

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 18, 2014

1. **Call to Order:** 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 Steve Kane, Amy Lazere, Tim Brown and Chris McClish. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk, Inc.), Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Police Sergeant Jake Rehling, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Administrator Matt Hysten and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY LAZERE SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND KANE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS A – D AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. Approve the City Council Minutes of February 3, 2014
  - b. Accept the Resignation of Public Works Employee Denis Backsen and declaring the vacancy.
  - c. Authorization to Advertise and fill the Public Works Water/Waste Water vacancy
  - d. Payment of Claims \$312,999.50 (Check #66847-66900 \$162,808.88 \$ and ACH 78E & 79E \$150,190.62) Motion carried 5-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** David Roberts was before the City Council on behalf of ISD #15 and SFCDA Group. The school board voted at our last meeting to approve the funding for an additional officer for the schools. This was received very positive and wanted to show our (school districts) support on the hiring of a new officer.
6. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**
  - a. **St. Francis Ambassador Program – Presentation of Donation:** Jerry Tveit presented a check in the amount of \$700.00 to the St. Francis Ambassador Program from the Mayor's Snowmobile Trail Ride. The money collected during this fundraiser were divided up among the participating cities.
  - b. **St. Francis Basketball Association:** Mark Bothun, current vice president of the St. Francis Basketball Association stated my wife and I have three very active boys in the community. I am a community member, coach and mentor. The reason I am before the City Council is the St. Francis Basketball Association would like to explore the idea of adding a community recreation center in St. Francis. This would be a multi-use facility for the entire community and for all ages. We are also hoping to provide a place where kids could go to release of their energy instead of hanging out with idol hands. This facility could also provide a positive impact for the city and business community. There are tournaments going on every weekend and why not here. This could also be a draw for people that are looking at moving into

the community. We along with the other associations feel a crunch for gym space as our community grows there is not enough space for all the events. Tonight I am here to ask for a partnership with the City of St. Francis. We know there are many dollars that are spent in different communities and why not here. St. Francis Basketball Association realizes it is a major undertaking and will not happen overnight.

Tveit said he is not sure what the next step would be. Maybe meet with the Chamber and all the youth organizations. Tveit asked how does the city start a coalition of all these group to research the next step. Bothun said I could get a list of all the youth organization and coaches and maybe hold a meeting. Tveit said the only caution I see is the city itself cannot proceed alone with a project like this. I like that you came forward and your organization be the driving force. Bothun stated we know the basketball organization itself cannot afford this alone that is why it needs to be a joint cooperation. Lazere thought it would be good to involve the businesses maybe come to a Chamber Breakfast and it is an absolute need in this community. I think starting at the Chamber and then set a meeting and get the right people involved. Lazere thought it would be good to have Public Works Director Paul Teicher involved right from the start. Tveit said I don't think you are off base and I think the time has come for a facility like this. Sandoval has talked about a sports facility for a number of years. Tveit asked Hysten to give Bothun his card for a contact. Bothun thanked the city council for listening.

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

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

a. **Engineer: Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan:** MOTION KANE BY SECOND LAZERE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2014-05 A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 17, 2014 FOR THE WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN. Motion carried 5-0.

Voge also reported that we are happy to report we just received from the MPCA the wastewater limits that we had been waiting for. Therefore, our engineering firm along with the public works department have a lot of work to do in a short period of time.

b. **Attorney:**

c. **Staff:**

**Building Official:**

**Fire Dept.:**

**Public Works:**

**Liquor Store:**

**Police Dept.: Squad Camera Discussion:** This report is information on digital (in-squad) audio and video camera systems for squad cars. These systems are currently being used by the majority of law enforcement agencies in the country. The purpose of these cameras is to protect the public as well as the officers who are working our streets. They provide video and audio evidence of traffic incidents, pursuits, and assist officers with report writing as well as court testimony. The communities that have these... We have also been working with our new IT director who would be overseeing the system and has informed us that the Panasonic Arbitrator is the unit that works best with their system. They have experience with these units

and several other departments they work with are currently using this Panasonic system with positive results. We have had cameras in the squads before but they were VHS. This is not a budgeted item in 2014. If other funds cannot be located for this purchase, it will be in the 2015 budget. After speaking with our new IT who can purchase these units at a discounted rate, the cost would be approximately \$45,000 dollars to have the full system installed and up running in six squad cars. Brown asked what is the life expectancy of these cameras. Looks around five years but we wouldn't have to replace the system but maybe just a software or equipment upgrade. McClish said he works with a system similar to this. These cameras also work as a DVR. McClish stated this is a very good purchase for the department. Kane said he too supports this camera system. Kane asked Hylen do we have a way to fund this. Hylen said he would caution the council being this is not a budgeted item. Just so, the council knows upfront that we may go over budget or you can budget these for 2015. Another option is to utilize liquor funds. Tveit ask what is the lead-time to order and receive the cameras. Rehling said I am not sure what the lead-time is but the company is out of Wisconsin. Tveit stated we could use the funds from drug forfeiture but I do not know how much is in the fund. Tveit ask could we purchase just one now and budget the rest for next year. Rehling stated our goal is to have a turnkey system which would be for all cars to have them except for the current Chiefs car. Brown thinks we should move forward. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE THE PANASONIC ARBITRATOR IN-SQUAD VIDEO SYSTEM WITH FUNDS COMING FROM THE LIQUOR STORE. Lazere asked could we find out how much is in the drug forfeiture fund. Mulvihill said she does not know exactly but maybe around \$9,000. Kane said do we know what we have in the liquor store fund that is not already earmarked for another project. Hylen said we would have enough in the liquor store fund to purchase these cameras. Tveit stated maybe we could use some from each fund. McClish agreed with the mayor. McClish stated the cost of this equipment is cheap if something happens and we are sued. In addition, I think we are the only department in Anoka County that does not have cameras in the car. Council asked the finance director if the liquor store fund would have enough funds for this purchase. Mulvihill stated she did not know the exact amount but there would be enough in the fund for the purchase of the cameras. Brown said I am not sure why we are worried about it when we have liquor store funds available. Tveit said the liquor store funds could be used for a broader scope of purchases than the drug forfeiture fund. Brown wanted to keep his motion as where the funds are coming from for this purchase. Motion carried 5-0.

**ISD #15 Request for an additional Liaison Officer:** Police Chief Jeff Harapat stated on February 10, 2014, Independent School District 15 discussed and approved funding to expand the current liaison program. This topic actually started in November 2013. The school district requested an increase from one full time liaison officer to two officers for the remainder of this school year and for the upcoming 2014/2015 contract. School District #15 previously contracted with the City for up to three officers working in the liaison program. I have never seen the school board so supportive of helping the city pay for these officers. Over the years, the school district amended their needs and reduced liaison officer time. This would be an officer that would educate students whether it is about drugs, park vandalism, etc. Chief Harapat stated who is St. Francis? We are a community of communities. We need to educate our kids on all sorts of topics. As this is a joint collaboration between the city and the school district, the budget impact to the city in 2014 would be approximately \$12,000.00 which is a non-budgeted expenditure.

For the 2014-2015 liaison contract, the City can budget the increase of approximately \$27,000 in the 2015 City Budget. MOTION BY KANE SECOND McCLISH AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HIRE A NEW POLICE/SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER. Lazere asked if we are going to have someone from the school be part of the interviewing process. Chief Harapat stated we usually do. We did when we hired our last officer. Lepak said the City already has a contract with ISD #15 and that will have to be amended. McClish I think it is great to see the school district and city working together and thanked David Roberts who was here on behalf of the school district to help support the officer. McClish asked how would this officer be used during the summer. Chief Harapat stated I believe it would be useful for patrol and to keep them very involved in the community all year around. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Administrator: Update on the 4020-233rd Avenue Site (“Old” Food-n-Fuel):** City Administrator Matt Hylén reported that MPCA has now taken over the petroleum investigation at 4020-233<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. As of Friday, February 7, 2014, they hired a contractor to complete a leaking petroleum tank release investigation. Until we know the future costs of the contamination clean up, I would recommend waiting for the costs associated with clean up before taking any next step. I have researched what the City of Fridley completed with their dilapidated fuel station and the “magic” to their success: there was not pollution in the soil when the fuel tanks were removed.

**City Owned Property:** City Administrator Matt Hylén showed a power point presentation on City owned parcels. A map was also provided showing school and county property. Maps were handed out to the City Council.

**Bridge Street Round About Update:** City Administrator Matt Hylén provided the City Council with the most current map from Anoka County showing the preliminary design layout of the Bridge Street Improvement. Representatives will be at the next City Council meeting. There have been changes made by Anoka County since they were last here. Anoka County will be at next week’s school board meeting. Hylén read an email from Anoka County on the changes made. One being a sidewalk along Bridge Street, Anoka County chose not to pay for it and it would be at the city’s expense. The access to Kerry Street did not have a sidewalk on the original plan. The County has designed one on the map and shows that too as a city expense. There were also sidewalks east and south of Super America were supposed to connect but the County also identified that as a city expense. I will take any input and submit it back to Anoka County. Tveit said it seems the county is willing do this as long as we pay for it. Let’s do it right but feel the additional sidewalks should be part of the overall cost. Frustrated that Anoka County would not include these trails and sidewalks as part of the whole project. Was it just last year we approved the Anoka County Park Trail system. Also Tveit said the street does not line up with 230<sup>th</sup>. We just had a similar situation with Aztec Street. It is just good planning to align the streets up. Tveit said overall it is a good plan but I would like to see some things changed. Brown said when they (Anoka County) came to us they were pushing public safety and had funding for it. This is not the most popular project anyway. Tveit said I think what we should pay for things over and above the project. Such as improving lighting, water/sewer lines, etc.. If you have any other, questions

please let me know. Hylen said the engineers are evaluating what exactly what the City may need and possibly change underground in cooperation with this project.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** McClish said he received an email back from Anoka County and hopefully within a couple weeks they will have more than just a temporary fix for the potholes. Nice to see the Super American took over the Reliant Store.

Lazere would like to invite everyone to a Pioneer Day meeting this Thursday, February 20, 2014 at Patriot Lanes 7:00 pm.

10. **Report from Mayor:**

a. **Mayor's State of the Cities Presentation:** Mayor Tveit showed a power point that he gave at a St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast and at the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

I enrolled in a class at Anoka-Hennepin and I will be missing the next city council meeting. I also put in an article in the Courier for next month. I am asking for your help if you have any information you would like me to address in my article.

11. **Old Business:** None.

12. **New Business:** None.

13. **Adjournment:** The Regular City Council meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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Barbara I. Held, City Clerk