

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 2, 2010

1. **Call to Order:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jerry Tveit at 6:00 pm at the ISD #15 District Offices.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Jerry Tveit, Council members LeRoy Schaffer, Steve Kane and Tim Brown. Jeff Sandoval excused. Also present was City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Administrator Matt Hysten.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY KANE SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 2, 2010 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND KANE TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2, 2010 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A –D AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. Approve the City Council Minutes of July 19, 2010.
 - b. Receive and File the St. Francis Fire and Rescue Minutes of July 11, 2010.
 - c. Approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for \$157,700.38 to Pearson Bros., for the 2010 Seal Coating Project which includes the 5% retainage being withheld.
 - d. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$187,716.38.

Motion carried 4-0.

5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Zachary Knudson, 25376 Xkimo Street NW Isanti, asked to address the council on the public works building. First, I would like to thank LeRoy Schaffer for informing the public about this building that is exactly what you should do. Knudson said he did his own research on the cost of buildings. His parents own a business and just recently built a building that cost about \$50,000 and it was a 60'x 48' building with in floor heat, a bathroom and water. We are in the midst of an economic uncertainty and I do think it is a mistake to do this now. I also think building a police station is a mistake right now. I believe it is wasteful spending. Let's try to make do with what we have. The future is looking a little uneasy especially for kids my age because we are going to have to fix all this. I would ask for some more fiscal restraint.

Tveit ask if there was any body else that signed up before the meeting. There was no one else that signed up. William Gardner asked to speak. Tveit recommended he show up earlier next time to sign up before the meeting.

William Gardner, I would like to bring up that I was at the Anoka County Fair this past weekend with a 4-H group and talked to some political people there. A person informed him that he received an email from a councilmember, not LeRoy Schaffer, about a sign that was up in this community. He did come up to speak to the person at his home and it was a negative experience. I only heard one

side of the story; I hope it was not true. Mr. Gardner said we do not need any more negativity in this community, we already have problems with some embezzlement in this building (district office).

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

a. 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan – Public Hearing: Mayor Tveit opened the Public Hearing at 6:09 pm and asked for public input on the 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan.

Roland Willis, 23073 Eidelweiss Street, asked about the public hearing notice, I assume it was in the Anoka County Union but I did not see it on the website. I would like to see the CIP broken down further to see what the cost is going to be to all taxpayers if all the items are purchased. Plus I would like each project broken down and see what it will cost each taxpayer. Once you have the building, do you have the numbers or cost of what it is going to be to maintain the building. If you do not get grants, it will come down to the burden of the taxpayers. The mayor ran on no new taxes and our taxes went up with a 5.47% Tax Levy increase. He also ran on bringing in new businesses to town. Do we have five new businesses that came into town the last couple of years to help with taxes? I have been on Facebook talking to people about this. I talked to a council member from Belle Plain and they still do not have a police force they still hire it out. Nothing against ours. Now I see a chipper in the CIP for \$47,000 last year is was \$27,000. I realize the east shop is in bad shape. I am all in favor of tearing it down. Why not get a tax payer for that property. What is the cost of maintaining equipment when it is sitting outside versus inside. Ramsey didn't go forward with their public works building. They are now contracting out more services. I have yet to see cuts in government; that you see it in the private sector.

James??, I like what that gentleman had to say. I really can't believe that we are even discussing something like this. You want to do this, you want to do that. My wife and I work two jobs. It is just preposterous, we have things that need repair but we can't because we can't afford them. You are going after people that don't have the money. You need to make do just like we have to do. We need to wait until times get better. Unfortunately, they are getting worst. Where does raising taxes stop. It is not the time to do this. Let the people have a roof over their head before we do this. It is not even a time for a bike path. Maybe get people to volunteer their time.

Joe Misencik 23191 Arrowhead Street: I agree with the other gentleman, it is not the time to be having these expenditures. There are a lot of foreclosed homes in town. Regarding the public works facility I do not agree with the building at this time. I am a city employee of Minneapolis and we park 80% of our trucks outside.

Mary Ferguson stated I live in St. Francis but my grandkids live in Isanti. I am not sure if it happens in this city, do the kids in St. Francis if they live a mile away from school have to walk? Tveit said I do not know. Ferguson said I hope this never takes place in this town. My grandson is five years old and has to walk to school in Isanti. I have grandkids in St. Francis too but they get bused. Transportation should be first. Could you check that out? Tveit said that would be a school board issue but you can leave your name and number I will check into it.

Aaron Edwards, 4722 232nd Avenue, I have to concur with the rest of the people here. I don't care if you get grants from the State, County or whatever it still comes out of our pockets. To spend money on a new facility this time it is ridiculous. Maintaining is one thing but I just disagree with spending this type of money at this time.

Derik Fischer, 23187 Kerry Street, I have not heard one person that said we should not do this, it is still an option right? Who said we have to do it now. Why is it so important to have it done now. Tveit said the purpose of the Capital Improvement Plan doesn't mean the checkbook is open. It is a planning tool. We have to plan for the future and set money aside. Fischer said how can I budget when you keep spending the money. This is a young community. We have not hit rock bottom yet. The place to be responsible is here, show the state how it's done. Washington isn't going to listen to me so I hope you do.

Tveit asked three times if anyone else wanted to speak.

Darby ? 23518 St. Francis Blvd, I just recently moved back into the community. I just received something stuck on my door so I thought I would come here and see what is going on. The school goes out for a referendum that is something you should put in place. I am a real estate agent and know about the housing market and know what is going on in this City. Thanks LeRoy for voting this down. Maybe repair the building and get by for now.

Zach Knutson, said if you want to have the number for the people who built the shed at my house I can get that to you. If you put a big building up what a way to rub it in their faces when people are moving out.

Roland Willis, I know you are planning a budget for the future, I understand that. I think you heard from the people here what are you planning for. You need to look at the bare bones for at least the next five years.

Mayor Tveit asked again three times if there was anyone else that wished to speak. Mayor Tveit closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm. Tveit thanked everyone that spoke tonight. We are always hoping for feedback at our meetings and open houses. One thing that stuck out was this is just a plan. Things in this plan may change and probably will change. Just because it is in here doesn't mean we are going to go ahead and do the project. If anyone is interested in walking through our public works building let me know. The east shop is falling apart I am surprised it hasn't been red tagged. Volunteers are great until someone gets hurt and sues the City. I am a conservative, single parent and work 65 hours a week.

Audience were asking questions and talking at the same time. Tveit gaveled the audience and said I don't want to cut you off but you have had your chance to talk now it is time for us (the council) to discuss this. We had an old building at the west shop that had a mold issue. It would have cost us \$60,000 to fix it and \$10,000 to tear it down, we tore it down. In regards to Pederson Path, we did receive a grant for a portion of the path. I am going to try and raise money for the rest, but if I can't I am going to ask for the City to help pay.

Schaffer said we can't live in a bubble regarding getting volunteers. I brought a contractor in to look at the east shop. Schaffer appreciated the people coming in and giving their point of view. The east building does need fixing. Motion by Schaffer to table it. Tveit said by our Charter we have to have a CIP. MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND KANE TO ADOPT THE 2011-2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. Brown stated I think there is a vast misconception out there about the CIP. It is a working document. Nothing is bought out of there with out the council voting on it. This is not an automatic expenditure. Brown said I am a blue collar worker, I get up at 3:00 am. We also feel the same as you; my house payment also went up. We don't even know if this building will ever happen. The east shop is in bad shape, we have had to put money into that old building. Tveit said there was 4.5 million in the Capital Improvement Plan for the building last year. But at the last meeting Schaffer kept referencing 6 million dollar building, so we increase this years CIP. We have been working on cooperative efforts with other cities and the school district. When I was running, I thought there were things that could be cut, but when I got in, I realized there is not really anything to cut. Last year we could have bought the chipper and saved \$20,000. I would like to make strategic purchases now and not have to hire anyone. We have fewer employees now than we did a year and one-half ago. We like to make purchases to allow having our employees to do more with less; we still have the same amount of work to do. People still expect the same service with less. We are trying to balance the needs and wants of our citizens. The CIP is put in place for proper planning. It is not saying we have to purchase the equipment but we have to plan. Brown said we are not spending money without research and thinking about the impact. The audience asked can we ask anymore questions? Tveit said our City Charter mandates that we having a public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan and adopt the CIP before August 15th. Brown said there are people that seem to still want to discuss this what is our option. Lepak stated being you have a motion on the floor you have to vote on the motion. Motion failed 0-4.

Tveit asked so what are the additional questions. The audience did not state their names. One question was on the Hwy 47 Trunk Utilities. Hylen stated that project has been in discussion for the last two to two and one-half years. At the time, we move forward with this it would be paid for by trunk area assessments. It would still have to be voted on by the council to move forward with that project. Tveit referenced our Comprehensive Plan and future planning on land use.

Discussion pursued between the audience (no one gave their names) and city council on various topics.

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND KANE TO ADOPT THE 2011-2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. Motion carried 3-1. Schaffer voting nay.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

a. **Resolution 2010-27: Enter into an Agreement with MN Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN):** MOTION BY KANE SECOND BROWN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MN WATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (MnWARN). Motion carried 4-0.

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

a. **Engineer:**

b. **Attorney: English-Only Update:** Lepak provided the Council with a memorandum they had asked for in regards to exploring the potential impact of an official policy related to having English as the official language on St. Francis.

c. **Staff: Fire Dept:**

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept: Civil Defense Sirens: Chief Harapat said he was asked to gather information regarding adding an additional siren in the eastern portion of the City. This has to do with the recent storms and the calls that were received from residents indicating they could not hear a siren. Just a clarification, warning sirens are intended to warn people outside to take cover. It is not intended for people inside to be able to hear it. I would recommend that people buy a weather radio if you live in more areas that are rural. A diagram was provided to the City Council on where our two sirens are currently located. The company Federal Sirens provided us a location where an additional siren could be placed to cover the eastern portion of the City. The estimate cost of a siren is \$20,000. The council thanked Chief Harapat for the information.

City Administrator Report: None.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Schaffer said he is still working on the two year moratorium on foreclosures but that is the state level.

10. **Report from Mayor:** Reminded everyone to come out to the Community Park for the Night to Unite Tuesday. I will also have a bucket out there asking for donations to help pay for Pederson Drive.

Tveit said last year the Chambers got together to sponsor an area mayor snowmobile ride. This was done last year with the cities just south of us. All proceeds for this event go to a non-profit organization. Now that we have a trail going through the City it will be a good fund raiser.

In addition, the St. Francis Jaycees are having a Corn Fest Saturday, August 14th in Community Park along with Movies in the Park on Friday August 13th. The movie is the Incredibles.

11. **Old Business:** Schaffer asked who would he contact regarding the National Night Out. He has something he would like to give out. Tveit said this is a community event not a City event. Schaffer was informed to contact the Chamber.

12. **New Business:**

a. **Efficiency Report Card – Public Works:** Hysten stated Mr. Teicher had to leave to go to a meeting tonight in Athens Township. This morning he had a meeting with Nowthen. These meetings are about joint cooperation on maintaining our share roads. So tonight, I will be presenting the Public Works Efficiency Report Card. Some highlights include working with Connexus Energy. Some of the cooperation is they put up and take down our banners; we do not have a bucket truck. We also have a cooperative effort at the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants on conserving energy. In the last couple of years, we have been utilizing the different options on job sharing with

the school district. They also service our heavy equipment. We used to have to take our vehicles down to Ramsey and have two employees tied up for a good portion of the day to have our vehicles worked on. There are just a great number of things we do share with the school district. One other thing that we just passed tonight is MnWARN. This is also is a joint cooperation among cities through out the State of MN.

In the last couple of months, we have been having some informational discussion with our unions. The discussion centered on cost of living increases. Both unions agreed with zero percent cost of living with a one-year extension/ amendment to the current contract instead of getting into full negotiations.

Brown said there is something that disturbed me last week down by the intersection of Hwy 47 and Pederson Drive. There was a young person standing out in the median with an advertising sandwich type board. Is there anything we can do to eliminate advertising along the busy road like that? Lepak said he would look into it.

13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Darcy Mulvihill
Finance Director-Recording Secretary