

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 4, 2008

6:00 pm

1. **Call to Order:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Randy Dressen at 6:00 pm at the ISD #15 District Offices.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Randy Dressen, Council members LeRoy Schaffer, Steve Kane, Ray Jones, and Tim Brown. Also present was Assistant City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk, Inc.), City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Finance Director Gayle Bauman, City Administrator Matt Hysten, and City Clerk Barb Held
3. **Adopt Agenda:** Delete 5b. Hysten reported that Ms. Moore contacted him earlier today and indicated she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Re-schedule until next meeting. MOTION BY KANE SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 4, 2008 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND JONES TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2008, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A-E:
 - a. Approve the City Council Minutes – July 7, 2008.
 - b. Approve the City Council Minutes- July 21, 2008.
 - c. Approve the Water Treatment Plant Pay Request #11 to Staab Construction Corporation for \$862,833.00.
 - d. Approve the Gambling Exempt Permit for Cedar Creek MWA and waive the 30 waiting period for the event to be held at the St. Francis American Legion on September 11, 2008.
 - e. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$227,332.51. Motion carried 5-0.
5. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**
 - a. **Liquor License Transfer for Tasty Pizza:** MOTION BY SCHAFFER SECOND KANE APPROVING THE LIQUOR TRANSFER FOR TASTY PIZZA FROM TASTY PIZZA IX TO WISHELL, INC. WITH A PRORATED APPLICATION FEE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR. Motion carried 5-0.
 - b. ~~Alexandra House-Connie Moore: 2008 Financial support and 2009 Budget Allocation~~
 - c. **Capital Improvement Plan 2009-2013: Public Hearing:** Mayor Dressen open the public hearing on the 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Plan at 6:03 pm. Council member Kane asked about the City vehicle and could the City use a forfeiture vehicle. A confiscated vehicle needs to be used for a police use for at least one year or the it has to be purchased. Kane also stated the Pederson Path

really needs to go in for safety reasons. What if there are no park dedication funds available can we use general fund dollars so it doesn't get delayed another year. Kane also wants to check out the possibility of grants for this project. Jones asked has anyone ever done a study to see what side of the road it is going on. Kane asked about the demolition of tower number two. Why would we have to pay that much for the removal of the tank when steel prices are high. Voge stated the amount that is in the capital improvement plan is a recent cost estimate for the tear down.

Schaffer said one area he would like to hold off on is the items for beautification purposes. They are not needs they are wants. In addition, Schaffer wants to hold off on the Ivywood Street project until 2010 and the construction of a public works building. Schaffer also stated Pederson Path is a top priority.

Dressen reported there has been money set aside, approximately \$175,000 so far for a public works building. In regards the beautification items, we are trying to bring business into town.

Jones questioned the age and the reason for replacing Tanker #1. Hysten stated the fire chief indicated to him that the fire department needs to keep the tanker full of water and it does leak. Brown said the tanker is about 20 years old and if the public works would use the tanker, they do not need to keep it full of water. Regarding the 40 acres, it states that it is a site for future public works building and park it should also mention a potential site for city hall.

Schaffer stated by putting money aside for a future purpose he likes that idea.

No public comment.

Dressen closed the public hearing at 6:19 pm.

MOTION BY BROWN SECOND KANE TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009-2013. Motion carried 4-1. Schaffer voting nay.

d. Mark & Jesse Radzwill: Ordinance Violation regarding Chickens: Jesse and Bella Radzwill, 22708 Rum River Blvd. NW. They are asking to be able to keep 4-5 chickens at their property. Bella explain about the chickens and what they meant to her. These chickens are going to be shown at a fair. Radzwill said what is the ordinance for and what can we do to keep the chickens. Dressen there are reasons that we have ordinances. The City Code states you need at least 5 acres. Lepak explained the ordinance and the reasoning of the ordinance they would have to show a hardship or a unique situation in order to keep them. Schaffer suggested if you know a farmer maybe take them out there. Ms. Radzwill asked what about a conditional use permit or a variance. Dressen asked the council maybe grant an extension until after the fair. Kane said we really don't have a valid reason for you to be able to keep them. We need to stay consistent on the enforcement of our ordinances. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND KANE TO TABLE THIS MATTER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16, 2008. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

a. Ordinance 123, Second Series: Amending and Restating the City of St. Francis Home Rule Charter (First Reading): The Charter Commission have had numerous meetings going over the City Charter amendments. A public hearing was held on the changes. MOTION BY SCHAFFER SECOND KANE TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 123, SECOND SERIES AMENDING AND RESTATING THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS HOME RULE CHARTER. Ayes: Brown, Jones, Schaffer, Kane and Dressen. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Resolution 2008-22: Appointing Election Judges for the State Primary and General Elections 2008: MOTION BY BROWN SECOND SCHAFFER ADOPTING RESOLUTION 2008-22 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE STATE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS 2008. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Meeting Open to the Public:** David Thunstrom, 23706 Unity Street NW stated on his last property tax statement he noticed in his property description it stated, subject to easement of record. Mr. Thunstrom is not sure why that was on there. Staff will look into it.

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

a. Engineer: Wetland Conservation Act Administration Resolution: The Minnesota Board of Water is requesting the City of St. Francis to pass a resolution that St. Francis will continue to administer the Wetland Act of 1991 and will not delegate the administration authority to the Board of Soil and Water Resources or Anoka County. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND SCHAFFER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2008-23 A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WETLAND ACT OF 1991. Motion carried 5-0

Voge gave an update on Water Treatment Plant Project. Schaffer asked Voge on the completion date. Voge said we are hoping for sometime this fall.

b. Attorney:

c. Staff: Fire Dept: No report.

Public Works: Release of Park Dedication Funds for Electrical Panel in Woodbury Park: At the July 8th Park Commission Meeting, they voted recommending the release of \$5000.00 in Park Dedication Funds to purchase and install a new electrical cabinet in Woodbury Park and repair two electrical pedestals at Community Park. MOTION BY KANE SECOND JONES AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF \$5000.00 FROM PARK DEDICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW ELECTRICAL CABINET IN WOODBURY PARK AND REPAIR THE ELECTRICAL PEDESTALS AT COMMUNITY PARK. Motion carried 5-0.

Liquor Store: No report.

Police Dept: No report.

City Administrator Report: Sonstebly Driveway Extension Permit Discussion: A memorandum was prepared by the city attorney due to the discussion that was held at the last council meeting

regarding a driveway permit along 241st Avenue. Mr. Sonstebey's existing driveway is 1,600 feet long and is seeking permission to extend the driveway an additional 1,000 feet to reach the property in Isanti County. The council has expressed a concern about the length and in particular the public safety vehicle access on such a long driveway. Lepak stated the City could have Mr. Sonstebey provide the City with a 66 feet street easement. A plan for the driveway maybe put a ten-year limit on before it has to be upgraded and the parcels in Isanti County be annexed. This could be an annexation by ordinance. Direction on whether this is a plan worth pursuing. Initially it would be a 66-foot easement at a driveway standard at this time. Schaffer asked what is the down side. Lepak said it is still a very long driveway for the time being we have a temporary driveway. It also is a means to obtain access to the two ten acre parcels. Brown doesn't like it for safety, getting public safety vehicles to get in there. Dressen said wouldn't the cost of the driveway/street be the responsibility of the developer. Lepak said yes. Jones would like to get it annexed into St. Francis and put a limit on how long it can stay a driveway. Lepak said we could make that a specifically part of the document.

Richard Sonstebey said there is also a 31-acre parcel to the west that could be serviced by this driveway. Sonstebey said he would be good with the annexation too. Kane asked is there away to get a pumper truck back there now. I am sure you would want that too. Lepak said what I am hearing is the annexation is something the council is interested in, limit the term of the driveway and be built to accommodate the pumper truck. More information will be coming forward.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Schaffer contacted a couple businesses. Jones asked the Public Works Director Paul Teicher about the park along Roanoke Street and the weeds that are there. Jones recommends we contract it out and have them sprayed.

10. **Report from Mayor:** Tomorrow night is National Night Out, come out and support it.

11. **Old Business:**

a. 4-10 Hour Work Days: Dressen said we have had discussions that past meetings regarding the pilot program of four-ten hour work days. We have asked everyone to think about this. Hysten said he has spoken to the public works employees and the union regarding on how four-ten hour days could work. City Hall is ready to see if it will work. Jones asked if the all five days would be staffed. In City Hall, it would not be five days. City Hall would be closed on Fridays. In public works if they work only four days what happens if there is a snowstorm on Fridays, then you have overtime. Schaffer said City Hall I can see four days but the public works it may not work as well with overtime. Kane said I too have a concern with the overtime. Need to track the time. Brown said maybe the public works could work a split shift. Brown said if you have a large snow storm you are going to have overtime but half the overtime. Hysten said that is the exact message I gave the public works, the intent is not to give them overtime but we would like to try it. We can always go back if this doesn't work. This initially was set up to improve customer service to our commuters. Dressen said one of the key elements is this is a pilot program and track the hours and utilities and monitor it long enough to cover the snow months. Schaffer said he would like more information regarding police and fire. Dressen said the four ten hour workday would not include

the police officers and fire department. Currently the police office personnel are and will be open five days a week but they will be working four ten hour days. The public works department will remain on call through this. .MOTION BY KANE SECOND SCHAFFER TO TRY THE PILOT PROGRAM OF FOUR TEN HOUR WORK DAY SCHEDULE FOR CITY HALL THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. 5-0.

Lepak said we will bring back a memorandum the next city council meeting setting some parameters.

Jones asked Lepak about the easement on the Rivers Edge plat. Lepak said there has been on going discussion regarding the easement on the Siwek/Creative Real Estate Development.

Dressen asked if the council looked at the council salary surveys that were provided. Lepak said this needs to be done by ordinance the salary needs to be set before the election and would not take effect until the following year. Question that was raised could the council salary increase each year with cost of living increase. If the council is interested, it can come back as an ordinance. Dressen and Jones said they are not in favor of the cost of living increases for the City Council. Schaffer said he too would like to take the cost of living increase each year off the table. Hylen said we will calculate the average give you information in the off week memo.

12. **New Business:** None
13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk