

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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 and Rich Skordahl. Also present City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Matt Kohout, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND BAUER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Motion carried 5 -0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-G AS FOLLOWS:

- A. City Council Minutes – March 6, 2017
- B. Patriot Lanes Outdoor Dance Permit for June 9-11 (Pioneer Days)
- C. Resolution 2017-10 – Amending Resolution 2017-01 Appointments
- D. Connexus Agreement – Updated
- E. Metro West Agreement for building inspection service as needed
- F. Pay Request No. 20 for \$299,850.00 to Gridor Construction for Wastewater Treatment Improvements
- G. Payment of Claims \$606,417.62 (ACH #186E-188E \$418,594.29 and Checks # 72207-72273 \$187,823.33)

Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A. Shelly Kaunzner, 24439 Riverbank Lane, both her and her husband are alumni of St. Francis. Here to address the MS4 Stormwater Fee. Like some clarification being they do not receive any benefit from the fee. She also discussed the poor road condition and water runoff concerns in their area. It is not a paved road but should not have these types of problems. Last year we did put in a request to have someone review the conditions. We feel our voices are not being heard. The issues have been long standing we need more than talk of assessments. We do have pictures but what we really need is a qualified people to come out and address our concerns. Councilmember Tveit did come out today. August of 2013, when they moved in there was already a problem. Feldman said I would like to get out there with our new

engineer and public works director. We would like to see what we can do for you. Tveit said I met with Shelly and some of her neighbors. Feldman stated we will come out and look at the area.

- B. Mike Blood, 24411 Riverbank Lane, we have had a problem and has gone back about three decades. We did have some trees taken out of the easement and ditch. The engineer back years ago stated the pipe going out to the river is not large enough. I had drainage problems and have appeared before a lot of new and different councils for over thirty years. We have tried to get that road paved but were told it is not an option. We were told it would never happen because of the intersection at Tulip Street and Kings Highway because it is not up to MnDOT standard. If you come out that would be good. Feldman said we are a new council. When the city engineer said they were going to pave the road and assess us. We shouldn't have to pay for it. Feldman said we can't make promises but we will look at it.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- A. Anoka County Assessor - Alex Guggenberger, Anoka County Assessor gave a general overview and timeline of what the assessor's office does for St. Francis. The contract renewal time is approaching for Anoka County to continue to assess the properties in the City of St. Francis. Guggenberger gave a short power point presentation. The presentation included timelines, important dates and links to various agencies including contact information to the county assessors. St. Francis is currently open book. That means the residents appeal directly with Anoka County in June. With the later appeal date, that does give us time to work with the property owners to come to an agreement before the June meeting. Council asked staff to put the links on the City's website.

Tveit said he had a property owner who was concerned about the properties he owned and why they all went up the same amount. Feldman said it was the percentage gain was what the property owner was concerned about. Tveit said we used to have it where the residents came into contest their valuations. But with an open book you have more time to appeal the valuation. Guggenberger said feel free to have property owners contact us. Feldman asked if they can have assessors come out to re-assess the property. Guggenberger said yes, they will have someone come out and re-assess the property. Bauer said one of the property owners owns the post office and the federal government said it is a depressed area. Muehlbauer said if it is a depressed area by the federal government, do they contact you. Guggenberger said usually not. Comparable properties are used in your area on open market sales. Feldman said just wanted to make sure we don't get into problem again with over assessed properties. Guggenberger said your value increase is compared to just your community. Reason it is going up is because of the sales in the area. The values are based on historical sales and not projected sales. Council thanked him for coming to the meeting.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. ISD #15 – Ord. Amendment, Conditional Use permit & Site Plan Review Event Parking Lot - This item was a carryover from the March 6, 2017 City Council meeting. In review, the applications are to place gravel, limited use event parking lot on recently acquired property located on the southeast corner of 235th Avenue and Rum River Blvd. The City's Zoning Ordinance Section 10-19-8-E prohibits gravel parking lots. Therefore, the applicant is proposing an ordinance amendment to allow for such parking areas under certain conditions as a conditional use. The gravel parking area has already been installed. Feldman said it concerns me that this lot was in process before they came into city hall. Jane Rose commented on a letter from ISD #15. Feldman asked when will the turn lanes will be put in. Teicher said the turn lanes for a right turn lane south bound will be this construction season. Feldman ask when about north lane turn lane. Teicher said he has not heard of a north bound turn lane. Skordahl said there is an existing problem today with the traffic. This parking lot is affording them to get the traffic off 235th and across Rum River Blvd. Feldman said maybe they should get a traffic attendant as part of the conditional use permit. Kohlmann said being this is the first reading of the ordinance we can now address the city and county's concern. Bauer said maybe we can make them close the maintenance road and have them come in off 235th. Teicher said the counties comments are suggestions. These are county concerns regarding the turn lanes. Feldman asked Teicher what should we do in the meantime. Teicher stated is was said the problem already exist but having this additional parking lot it will help with the traffic concerns. Maybe it can be put in the conditional use permit some conditions. Jochum said maybe enter in off the maintenance road and exit off 235th. Kohlmann said we can work with Anoka County, the engineer and city staff. Muehlbauer said the parking lot is a good idea. Bauer said I want the maintenance road closed. Feldman lets work with the enter in only on the maintenance road and exit 235th idea. MOTION BY SKORDAHL SECONED MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 227, SECOND SERIES AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ST. FRANCIS ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SURFACING OF EVENT PARKING AREAS... Roll Call: Ayes: Tveit, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Skordahl. Nays: Bauer. Motion carried 4-1.

The conditional use permit will be addressed at the next meeting.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Schedule a Work Session – Week of April 10th: The work session was set for April 10, 2017 starting at 5:30 pm and will be held at city hall.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A. LeRoy Schaffer asked if the work session was open to the public. Council said yes, but no public input during work sessions.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Administrator's Report – none

- B. Public Works Department - Monthly Report – Teicher said monthly reports were in your packet and can answer any questions you may have. Skordahl asked when do you typically have the street sweepers come out. Teicher said when we confirm the date we will put it on the website and Facebook. It should be in a couple weeks.

Teicher said I did contact Anoka County on the speed limit consistency along Bridge Street.

- C. Councilmember Reports – Tveit wanted to report on the Get to Know Jerry Tveit February 22 a property owner was there with a concern on the assessed values so I will get back to them after tonight's presentation. As I spoke earlier I think there should be something done on Riverbank Lane. In regards to the leash law, there is something dog owners can do. Let the people know it is unacceptable to let their dog is running at large. Talk to the dog owner first. If no response contact the police department. We do have a dog catcher and if they have to pay they think twice about letting their dog run or off the leash. Schwieger reported on the leash law ordinance. Feldman read an email from a resident about dogs running at large. Feldman said we are trying to get the website more user friendly. Maybe we can make a link on the website to inform people about the leash law. Schwieger said yes we get calls all the time. Get the description of the dog and where it came from.

Muehlbauer said I am looking forward at seeing the property out on Riverbank Lane. I did have a gentleman contact me about the last snow fall and how the public works handles snow removal and when salting is done. I did learn the procedures the public works use on snow falls. Also talked to Kate about accessory structure. Muehlbauer said I did go to the Pioneer Days meeting and they will be looking for volunteers. Feldman asked about bathrooms being locked during Pioneer Days. He received a call on this matter.

Bauer stated I encourage all residents to start their neighborhood watch.

Skordahl said maybe we should dedicate a portion of the newsletter for hot topics that we want to get in front of the people. I did contact the person from the last meeting regarding dogs running at large. Contact the police department if you are having problems with dogs. St. Francis Forward survey

is open until March 30th. Skordahl said regarding the Comp Plan which will get us involved. Regarding Riverbank Lane I think we are going to need a plan. More than just bury a pipe. You get the right people involved you will get the process working. Feldman said the main thing is we are going to address it.

Feldman also stated I just want people to know we are approachable and we may not be able to give you the answer you want but we will work with you. Our numbers and emails are on the website. Remember to signal in the roundabout. The handheld radar gun has been ordered. Caution anyone just like the school parking lot, when in doubt call the city, ask them if you need a permit. Better to be safe than sorry. Today is the first day of spring. Think we are on the right track with the dog issues. The survey coming out is very important.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:20 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk