

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 7, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice duly given, a special meeting of the “outgoing” City Council was held at St. Francis Area Schools District Offices at 6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Feldman at 6:00 pm with the following council members present: Jerry Tveit, Joe Muehlbauer and Robert Bauer. Rich Skordahl excused. Also present was 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, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 17, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES. Motion passes 4-0.

This special meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Oaths of Office: The following individuals having been duly elected with valid Certificates of Election and qualified themselves to take the Oath of Office. The Oaths of Office were administered to newly elected Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Sarah Udvig and Kevin Robinson.

Feldman thanked Jerry Tveit and Rich Skordahl for their time and service to the city of St. Francis.

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, Councilmember 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, Fire Chief, Dave Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill & City Clerk Barb Held

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add Resolution 2019-01 - Approving Appointments for 2019.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-01 – APPROVING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2019 BY MUEHLBAUER SECONDED BAUER. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA BY UDVIG SECONDED MUEHLBAUER.
Motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA - *All matters listed within the Consent Agenda are considered routine items to be enacted upon by one motion by the City Council. Items on the Consent Agenda are reviewed in total by the City Council and may be approved through one motion with no further discussion by the Council. Any item may be removed by any Council Member, staff member or person from the public for separate consideration.*
- A. EDA Appointment – MaraLynn Kubacki for a term of January 7, 2019 – December 31, 2024
 - B. Planning Commission Appointments -
 - a) Todd Gardner for a term of January 7, 2019 to December 31, 2021
 - b) Colleen Sievert for a term of January 7, 2019 to December 31, 2021
 - C. Acknowledge the Annual City Charter Report to Chief Judge Tenth Judicial District
 - D. Acknowledge the Pay Equity Report
 - E. Authorization to Hire Chase Hedges as a Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment testing
 - F. Approve the Routine Recycling Agreement with Anoka County
 - G. Payment of Claims

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA BY BAUER,
SECONDED BY MUEHLBAUER. Motion carried 5-0.

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. MNDOT Presentation on Highway 47
Melissa Barnes, the North Area Engineer from MnDOT, was present to speak about what is happening with the Highway 47 corridor. Ms. Barnes stated that MnDOT has been in discussion with city staff since the spring of 2018 to begin a corridor study from Ambassador Blvd to Cree Street. The four lane is not working, has been more of a passing zone, speed too fast for a city and difficult for people walking or biking to cross Hwy 47. Ms Barnes gave a power point presentation on this portion of the Highway 47 corridor.

Below are the bullet points from the presentation:

What's happened since the accident: electronic boards with safety messaging installed December 11th, lowered school speed limit on December 19th, moved the 50 mph section north of Ambassador Blvd, increase selected sign sizes, increased enforcement December 21st, provided educational and reflective materials to enforcement and community members for distribution, and set up a website to provide updates. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy47stfrancis/index.html>

Moving forward: January 2019: Setting up a Towards Zero Death (TZD) meeting/coalition (brings together engineering, enforcement, education, city officials, others to coordinate and create ideas)

January 2019: School exploring applying for a Safe Routes to School Planning Grant.

February 2019: Launching educational marketing campaign for people who live and travel through St. Francis.

April 2019: Install “Your Speed Is” signs.

April 2019: Install a temporary signal if City approves:

- Incremental benefit over current flasher
- Still need additional enforcement/school support
- Could increase crashes, especially rear ends
- Includes school speed zone “when flashing” lights
- Includes lighting considerations
- Signal is temporary pending study results/future construction

January/February 2019 – July 2020

- Public involvement
- Develop purpose and need
- Traffic analysis
- Incorporation of previous studies
- Alternatives development based on public input
- Final alternative section based on purpose and need
- Design

Construction tentatively planned for 2021

- Possibly phased, complete by 2025

Normal process takes 5+ years to complete

We believe the temporary signal is temporary but need city and school support. Don’t believe it is the ultimate solution. We are reviewing the entire corridor. MnDOT has accelerated this project as stated before.

Feldman wants to applaud MnDOT for moving this project up. Public input is crucial. Glad they are looking at the whole corridor. You can also go to our (City’s) website under the Our Community tab and you will find the MnDOT link. Thanked Melissa.

Robinson asked do we have a schedule when we would meet again. Ms. Barnes said she would keep the council updated.

Muehlbauer asked how do you plan to notify people to get community involvement. Feldman said we will take our time and do it right it is going to be a long-term process; we are going to do this right. We don’t want social media put out bad information. Kohlmann said we could put information out too from our meetings.

Bauer said make sure everyone of the crossings is looked at along Highway 47. Pederson intersection is important but being on the fire department been on many accidents at all of them.

Udvig asked if you would be giving the school board the same information so we are consistent with information between the city and school board. Barnes said yes, meeting this week and will using them for outreach. Will be getting their input a little bit more when we start talking about outreach.

Feldman said the long-term solution is for all the intersections because the whole corridor will be looked at. The signal will be temporary for now. Public input is important in this study.

Again, it was asked if the study would be from Pederson to Ambassador. Ms. Barnes said it will start at Cree Street and go north to Ambassador Blvd. The Council thanked Ms. Barnes for coming and presenting the information.

No information or approval is needed now. Once it gets to that point Ms. Barnes stated they will bring information back to the council.

Colleen Sievert, question for Chief Schwieger are there plans to continue the extra enforcement in this area? When the school resource officers are available after school, they are patrolling this area. However, after 4:30 pm it is whenever the officers are available. Well aware of the traffic volume in this area. Sievert thanked the officers.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
None.

8. OLD BUSINESS
None.

9. NEW BUSINESS
A. Code Enforcement Requested Extensions

Thunstrom reported when code enforcement actions begin staff issues an Administrative Notice not to exceed 20 days to be in compliance. Staff has the ability to grant an extension of no more than 30 additional days. We have two household that requested in writing extensions that are beyond the 30 days as set by Code. It is the opinion of staff that it would be difficult for these two property owners to correct the compliance issues within the allowable time granted by staff. Both property owners have been working with the Community Development staff and communicating long term plans in regards to the clean-up. If Council grants the extensions, staff will monitor to insure there is progress during the extended time and will not issue citation until the deadline as set by council.

Property 1 – Cited for excessive storage of vehicles and components identified as junk and debris. They have requested an extension not to exceed August 1, 2019. In this time, they will continue to remove vehicles and are looking to rebuild a pole building.

Property 2 – Cited for two violations

1. Excessive accumulation of items within yard, garage and around house including those of refuse, junk and debris creating a nuisance violation.
 - a. Property has requested an extension of three months (March 22, 2019) to correct these violations.
2. Excessive number of accessory buildings. Current staff has identified the property has over the maximum allowed number and square footage of accessory structures.
 - a. If Council requires the correction of the accessory structures the property

owner is requesting up to six (6) months (June 22, 2019) for a compliance date. This would give them time to remove the structure or require the landowner to pursue a Variance.

Feldman asked so the two properties are working with staff. Thunstrom stated correct. Feldman said he is for the extension but only one extension for each property. If they don't complete it by then the fines will continue. Thunstrom stated we have talked to them about progress throughout this extension.

Muehlbauer appreciates working with the property owners who came in to ask for an extension.

Robinson asked when were the complaints initiated on property 1 and 2 and how fast did they come in. How will the complainant know the city is on it and the property owners are participating in cleaning up? Thunstrom replied one property came in within the first two weeks after they received the notice. Property 1 we have been working on for some time. Property 2 has multiple vehicles. The complainants know progress is being done if they can see it or if the complainant left a phone number we can call back and say we are working on it. Robinson commended the property owners that came in and are working with staff.

Bauer said I agree with Kevin on this. With property one and I feel the extension time frame is a little long. If they don't complete it and then we get back into the winter months. Okay with the second property and the June extension.

Feldman said property one with August deadline has a building situation. They are working with us and want to be flexible where we can be. One time extension, one time only. Thunstrom said we could start some midlevel inspections to see if there is progress, maybe do two deadlines. Feldman said let's leave it up to staff.

Udvig put some benchmarks and continually monitor and hopefully you'll see gradual/slight improvement.

Feldman said as long people are working with us. We don't make money off fining people. We really do not want to go through abatements. We make money off growing and promoting the city. Leave it to community development to keep an eye on them.

MOTON BBAUER SECOND ROBINSON TO GRANT THE CODE EXTENSIONS FOR THE TWO PROPERTIES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Wastewater Agreement – The Ponds Development in Oak Grove

Kohlmann before you is a clean copy but may look a little different from what you received in the packet of the wastewater agreement with the city of Oak Grove. Just some formatting changes needed to be made otherwise it is the same language. Kohlmann stated the highlights of the agreement are:

- One time connection charge of \$100,000

- Same base and usage rates offered to St. Francis residents
- In the unlikely instance that wastewater strength increases from Oak Grove, surcharges were added to protect the City's infrastructure
- Future connections will pay St. Francis connection charges.
- 20 year agreement

Once approved by St. Francis it will then be sent to the city of Oak Grove.

Feldman thanked City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Public Works Director Paul Teicher and City Attorney Dave Schaps for working on this agreement. Feldman stressed the highlights of the agreement. He stated he would like to see Oak Grove connect with us. Feldman likes the idea to regionalize this. We would offer the same agreement if any other city wants to connect to us, Bethel, Nowthen. In addition, it promotes growth. Our goal is to get our rates reduced. The Met Council Regionalization has some of the lowest rates in the US. Thanked everyone again who worked on this.

Robinson asked if Oak Grove had any input on this agreement. What about the bio solids. Kohlmann said they told us to come up with a draft. We based it on their facility plan that was done. I don't believe the bio solids were addressed in this plan. This is only for The Ponds development not west Lake George. What they wanted was a draft contract as per the discussion at the work session.

Feldman said I cannot allow for us to do this type project again, this proposal again. We will take any other city that comes before us to hook up to our facility, they will negotiate with us from day one. We will never do the negotiations with ourselves like we did before again. Not going to go into why or how that happened. We will not let that happen again. Any city that wants to come, Bethel/Nowthen you will come to negotiate with us from day one. Have a work session with us, work out the details and would be farther along. Just want to go on record to state this. Not going to allow that to happen. We worked along time on this and put in a lot of effort into it but were only negotiating with ourselves, which made it more difficult. Having two sides/two parties negotiating makes it a lot easier and get to the final/end results a lot quicker.

Udvig asked are we anticipating they will agree with this? Will they have us make changes? Are we going to require them do some leg work on this? Feldman said I would like to have them do some leg work and I am sure they are going to want to tweak it I am sure there will be some concerns that we will be open to. The deal has to work for both parties. I said all along it has to be a mutually beneficial agreement for both sides. If it comes down to what they ask for we can't do, then we can't do it. But on the other hand, I think it is reasonable, the pricing and everything but the effluents and disposals are a big problem. Hot loads are something we are concerned about. I don't want to get into a situation where it cost more for us for them to hook to our system. Wont' have our rate users pay more for them to hook up to us. Once again mutually beneficial to both sides.

Bauer hoped Oak Grove would move forward with this. I would really like to see if they come in with tweaks explain to us how it will benefit our residents. We want to safe guard our residents but also provide a great service to Oak Grove.

Muehlbauer thanked, Paul, Joe, Dave and Craig (city engineer) on putting together this agreement. Feldman said sorry I didn't mention you before Craig. Looking forward working with Oak Grove.

Feldman said one concern that Oak Grove had was that MPCA may take the discharge point away. Can't see them take it away. MPCA is pro regionalization. Along with Met Council good for cost factors. The water we put into Seelye Brook is actually cleaner water than what Seelye Brook is by nature. So the discharge factor should not be a factor. I don't know why any city would want to take on the whole cost and construction of a new facility but it is up to Oak Grove. They have until sometime in February to make that decision.

Jochum said just a clarification of the bio solids; they will be taken care of by St. Francis.

Feldman stated former councils and current would like to see this regionalization. Talked to Nowthen too. Would like to see the doors open with Oak Grove.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND UDVIG TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FORWARD IT ON TO OAK GROVE. Motion carried 5-0.

Feldman said Congratulations to Weston Wolf, who was in attendance, newly elected to Oak Grove City Council.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A. Colleen Sievert 1221 229th Avenue NW question about the discharge and the effluents. If we go into some type of regionalization, have we done our due diligence on the what if's? What happens if we have grown too much that and need to expand. Feldman said our plant was built for over 3,090 hook ups. Now only have 1687 hook ups. Oak Grove would only add 222. Very good question.

11. REPORTS

A. Department Reports – none

B. Councilmember Reports -

Bauer - Thank Sarah and Kevin being elected and now on the council. The next meeting, Tuesday January 22nd we will discuss animal control. Hope to work with Oak Grove in sewer agreement.

Muehlbauer reported he attended the Winning with Cops event. Really good community involvement. Like seeing the police getting involved with the community, like to see more of that. Like the interaction with the people.

Robinson said I want to thank the citizens of St. Francis for allowing me this opportunity, I hope to meet and exceed expectations. It is not about us sitting here it is about the city itself. You need to be involved as the mayor says time and time again.

Come join us, talk to us, make some noise but be respectful, be polite and get educated. We are just people like you guys but you have given us the opportunity to serve and I am very grateful.

Udvig said I too thank the residents for giving me the opportunity to work with you. Please to do not hesitate to contact me. Per our ordinances, I am no longer on the EDA. It only allows for two councilmembers to be on there. Still be attending some of the meeting and looking forward to working with everybody.

Feldman commended Chief Schwieger and Officer Hearn on the Winning with Cops event, I was there myself. Little things are big things, I enjoyed myself there.

Just ask everyone be patient with MnDOT. We have been talking with them for over two years. The accident boosted it up obviously. We have been in contact with our local state representatives. I said this at the rally and all along, it isn't about the money any more it is about what's right here. We are growing and the fact that MnDOT changed from 2025 to 2021 that is huge. I have stated before and out campaigning one of the most frustrating things about government is how slow it works. You need to be patient. Staff and this council continue to work for the residents. Our decisions are based on what is best for our residents. Our concern is for our residents who we serve. Safety is a concern. Children are our priority one. I am sure there will be a multiple things that will happen, their hands are also tied by policies. Is it frustrating at times, yes. With your involvement, it will help. I don't want this fire or flame to burn out we need everyone's comments.

For example on the corner of Ambassador and Bridge Street where church came down, we put up a sign that says, "Clearing the way for future retail development" was done by residents through the St. Francis Forward and the public meetings. We are listening to what you told us and would like to implement that plan. Will put feelers out everywhere to see what type of retailers we can get. It would be nice to get a drug store but they usually want a drive through. What we want and get are sometimes are two different things. We have to work with Anoka County and the State because of all the county roads and the state highway through our city. The past council, the current council will continue work for you. We are open, transparent and accountable. Bring us your thoughts and concerns let us dive into it, look into it and give you our full due diligence. At the end of the day, we may not be able to give you the answer you want to hear but we will give you a truthful researched answer that is our job. That is why you put us here and will continue to do. Proved ourselves the last two years and will continue to do that as long as I am mayor and these councilmembers sit on this council.

Only hope Oak Grove comes on board with us that opens up a whole wide door of communication and workability in the future and I know that mindset is already on our end. There are some new members there that I hope can help make that happen on Oak Groves end. Communication is a big deal.

Give us your input on the animal control officer. I have one rule when communicating with us at meetings, common respect, common curtesy, no anger, leave anger at the

door. Talk with us, let us work with you, that is a big deal. If you have anything to say come to that meeting that day, let us know what your concerns are and hopefully we can make a decision that you can live with and we can live with. Sorry it has taken this long. But social media blew it out of proportion and force us to do multiple interviews, inspections and references. Commend staff who helped us through this.

Still winter and dark out there. Pedestrians wait until cars stop before crossing. Speeding is a problem everywhere.

Welcome Kevin and Sarah again. Thank you for voting us in. Read my newsletters, telling you what is going on in the city.

C. Upcoming Events –

Jan 19 Planning Comm. Meeting @ St. Francis Area Schools District Office 7:00 pm **CANCELLED**
Jan 21 City Offices Closed – Presidents Day
Jan 22(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 8:02 pm.

Barb Held, City Clerk