

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 6, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Kane at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Steve Kane, Council members Richard Orpen, Rich Skordahl, Tim Brown and Chris McClish. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk), Planner Nate Sparks, Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Fire Chief Matt Kohout, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** Move 6 a. after 4. Under City Administrator add Resolution 2015-33. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT THE JULY 6, 2015 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS AMENDED. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND McCLISH TO APPROVE THE JULY 6, 2015, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS A-I AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. City Council Minutes – June 15, 2015
 - b. Acknowledge the Letter of Termination for three Part Time Liquor Store Clerks
 - c. Promote Officer Eric Algiers from a temporary police officer to permanent full time.
 - d. Beef O’Brady’s Public Dance Permit for July 11, 2015 SF Hockey Assn Fund Raiser.
 - e. Cedar Creek Chapter of MN Waterfowl Application for Exempt Gambling Permit @ Am Legion on September 12, 2015
 - f. Routine Bobcat Buyback annual replacement
 - g. Enter into an agreement with Anoka County for the Firing Range Use
 - h. Century Link: Reinstatement of and Second Amendment Lease Agreement
 - i. Approve the Payment of Claims for \$233,350.40 (Checks 69239-69325)Motion carried 5-0.
6. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**
 - a. **Certificate of Appreciation for Resident Brandon Buss:** Mayor Kane read an email about how Brandon Buss went above and beyond to help another elderly resident Norman DeCarlo, with his vehicle. Kane then handed a Certificate of Appreciation to Brandon for his good deed.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:**

Yvonne Beebe, 23077 Guarani Street NW, that’s my front yard address. My backyard borders Pederson Drive. I’m here to support the reduced speed limit for Pederson Drive. There’s a

walkway there and every day there are mothers and strollers, kids and trikes, school kids coming from the middle school walk that path. There is a 50 mile an hour speed limit sign up by County Market and by the time they hit my backyard they're doing 60 or 65. They are also revving up their motors, for whatever reason, I don't know. I can sit on my deck and can't even have a conversation with my neighbor on the deck next to us because of the noise. So I'm asking for a reduced speed limit because that speed limit is an accident waiting to happen on that street.

Stacy Ridge, 22815 Ambassador Blvd NW, I'm just against the current proposal of the waste treatment facility here in St. Francis and I'd like to go on record as such that I'm not in favor of the project and also my husband is not in favor but he could not be here tonight. We would love to see if there's some other options out there. INAUDIBLE and everybody that's been coming to the meetings, take a moment and listen to them. See if some of us might be able to help you, which is us, the city of St. Francis.

Vicki Schaaf, 23085 Guarani Street, I'm also against it and I'm just wondering why the Met Council has not been invited. Anybody? Kane stated this is not a dialogue. Vicki stated Really? So when does the dialogue come? Kane said there is no dialogue here in open meeting. Vicki then stated Okay. Thank you very much.

Robin Downs, 3662 232nd Avenue NW. I want to go on record saying that I am against the proposal of the wastewater treatment facility in St. Francis.

John Schaaf, 23085 Guarani Avenue, I'm also against the wastewater treatment facility in St. Francis and want to go on record as saying such. I'd also like to say slow down.

Robert Bauer, 23246 Kerry Street and I'm also here against the current proposal for the waste treatment facility and want to go on record as such. Thank you.

Sarah Hunt, 23246 Kerry Street, I live in the city of St. Francis, obviously, and I've worked with the St. Francis School District, which I've said before, and my house was recently assessed for road repairs that will now increase my taxes. I enjoy being in this city, I would like to stay working in this city and living in this city, but if you go forward with this new water treatment facility, not only will it increase my water bill, along with the taxes that I'm now going to pay for this road, it will also probably increase our taxes to pay for the schools that are going to increase for their water bill and I can't be hit with a double whammy, triple whammy, at this point and stay here. So I just want to go on record saying that I'm against the wastewater treatment facility.

Ruth Dawson, 22559 Tulip Street NW, I am against the current proposal for the waste treatment facility in St. Francis and wanted to go on record as such. My husband and I are retired, I'm my husband is a disabled vet and it would be a financial disaster for us and I would

like them to research and find something more convenient and financially better for the community. Thank you.

Brad Dawson, 22559 Tulip Street NW, I also am against the current proposal for the waste treatment facility in St. Francis and would like to go on record as such. Thank you.

Christine Peterson, 23242 Yucca Street NW. I am also against the current proposal for the waste treatment facility in St. Francis and I would like to go on record as such. Thank you.

Sarah Udvig, 3709 229th Lane NW, Apt 2. I want to go on record as saying that I do not approve of the wastewater facility treatment. We moved here from East Bethel in 2012, left that fiasco, only to be greeted with this one. We can't—just going around talking to people—we just can't afford it right now. We have to look at other ways to finance it. And as our elected officials, we're asking you to take the time, take time to step back, look at more options, listen to some of the options that we've come up with INAUDIBLE and just show us that you're listening, show us that our opinions matter and show us that you deserve another term. Thank you.

Mike Rodgers, 2770 232nd Lane NW. I've been a resident here for 15 years. One of the questions I have is where is all the money I paid in sewage for the last 35 years, or 15 years, gone? My question is, I sat in this room, this very room, not long ago when we built the city garage. I was for that by the way. I'm opposed to this water treatment plant. There's a gentleman here from the Met Council that introduced himself and said the Met Council is here for anything we need. I want to know what happened from then until now, why did Met Council disappear? Why aren't we involved with East Bethel anymore or any of the other communities where this water treatment plant is supposed to be built? I feel that the past, the present city council, and I could speak for many members of this community, that you guys have let us down, including the past mayor and the present mayor. We've had better options out there and I've looked into them, I see it, anybody can go on the Met Council's website, there's a grant for this, and why we haven't had that grant? I don't understand. I think you guys need to step back, look again, and take into consideration all these people out here that are saying they're opposed to this water treatment plant because they can't afford it. There's many elderly folks that live over by Super America, that live in those apartments, they won't be living here anymore because they can't—it's a matter if they take their pills that month or pay their wastewater treatment plant. I think they're going to be taking their pills, so what happens? They shut their water off. Or they move out. Or they pay their water and don't take their pills. That's all I got to say is the elderly here, you know, we're a community. We should stick together as a community. You guys let us down. Thank you.

Jennifer Fiene, 2971 235th Avenue, I oppose the current water treatment facility plan and I just want to go on record as such. Thank you.

Cory Stoeckel, 2971 235th Avenue. I'm opposed to the current water treatment plant and I wanted to go on record as such.

Lisa Wicklund, 22984 Kiowa Street NW, I'm also against the current proposal for the waste treatment facility and want to go on record as such and I really feel bad for you guys. Hate to be stuck in this and not care what these people are saying, shame on you. You should be on our side. INAUDIBLE

Angie Bray, 22901 Rum River Blvd. I just want to say you guys have heard this many times from many of us, now is the time that this community is really making an up rise, you guys, and you need to listen. Really. You know that I'm against this treatment facility and many other people are. You're going to see numbers rising and you're really our employees and I've been an owner and a manager of businesses and if my employees weren't performing or doing what I taught them or suggested that they would do, they wouldn't be working for me anymore. I've been in that situation. It's really hard to look at all the other great things that you guys are doing as the city council and the mayor when you guys are blatantly ignoring every single thing that we have brought up to you. There's options. And I would like to know, what are the strings that the Met Council said that you guys don't want to go for? You said, one thing at the meeting last time. All of us citizens would like to know what did they say to you? So sorry, Barb, if that's more work for you, but I know we would like to see it published somewhere as to what are those strings? What did they say to you and why don't you want to work with them? However, there's many other options so I'd like to see you guys take a step back and listen to your bosses and see what you think is best and what we think is best because obviously we don't agree with what you guys are choosing to do so now is the time to take a step back. Do it again. Thank you.

Good morning, Liz Fairbanks, 24360 Yukon Street, St. Francis. I want to go on record that I am against this 100%, even though I am on sewer water, or well water, excuse me, that this is going to affect not only you guys but my peoples, my customers, my friends, my kids. Also, I think it's one bad choice after another that you guys are bringing upon us, you are ramming government down our throats, as well as upcharges on everything is going to skyrocket in sales and such and people are not going to be able to spend. I thought we are trying build our city and economy, not shut it down. Too quick to make a decision, I would rather see us maybe take an extra, extra amount of time to decide this. I know you guys have talked about this a few years ago, but I don't think that you guys all went in on it together and decided what was best for our people, your people. Last thing, work smarter, not harder. Thanks.

Mayor Kane thanked them for their comments.

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

b. Jensen Family LP: Zoning Text Amendment Request-Permit Churches in the B-2, General Business District - Resolution 2015-30: Denying Zoning Amendment Requested by the Jensen Family LP: The Jensen Family Limited Partnership has made an application for a zoning text amendment to allow for churches as a permitted use within the B-2, General Business Zoning District. The applicant is the owner of the St. Francis Mall at 3210 Bridge Street. They wish to lease space to a church in the mall to a religious institution.

Currently the City defines churches as “religious institutions” and they are allowed as a permitted use in the R-2 (Single Family Residential District) and by a conditional use permit in the R-1 (Urban Estate Single Family Residential District), R-3 (Medium Density Residential District), and R-4 (High Density Residential District). Religious institutions are currently not permitted within the B-2, General Business District. The B-2 District states that it is “intended to provide for commercial uses adjacent to frequently traveled corridors.” It is the zoning district along Bridge Street east of the Rum River and most of the Highway 47 corridor north of Pederson Drive. The Comprehensive Plan states that commercial uses are to be concentrated along Highway 47 and Bridge Street. These areas were intended to be preserved for commercial activity. As such, it has been the policy of the City to not allow churches in areas reserved for commercial uses. The applicant wishes to have churches allowed within the B-2 District in order to allow for rental of space within the St. Francis Mall. This would also result in allowing religious institutions to be permitted along the Highway 47 corridor and all along Bridge Street east of the Rum River. Historically, the City has very narrowly viewed permitted uses in commercial space in the business areas because of the small available space relative to the rest of the City. Further, the City’s policy has been to allow religious institutions in all manner of residential districts. Noting the limited amount of commercial space available within the City, the commercial districts do not include allowances for such institutional uses. Such uses are permitted within the higher density residential districts which are intended to be at the periphery of the commercial areas. They are also allowed in the lower density single family districts as part of a long standing tradition. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the zoning text amendment request due to the reasons as noted and the concern of the impact on the remainder of the district. Skordahl said I believe the Planning Commission struggled with this topic. Staff also recommended to the Planning Commission to undertake a review of several sections of the zoning code regarding business designations and to update the language and terms with more precision and consistency. MOTION BY ORPEN SECOND SKORDAHL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-30 A RESOLUTION DENYING A ZONING AMENDMENT REQUESTED BY THE JENSEN FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP. Motion carried 5-0.

c. EDA Market Study with the YMCA – Resolution 2015-31: Authorizing the Rededication of the \$35,000 Allocated to the EDA for a Market Study with the YMCA: The EDA passed just tonight a resolution to reallocate the funds. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-31 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEDICATION OF THE \$35,000 ALLOCATED TO THE EDA FOR A MARKET STUDY WITH THE YMCA. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Ordinances & Resolution:

a. Ordinance 203, Second Series: Approving the Sale of City Owned Real Estate (First Reading): MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND SKORDAHL APPROVING THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 203, SECOND SERIES APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY OWNED REAL ESTATE. (183.55 acres in Isanti County) Roll Call: Ayes: Orpen, Skordahl, McClish, Brown, and Kane Motion carried 5-0.

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

a. **Engineer:** 1) **Pederson Drive Feasibility Report- Accepting Report and Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications:** City Engineer Jared Voge provided a memorandum and a power point presentation on the Pederson Drive Improvements that showed the Preliminary Engineering Report that was included in the council packet. This used to be a county road but Anoka County turned this street back to the city. However, this road does qualify as a Municipal State Aid road. With that said we would be able to use MSA funding for this improvement. Brown asked don't we have to have a speed study done. Voge said two standards can be used. One is the number of driveways and how far they are apart and one is a speed study. **MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PEDERSON DRIVE IMPROVEMENT.** Motion carried 5-0.

2) **Bridge Street Utility Improvements – Resolution 2015-32 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement. (This item is for the utilities outside of the County Project):** Anoka County obtained federal funds for improvements to Bridge Street and has prepared final plans and specifications for those improvements during the 2015 and 2016 construction season. Anoka County expects to receive bids for the improvements in August 2015. City utilities including sanitary sewer and water main exist within the Bridge Street corridor. At the July 7, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council authorized the preparation of plans and specifications for the utility improvements. The utility improvements include the elimination of the Bridge Street lift station and the rerouting of sanitary sewer along County Road 72, as well as the extension of sanitary sewer south of Bridge Street near Zion Parkway. Since federal funds have been allocated to the county project, the project limits are defined in the funding application and a portion of the City's utility improvements are located outside of the defined county project boundary. As a result, the utility improvements were required to be split between town sections, the areas within the county project boundary and the area outside the county project boundary. The Bridge Street Utility Improvements project will be advertised for bids at approximately the same time as the Anoka County's Bridge Street Improvements due to the required coordination between the two projects. The city's project would be bid out approximately two weeks later than the county project. **MOTION BY ORPEN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-32 A RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ON THE BRIDGE STREET UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.** Motion carried 5-0.

3) **Downtown Parking and Alley Improvements –Authorize obtaining quotes:** Voge stated due to limited parking availability, unauthorized vehicles have been parking on the city owned unimproved property located south of the Post Offices along Woodbine Street. The alley located immediately south of the city owned property between Woodbine Street and Butterfield Drive required maintenance each year and in addition, sediment from the gravel surface inters existing drainage structures where it discharges to the city's storm sewer system. Skordahl asked why do we own this house. Sparks stated it was a blighted house that was torn down using HRA funds. Brown said this won't be just a post office parking will it be? **MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND BROWN AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER**

TO OBTAIN QUOTES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF THE POST OFFICE AND THE ALLEY BETWEEN WOODBINE STREET AND BUTTERFIELD DRIVE. Motion carried 5-0.

b. **Attorney:**

c. **Staff:**

Bldg. Official:

Fire Dept.: Fire Turnout Gear: Fire Chief Matt Kohout asked for authorization to purchase five sets of fire turnout gear at a total price of \$9,368 with funds coming from the Charitable Gambling fund. Kane asked how often do these have to be replaced. Kohout said every ten years from this point on they will be in the CIP. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH AUTHORIZING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE FIVE SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,368 WITH MONIES COMING FROM THE CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUND. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept:

City Administrator: St. Francis Household Income Survey: City Administrator Joe Kohlmann reported the City has been working on funding options for construction a new wastewater treatment plant. The reason for this survey it to determine if the City would be eligible for more favorable financial terms with its loan obligations for this projects. The survey will establish the median household income threshold. The income level of \$63,000 or below for St. Francis as established by the American Community Survey to qualify for a thirty year loan. Orpen asked how do they verify incomes and who does the survey. Kohlmann stated we would have a company conduct the survey, Pettipiece & Associates. Brown asked from a 20 to 30 years loan how much of a reduction. Kohlmann said we do not know at this time but could be substantial. McClish asked if there is a cost. Kohlmann stated yes, the cost for the survey is \$2,900. MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND BROWN TO HIRE TO CONDUCT A HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEY. Motion carried 5-0.

HRA Market Study: Tonight the EDA met reviewing opportunities for development of the 46 townhome unit lots in the Meadows of St. Francis Plat. Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has funds available for market studies. McClish stated the EDA also approved a resolution similar to this. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND ORPEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-33 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDS FROM THE ANOKA COUNTY HRA FOR A MARKET STUDY RELATED TO THE MEADOWS OF ST. FRANCIS. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Reports from Council Members:** Orpen stated he would not be here the next meeting.

Kane stated that City Administrator Joe Kohlmann would like a work session with the council. The dates that were provided did not work with the councils schedules. Kohlmann stated he would send out another list of dates as options.

In the paper last week, there was an article about a former employee. In the article it stated I was the mayor. At this time of the incident, I was not the mayor and they said they would be making a correction.

Orpen asked Kane if he attended the Heart Safe Community. Kane said he was unable to attend. Fire Chief Kohout stated he did attend the meeting and has the information needed to start the Heart Safe Community program.

10. **Report from Mayor:**
11. **Old Business:** None.
12. **New Business:** None.
13. **Adjournment:** Mayor Kane adjourned at 6:53 pm

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk