

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Jerry Tveit, Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer. Rich Skordahl excused. Also present City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Jared Voge (Bolton & Menk) Kate Thunstrom, Community Development Director, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Matt Kohout, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND BAUER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-E AS FOLLOWS;

- A. City Council Minutes – January 3, 2017
- B. Accept the Resignation of EDA member Troy Shook
- C. Pay Request No.18 for \$155,571 to Gridor Construction, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
- D. Final Pay Estimate for \$3,521.24 & Change Order No. 1 for \$753.50 to Concrete Idea, Inc. for the Hwy 47 Pedestrian Improvements
- E. Payment of Claims \$1,329,302.23 (ACH 178E-181E \$1,186,837.82 and Check # 71945-72008 \$311,073.67)

Motion carried 4-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- A. HKgi: Master Redevelopment Plan – Progress Update/Presentation:
The City of St. Francis and Hoisington Kogler Group Inc. are in the process of creating a redevelopment plan for areas along the Highway 47/St. Francis Blvd corridor, and along the Bridge Street corridor. City Administrator Joe Kohlmann introduced Kevin Clarke and Britt Palmberg of HKgi They will give a presentation on how the St. Francis Forward Redevelopment Plan is proceeding. Both presenters went into detail of their research to date. The

topics covered were; Site Analysis, What We've Heard, Vision and Guiding Principles. HKgi will also be incorporating this data into the Comp Plan. Thunstrom state the next public meeting will be held February 16th, 6:00 pm at the high school. Feldman said I like the idea of tying Hwy 47 to Bridge Street. This is a visionary outlook for years to come. If our tax base grows it does help with taxes. Tveit said I am a big advocate for infrastructure but would like to make a conscious effort to manage people's expectation. We need to show the people the vision. I don't think the city did an adequate job on the wastewater treatment facility and why we needed it. Feldman said you need a plan but you also need preparation. It is going to take time. We do have some things in place. Muehlbauer said with the Bridge Street extension, how do you intend to connect the two. There was a study in 2005 that had the bus garage relocated. Plans can take 10-20 years to implement. Feldman said we are playing catch up and hope the people will have patience with us. The council thanked HKgi for their presentation.

- B. Lan Tornes: Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
Presentation: Lan Tornes introduced himself to the City Council. Tornes explained that he has lived here for about 12 years and currently on the URRWMO Board. Tornes gave an informational power point presentation on the URRWMO. He said the cities that make up the URRWMO are St. Francis, Bethel, Nowthen, Oak Grove, part of East Bethel, and a small portion of Ham Lake. Tornes stated he would answer any questions the council may have regarding the organization. Feldman thanked Lan for the worked he put into this. Feldman asked if the storm water fee connects with this? Tornes was not sure. Tveit said are you thinking about the MS4 Permit? As the cities grow there are a new tiers and different regulations. I think it is part of the MS4 stated Tveit. As part of the URRWMO presentation it states it is in place to controls surface and groundwater and erosion control. Bauer said all these cities are in Anoka County. What about the cities north of us? Tornes said they are not part of the watershed management organization. There are watershed districts and there is watershed management, they are different. Bauer stated it is baffling that Isanti can pollute and we have to take care of it. Tornes stated being we are in the seven county metro area we are required to have a watershed management organization. Muehlbauer asked if there are grants to help out with the funding. Tornes said there are some but we only actively go out when there are needs. Tveit said last year the Met Council had some grants. Feldman thanked Tornes again for his presentation.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Resolution 2017-05: Declaring Surplus Property:**

There has been interest by some people to purchase the City issued handgun of former Police Chief Jake Rehling. Staff has been in contact with a local firearms dealer who is willing to facilitate the selling to the interested party(s). The first of the process is the City must declare the City issued handgun surplus property with Resolution 2017-05. MOTION BY BAUER SECOND TVEIT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2017-05 DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY. Tveit said I think this amount is somewhat high. Comparisons were researched on various sources and found it was really varied. Length of a police hand gun is approximately 15 years. It was mentioned that police firearms are well taken care of. Motion carried 4-0.

B. **Council Procedure at Regular Meetings: Appointments to EDA:**

With recent resignation of EDA member Troy Shook, there are now two vacant positions on the EDA. The City has advertised through the Courier and the City's website, vacancy for over a year. MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER TO APPOINT SARAH UDVIG AND MICHAEL RODGER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Motion carried 4-0.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

11. **REPORTS**

A. Administrator's Report - None

B. Public Works Monthly Report - Public Works Director Paul Teicher have the monthly report on the water/ sewer and streets/parks. Teicher stated there is a concern with the warm weather this week on our rink condition.

C. Councilmember Reports -

Tveit said he received a flyer in the mail. In the past they have had a Mayor's Snowmobile Ride and with the warm weather the past several years they will not have one this year. The Sno-Ghosts are still going to have a get together called Meet, Greet & Eat. It will be Saturday, February 11th at the Cedar Creek Conservation Area-Riverside Shelter from noon to 3:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come and eat a hotdog by the bonfire. The Sno-Ghosts do a great job grooming our snowmobile trails. Tveit said recently someone questioned him on the rental license fees. Wondering if we could discuss it at a workshop. I like to have a "Meet Council Jerry" at the Community Center on February 22. It will be informal. The council is invited. I will be missing the first meeting in March.

Muehlbauer said I did check out the sound system here and I am not familiar with what they have, still looking into it. Held my first EDA meeting tonight

and discussed tax increment financing. The EDA agreed to move this request forward to the city council. Talked to staff about getting a subscribe option on our website to get community involvement. So whenever there is city news they would get it.

Bauer said I too will be out for the March 6 City Council meeting.

Feldman said hopefully someday as we grow we won't have to do TIF's. Some cities such as Cambridge do not do that someday we might be in that situation, hopefully. I have something I want to read, I want it to be put in the record as I state it so I am just going to read it off my sheet.

"It has come to my attention that there are still rumors going around that I am going to disband our police force. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have told this to our Police chief and I am now putting this on the record. What I am going to do is create, from a suggestion by our City Administrator, a finance committee. This committee will work with all of the department heads on a regular basis, to review their specific budget. By doing this, I and the council can; makes sure that the public dollars are being spent wisely and make sure that the services the residents are paying for is exactly what they are getting and also to see if there is a better way to provide those services at a reduced cost. I will also be looking at all facets of our city government in order to reduce our utility rates, while making sure we provide the residents with the services they require. This will begin with the 2018 budget year."

Just a FYI, I also will be inviting the Met Council to a workshop in February to get their input and talk over options pertaining to our waste water treatment facility. This will be open to the public and will be noted on our City's website.

So please if you hear anything that I want to disband the police department, please tell them it is not true. We will work with them as we will work with all departments to make the city run more efficiently and save money where we can.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:22 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk