

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 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 Rich Skordahl, Robert Bauer, Joe Muehlbauer, Jerry Tveit

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Anderson), City Planner Beth Richmond (HKGI), 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 Asst. Finance Tech/Deputy Clerk Lori Streich

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE TONIGHT'S AGENDA BY MUEHLBAUER, SECONDED BY BAUER; ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

4. CONSENT AGENDA - *All matters listed within the Consent Agenda are considered routine items to be enacted upon by one motion by the City Council. Items on the Consent Agenda are reviewed in total by the City Council and may be approved through one motion with no further discussion by the Council. Any item may be removed by any Council Member, staff member or person from the public for separate consideration.*

A. City Council Minutes – September 17, 2018

B. City Council Work Session Notes – September 10, 2018

C. Approving Additional Election Judges – Resolution 2018-33

D. Approving Park Rules, Regulations and Facility Use Policy- Resolution 2018-34

E. Approving Surplus Property Resolution 2018-35

F. Rivers Edge – Letter of Credit Reduction

G. Payment of Claims

H. Accept the resignation of Police Officer John Heeren effective September 30, 2018

MOTION TO APPROVE TONIGHT'S CONSENT AGENDA BY MUEHLBAUER, SECONDED BY SKORDAHL; ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Kevin Robinson, 23978 Redwood St NW, asked with the Kwik Trip building coming in 2019, is there any traffic signal planning or traffic monitoring in the works between 233rd coming onto Highway 47? And would the development of Kwik Trip enhance or speed up that?

Feldman explained that he has been in touch with a representative from MNDOT. First they are trying to get a stop light on Pederson and 47, but she realizes that development is in play. So they are working on a joint study between the city and MNDOT. He's not sure if the development would speed that up or not. He would hope so.

Robinson also mentioned the crosswalk near McDonalds on 47 and that people in McDonalds see the kids press the crosswalk button and cars are still barreling through.

Feldman that that in the summertime of last year there were about 141 pedestrians, children and residents that went through that crossing, so they are aware of it, and with the development, there is a study in place. He wouldn't mind seeing a sign at 233rd and 47, and Ambassador and 47. He knows that's a lot of stop signs, but if you are crossing those roads at busy hours, you would know what he means.

Sara Udvig 3709 229th Lane NW, said she understands that we have to work with Anoka County for crosswalks. Especially after football games, there are no good crossings. Roundabouts are not good crossings, and if you get up past the bridge, there's no lights on the bridge. She has walked home by herself and couldn't imagine letting her teenager walk over that bridge at night. It's just not safe.

Udvig also wanted to mention in regards to our social media policy, let's make sure we are being completely fair. If we are going to hold people that are volunteers or on a commission to a certain standard, then certainly those that are paid in our city should be held to those same standards.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 242, Second Series – An Interim Ordinance Temporarily Establishing a Planning Moratorium on Mini-Storage Facilities (Second Reading)
- B. Turtle Ponds 3rd Addition – Denali Investments (Outlot B, Turtle Ponds Subdivision) Detached Townhome Concept Plan Review
- C. Setting Work Session - Animal Control & Sirens

Ordinance 242, Second Series-An Interim Ordinance Temporarily Establishing a Planning Moratorium on Mini-Storage Facilities (Second Reading)

Thunstrom explained that this is the second reading for the mini storage facility. This is in regards to looking at our code and making sure we have it in the right place within our zoning ordinances in regards to our commercial and industrial properties.

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 242, SECOND SERIES-AN INTERIM ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY ESTABLISHING A PLANNING MORATORIUM ON MINI-STORAGE FACILITIES (SECOND READING) BY TVEIT, SECONDED BY BAUER; ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

ROLL CALL AYES: TVEIT, SKORDAHL, MUEHLBAUER, FELDMAN, BAUER
 NAYES: NONE

Turtle Ponds 3rd Addition-Denali Investments (Outlot B, Turtle Ponds Subdivision) Detached Townhome Concept Plan Review

City Planner Beth Richmond (HKGI) explained in detail the Turtle Ponds 3rd Addition. The applicant is requesting a concept plan review and feedback for an 8 unit detached townhome development located north of 229th Ave NW and East of Arrowhead Street NW, (East of the Ponds Golf Course).

Feldman asked if these would be a 15 foot setback off of the property line between each unit.

Richmond answered that it would be a 15 foot setback between the buildings, which would be 7 ½ feet.

Feldman said that he didn't like that and is concerned. He understands that they did it at one place behind the hardware store and it's tight. He asked Fire Chief Schmidt and Police Chief Schwieger if they see a problem with this when it comes to their emergency response vehicles being able to turn around.

Fire Chief Schmidt said that it's less than ideal, however we need to remember that our fire trucks do go in reverse and they may have to make some different tactical decisions getting in there. What's best would be to have a cul-de-sac or circular turnaround at the termination of that road. Being that there's only 4-6 houses on either side, they certainly have the tactical abilities to make it work. But in a perfect world, we would like to have a turnaround in that street.

Skordahl welcomed Richmond to the team and said that he really likes these summary presentations. The setbacks are tight but they are already dictated by the PUD that was passed a long time ago that stated in that particular area that 15 feet is acceptable. As far as emergency vehicles, you would probably lose half of the houses if you were going to put a cul-de-sac in there. He mentioned that he knows in the past there have been some complaints voiced regarding private roads and who would be maintaining them if the associations were to go under. This development looks ok to him. It's a small neighborhood, and our zoning policy will dictate what they can or cannot do for the exteriors. It will fit with the neighborhood. We should let them go through the preliminary plat process.

Bauer would like to see the access come off the cul-de-sac that's already there which pulls those houses towards that cul-de-sac. That's what he's seeing from the plan. To him it just looks gaudy to separate access off of that cul-de-sac already. He's not sure if there's any more plans to go to the left. Get rid of the "T" at the end, pull those houses towards the West, and put the cul-de-sac on the outside, he thinks there would be enough room to put a round-about at the end for emergency services, and may even be able to space those houses out a little bit more. That would be the only concern that he has.

Muehlbauer said that what Bauer said makes a lot of sense. It looks like there's some parking spaces available at end of the cul-de-sac. His concern would also be that it would look gaudy having those two come off. He asked how wide the road is. For service providers like himself, they need to go house to house, and he's been in neighborhoods where you can only get one car down the road.

Richmond answered that the road will be 24 feet wide.

Tveit said he can live with this plan. Being on the watershed commission, he wants to make sure they have enough buffer between any building and runoff into the wetlands. Ultimately that stuff is going to go right into the river. That's where our setbacks and buffers come into play. But he's fine with this. If this builder wants to build this and make it work, he's not living there, so it wouldn't matter to him.

Feldman said this is good discussion. Some of the things that council talks about may be discarded, and some may be put in. He asked Richmond about what Bauer had talked about and if you ran that T down and moved the homes in, would we have a chance to correct some space. If it's plausible, cost effective for the developer and works for the city.

Beth said that would be a better question for the developer.

Setting Work Session - Animal Control & Sirens

Feldman said that the Animal Control Committee interviewed and inspected all three entities. He called 9 out of the 10 references, and they now have enough information from the Committee to present to the Council at a work session. They will also be discussing the third siren.

The Work Session date was set for Tuesday, October 9th at 5:30 pm at the Community Center.

Mayor Feldman wanted to emphasize to everyone that whether you come to the work session from Princeton, East Bethel, or Ham Lake, he has rules for this meeting and all future meetings, and that is to leave your anger at the door, otherwise you will be asked to leave. The decision that is being made will be made based on what's best for our residents and not anybody in Princeton, East Bethel or Ham Lake. Our research has been done by the committee and the committee will turn that research over to the Council. The Council of St. Francis will make that decision on what's best for our residents of St. Francis.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

11. REPORTS

A. Department Reports – Community Development Director – Quarterly Report

B. Councilmember Reports -

C. Upcoming Events –

Oct 8 Columbus Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

Oct 13 French Toast Breakfast & Open House @ Fire Stn 8 am to noon

Oct 15 City Council Meeting @ 6 pm

Oct 17 Planning Commission Meeting @ 7 pm

Department Reports-Community Development Director-Quarterly Report

Thunstrom explained the Community Development Quarterly Report in detail as shown in the packet.

Feldman said that it's a good idea that we've extended our comprehensive plan period. To clarify to the council, you will see that the permits are down from 2017 to 2018, but if you look at 2016 you will notice they are pretty equivalent to 2018. That's because these are development stages. First you have to develop the property before you can sell the property.

Feldman also wanted to mention that he talked to Thunstrom about the site that was purchased by the city on a Contract for Deed for Isanti Bicycle and the site that Semler was going to put their offices in but decided to go to Cambridge. Government is a work in progress and we learn from our mistakes. Next time we sign a contract for deed we should put in a timeframe on it. That may be something to look into for the future to give them 12 months to 18 months to begin construction or the Contract for Deed comes back to the city and they forfeit any Contract for Deed payments if they don't meet that timeframe. It needs to be beneficial to both sides. These are just some suggestions he had for Council. He would like to see revenue coming into the city. Woodhaven is moving really well with the streets and curbs and he was happy to hear that the electronic files are moving forward.

Councilmember Reports

Bauer wanted the public to know that on Saturday, October 13th the St. Francis Fire Department will be hosting a french toast breakfast, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. It is a free breakfast with free will donations. Donations are greatly appreciated and please come out and support the city and emergency services.

Skordahl said that about a week and a half ago he met an Eagle Scout that wants to bring a splash pad to town as one of his projects. We might have to wait a while for the young man to get funding, but hang on, there's a guy with visions out there.

Muehlbauer said that tonight they are testing out some new microphones. They are trying to get used to holding them for the temporary time being. He's been doing some research and pricing things out. The current ones we are using are the property of the St. Francis area schools. They set these up right before the meeting and didn't have a lot of time to set things up, so he's interested to see how they end up sounding. If it is something they go with permanently they will need to find a way to set the microphones up on booms. He will also be getting another quote from EMI. He was told that there is a 2 day sale in January or February for the equipment. That may be a good time to purchase something.

Tveit said that he will not be at the October 15th City Council meeting. He also wanted to mention that it was just talked about tonight that people are driving through the flashing lights. He knows that he preaches about it a lot, but please watch out for our kids and people walking their dogs. It's getting dark earlier and staying dark later, which makes it hard to see them when they wear dark clothes. It's bad enough blowing through the lights when its not blinking and somebody is in the cross walk, but when it's blinking and someone is in the cross walk, you can see those flashing beacons for miles away and there's absolutely no excuse. He would be in favor of using police force. It would only take a few people getting pulled over and seeing a police officer there and next thing you know it's a habit of people slowing down. He encourages everyone to drive safe and slow down.

Feldman said that the Cub Scouts will be attending the next City Council Meeting and will be asking questions of the Council. It's wonderful that young children are getting involved in government. He also agrees with Tveit that it's getting darker early and we need to notice the kids out there. We have been working with MNDOT for close to two years now. We are aware a light is needed on 47 and Pederson. In the meantime, you must drive carefully. Safety comes first.

Feldman asked Assistant City Attorney Jochum about the code enforcement issue at 22708 Rum River Blvd.

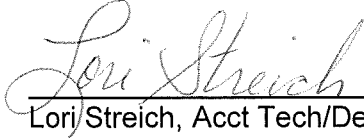
Jochum answered that the inspection is scheduled for Tuesday the 9th.

Feldman said that for the residents living on Rum River Blvd, down from Bridge Street towards 7, he reached out to LePage trash haulers to ask the drivers to slow down. To all residents, as he's mentioned in the past, if you have an issue or concern, bring it to staff or council. They cannot address an issue if they don't know about it.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Streich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lori Streich, Acct Tech/Deputy Clerk