

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 20, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Kane at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Steve Kane, Council members Rich Skordahl, Tim Brown and Chris McClish. Excused Richard Orpen. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Fire Chief Matt Kohout, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** 4E off consent agenda and discuss following motion. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT THE JULY 20, 2015 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS AMENDED. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** Kane asked that item 4 e. be pulled from the consent agenda and be addressed immediately following the consent agenda items. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO APPROVE THE JULY 20, 2015, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS A-F AS AMENDED::
 - a. City Council Minutes – July 6, 2015
 - b. Acknowledge the Upper Rum River Watershed (URRWMO) Minutes: Approved May 5, 2015 & Unapproved July 6, 2015
 - c. Approved the Contract between ISD #15 and the City of St. Francis for School Resource Officers 2015-2016
 - d. Approved the Amendment No. 1 to Connectivity Services Agreement with Community Anchor Institution(s) for Broadband Services at Co-Location Service Site(s)
 - ~~e. Patriot Lanes: Outdoor Dance Permit for 2016 Pioneer Days~~
 - f. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$233,350.40 (Checks 69239-69325)Motion carried 4-0.

 - e. **Patriot Lanes: Outdoor Dance Permit for 2016 Pioneer Days:** Kane stated every year when we have an outdoor dance we get complaints. I would like to shorten the hours and not run as late as 1:00 am. McClish said I would like to see how many police calls. After some discussion the council agreed to have staff look into the number of complaints and time frame of the complaints and staff's recommendation. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND SKORDAHL TO TABLE THE DANCE PERMIT FOR PATRIOT LANES. Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:**

Walt Hiller, 3503 Bridge Street, for those of you who aren't familiar with the city, it's across from Casey's. I'm a little concerned here. I came back in 1974, after spending 20 years in the Air Force, pilot, and the only thing I gave up in the Air Force was a little agent orange and my hearing. I'm not infiltrating with the engineer over here, I just couldn't hear back there and that's why I came forward. Your PA system isn't the best. I want to talk to you about this. We have – when I came back, I brought back a horse trailer and four horses and couldn't get in my yard, had to have a bobcat pull me through the sewer system so I could get up in the yard with the horses. I got things straightened away and unfortunately was selected to the Council that fall and served for 8 years. I've got to say it was enjoyable and hell on wheels, we was going through the sewer problem you folks are going through now, but we expressed to the people we're planning 30 years down the road without 3,000 people in town. They said we've been between 650 and 780 for the last 12-15 years. Forget that 3,000 figure. Well, anyway, we had an engineer, that insisted we do it, but we did it. We plotted everything out for 3,000. Now, what you're going through is the same thing 35 years later and you're going to get the INAUDIBLE just like we are. People won't accept the fact that we're going to grow and the systems got to grow with it. Now, there's a couple ways you can approach.. I came back from the turkey farm up 7th Avenue the other night and from the turkey farm to our lagoons is 8 ½ miles. The money we spend on expansion and things like that, would lay down a beautiful line right up 7th Avenue, tie into our system, tie into the Met Council and we wouldn't have to worry about future expansion, INAUDIBLE go down there, we'd pick up city expenses, or city tuition. I know you're fighting Met Council. There's ways of dealing with them. We have probably one of the most active politicians in the area, right here at Crown, if you guys aren't getting together with Kurt Daudt and getting some of this stuff taken care of at the Met Council level, you're missing the boat. You should have him out of your pocket with you, letting him know where and what he can do and what he can't do. I'd appreciate it if you'd try to contact him and get him up here. The second thing I have a concern with is the fact that the taxes and costs and everything going up. We have a number of senior citizens in this town, when we put out assessments we had to cut down because there's a number of people, Mrs. INAUDIBLE, Mrs. Steinke, a few of those could not afford the fees of their assessments and things like that. We had to make modifications to cut down to level it. Right now, the people from 70-80 and over are having problems. A lot of them are living on their Social Security, which can't go up or down 1% and they're not able to INAUDIBLE. I heard a comment here that the INAUDIBLE about \$65 and that's taking my wife out to dinner once. Those people don't think about INAUDIBLE. They don't think 30 years down the road either because they know as well as I do, we're not going to be here in 30 years. I would like to see consideration given to freezing the taxes for the 70+ until the properties change hands. At that time, INAUDIBLE. I'd like consideration given to that. And I'd like to have the finance director go to the county and find out how many people we've have up here that are living like that that they INAUDIBLE. You people should be the ones out meeting those people and know which ones they are and say we'll do what we can to help. Not just sit in your glass house here, saying this is the way it's going to be. It don't have to be that way. We've gone through INAUDIBLE and it can be adjusted. That's all I have except for one more thing. Like I mentioned, I have trouble hearing. Back when I was up there, we had an Anoka Union reporter sitting in here recording everything we said. Sometimes it wasn't pleasant, but INAUDIBLE, but it was in

there. People in the city, got to read what happened at the Council meeting without being up here. I think that's important. I think it has to be put back in. If you have to hire a reporter from them, get them up here, get those minutes and get what's going on here in the paper and out to the people so that they can keep up with INAUDIBLE. Thank you very much.

Leroy Schaffer, Hi gentleman. You know who I am. Kane stated LeRoy, please state it for the record so it goes on the record.

Leroy T. Schaffer, 4526 234th Avenue NW, St. Francis, MN. What I really want to do is I am astounded, I can't believe my eyes. INAUDIBLE and I know you're trying to build your reputation up, this is a good way to do it. This is smart. This is smart politics, it's good public relations. You're asking for a survey. How many people in the household, own or rent your home, what is your total gross household income. Now these things I think you took upon yourself, I'm a little bit—I have doubts that the rest of the people had to do with this. congratulate, keep it up, Joe, because I appreciate it. And what you did here the other day, you commended some young fellow helping out an elderly citizens with his car, this is also commendable because senior citizens do have difficulties. These are the proactive things that we must do, gentleman. We have to communicate with our constituents—I'm saying that like I'm still on Council, I'm not—but you have to communicate with your constituents. Let them know that you care. This will do it, this will not things like that, you will not have 200 people crying for your blood. A lot of people care because they know you care. So keep up the good work, Steve, INAUDIBLE. And look into the where things save some money, you represent us. He doesn't. He just works for us. He is an employee. You represent the people. Thank you very much.

Steve Feldman, 22766 Poppy Street NW, I just want to go on record stating that, you know, I've been coming to these meetings since May 18 about the (waste)water project. I was told during the process, I found out about 160 acres in Isanti County that we bought, paid for by about \$2 million out of the wastewater fund that you're now going to try to sell I hope you can get the \$2 million back. I wish that were put in place before you did the water treatment plant. According to what that gentleman said about Met Council, I don't think that's going to do you any good now because you've already started the project on the wastewater facility. You know, between that and the water treatment plant that was built in '08, '09, that I don't think—from what I gather hasn't paid for itself since it's inception, the police station that came in over budget from what I understand and now you're refinancing it, I think that's a good idea, to a wastewater treatment facility that started out at \$16-19 million in the brochure and now it's \$21.8, I don't even know if that includes engineer fees or legal fees after I talked to Becky Saby over at the MPFA. She says that usually get added on later on in the construction part and then as I came to the last meeting here and I thought well, things will settle down a little bit maybe now that we're going to get this median household income survey out, try to help that 20-year term to a 30-year term, and then all of a sudden I hear about a community center. I want to go on record, I'm not against a community center, I think when this town gets to a point where it needs a community center, that's one thing, timing is everything. But I was blown away that all of a sudden that we're talking about a community center now when we just had a \$22 million bill put on 1500 core residents for 20 years. Do you have a tree where

money falls out of it because I'd like to know where it is because it just seems to me that every meeting I've been to, that between \$40,000 for researching a road that needs to be paved, spending \$35,000 for a space needs study that I understand that the YMCA did need for you to pursue that, that'd be a little bit expensive for me but I guess if it has to be to know where the space could be and if they could be involved in it, and I talked to the YMCA, they may or may not be involved in it, but the point is, it's like, and I think I'm speaking for St. Francis Concerned Citizens, we don't have problems with this thing, but timing's everything. Get your house in order. Get that land sold, I wish that again that \$2 million would have been in the fund, I wish the rates could have been gradually increased over the years so that we didn't get a 20/40 two times in two years, that's a lot of money to ask from 1500 core residents. We figured out, over 20 years we'll be spending \$11,000 approximately out of our pockets just to survive this wastewater treatment facility. And you know what, another thing I want to say on record, a wastewater treatment facility doesn't promote growth, it allows for growth. There's a big difference there. Allowing and promoting. What are you doing to promote this city? I don't think this is a business user friendly city as I'd like to see, got a population of 7300, I hope it grows as big as you do. But I don't think it will. But if I'm right and you're wrong and this wastewater treatment facility was the right thing to do. I'll be the first one to say it 20 years from now. If I'm still here and I still can afford to be here. I just wish you would have put in your due diligence a little better, INAUDIBLE, grant money out there, I wish you would have talked about that INAUDIBLE, we weren't aware of it. There was other ways to do this but you just didn't take the time. At least it appears to us and the group that I represent. Thank you for your time.

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

a. Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2020: Public Hearing: Per City Charter the City Council must hold a public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) by August 15 each year. The proposed CIP can be found on the City's website under Finance Department. Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill stated the plan has been changed to show a comprehensive list showing the years of 2021 to 2025 for informational purposes only. By adding the additional years, it should allow staff to plan for future equipment needs. Mulvihill is recommending the fire truck fund and the capital equipment fund be combined. The dollar amounts will still be designated for the replacement of fire trucks and other fire equipment. By doing this, we are hoping to level out the amount needed each year going into this fund and monies not spent would be left in the fund to build up reserves. The plan also calls for a transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Equipment Fund in the amount of \$347,700. The plan also calls for a transfer from the General Fund of \$347,700 which would give the equipment fund a healthy starting balance. The plan also calls for \$10,000 per year from each of the water and sewer funds to the equipment fund along with a starting levy amount of \$180,000 which is a slight increase over last years. The park fund calls for a transfer of \$20,000 from the liquor store per year along with a levy of \$25,000 starting in 2017. This a guide/plan items still need to come before the council for actual purchases or construction in the year budgeted. Mayor Kane opened the public hearing at 6:19 pm. Kane asked three times if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to speak during the public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2020. With no public comment Kane closed the public

hearing at 6:20 pm. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN TO ACCEPT THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2020 ALONG WITH THE COMBINING THE FIRE TRUCK FUND AND THE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND AND THE TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND THE LIQUOR STORE FUND. Motion carried 4-0.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

a. **Resolution 2015-34: Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing the Disposal of said Property:** This resolution includes the irrigation equipment that is associated with the 183 acres the City owns in Isanti County. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND SKORDAHL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-34 A RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY. Motion carried 4-0.

b. **Ordinance 203, Second Series: Approving the Sale of City Owned Real Estate (Second Reading):** Brown asked if we have interested party in this property. Kohlmann said he . McClish said when we sell the property the funds will go back into the MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN APPROVING THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 203, SECOND SERIES APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY OWNED REAL ESTATE. (183.55 acres in Isanti County) Roll Call: Ayes: McClish, Skordahl, Brown and Kane. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0.

8. **Reports of Consultants & Staff Members:**

a. **Engineer: Fire Station Renovation, Concrete & Drainage Improvements:** City Engineer Jared Voge reported since 2013, the City has been considering making improvements to the Fire Station and property surrounding it. The City Council held a public hearing on May 4, 2015, which provided preliminary approval of the bond issuance for the improvements. There is a memorandum on this topic and a description of the work to be included in your packet. The next step in the process is to prepare plans and specifications for the improvements. The costs associated with the improvements will be financed through G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds. City Staff estimated the financing impact for the project at 10 years and 15 years. Kane asked how much of this needs to be done structurally to the building. Voge said we have not put a lot of time into this as of yet. Kane asked if the concrete and drainage needed to be done at this time. Drainage is an issue long term. Kane said given what we have to do with our wastewater treatment what could we do to hold off on some of these improvements. What could be done to put off some of the extra projects? Skordahl what is the long-term plan for the building. What do we have to do for the time being? McClish I would agree and see what our long-term plan is with the building. Brown said he would be willing to put it off for a time but not ignore it. Consensus would like to see what the long-range plan for the building and what fixes need to be done for the next 5 to 10 years.

b. **Attorney:**

c. **Staff:**

Bldg. Official:

Fire Dept.: New Tanker-Pumper Change Orders: Fire Chief Matt Kohout asked for authorization add/or change some of the items from the new tanker-pumper. Kohout said after reviewing the truck specifications and plan, he is recommending some changes. Some were safety items for the truck and firefighters and other items are operational changes. It is a 20 year truck and need to do it right the first time. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH

TO APPROVE THE CHANGES ORDER AS RECOMMENDED BY CHIEF KOHOUT TO THE NEW TANKER-PUMPER. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept:

City Administrator:

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Skordahl would like to deliver a better product to our residents then what we currently use for our video taping and sound system. Kane said it is the school's system that we are using.

Brown attended the fire department last week. They did have a concern with the cleaning or lack of cleaning at the station.

10. **Report from Mayor:** Kane said the city is not driving the rec center. The rec center committee is a grass roots group looking into a community center. The YMCA will not look at a market study unless the city is supporting them. They are still looking for another strong supporter or partner. If this moves forward it is a YMCA project.

11. **Old Business:** None.

12. **New Business:** Brown was approached via email about holding a town hall meeting. We have had them in the past and were not well attended by the residents. I would like to know what the rest of the council thinks. Maybe we should try it again. It is expensive for the staff to attend and put these on. Maybe we should leave it to the citizen group. Right now if we have one it could be a lynch mob instead of a productive meeting but maybe we try it again being it has been a couple years. I would like the citizens take charge.

Skordahl asked what happens at a citizen town hall meetings. Being it is not a meeting setting so no official business can be conducted, correct?. Brown said the last one we had; our streets/parks did a demonstration with trucks and have council and staff there to answer questions. Designed to be more of a friendly conversation and one on one setting. It is nothing formal. We have not had many residents show up at the meetings before. Again maybe to have the citizens organize it.

13. **Adjournment:** Mayor Kane adjourned at 6:38 pm