer agree with Udvig and appreciated the comments from the residents.

Robinson again stated whoever gets chosen be respectful. Social media does have their place and this was not the place. I looked at cost, I like the open kennel. Whomever we choose they need to follow our contract and represent our city. I went on both of their websites and one is more user friendly. We would like to have our ACO to be user friendly. The reason North Metro split from Dover Kennels so they could have a more animal control side and a commercial boarding side. I made some phone calls too and talked to some cities as well.

Feldman read from the packet on the different cost for the previous years on what the city spent. Andover renewed with Dover Kennel now North Metro. Oak Grove went with North Metro. The attorney looked over the contracts. What I don't like is someone who didn't take credit cards now they take them. Didn't have hours posted now they do. This one company did all that from the beginning. I don't like the flat fee because if they are no calls we still have to pay. Plus the residents are paying more. North Metro only charges when there is an animal not claimed. Like I said earlier I had our attorney look over this contract. If our residents are telling us to go with someone different, we owe it to our residents to listen to them. It has been a year of misery on social media over this topic.

MOTION BY ROBINSON SECOND UDVIG APPOINT NORTH METRO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL FOR A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL TO FORM BY CITY ATTORNEY.

Bauer stated he probably should abstain. He may have conflict being North Metro is a non-profit, I belong to a non-profit and they donated money to our nonprofit therefore, I will abstain. Motion carried 4-0. Bauer abstained.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. DEED Grant – Resolution 2019-02 Local Match for a Redevelopment Grant Program

Thunstrom reported staff has been working with the property owners at 3731 Bridge Street since June 2017 in regards to the property condition. Through these discussions, the property owners have decided to sell the property to the City of St. Francis EDA for the proposes of structure demolition and redevelopment of the site. This process is still moving forward through legal descriptions and title work clarifications. I will be bringing this along with a resolution for them to approve at the EDA tomorrow night. Reviewing the DEED Redevelopment Grant, staff feels that the city may have an opportunity to utilize this program for costs associated with acquisition, demolition and infrastructure. A resolution is required to submit for the matching grant. Staff is requesting \$225,000 grant.

Robinson stated the puzzle pieces are coming together. Could we receive only a partial grant?

Thunstrom said yes. It would limit us on what we can do.

Robinson asked where would the matching funds come from.

Thunstrom stated the City Council awarded this project \$225,000 as a transfer from the Bottle Shop on November 6, 2017. If we do not get the full amount, we will not be able to do as much.

Bauer asked should this be contingent upon the EDA's approval. Thunstrom said the deadline is before the next council meeting. Both the City Council and EDA need to pass a resolution.

Udvig said she feels we should move forward.

Feldman said this is part of our St. Francis Forward.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2019-02 A RESOLUTION FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND COMMITMENT OF LOCAL MATCH FOR A REDEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Schedule Work Session

Kohlmann stated we are looking to schedule two work sessions. The first one would be to discussion on the city building report. The council decided to schedule that work session for Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at city hall starting at 5:30 pm.

The second work session is a training provided by the League of MN Cities. That work session was scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 at city hall starting at 6:00 pm.

C. Audio Equipment

Kohlmann reported that he and Council member Joe Muehlbauer have been working on a way to improve the City's audio quality at the City Council meetings. Due to the complexity of what is needed due to the fact it is not hardwired into the building there are not many options. Some equipment we found that may work is backordered. However, once the City were to open the equipment and if we return it back to the vendor there would be a \$500 restocking fee.

Discussion on whether or not pursue this option, suggested talking again to the school district on what they do, bringing a vendor out or keep trying to look for other options. The council had some reservation on the \$500 restocking fee. Question was also raised is the restocking fee on each individual item? After more discussion, it was decided to keep looking into sound equipment.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

11. REPORTS

St. Francis Bottle Shop

Kohlmann reported there has been a request to be able to close the Bottle Shop from noon to 5:00 pm this Saturday so the employees can attend a funeral. After council discussion and consideration, they agreed due to the circumstances to close the Bottle Shop until 5:00 pm allowing all employees to be able to attend the funeral. MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND BAUER CLOSING THE ST. FRANCIS BOTTLE SHOP UNTIL 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH. Motion carried 5-0.

A. Community/Economic Development Annual Report

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom gave a detailed report on her department that includes Building Code and Inspections, Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Communications, Code enforcement, Rental and Vacant Housing programs along with other administrative activities. The report includes activities performed in each of the areas for 2018. Thunstrom also stated that work continues on the redevelopment plan to encourage activity and growth that aligns with the city goals and vision.

The council had questions and discussion on the different areas of the report. The council thanked Thunstrom for the informative detailed report.

Public Works – Monthly and Annual Report

Public Works Director Paul Teicher gave a brief overview of the monthly reports and also the annual report for the Streets, Parks, Water and Wastewater departments. The full report was included in the council packet. The council thanked Teicher for the great report, concise and easy to read.

B. Councilmember Reports-

Udvig reported she attended the school board meeting last Monday evening. Wanted to welcome the new school board members. Also attended the middle school Velocity Show Choir great to see both Annie and Kaia were there. Kaia was able to walk a short distance and that is thanks to the people that received the awards tonight.

Bauer just wanted to say how important it is to get the Pederson and Hwy 47 intersection fixed. Just a few days ago, there was another accident there that involved vehicles. We need to keep pushing to have that intersection changed. Number one on my priority list this year.

Muehlbauer reported he would continue to work on the audio issue.

Robinson thanked everyone again for the opportunity to be here. As appointed by the Mayor he will be attending the Planning Commission meetings. I look forward in doing that. I just want to let people know that these people work really hard behind the

scenes. I have been exposed to other communities and the work they do and work they don't do between work sessions and what not. This is one of the hardest working government entities of small cities that I have seen as a civilian, citizen and participant. Just be aware these guys are earning their money. Regarding the ACO contract that was approved can we make that part of Nixle, Facebook or dispatch to utilize that for Dover, to help promote. Kohlmann said Nixle has very specific clear parameters on what type of notifications we would use it for. Robinson said any communication is good communication.

Regarding the Hwy 47 and Pederson Drive intersection I did contact Congressman Emmer's office and one of his staff got back to me and they are looking into some grants and other things. Seems to be we are getting all hands on deck, which is a good thing.

Feldman asked the Police Chief if he had a count on the number of people that have signed up for Nixle. Chief Schwieger said he did not know the current count. A couple months ago, it was over 700.

Feldman stated in regards to closing the liquor store early I would suggest putting up signs indicating the store would be closed until 5:00 pm.

Feldman spoke on the Hwy 47 corridor and how important that corridor improvement is and that how important that is to have the improvement moved up from 2025 to 2021, that is huge. They have to follow policies and procedures too. Please go on our website to follow the MnDOT link. Will include all their updates. This is going to be a process and temporary things already have been done. I wish things would get done faster but it can't. We have been working on this intersection for years. But because of the accident and Annie and Kaia, and their sacrifice I would like possibly putting up some type of plaque with their names on it. I don't want this flame dying out. Feldman also wanted to remind people when you push the crosswalk button wait before you cross the street. Make sure the cars see the flashing lights before you cross the intersection. The accident last week only involved vehicles and no pedestrians. I believe dealing with Hwy 47 and being proactive and not wait until a fatal accident happens. We are spending money more wisely and getting more bang for the buck. That was not done here before but now it is.

Reminder the city offices will be closed Monday, February 18th for Presidents Day, Council meeting Tuesday, February 19th and Planning Commission meeting on the 20th. Daylight is getting longer so there is hope summer is coming.

Craig Saver spoke and said he was told he was under new business on the agenda this evening for his pawn shop license. Thunstrom stated the license application was under the consent agenda that was approved earlier. Council welcomed him to the city.

C. Upcoming Events -

Jan 26	St. Francis Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner @ The Refuge 6:00 pm
Feb 4	City Council Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 6:00 pm
Feb 18	City Offices Closed – Presidents Day
Feb 19	City Council Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 6:00 pm
Feb 20	Planning Comm. Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 7:00 pm

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:15 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk