

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
ST. FRANCIS MN  
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 1, 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 Assistant City Attorney David Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Anderson), 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 MUEHLBAUER SECOND TVEIT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. City Council Minutes – April 17, 2017
  - B. City Council Work Session Notes – February 13, 2017 and April 10, 2017
  - C. CLIMB – Resolution 2017-12 Approving Location of The Ponds & Gambling Premise Permit
  - D. St. Francis Lions Club – 5k Permits for Pioneer Days
  - E. Extension of Real Estate Contract with Lake State Realty Services
  - F. Acknowledge the submittal of the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization 2016 Annual Report to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Financial Report to the Office of the State Auditor
  - G. Payment of Claims \$129,432.55 (Checks # 72409-72478)
- Motion carried 5-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A. Joseph Murrell, 24360 Yukon Street, I have a question on the \$18,000 bill for the liquor store and the hole behind my property. Also have a question on the Kings Highway and the money being spent for that project.

Council's response was the security cameras are a budgeted item and the current cameras not a good quality. The Kings Highway report was in the packet we will be discussing this later. The hole you are talking about, a stop work order has been placed on that project. Thunstrom said staff will contact the property owner to secure the area. Schaps said we will start some type of abatement if the property owner does not follow through with securing the

area.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

None

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ordinance 228, Second Series Amendment– Sunday Off-Sale Hours (First Reading) – The 2017 legislature amended the off-sale liquor laws in order to allow Sunday liquor sales. Effective July 1, 2017 liquor stores in Minnesota may be open on Sundays from 11 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Tveit said we have discussed this in the work session in order to have Sunday sales. Muehlbauer said they might be changing weekday hours by one hour each work day. This would be to make up for the additional staff hours. MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 228 SECOND SERIES AMEND SECTIONS; 5-3-3 HOURS AND DAYS OF BEER SALES; 5-4-2 SUNDAY SALES; 5-4-3 HOURS AND DAYS OF LIQUOR SALES; 5-4-5 HOURS AND DAYS OF SALES BY ON-SALE WINE LICENSEES; AND 5-8-5 SUNDAY SALES. Roll Call: Ayes: Tveit, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Bauer and Skordahl. Nays: None Motion carried 5-0.

B. Liquor Store Security System Replacement – The current camera system is over 10 years old and is no longer supported. Intermittent failures in the camera system has triggered an immediate need for replacement. This new systems technology will allow for better picture quality and improved surveillance coverage for inside and outside. This was a budgeted item. Questions were asked about the payment of this system. Discussion was held on the need for surveillance. Tveit said surveillance is a good tool. Skordahl said it is a valid expense. MOTION BY TVEIT SECOND SKORDAHL AUTHORIZING IT DEPARTMENT TO REPLACE CAMERA SYSTEM FOR APPROXIMATE PRICE OF \$17,500. Motion carried 4-1. Muehlbauer voting nay.

C. Kings Hwy/Riverbank Lane – Engineer Report/Grant Opportunities - Feldman stated this has been a time consuming project, been a concern over thirty years. I recommend this would be a special work session just for this topic and invite all the effected residents. So we can get the input of the residents and engineer. There might be some bonding money available. Jochum said the report is a preliminary report on the issues in the area. It is estimated that Kings Highway and Riverbank Lane were constructed in 1964.

Drainage is a concern; maybe some culvert work is also needed. We also added some curb and gutter and pavement. Some areas would be almost impossible to create ditches. That is why curbing would be needed in those areas. Feldman read the five items on the engineer's memo:

1. Clean sediment from ditches.
2. Remove and replace existing culverts and install flared end sections.
3. Re-profile ditches where needed.
4. Construct ditch back slopes where needed and possible.
5. Pave streets and add curb and gutter in the areas that do not allow for ditching (east side of Riverbank Lane).

Feldman said didn't Bolton & Menk want to curb, gutter and pave the owe area and was a much higher cost? Teicher said the previous engineer's cost was for a bigger project than what is presented tonight. Skordahl stated with this being about a 1964 project, how old are the septic systems? If we are there and put in a street construction do we put the water and sewer pipes in? Let's make sure we understand this neighborhood's needs, long term. Feldman said that's a good idea. We need to talk about this more in-depth. We might put together a work session sometime early June. We will let all the neighbors know when this meeting will be scheduled.

- D. Setting Work Session for May 22<sup>nd</sup> - The items for discussion at this work session will be the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the ordinance relating to chickens. Tveit said the only day I work that week the afternoon schedule is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tveit said I am comfortable with whatever the council as a whole decides. After some discussion of changing the date it was decided to leave it for May 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30 at city hall.

#### 10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- A. Liz Fairbanks, 24360 Yukon Street, questioned the money being spent on surveillance cameras at the liquor store. Why are we spending general fund money? Is there a lot of theft at the liquor store, have you asked? Why do you need cameras on the outside? I am disappointed in all of you. We need to help our St. Francis residents, the older people on the fixed incomes. You need to help our people. Extremely disappointed with our Charter Commission, city is going backwards. Quite honestly I want to move.

The council replied the money for the camera is not coming from general fund comes from liquor fund.

Fairbanks also questioned why cameras on the outside of the building? Plus why a civilian was directing traffic at an accident in front of Casey's tonight.

Schwieger said we look video as a resource when there is a theft. If we or the employees can't get a good description of the person, the license plates are the next best thing.

Feldman stated the camera system is over ten years old. It was noted the cost of the camera system will come from the liquor fund and not the general fund. We pay the water rates too, it can't be done overnight. Governing isn't easy, government does not move fast. We want the rates to go down too.

- B. Joseph Murrell made comments about the Coon Rapids Police Department along with the St. Francis Police Department. Don't see the need the cameras at all.

Dialogue went back and forth between audience members and the council on the need for the cameras. Cameras at businesses are assets, Feldman said. I could see if it was more of a concern if this was not a budgeted item or come from the general fund.

Schwieger said we have had residents bring in their home video to report theft.

- C. LeRoy T. Schaffer, 4626-235<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I once started investigating looking into joining with the county sheriff. Old subject matter, to combine police forces or go with the county police department.

Feldman said the when campaigning I heard about the police department. We have a new chief and must give him time. Work in progress and nothing will be done overnight. We need to support the chief, it is our responsibility your responsibility. It is a hot button issue. Let's give all our support to the chief and give him an opportunity. He has only been the chief for about five months. The topic of the police department and what they do continued between the audience and councilmembers.

Tim Brown, 5268 Ambassador Blvd, as far as the police department goes, they are doing a fine job. If my taxes go up just to help pay for police department I would be okay. Brown gave an incident of what happened to him and his family years ago and was thankful for the officers who knew the area.

Feldman asked Schwieger why was a civilian was directing traffic. Schwieger stated I do not know but will find out. Feldman said we will govern the best we can and cannot make everyone happy.

## 11. REPORTS

- A. Police Department Report – Police Chief Todd Schwieger gave the police department's quarterly report. Report included training attended and department statistics. Items purchased with forfeiture funds were two ballistic shields, a handheld laser radar gun and mobile field force gear. Events the police department will be sponsoring are a Bike Rodeo June 6<sup>th</sup>, Car Seat Clinic June 8<sup>th</sup>, new Neighborhood Watch Program, and will be expanding the police departments Night to Unite celebration. Officers are putting in extra time on their own time to get these programs up and running.

We are still in the hiring process. Hopefully we will have the new officer on by sometime in June. Once the new officer is off FTO they will be strictly dedicated to traffic. Feldman asked in the 5k run, will they need to use the reserve officers if crossing the road.

Muehlbauer asked Schwieger to explain Anoka County Mobile Field Team Force. If needed, we will only be deployed in Anoka County. Regarding the shields, Schwieger said there have been incidents we could have used them. Feldman discussed the use of the hand held radar.

Bauer stated with that accident today, I would like your officers to call out the fire department for traffic control. We have a fire department that can run the scene.

Skordahl said thank you for the report. We are citizens of Anoka County I think we should be part of this mobile field team force.

- B. Councilmember Reports-

Tveit reminded everyone there is a Pet Clinic this Saturday at the Fire station from 9 am-noon. You are going to be seeing this flyer soon in your mail, St. Francis Forward. It gives the citizen's opportunity to attend May 24<sup>th</sup> to voice their concern.

Muehlbauer attended a Charter Commission meeting. I am disappointed, for the reasoning that Robert Bauer cannot be on the fire department and be a council member. To me it is contradictory.

Bauer would like to remind everyone there is a school district bond referendum on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was disappointed the City Attorney was not at the Charter meeting.

Skordahl might be absent May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Feldman said fire fighters are hard to get but we have a good councilmember. Also on Recycling Day, I spent all day passing out these flyers, to get involved. Told people if they can't come to the meeting call city hall with your comments. Commend staff on all levels. I was amazed on how much material that was

dropped off. Thanks to everyone that helped that day.

Involvement, how to get people involved. We are going to get a new website starting in August. Hope more people will use it. We are all tools; we all have to learn to work together. Just like to remind people to turn your signals in the roundabouts. The gentleman that was disgusted with us lives on septic and well but still cares about the people of St. Francis. We hope you get involved.

Muehlbauer get ahold of your representatives to get the bonding money. Feldman agreed let Speaker Daudt and Senator Benson know to release the funds to help with our water and sewer rates.

- C. Upcoming Events - April 29th Recycling Day @ Public Works 8 am to 2 pm  
May 6th Pet Clinic @ Fire Station 9 am to Noon

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 7:21 pm.

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Barbara I. Held, City Clerk