

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 6, 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. Jeff Sandoval Excused. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk, Inc.) 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 JUNE 6, 2011 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND KANE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2011 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A –E AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. Approve the City Council Minutes of May 16, 2011.
 - b. Receive and File the March 22, 2011, April 27, 2011 and May 3, 2011 Charter Commission Minutes.
 - c. Authorize the Trade of our old Bobcat Skid Load for a new Bobcat Skid Loader for \$1,610 from Crawford's Equipment.
 - d. Approve the Renaissance Fireworks Applications for June 17, 2011 to July 5, 2011 in the City Centre Parking Lot.
 - e. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$226,339.64.Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Mayor Tveit indicated that he would limit this forum to four minutes each.

Roland Willis, 23073 Eidelweiss Street NW, wanted to say "Thank you for your time". I will make my comments short. I would like to apologize for the extended time at the last meeting, but thank you. For the comment at the last meeting were the attorney stated that people have a tendency to speak longer if it is televised, I spoke before these were televised. Another comment was made by the City Administrator that staff currently does not have time to set up and maintain a Facebook page. I would volunteer my time to set one up and maintain it. Why do we have a quarter million dollar grader, I do not know how much the grader is being used versus contracting it out. In regards to the public hearing, (at this time his time limit expired) the Mayor asked if he was about to wrap it up and Mr. Willis said I still have a page and one-half left. The Mayor stated he would stay after the meeting to discuss the rest of his concerns.

Mike Rodger, 2770-232nd Lane NW, I am part of the concrete union. I think this public works building is a good idea. It cost staff time to keep moving the vehicles and equipment in and out each day. Let's do it right, lets get it done. There are a lot of Green Project Grants out there. The city garage project, should fall under the Davis Bacon Act and I think you LeRoy (Schaffer) should put out an apology for the literature you put out. Let's figure how to get it built.

William Gardner, 5304-238th Avenue NW, I think the City made a big mistake when you had a public hearing notice for May 2, 2011 out there for 6.5 million building project. I understand you tabled the public hearing. I have talked to Mr. Sandoval about this; you have the horse so far behind the cart. I suggest you that we get three different types of architectural plans; the Cadillac, what will work and the bare minimum. When we do this, we allow space for to be added on down the road, we do need new buildings. The last thing, Mr. Mayor I am surprised you were surprised that I came to make a complaint about your comment. I accepted your apology. Gardner said maybe Schaffer you should just say you're sorry for everything you said and then they shouldn't censor you. I still feel you (Tveit) should be censored.

Tim Brown signed up before the meeting but decided not to speak.

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

a. **Charter Commission Amendments: Public Hearing:** Mayor Tveit opened the Public Hearing at 6:12 pm. Malcolm Beck, Chair of the Charter Commission presented the recommendations of the Charter Commission. The two Charter Commission amendments being recommended affect Section 7.16 and Section 5.01. In Section 7.16 Capital Improvement Program; the Commission is recommending to change the submission date of the CIP from June 1 to July 1 to coincide with the budgeting process. The next amendment is amending Section 5.01 Section 5.01 incorporating a primary elections into the election process. Beck explained the only reason for a primary would be if we would have more than two people per open seat. One other recommendation is that the City Code be amended to change the references from City Clerk/Treasurer to City Clerk throughout the City Code and incorporated the Finance Department in Chapter 2, Section 5. The Charter Commission unanimously approved these recommendations. I would be open for any questions from the Council. Schaffer asked does this have to go out for the people to vote. Beck said with a 5-0 vote from the City Council it would go into effect. Lepak stated in the event that it does get approved by the City Council, the residents could still file a petition go out for a vote by a voters. Lepak said there are three options. Beck said being we don't have five people here tonight what happens. Lepak stated the council will be discussing that under 7a and 7b I will ask the ordinances be tabled. This is just the public hearing portion of the process.

William Gardner, 5304 -238th Avenue, if I remember right, when I was mayor the Charter Amendments couldn't be done without going out for a vote. When did that change? I would like to see democracy, as far as I see you get a lot to run for the office that's good. The more you involve in the election process the better.

Kristen Cole, 4546-235th Lane NW, I don't know what kind of venue that I can talk about this and be comfortable. City Councilman Schaffer has approached me a number of times. Tveit said

does this have to do with the Charter Amendments. Ms. Cole indicated it did not. Tveit said I would be willing to talk to you after the meeting.

Melvin Gertvig, 2433-229th Avenue, asked if the Council does not approved the amendments does this automatically go on the ballot. The answer would be no.

Mayor Tveit closed the public input at 6:25 pm after no more public input.

b. St. Francis Lions Club: Lion Tim Holen, president of the Lions Club thanked the City Council for their time. We try to be involved in the Community. We need support from the City and the general public. If the City needs help, you need to ask. Let's help one another and be leaders and other cities will follow us. The Lions Club has Charitable Gambling. The State rules have changed. We used to give 65% to our community. Currently it is about 7% because of the new regulations. That is where I would like your help to talk to our legislators. Lion Holen said I would like to present the City with some money. The first one is for the Pederson Path \$2,000, Pioneer Days \$1,000, Fire Prevention \$600.00, Community Park repair and maintenance \$1,400 and one more the Streets department \$1,000.00 for pothole repair. Just remember this weekend is Pioneer Days. We have number of events such as bed races, 5k walk/run and softball tournament going on. Tveit said I would like to thank the St. Francis Lions Club for their generous donations now and as in the years past. Kane said years ago I went around to ask for donations for defibulators to be used in the squad cars. The Lions Club was right there to donate. To date the defibulators have saved one life.

c. Professional Design Group Presentation: Miles Britz of the Professional Design Group hired by the City for a Public Works facility in 2009 and then added the Police Facility in October of 2009. We have been meeting with staff since then. Mr. Britz gave a presentation on a proposed design. This is a basic needs facility. We should have more information at the July 18, 2011 City Council meeting.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:** Tveit asked that these two ordinances be tabled until the next City Council meeting. It is important that we have all the members present.

a. Ordinance 154, Second Series: Amending the City Charter (First Reading): Meeting Open to the Public: Tabled.

b. Ordinance 155, Second Series: Amending Section 2-5-2 City Clerk/Treasurer, Various Sections of the City Code and Adding Section 2-5-9 Finance (First Reading): Tabled.

c. Resolution 2011-13: Support for the City, County, School District Collaboration Project: MOTION BY SCHAFFER SECOND KANE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2011-13 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION TO PROMOTING GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. Motion carried 4-0.

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

a. Engineer: 2011 Seal Coating Bid Results: Voge reported that on Thursday, May 19, 2011 two bids were received for the 2011 Seal Coating Improvements. The two bids were Pearson Bros., Inc. of Hanover with a bid of \$132,019.00 and Allied Blacktop Company of

Maple Grover with a bid of \$138,266.59. After review of the bids the engineer is recommending the City Council accept the bids and award the 2011 Seal Coating Improvement to Pearson Bros. of Hanover, MN for \$132,019.00. MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH TO ACCEPT THE BIDS FROM PEARSON BROS., INC \$132,019.00 AND ALLIED BLACKTOP COMPANY \$138,266.50. Motion carried 4-0.

MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH TO AWARD THE 2011 SEAL COATING BID TO PEARSON BROS. INC. OF HANOVER, MN FOR \$132,019.00. Motion carried 5-0. Being the seal coating came in lower than the budgeted amount Tveit asked the council if, they would be ok to spend up to the budgeted amount, \$180,000.00 for seal coating. MOTION BY MCCLISH SECOND KANE TO SPEND THE DIFFERENCE OF THE SEAL COATING BID AMOUNT TO THE BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL ROAD REPAIR. Motion carried 4-0.

b. Safe Routes to School Grant Application-Resolution 2011-14: Voge reported that MnDOT is currently soliciting Safe Routes to School applications for 2012-2013 projects. The applicant must fund all project costs and will be reimbursed upon completion. The City will be constructing the Pederson Path Improvements along Pederson Drive during the 2011 construction season. Safety of schoolchildren crossing Trunk Highway 47 near Pederson Drive has been a concern of the St. Francis City Council and the St. Francis School District for a number of years. Due to these long-standing concerns, City staff is seeking Council approval to proceed with a Safe Routes to School Grant application. The application will consist of the installation of dynamic speeds signs similar to those installed in other locations around the City, along TH 47 near the Pederson Drive intersection. The application will also include the installation of school speed zone signs to alert motorist of the school speed zone. Although the school speed zone has not been approved, will be working with MnDOT for the establishment of a school speed zone. MOTION BY KANE SECOND SCHAFFER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2011-14 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION TOO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. Motion carried 4-0.

c. Pederson Path Update: Voge reported that they are currently working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation on the plan approval and project authorization processes associated with the project. The plans have been approved by MnDOT and have been presented to the Federal Highway Administration for authorization. Provided the plans are authorized the anticipated week of June 6, 2011; a potential bid date of July 7, 2011 at 11:00 am has been identified and hopefully presented at the July 18, 2011 City Council meeting.

b. Attorney: No report.

c. Staff: Fire Department: No report.

Public Works:

Liquor Store: No report.

Police Dept: No report.

City Administrator Report: Two things are happening next week Wednesday. Hylen stated he will be interviewed for a board position with the League of MN Cites next Wednesday. In addition, City Clerk Barb Held was selected as one of the two finalists for the Minnesota Women in City Government Leadership Awards in the appointed official category. Tveit said we

wish you good luck Mr. Hylan and congratulations to you Barb for being one of the two State finalists.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** McClish thanks again to the St. Francis Lions Club for their generous donations. I keep hearing we have the highest taxes around. So I thought I would check it out for myself. McClish recapped his research finding out that the City of St. Francis has the 8th lowest property taxes out of 21 cities/townships in Anoka County. We averaged \$2,149 in property taxes on a house with a market value of \$180,000. The highest in the county was \$3,062 and the lowest was \$1,896. The other seven cities/townships that have slightly lower property taxes than us don't provide all the city services like we do, such as police, fire, public works, and city sewer and water. I had the opportunity to meet with the architect and city staff. I was impressed how well everyone worked together.

Schaffer would like to commend McClish for going ahead and finding out your information. Schaffer said we still have one of the highest foreclosure rates around.

Kane said I would like to make a comment on the up coming Pioneer Days. Staff does a stellar job getting the City ready for Pioneer Days I would like to thank all departments and their work in advance.

10. **Report from Mayor:** Would like to thank the Lions too for their donations. We have a number of good local non-profit organizations in the City.

This Saturday is the St. Francis Motorcycle ride. I know this is not a city function. I have had a number of calls from other communities inquiring about the ride.

I want to congratulate the graduating Class of 2011. I also had the opportunity to speak to a couple of high school classes on economics this past week.

11. **Old Business:** None.

12. **New Business:**

a. **Efficiency Report Card-Public Works Department:** We have updated our policies and the League of MN Cities will be rewarding us in the amount of our insurance premium deductions. I would like to thank the City council for the guidance and allowing us to take care of our systems. Tveit said last week I saw some people working on our fire hydrants, so I called to see if they were vandals. It was legitimate and the hydrants were getting painted. I then found out there are some hydrants that have not been painted since 1974.

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