

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 4, 2016

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, Chris McClish and Tim Brown. Also present were City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk, Inc.), City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Police Chief Jeff Harapat, Fire Chief Matt Kohout, City Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, and City Clerk Barb Held.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY BROWN SECOND McCLISH TO ADOPT THE APRIL 4, 2016 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Consent Agenda:** MOTION BY McCLISH SECOND ORPEN TO APPROVE THE APRIL 4, 2016, CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA A-F AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. City Council Minutes – March 21, 2016
  - b. Accept the Resignation of Police Records/Public Works Clerk Britny Schmitz
  - c. St. Francis Lions 3.2 Permit for Pioneer Days June 3-5 in Community Park and St. Francis Fire Station
  - d. St. Francis Physical Therapy 3rd Annual 5k Walk/Run October 15
  - e. Accept the \$2,000 donation from Blaine's Blazin 4th Inc. for Pioneer Days
  - f. Payment of Claims \$ 166,413.55 ( Check # 70483-70539)
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Robert Bauer, 23826 Kerry Street coming to you as the Vice President of the St. Francis Relief Association. We are asking the council to consider increasing the benefit from \$2,100 to \$3,100 per year of service; enroll into PERA and be vested after five years, plus request a \$500 annual contribution from the city, per fire fighter.

Steve Feldman 22766 Poppy Street, engineer asked for a change order tonight for on the Bridge Street project. Who is going to pay for that? In regards to the change of meetings dates how will be people be notified if and what is the reason for the change of the meeting date. If it is only the intention to cancel the second meeting in December just change the ordinance to make that change.

6. **Petitions, Requests, Applications:**

7. **Ordinances & Resolution:**

**a. Ordinance 218, Second Series: Amending City Code Chapter 2 Section 2 Entitled “Council Meeting-Time and Place (Second Reading):** Lepak said may I take this one. This change came from the Charter Commission. This amendment gives the City Council the authority to cancel a meeting if it deems necessary. Two different instances is it tough get a quorum for the second meeting in December and the meeting around the fourth of July. The council would meet regularly for the other meetings. If a change is needed a it would be done by resolution. Currently if you want to change a meeting date it had to be done by ordinance, with two readings and not in effect until thirty days after publication. Brown said this would stream line the process. Lepak stated yes, again stated an ordinance would need two readings and be publish. Brown stated this was spear headed by the Charter Commission. Lepak said yes, it was initiated by the Charter Commission. Orpen asked do other cities do this by ordinance. Lepak stated Champlin is a statutory city and can do it by resolution. Is there a way to put more restrictions that residents are not taken by surprise. We will deal with the regular holidays. The two holidays that are primary holidays of concern are the fourth of July and the second meeting in December. Orpen said I think Steve (Feldman) made some good points on notification to the residents. Could we make it that it has to be done three meetings in advance? Skordahl said he would be comfortable to have them posted as we are doing now. People are paying attention to the website. MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND BROWN TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 218, SECOND SERIES AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2 ENTITLED “COUNCIL MEETING-TIME AND PLACE. Roll Call: Ayes: Brown, McClish, Skordahl, and Kane Nays: Orpen. Motion carried 4-1.

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

**a. Engineer: Bridge Street Utility Improvements:** Voge stated city staff has identified water system maintenance needs along the Bridge Street corridor. Anoka County obtained federal funds for improvement to Bridge Street and started last fall with their contractor. However, city utilities existing outside of the project limits could not be included in the Anoka County project. Council did authorize a separate City project that began by the city’s contractor last fall. While directionally drilling force main beneath an existing watermain, watermain fittings failed. The failure resulted in a significant leak that was repaired by the contractor. While repairing the failure, it was noted that the construction methods utilized during the original installation do not meet today’s standards. Staff conducted additional investigations and recommend that existing valves, hydrants, and appurtenances be replaced to meet existing standards as part of the project during 2016 before the new pavement is put in place. Since excavation will be completed near the intersection of Poppy Street and Bridge Street and Poppy Street is being considered for reconstruction in 2017, it is recommended that a section of the watermain be replaced and extended south, outside of the Bridge Street project limits. Replacement during the project will reduce the risk of the water system failing after the new roadway has been constructed. Kane asked if this could have been found when we went out for the original bids. It is a little disturbing. Orpen asked didn’t we have someone televise this. Voge said that was for the sanitary sewer. You really can’t televise to see how the fitting are. Orpen asked how many do we have to replace. Orpen asked if this is part of old bond or a new bond issue. Voge said that would be part of the new bond issue. This section of waterline was put in, in the 70’s and they tried to do it the cheapest way.

Skordahl asked do we put this out for bid. Voge said this is not a change order. We have talked to some contractors to get an estimate and the tough situation with this project is the water and sewer areas are open at the same time. Brown asked if we just band aid it now and we have problem in a couple years what would be a guess cost. Voge said significantly more, could be 1 to 2 times as expensive. Voge stated during the design process, maintenance records were reviewed and no deficiencies were noted with the water system and as a result, improvements associated with the water system were not included in the initial project documents. The financing will be part of the bond proceeding. General consensus of the city council was to move forward due to the cost in the future.

**b. Attorney:**

**c. Staff:**

**Finance:**

**Fire:**

**Public Works:**

**Liquor Store:**

**Police:**

**City Administrator: Fire Relief Association:** Kohlmann stated staff is bringing back this item at the council's request from December 2015. The St. Francis Fire Relief Association is requesting an increase per year benefit from \$2,100 to \$3,100; to join PERA which would trigger an earlier vested time frame into PERA and a municipal contribution of \$500 per fire fighter per year. A cost analysis was provided for the council for their consideration. Fire Fighter Robert Bauer stated if it falls to 90% vested the city has ten years to pay it back. That is what was stated in the presentation from Nyle Zikmund. Kohlmann stated he believes it is 100%. McClish asked if we have to act on it tonight. The council said the 90% versus the 100% was new to the council. Motion by Orpen to recommend waiting to give the firefighters a fair assessment. Bauer said it would have been nice to be included in your workshop when this was discussed. A PERA representative could have come in to answer your questions. Bauer stated we asked for a workshop with you. Kohlmann said these numbers came from PERA. Firefighters in the audience asked why didn't we get the numbers. Kohlmann said a representative from the fire department was given the information. Kane stated we will be two short at the next meeting. Fire Fighter Renee Greigo asked why does it keep being put off. Kane said we want to take care of this but want the facts first. Skordahl said it is being put off only because we need to get a clarification on the 90% versus the 100%. Brown said it has been six months but we have to look at the whole picture of the city. Bauer said the fund is over 100% vested why can't you move on. Brown said the economy could go bad and the city council is responsible for any shortage. Audience member said there is no support for the fire department like there is for the police department. Fire Fighter Faanes said they are not in the business for you to lose money. Orpen withdrew his motion. **MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECOND BROWN TO FINISH THIS DISCUSSION BY THE END OF MAY AFTER ALL THE FACT FINDING IS COMPLETE.** Brown asked what about the first meeting in May? **SKORDAHL SECOND BROWN TO AMEND THE MOTION BRINGING THIS BACK THE FIRST MEETING IN MAY.** Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Reports from Council Members:**

10. **Report from Mayor:** Kane stated just a reminder that April 30 is recycling day from 8 am to 2 pm.
11. **Old Business:**
12. **New Business:**
13. **Adjournment:** Mayor Kane adjourned the City Council meeting at 6:45 pm.

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Barb Held, City Clerk