

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
ST. FRANCIS MN  
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Jerry Tveit, Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer and Rich Skordahl.

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, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND TVEIT TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A- E AS FOLLOWS:

- A. City Council Minutes – March 5, 2018
  - B. City Council/EDA Work Session Notes
  - C. Declaring Surplus Property (Bicycles) – Resolution 2018-12
  - D. Accepting the Resignation of Part time Liquor Store Clerk Mandy Komorous
  - E. Payment of Claims \$297,310.55 (ACH 223E-224E \$135,137.45 #'s 73888-73959 \$162,173.10)
- Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A. Liz Fairbanks 24360 Yukon Street NW, heard that a person wanted to build a \$400,000 plus house in St. Francis but his garage was too large for the area. Would like the council to look at the garage sizes. Feldman asked Thunstrom what size is allowed. Depends on each circumstance for each lot. Feldman asked has he come before us, have they talked with Kate? Fairbanks said she just said she would bring it up for him. Tveit said every lot could be unique.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

None

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Ordinance 238, Second Series Amending Charter Sec. 4.05 and Sec. 7.06 (Second Reading)

Proposed Language Amendment:

**Section 4.05. Filing and Execution of Documents.** Unless otherwise specifically provided, filing of all documents provided for in this Charter or the Ordinances of the City shall be at the administrative offices the City. All contracts with the City, Ordinances and Resolutions of the Council, and other documents, shall be executed in the name of the City and signed by the appropriate city officer such as the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Administrator or their designee and attested by the City Clerk. or their designee.

Proposed language amendment:

**Section 7.06. Adoption of the Budget.** The budget shall be the principal item of the business at the first-regular-monthly-meeting first or second regular monthly meeting of the Council in September and the Council shall hold continued meetings from time to time until all the estimates have been considered.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND TVEIT APPROVING THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 238, SECOND SERIES AMENDING CHARTER SECTIONS 4.05 AND SECTION 7.06.

Roll Call: Ayes: Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer, Skordahl, and Tveit,  
Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Winning with Cops Program – Received Donation

Officer Lyle Hearn reported on the implementation of a new outreach program at the police department. The primary mission of the new program “Winning with Cops” will be for the police department to work in partnership with St Francis Schools to aid developmentally disabled children and adults. This program will help law enforcement interact with developmentally disabled individuals and foster a positive interaction between the two groups. Interaction will come through social events, team sports and exercise. Officer Hearn stated he has been seeking donations from local businesses to aid in funding the program. Donations would be used for things such as t-shirts, food and events (dances, movie, and bowling). The City received a generous donation of \$1,000 from local business Northland Screw Products which will greatly aid in the program funding needs. This program will be a great addition to the police department’s community outreach efforts.

Feldman commended Officer Hearn for starting this program. The council thanked Officer Hearn and the police department.

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND SKORDAHL TO ACCEPT THE \$1,000 DONATION FROM NORTHLAND SCREW PRODUCTS TO HELP FUND THE “WINNING WITH COPS” PROGRAM.

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Snowmobile Request Discussion

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann reported the City received a request from Jeff Weaver to allow snowmobiles parking on the SE corner of Bridge Street and Rum River Blvd. The property is currently owned by Anoka County. Snowmobiling is prohibited along Bridge Street, so the snowmobilers would travel up or down along the Rum River to get to this destination. Included in past documents how snowmobiling restriction have evolved.

Feldman said I am not against snowmobiles. The area they are looking at is a small area. Feldman read some excerpts from previous meetings.

*February 18, 2003:* Councilmember Jones indicated that Chief Froh had stated they are having a lot of problems with them (snowmobiles) in town. Chief Froh stated they can not catch them all. Council member Jones said he would like to ban them altogether from the City. Councilmember Dressen stated the snowmobiles are abusing the sidewalks and trails. Councilmember Brown said he would not disagree with banning them altogether.

*March 17, 2003:* Chief Froh also had pictures of where snowmobiles had violated the signs that had been put up by the snowmobile associates. Chief Froh stated the Snowmobile club did a great job with signage but people arrest not paying attention to them. Councilmember Schoer stated that he too has called the police regarding snowmobiles and stated that he also owns one but you have to look at what is overall best for the City.

*April 7, 2003:* Councilmember Jones stated he does have somewhat of a concern on being able to let the snowmobiles run through town if they need to get gas. Councilmember Dressen stated if you contact the police department that was the areas in town that was the problem. Councilmember Schoer stated unfortunately if you let them go to Casey's they are going to do as they are doing now and not follow the trail.

It always take one or two to wreck if for everyone. The St. Francis Forward is important and we would like to see development this area. In talking with police and public works departments, they are not having many problems with the current restrictions. How would a parking area for snowmobiles fit for us? Weaver from Anoka City provided pictures on how they handle it in Anoka. We have to be careful on passing something and then take it back. It is a small area and really only one restaurant would benefit from this.

Tveit said before I was elected in 2009, snowmobiling was outlawed in the city. We brought it back to certain areas. But still no snowmobiling was allowed along Bridge Street. The bridge is just not wide enough and I agree with that.

Since 2009, it has been going well. Anoka has done a very good job with their snowmobile area. They have fencing all along the trail from the river to the lot. It helps the local businesses. Weaver did check with Anoka County and they would be open for discussion. We are out of the Metro area and that is why people move out here. St. Francis Forward said to utilize the river in the summer, why not the winter. Feldman would the club enforce it if there are problems. Tveit said the snowmobile club drivers are the most responsible.

Feldman said if you open it up how does it fit with our future growth in this area. Different areas were discussed. Feldman said being it is Anoka County property would they make a smooth transition up the hill. Feldman said I am not against snowmobiles but want to think long term. Tveit stated Anoka County expanded a spot up by Anoka High School from the Rum River for kids to be able to drive to school.

Feldman said so the snowmobiles would access from the river to a fenced area. Tveit said yes. Feldman said let's ask the business and residents first.

Muehlbauer open to discuss it more but is somewhat concerned with business and residents in the area.

Bauer said most of the winter I see open water under the bridge. Not sure about the safety with the slant of the hill and the open water. I would like to see more information.

Tveit said County Market purposely do not plow part of their parking lot for the snowmobiles to park when they are using the trail along Hwy 47.

Skordahl said we should try to utilize the river more. Never thought about using it in the winter. Wonderful asset but also a hindrance, it defines the city by dividing it into two. However, I do agree with Bauer and concerned about the safety. Would like to see this become a possibility. I think we could do something to allow people to get off the river but not allowed to travel along Bridge Street. If it can be safely done, I am okay with it.

Feldman asked for the police input. Chief Schwieger stated if you can keep them contend it could work. Main concern if they go out and drive on Bridge Street and in the park that will cause a problem. Feldman said we would need to move cautiously and look at all safety concerns, make it a destination area.

Schwieger said the open water could also be a concern. Feldman said I would like the Sno Ghost Snowmobile Club to be part of the discussion. We would need to make it fit for us just not what other cities are doing.

Direct staff to look at the possibilities at how we could allow snowmobiles to ride the Rum River and access a parking area. Concerns are safety with open

water, the riverbank and fencing. Also, have staff contact Anoka County.

C. Fire Department SCBA – Received Payment

Kohlmann reported the fire department purchased new SCBAs with a transfer from the Liquor fund authorized by the city council in November 2017.

Discussion at the meeting when approved is where would be funds go once a payment is received for the used SCBAs. The city received \$3,360. Asking for clear direction.

Feldman said I am firm believer you pay back the fund you took it from but for this I don't have a problem keeping this amount in the general fund.

Bauer was for the funds to go back into liquor store fund or general fund.

Skordahl said not sure, if I care that it goes back to the liquor fund. I think I would put it back into the general fund. Unless there is something, we need something that is unexpected now that we could use the funds for.

Muehlbauer agreed, back in general fund or capital equipment fund.

Tveit said if we put it back in the liquor fund, we need council approval to take it back out. We are not losing the money just in a different fund. I really don't have preference.

Feldman asked Fire Chief Schmidt do you have something you need to purchase now? Schmidt said the fire department definitely has some needs but do not have anything earmarked for it right now.

Feldman asked Finance Director Mulvihill what her thoughts were and she said the capital equipment fund.

Council direction to put the money received \$3,360 for the old SCBA's in the capital equipment fund.

D. Schedule a Work Session

Staff would like to schedule a work session for the following topics:

1. Street Maintenance
2. Economic Development
3. City Buildings

Consensus to set the work session for Monday, April 9 at 5:30 pm at city hall.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

## 11. REPORTS

### A. Public Works – Monthly Report

Public Works Director Paul Teicher gave a brief overview of the monthly reports and asked if there were any questions. Right now, they are working on preventative maintenance.

Feldman asked when will the filters be changed. Teicher stated as soon as we have completed our training on the scissor lift.

Muehlbauer asked when will you start with your video.

Bauer wants people to know please don't flush everything down the toilet. Two lift stations needed to be worked on due to being plugged because of rags.

Skordahl reported, we all received our storm fee invoice. When will the report come to the council? Teicher stated we are currently in the process of part 2. Working with other communities on public education packets that are being put together.

New plow truck is exceeding our expectations.

### B. Councilmember Reports-

Skordahl would like to remind the citizens to be a little weary of voice mail scams. There are many scams out there You can report these calls to police department.

Bauer reminded everyone of the March 21 Planning Commission meeting and the March 24 Easter Egg Hunt at Community Park 10 am.

Muehlbauer met with different staff. Be safe and enjoy Easter.

Tveit said city hall does have a handout on the stormwater fee information. The permit requires us to do certain things not just cover the cost of the permit. This money is kept in a special fund. Money is only spent for approved expenditures tied to the permit.

Feldman stated the City is under state guidelines to do this. A powerpoint is out on the website explaining the fee. The newsletter is sent out on a quarterly basis. My mayor's report is trying to keep you up to date on what we are doing. Newsletter is on the website too. Plus, if you have a high water bill have it checked out. A leaky toilet is costly. Reducing rates will be helped with new development. Take some hints on how you can fix some leaks. Call Jen at public works if you have questions. The website was revamped for you. Please read the newsletters. Signaling at roundabouts help out the other vehicles. Facebook is fun for pictures but if you have an issue or concern please call staff

or ask the council. Work with us to work with you. Come talk to us, staff is there. We are approachable.

Talked to Lori at the police department last week and a committee for night to unite will be formed and it will be in one location and all will work together.

I have posted on my Facebook page an article I would like to read to you.

*On March 14<sup>th</sup> many students chose to walk out of class for 17 minutes, but these two individuals chose to hand out 17 anonymous notes and charms to honor the 17 victims of the Florida shooting. After receiving a note and charm, the School Resource Officer, Jody Black did some investigating and found out that the two anonymous students were Brooklynn Myers and Arayanna Soucy. They told officer black that they wanted to do something positive during the 17 minute walk out. The girls went to JoAnn's and bought 17 charms (with their own money!) in honor of the 17 victims that were killed in Florida. They did not write their name on any of the notes and said they wanted it to be a random act of kindness.*

*The St. Francis Police Department would like to thank these two students for their compassion and humble acts of kindness.*

Very enlightening, positive. Like to see young kids to get engaged, commendable. Like to share this when you get positive news.

B. Upcoming Events -

- Mar 21 Planning Commission Meeting @ ISD #15 Central Services Center 7 pm
- Mar 24 St. Francis Lioness/Lions Easter Egg Hunt @ Community Park 10 am
- Apr 2 City Council Meeting @ ISD #15 Central Services Center 6:00 pm

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:09 pm.

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Barbara I. Held, City Clerk