

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 2, 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 Richard Orpen, Rich Skordahl, Tim Brown, and Chris McClish. Also present were Assistant City Attorney David Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Building Official Andy Schreder, and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 2, 2015 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND McCLISH TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2015, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS A-G AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. City Council Minutes – January 2-, 2015
 - b. Anoka County Recycling Program Agreement
 - c. Accept the Resignation from Charter Commission member Rebecca Havlik
 - d. Appoint Brian Beeman to the Economic Development Authority Commission
 - e. Acknowledgement of the St. Francis Lions applying for a One Day Law Gambling Permit for March 20, 2015
 - f. Re-Appointment of Planning Commission members Joel Olson, William Murray, Ray Steinke and Greg Zutz
 - g. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$ 383,069.03 (ACH 109E \$92,921.57 Checks 68543-68600 \$290,147.46)Motion carried 5-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Casey Zimmerman stated he was here for my brother Gary and myself who own Vision Properties. We have five acres along Bridge Street. I am here to voice my opposition to the roundabout project. With this project we will have restricted access with right in right out, loss of signage, future non-conforming property and lose of parking spots. We also own the rental property to the east.

Ray Jones asked if he could wait until after the roundabout discussion for his comments. Mayor Kane said there would be no public input after the presentation. Jones stated I guess I will speak now. I am here about the hearing that was held some time ago about the roundabouts. The only one that was there was Matt Hylen, no council member was there. I know not all of you were on the council at that time. My part on roundabouts is I almost was killed on the one in Princeton. Do the busses have to stay one hundred apart?

Randy Diers, was here on behalf of Village Bank, I have a petition that we set out at the bank. We are concerned about the safety of our customers and staff. We would lose about 12 feet of our parking lot. There are 354 signatures on the petition according to Caroline O'Brien, she stated from the audience.

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

a. Jan McAlister: Interim Use Permit: Jan McAlister intends to operate a trucking and tree trimming business with one employee in a detached accessory building. The property is located at 6416 Ambassador Blvd., NW. The interim use permit shall be developed in accordance with the Applicant's submitted plans as conditioned by Resolution No. 2015-06 and this agreement. Planner Nate Sparks stated the two areas of concern was to have city engineer approve the driveway and the landscaping plan to the west provide screening. MOTION BY ORPEN SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-06 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERIM USE PERMIT FOR A HOME EXTENDED BUSINESS FOR JAN D. McALISTER AT 6416 AMBASSADOR BLVD. NW. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Anoka County Highway Department: Roundabout Discussion: Doug Fisher Anoka County Engineer and Andrew Witter Assistant County Engineer gave a power point presentation on the County Road 24 (Bridge Street) improvement time line. Fisher stated this is not just a roundabout project but also a corridor project. This corridor improvement project that has been on our radar for the last decade. Pedestrian and large amount of vehicle traffic occur with the school in this area. When we do major corridor reconstruction projects they are usually very expensive. The County has been very successful in getting federal funding to help fund these projects so the cities do not have as much of a burden. Anoka County sent a project application in for federal funds in 2007. It included a signal light and different alignment that included a backage road to Kerry Street. Again, in 2009 a slight modification was sent in and it was not selected. We found out the projects with roundabouts scored better because it reduced the number of accidents, reduced the severe accidents, moved traffic smoothly and reduce emissions. I was a roundabout critic at first. Now that they have been in existence in Minnesota over 20 years and have been place in front of schools, I am now convinced a properly laid out roundabout is the best solution. Bridge Street has a smaller footprint with a roundabout then if we were using traffic lights. With traffic lights, we would have needed more right away because of the turn lanes. County roads have to be built to be able to move all types of traffic from trucks, busses to pedestrians. Even with signal lights, the driveway accesses would have been a right in right out. The backage road would have been down behind Temperature Specialist whether it was a signaled intersection or a roundabout. Anoka County received 1.5 million dollars in federal funding for this project only.

Andrew Witter, Assistant County Engineer gave a presentation of how we got to where we are today. The 2008 Comprehensive Plan showed a need to look at the river crossing that effected St. Francis, Oak Grove and Nowthen. In 2010, Anoka County partnered with St. Francis, Oak Grove and Nowthen to conduct a study a Northern Anoka County Rum River Crossing. One of the findings in that study was the traffic levels along County Road 24 (Bridge Street) thoroughfare. It was decided to go with improving the existing roads rather than building a new river crossing. It showed a need for a four lane divided highway going through but that would leave you with a large amount of property impacted. We had open houses for businesses and residents. In July

and August of 2011 this project was approved to move forward and was submitted for federal finding. The project application that was submitted was for two lanes with center median and roundabouts at Poppy Street/County Road 72 and County Road 9 with the relocation of Kerry Street. October 2013 this initial project was presented to the St. Francis City Council along with information being sent out to all property owners abutting the project. In November 2013, we held the first open house and met with the St. Francis Chamber of Commerce. A second open house was held in April of 2014. June and July 2014, we met with the city council and in August 2014, the Joint Powers Agreement was approved between the City and was fully executed with Anoka County in October. Some benefits to the city were a land swap, plus the city sewer and water project along Bridge Street while we are in the construction phase. The school also will have some improvements with this project. There are a lot of trails and walks with this project to get the pedestrians through the City safely. We are anticipating going out for bids this spring. Appraisals have been done on the properties affected. If we do not hear back from them we will start condemnation but that does not mean we will not continue to work with them. We have bought a twin home along Bridge with two single-family homes off Kerry Street.

Fisher just reiterated with some of the changes included trails. The trail is now included to the south side that was not initially designed. That was heard during our meetings. We are not done talking to the property owners. Met with Village Bank and addressed their parking lot issue. Met with property owner to the northwest corner, Larry Anderson about his drainage concern and we are working with him. Met with O'Brien's and asked what can we do. We are open for discussion with all businesses along Bridge Street. Most of the issues you have heard are about corridor issues not so much roundabout issues. If we impact a sign we have to replace it. They don't.

Brown said one business did contact me that their business is a vibration sensitive business. Witter said we know of this business and their concern. We have met with them and a pre-site survey will be conducted with vibration monitoring before, during and after construction and we will have a post site survey. We will do everything we can to mitigate this issue. Fisher said this is a construction issue and not a roundabout issue. Brown said remember if they lose one customer they could lose them forever and that should be kept in mind.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

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

a. **Engineer:**

b. **Attorney:** David Schaps stated he was sitting for Scott Lepak. In regards to the city administrator search, 27 applications were received. After we narrow down the number of applications they will be interviewed by the initial panel. This panel will consist of the mayor, a councilmember and the City of Andover's Administrator.

c. **Staff:**

Bldg. Official:

Fire Dept.:

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept:

City Administrator Report: Teicher gave an update on the ice rinks. The rinks opened late this year and then we had more warm weather but now with some colder weather coming we would like to extend the Home Run Club to stay open until February 15, 2015. Council approved the extension.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Skordahl stated there are two new members on the Planning Commission and think it would be valuable to send them to some type of land use training. Staff will check into the availability of training. Skordahl also said “thank you” for sending me to the LMC training for Newly Elected Officials it was a valuable couple of days. Also to let the city council know I will not be able to attend the next city council meeting or planning commission meeting.

Orpen thanked the rest of the council for also allowing him to attend the Newly Elected Officials training. I would like to thank the council and staff for being professional.

10. **Report from Mayor:** I attended the Experience Officials training put on by the League of MN Cities and felt it was very worthwhile and would encourage other members to attend in the future.

I attended the Sugar Hill Regional Park open house that was put on by the Anoka County Parks Department. This is a trail that will not happen anytime soon except for the stretch along the Bridge Street corridor project. I would like to inform the council they have included an alternate for the pedestrian crossing along Hwy 47 trail by Pederson Drive.

Attended the St. Francis Area Chamber Annual dinner last Friday and was very worthwhile event.

We met with Northland Securities last week in regards to the long range financial planning.

Kane asked if Brown could attend the planning commission meeting in Skordahl’s absence.

The Mayor’s Snowmobile Trail Ride has been postponed until Saturday, February 21, 2015.

11. **Old Business:** McClish asked if staff has any update on the failing street pavement. Voge stated MnDOT said it is a mix design problem. Just recently, a second task force has been set up to look into the problem further. It has been affecting most of the metro area. We continue to monitor the task force comments.

McClish asked if we would continue to patch. Teicher said we would, we are actually filling potholes now.

12. **New Business:** Kane said he would like to put something out there. How about allowing high school junior and senior students be on some of our commissions. I think it would be a good idea to get students involved in our community. The council agreed to look into it.

Orpen said maybe Kane could contact the surrounding mayors to see if they would also be interested too.

13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk