

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 5, 2012

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** The regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jerry Tveit at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Mayor Jerry Tveit, Councilmembers Jeff Sandoval, Tim Brown, Chris McClish and Steve Kane. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Administrator Matt Hylan and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY SANDOVAL SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2012, CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** Kane asked if there is any cost savings by participating with the MMUA. Hylan stated there is not a real good way to show the cost savings. Hylan reported on the benefits of participating with a company such as MMUA. MOTION BY BROWN SECOND KANE TO ADOPT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2012, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A-F AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. Approve the City Council Minutes of October 15, 2012.
 - b. Approve the Professional Services Agreement between Mediations Services for Anoka County and St. Francis.
 - c. Approve the 2012-13 Safety Management Program Contract between MN Municipal Utilities Association and the City of St. Francis.
 - d. Approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of St. Francis and Anoka County for Assessment of Property 2014 – 2018.
 - e. Accept the letter of resignation from Part Time Liquor Store Clerk Nicole Peterson.
 - f. Approve Payment of Claims for \$. (Check numbers 64499-64587 \$400,242.36 and ACH 44 & 45 \$94,258.22) Motion carried 5-0.
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Ron Benkler, 4509-232nd Avenue asked to speak to the City Council about public relations. This is in regards to business opportunities. There is a major opportunity for a business to come to St. Francis. There are circumstances that need to be done in order to accommodate this business. We are up against a lot of communities. This is in strict confidence but we do need to find ways and money to help businesses to move here.

Clair Schuster, 22968 Navajo Street, wanted to express his concern in regards to the Seelye Brook Park destruction and fires. I did attend the neighborhood meeting and some of the council

was there. As a close neighbor to the park, I hope the council will be able to figure out some way to take care of this issue.

6. Petitions, Requests, Applications:

a. Delinquent Utilities and Miscellaneous Invoices: Public Hearing (Res. 2012-35):

This public hearing is for property owners to contest their delinquent utility or miscellaneous invoices that are subject to certification. Mayor Tveit opened the Public Hearing at 6:09 pm. Mayor Tveit asked if there is anybody in the audience to address the city council in regards to delinquent utilities and miscellaneous invoices. With no public comment Mayor Tveit closed the public hearing at 6:10 pm. MOTION BY SANDOVAL SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2012-35 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CERTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES, MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REPAIR OF LEAKS AS A LIEN UPON PROMISES. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Ordinances & Resolution:

a. Ordinance 179, Second Series: Amending Section 6-5-3 regarding Gambling Proceeds (Second Reading): A memorandum from the City Attorney, Scott Lepak was provided regarding a recent inquiry that was received. This entity questioned whether a one-day event that included gambling would be required to pay the 10%. If the council chooses to exclude the one day event by entities that hold fewer than three (3) one-day events within the City per calendar year an amended ordinance was provided. MOTION BY KANE SECOND SANDOVAL APPROVING THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 179, SECOND SERIES AMENDING SECTION 6-5-3 REGARDING GAMBLING PROCEEDS WITHOUT ANY CHANGES. Sandoval said he has a hard time agreeing to the amendment when we said no to the American Legion with a couple other council members agreeing. The Council did not change the ordinance as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Sandoval, Brown, Kane, McClish, and Tveit. Nays: None.

8. Reports of Consultants & Staff Members:

a. Engineer: Trunk Highway 47 Pedestrian Improvement: City Engineer Jared Voge provided a memorandum on the Pederson Drive/Hwy 47 intersection crosswalk project agreement. Voge reported during the plan review process, the Minnesota Department of Transportation informed us that an agreement would be required for the pedestrian improvements project. The agreement identifies the responsibilities of MnDOT and the City of St. Francis with respect to the rectangular rapid flashing beacon system. MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND BROWN ADOPT RESOLUTION 2012-36 A RESOLUTION ENTERING INTO A Mn/DOT AGREEMENT NO. 02036M WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE NEW SOLAR-POWERED RECTANGULAR RAPIDS FLASHING BEACON SYSTEM. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Attorney:

c. Staff:

Fire Department:

Public Works:

Liquor Store:

Police Dept.:

City Administrator Report: Seelye Brook Park Meeting Recap: The City hosted a neighborhood meeting on October 16, 2012. This meeting was prompted because of the frequent vandalism to our park equipment in the Seelye Brook Park and forestry/property damage in the Wickstrom Forest area south of Seelye Book Park. The Wickstrom Forest area is part of a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Oak Grove. Approximately 20 neighborhood residents attended the meeting. A few ideas were addressed, essentially leaving four options for the City.

1. Install “hidden” cameras and wirelessly send this back to a city building to monitor. The camera would cost about \$2,000. Our wireless internet provider would allow use of this bandwidth for free. We would set up a computer back at a city facility for monitoring and recording purposes (estimated cost \$500+ with IT support). The challenge would be identifying any perpetrators of damage they cause.

2. Install fencing around the perimeter of the park and close the parking lot off for any use. The estimate we received to complete this project is \$9,460. This would eliminate much of the motorized vehicle traffic in our park. This would also essentially abandon the parking lot adjacent to the park in the woods.

3. Remove all park equipment and only have a “green space” park. This would “solve” the problem with the playground equipment being damaged but would not necessarily take care of the unauthorized motor vehicle traffic. We are estimating this could cost about \$10,000 to \$20,000 to design, enlarge a playground area, move and reinstall the equipment. While this may make “other” park users happy, not all those who attended the meeting were in favor of this option.

4. Do Nothing. One option is always to do nothing. However, following the media coverage as well as the neighborhood meeting, there have been NO incidences of vandalism at Seelye Brook Park.

So the recommendation tonight is do nothing at this time. However, the council may want to give direction on how to proceed if the vandalism starts up again. Kane thought the neighborhood meeting brought out a lot of incidents that even the neighborhood didn’t know what was going on. The council did like the camera idea when we get to a point that additional patrol needs to be done. At that, time staff can come back with some pricing. Brown said I think people are more aware and watching the area.

Refinance 2007 Municipal Bond Discussion: Staff met with our financial advisor about a possible refinancing of our 2007 municipal bonds. A summary sheet of our discussion on the possible savings, were provided. If the Council chooses to proceed after discussion, staff will work with Northland Securities to prepare the official paperwork to complete this refinancing and bring it back for council action. MOTION BY SANDOVAL SECOND TO PROCEED WITH THE REFINANCING OF THE 2007 MUNICIPAL BONDS. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Joint Fire Service Meeting: The Joint Service group reviewed the draft of the Grant Application. The comment period will close soon and needs to be submitted by next week.

9. **Reports from Council Members:**

a. **Sandoval – Ordinance 178, Second Series: Adding Section 4-1-6 Regarding Temporary Habitation (First Reading):** Sandoval said it was brought to my attention with

several phone calls that there is a mobile home at a residence that we previously denied. I would like to have the ordinance revisited. I previously voted against thinking residents would abide without having to pass the ordinance. MOTION BY SANDOVAL SECOND BROWN TO APPROVED THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 178, SECOND SERIES ADDING SECTION 4-1-6 REGARDING TEMPORARY HABITATION. Roll Call: Ayes: McClish, Kane, Brown, Sandoval and Tveit. Motion carried 5-0.

Sandoval stated regardless how the elections might go tomorrow; it has been a privilege to work with the city council and staff. I will continue to be a part of the community one way or another.

McClish reported he had the opportunity to attend the candidate forum two weeks ago, and I was disappointed to hear some of the candidates with some misinformation and negative comments about the city. I want to comment on some of the issues that were discussed at the candidate forum. McClish read his comments as follows:

1. Park Commission: During the candidate forum, a former member of the Park Commission stated that he thought the commission was abolished because he never received any notices, and thought they had no money. Well the fact is the Planning Commission did not have enough members so it was turned over to the city council. The city tried very hard to attract new members, but no one applied. Again, I highly encourage people to get more involved with your city and assist with our commissions.
2. New Police/Public Works Facility: A candidate during the forum brought up that the people had no clue about the new police/public works facility that was being built until it was completed. I just want to let the public know that it was discussed several times during the council meetings; information was placed on the city web site and newsletters, and even had a town hall meeting to discuss the new facility where only 6 citizens showed up. We placed videos on YouTube to explain the serious building issues, and even used social media such as Facebook and twitter. The media even printed articles about the new facility during the planning stages and while it was being built, and how it was being paid for. I don't know what else the city staff and council could do to get the information out there. Even Leroy Schaffer went door to door telling people to show up to the council meetings to express their opinions, but only a few people showed up on both sides of the issue. Again, I encourage the people to get more involved in your city and stay updated on what's going on around town instead of the rumors and facts that get twisted.
3. Communication: During the candidate forum, some candidates brought up about the poor communication within the city. I strongly disagree. Since I was elected to the city council two years ago, we have greatly updated our city website and we have created a Facebook and twitter page to increase our communication to the people. The city sends out newsletters, we video tape our council meetings for people to watch whenever they want. City council meetings are held twice a month where citizens can speak during the public forum; citizens can contact their city council by e-mail and/ or phone. The one area I would like to improve on in the future is to upgrade the video equipment to increase the video and sound quality for our video recorded council meetings, and to use a different server to improve viewing the meetings on-line. I would

also like to see other commissions such as the EDA, Charter, and Planning Commissions to be video recorded for public viewing.

One more thing, remember to get out there and vote tomorrow.

10. **Report from Mayor:** In regards to the Candidate Forum, I thank the Chamber of Commerce and the Women of Today for sponsoring the event. I too want to remind people to vote.

11. **Old Business:**

a. **Administrative Intern Update on 4020-233rd Avenue NW:** Four tanks were removed along with the canopy. There was some contamination but the results are not back from MPCA as to the extent. The MPCA now is taking over the project. The cost for the removal of the tanks and canopy are being assessed to the property. The City's portion of the project is complete at this time.

Administrative Intern Chris Mickelson is attending a meeting tonight in regards to a City owned vacant lot in the Royals Oaks subdivision.

Sandoval received a couple phone calls in regards to why are we building our own salt storage and what are our cost saving. Hysten stated I do not have the numbers tonight. What I can report is that previously the City was paying Anoka County approximately \$92-\$95 a ton. I did talk to Commissioner Look regarding the charges and asked for a breakdown. We found out the salt was approximately \$55-\$58 cost to Anoka County. Right before we decided to build the storage shed, Anoka County came back with a new proposal of approximately \$72 per ton. Using historical charges from Anoka County our new shed should be paid back in seven to nine years. Bethel and ISD #15 were being charged the higher fees too so they came on board and will now be purchasing from us. Sandoval said that very well answers my question.

12. **New Business:**

a. **Canvass Election Results:** Council needs to set a meeting to canvass the election results. Suggested dates are November 13, 14, or 15th. A motion would be in order to set the date, time and location. Hysten said the only potential council conflict is if the council was going to attend the LMC Regional meeting. The region meeting is November 14, 2012. None of the City Council did plan on attending the region meeting.
MOTION BY TVEIT SEONCD SANDOVAL TO HOLD TO CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS AT CITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 AT 4:00 PM.
Motion carried 5-0.

Road Structure: McClish reported we have discussed several times in the past about the road structure between St. Francis and Coon Rapids/Anoka area that needs to be improved in order to attract more businesses and make traffic more efficient during peak times. I had the opportunity to speak with Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look regarding the issue. He advised the future plan was to continue to upgrade County Rd. 9 from a 2 lane road to a 4 lane roadway further north from 161st Avenue in Andover, but it would be in phases and when funding

becomes available. Commissioner Look did advise me the county is planning on installing stoplights at the intersection of County Rd. 9 and Viking Blvd. in the near future, which would help relieve some traffic delays during peak times. The roads south of us are not in our city but it does impact our local businesses and citizens. We need to work together with the State of MN, Anoka County, and the cities of Oak Grove and Andover to improve the roadways. This has been discussed for years but nothing is done. After a brief discussion, the council agreed something needed to be done. The council directed staff to find some options and report back. Hylen advised the council he would speak with Jared Voge, and report back to the council with some options.

13. **Adjournment:** Mayor Tveit adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 6:55 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk