

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 18, 2011

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jerry Tveit at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Jerry Tveit, Council members LeRoy Schaffer, Steve Kane, and Chris McClish. Excused was Jeff Sandoval. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Administrator Matt Hysten and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE JANUARY 18, 2011 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2011 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A-C AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. Approve the City Council Minutes of January 3, 2011.
  - b. Accept the Letter of Resignation of Kyle Waterworth from the Planning Commission.
  - c. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$727,557.52.Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Roland Willis, 23073 Eidelweiss Street NW, first wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I was looking over the packet. I do agree with team building but after looking at the possible cost of this, I believe now is not the time to conduct this event. I know you have talked about watching the budget this is one area you can wait until a future date.

William Gardner, 5304-238<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, stated my son-in-law is a Use Car Sales Manager at Burnsville Dodge. The City traded in a vehicle to Burnsville Dodge with only 12,000 miles on it but that is another story. The picture that was sent in of the vehicle versus the vehicle they received is not the same. The tires were bald on the vehicle that was brought in. Gardner would like this investigated and a reprimand to the employee that allowed this.

Clair Schuster, 22968 Navajo Street, had a question on the cable/internet provider. At the beginning of the year, the current provider had huge increase in their rates. They stated they are the only provider allowed in St. Francis. Staff took Mr. Schuster's phone number and will give Mr. Schuster the options available to him.
6. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**
  - a. **Anoka County Commissioner – Matt Look:** I have had the opportunity to meet some of you before hand but would like to introduce myself to the rest of the City Council. Prior

to being elected to be your County Commissioner, I was a council member at the City of Ramsey. I do appreciate the work you (City Council) do. I am your current representative on the County Board and will have big shoes to fill with the retirement of Dennis Berg. Number one priority is communication. Mr. Look asked if there were any questions. Schaffer asked if there has been any discussion on transportation to the northern suburbs. Schaffer said currently we have the Traveler but that is it. Mr. Look said it all depends on the ridership.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

a. **Resolution 2011-02: Declaring Surplus Property:** The City would like to declare the 2000 and 2005 Crown Victoria's as surplus property. MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2011-02 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE 2000 AND 2005 CROWN VICTORIA'S AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY. Motion carried 4-0.

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

a. **Engineer: Ambassador Blvd. Trunk Utility Improvement – Lift Station Bas Removal Variance:** Voge reported that the Ambassador Trunk Utilities Improvement Project included the elimination of two existing lift stations. The lift stations are located at DeGardner Circle and Stark Drive. The City's existing policy is that all concrete structures/foundations be excavated during construction. The Stark Drive lift station was evaluated and with respect to an existing building foundation, we have determined that the risk associated with complete removal of the lift station is excessive. Given the lift station's proximity to the adjacent building and foundation, the complete removal of the structure will likely result in structural failures of the adjacent building. Voge stated they have determined that the prudent course of action is to leave the bottom portion of the lift station in place, fill it with sand, and install a concrete cover over the top of the structure. This abandonment method will ensure that no future settlements occur in the area of the lift station and will also prevent structural damage to the adjacent building. City Staff is seeking a motion from the City Council to acknowledge this variance to the City's policy for the Stark Drive Lift Station removal associated with the Ambassador Trunk Utility Improvement project. MOTION BY KANE SECOND TVEIT TO GRANT A VARIANCE TO THE CITY'S POLICY AND NOT EXCAVATE THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THE STARK DRIVE LIFT STATION, FILL IT WITH SAND AND INSTALL A CONCRETE COVER OVER THE TOP OF THE STRUCTURE. Motion carried 4-0.

**Trunk Highway 47/Pederson Drive Intersection Improvements:** Voge reported that in July of 2010 the City of St. Francis submitted an application for the Municipal Agreement Program to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The application included improvements to the intersection of Trunk Highway 47 and Pederson Drive by the installation of a stoplight. MnDOT reviewed the City's application and indicated they will not fund the project at this time. Voge stated he did have a follow up conversation with MnDOT's area engineer, Mr. Lindeberg, who indicated that he does not feel that the project is necessarily dead in the water; however, a signal at the intersection is currently not warranted. MnDOT is open to reviewing additional information should it be provided by the City. Mr. Lindeberg did not guarantee that a signal system could be installed; however other improvements may be available to provide increased safety to pedestrians and children crossing Trunk Highway 47. Staff is seeking Council direction regarding additional studies and their associated costs for potential improvements at the

intersection. Voge also want it noted there are no guarantees. Kane said it is very frustrating to see all these elementary and junior high kids walking across a four-lane highway. Voge said one of the warrants is traffic volume. They are met only in the morning and afternoon for just a short period of time. Another is fatalities and record of pedestrian count. It is unique being it is more of a T intersection. Tveit said being it involves a State Highway do we have to get their approval on anything we do. Voge said absolutely. Schaffer said a viable alternative maybe could be a flashing light like the one on Hwy 47 and County Road 8. Tveit stated we were awarded a grant last year for a pedestrian trail that will funnel more pedestrians to that intersection. Voge said I think more pedestrian record counts will help. I do not think it is a dead issue but they have guidelines they have to follow too. The studies could cost approximately \$7,000. Tveit asked are there any grants out there to help with the study cost. Voge said he is not aware of any grants available. The river crossing study information numbers could also be included in the study. Schaffer said what are the odds if we spend this extra money of us getting anything. Voge said I could not speculate on what the odds are. Kane said our truly number one job is public safety but what I am hearing even if we spend \$7,000 to \$10,000 we are not guaranteed a signal light because it does not meet warrants. Voge said probably not. McClish asked if we have addressed the State regarding the speed limit. Voge said we have talked to them about the inconsistency of speed limits along Highway 47. Kane said I would be afraid to do a speed study because of the way people drive. Voge said they use 85% of the traffic speed for their study and there is always the possibility of the speed limit increased. The council chose not to move forward with additional studies at this time.

b. **Attorney:**

c. **Staff: Fire Dept:**

**Public Works:**

**Liquor Store:**

**Police Dept:**

**City Administrator Report:** Hylen reported today, Staff met with Berkley Risk, they are a division of the League of MN Cities. They did recommend some policy changes.

Reminders: We are currently down three planning commission members. We are not having a meeting this January. We are also down to two park commission members.

Schaffer asked how the Pederson Path Trail is coming. Voge gave an update and noted plans are still to start construction after school is out early this summer.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Tveit asked Schaffer how the URRWMO meeting went. Schaffer apologized for not attending, he forgot about it. Schaffer said nothing is moving on the mortgage moratorium. Kane said he ran into a student from the high school and the student thanked him for helping get the additional equipment for their shop classroom.

10. **Report from Mayor:** Want to remind everyone of the Mayor's Snowmobile Trail Ride this Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration forms are at City Hall. The organization that I chose to have a donation given to was our Miss St. Francis Ambassador Program.

I have been asked to give the State of the City address at the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting after this presentation, I will give the same presentation to the City Council so you know what I reported on.

11. **Old Business:**

a. **Discussion on Police Contract with the City of Oak Grove:** Tveit asked if there were any questions that were not answered after reading Hylen's notation in his memorandum on this topic. There were no questions.

b. **Discussion on a Council Retreat:** Hylen provided the City Council with a brochure of a consultant, Brimeyer Fursman who conducts Team Building Workshops. Tveit asked, what does everyone think. Kane said this is more a visioning session not just a Team Building Workshop. Tveit said in the past Mr. Hylen has been the facilitator; in all fairness to him, it would be nice to have a third party come in. Tveit said he would like to see the council and staff at some point also have one. Kane said even at his work, you get a better focus from an outside company. This person is the same person that did a revamping of our personnel policy. Hylen stated Fursman is a former City Administrator. Schaffer said had a brochure of a company that was in the packet. Tveit said I didn't get this. After reviewing the brochure, it was a piece of mail that just Schaffer received. McClish said especially for me being new, I would like to see this. Schaffer, Kane and Tveit agreed to move forward with a Sunday for a workshop. Hylen said make sure you give me any Sunday that would not work out. **MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND KANE TO WORK WITH BRIMEYER FURSMAN TO SET A DATE FOR A RETREAT.** Motion carried 4-0.

12. **New Business:**

a. **Efficiency Report Card-Police Department:** Chief Harapat stated there are a few things to report on that have happened lately that has been good. We bought a 2010 instead of 2011 squad car and saved about \$1,500; plus we had it on the road since last Friday instead of waiting until April/May. Another way of working together with other departments to see if they need any of the vehicles that we may trade in. The Police Reserve Officers currently utilize a UTV that they bought. An option we are looking at is having our reserves drive a squad car. There are state statues that do restrict what they can and cannot do. It would be nice to utilize them like transporting people to jail. Chief Harapat stated he is curious on what you (City Council) feel about this option. The reserve officers are trained and civic-minded people. McClish said with experience on traffic stops and the location sometime where you have to transport them; I think it would be very beneficial. The reserves are trained in use of force. The council agreed with the use of the Police Reserve Officers in this way. McClish asked about online reporting with miscellaneous reports. Chief Harapat said we do not currently have a program like that.

Schaffer asked if we heard anymore on videotaping the Council meetings. Hylen said he will have more information in the off week memorandum.

Tveit wants to remind our council members that when we call our consultants there is a good likelihood we are billed. I am cautioning you (the City Council) not to call with just general

questions. Schaffer said what is wrong with just calling them. Tveit said I would like all questions directed through staff.

13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

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Barbara I. Held, City Clerk