

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2017

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

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers, Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer and Rich Skordahl. Jerry Tveit excused.

Also present; City Attorney Scott Lepak (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Anderson), City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND SKORDAHL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. City Council Minutes – August 7, 2017
- B. Pay Request No. 25 for \$179,017.00 to Gridor Construction for the WWTF Improvements
- C. Contract with ISD #15 for School Resource Officer 2017-2018
- D. Accept the Letter of Resignation from Public Works Operator David Thelen and authorize staff to advertise to fill position
- E. Authorization Not to Waive the Statutory Tort Liability Limits to the extent of the coverage purchased with LMCIT
- F. Payment of Claims \$437,961.21 (ACH 202E-203E & 206E \$303,807.47 and Checks 72932-72993 \$134,153.74)

Motion carried 4-0.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

None

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce – Donation Request for Pioneer Days
At the last City Council meeting Eric Schmoll, president of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was present requesting a donation for Pioneer Days. The City previously had a three year commitment of \$10,000 each year with the Chamber which ended this year. Feldman said it is called St. Francis Pioneers I think it is important to maintain it, it is good for the City. Right now we are in a budget deficit but they don't need it right now. I don't think right now is the best time to commit any funds.

Skordahl said my recommendation is to table until we have completed the 2018 budget; personally I don't have a problem giving them money if we can afford it.

Bauer said the previous city council did go out for several years. We do not have the funds right now.

Muehlbauer said we need to get our house in order first. See benefits of supporting the event.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND SKORDAHL TO TABLE THE DONATION REQUEST FROM THE ST. FRANCIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THIS TIME. Motion carried 4-0

- B. Speed Study Request for County Road 72

Due to increased traffic, accidents, and concern from residents staff is requesting Anoka County Highway Department to have an official MnDOT Speed Study performed on County Road 72. The area of concern is from the Bridge Street/County Road 72 intersection to a point 1.1 mile north, through the "s" curves. A speed study has never been done on this stretch of road, so it is posted at 55 MPH.

Skordahl said I am not sure what we are trying to fix it when it does have a slower speed limit during school hours.

Teicher said there is no cost for the study.

Bauer and Muehlbauer would like to see a study completed and asked about the timing. Would like to have it done during the busy time. Teicher said it can take up to six months to complete. MnDOT does not do a speed study during the winter months.

Feldman said he is for it. Being a study has never been done, the public has been complaining and it doesn't cost us anything to have it completed. Police Chief Schwieger said he thinks the area noted for the study is good idea.

MOTION BY MUEHLBAUER SECOND BAUER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO ANOKA COUNTY REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL MnDOT SPEED STUDY FOR COUNTY ROAD 72. Motion carried 3-1. Skordahl voting nay.

C. Ordinance 230, Second Series "Amending Chapter 15, Section 9 (Fee Schedule), Part P (Building Permits) – First Reading

Lepak stated with the 2017 amendments to the State Building Code, the fee schedules in the City Code are no longer consistent with the fee schedule outlined in State Statute. Minn. Stat. Sec. 326B.153 Subdivision 1 provides that a city fee schedule must be "the fee as set forth in the fee schedule in paragraph (b) or as adopted by a municipality. In order to provide clarity on the required fee, Lepak is recommending the City fee schedule be adopted by the City and remove the reference to the State Statute. This would need to be done by ordinance.

MOTION BY BAUER SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 230, SECOND SERIES AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 9 (FEE SCHEDULE), PART P (BUILDING PERMITS).

Roll Call: Yay: Skordahl, Bauer, Feldman and Muehlbauer

Nays: none

Motion carried 4-0.

D. Work Session Dates

- 1) Wednesday September 6th @ 5:30 p.m. – 2018 Budget @ City Hall
- 2) Monday September 18th @ 5:00 p.m. – Redevelopment Plan (HKGi-final prior to adoption) @ District Office
- 3) Wednesday October 4th @ 6:00 – Council/P&Z – HKGi - Comprehensive Plan @ Community Center

Directed staff to set the meetings/work session dates and time.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Public Works Department Report – Public Works Paul Teicher presented his monthly report on the streets, parks, water and sewer departments. Feldman said right now the WWTF is up and running. When is the project completion date or the walk through? Teicher said we will have a walk through with staff, engineer and project manager to make a punch list if any items need to be

addressed. One year warranty on the project equipment will start after the walk through and punch list items are addressed. Mulvihill said this contract does not have a retainage; they gave the City a performance bond.

Bauer asked if you thought about outside companies being able to dump into our new system for revenue purposes. Teicher stated not at this time, would like to see have the plant in full operation first.

B. Councilmember Reports-

Muehlbauer spent time with the mayor and the public works director took a tour on solar energy. Got a call from a person on Tamarack Street who had some drainage issues, was hoping she was here tonight. Thunstrom said that household is already working with staff. Best solution is to refer them back to staff. Feldman said if she calls again have her call Thunstrom.

Bauer stated on social media the residents want a dog park in St. Francis.

Skordahl reported one of the commission members and a resident are concerned with the old dam concrete pylons in the Rum River. I guess there is a grant out there; may be a smart idea before we redevelop this area is to look at removing them.

Feldman said I see Eric is here from the Chamber. This year we have a budget deficit that we need to address first. We are not ruling it out but need to get our budget balanced first.

Kwik Trip passed through the planning commission and will be on the September 5, 2017 agenda.

Regarding Riverbank Lane Street Improvement still waiting for the study and will have a work session with the neighborhood once the feasibility study is completed.

Speeding is a concern on residential streets. The speed limits signs are there for a reason. Follow the speed limits; the police will be out there. Main concern is safety for children and the residents. The newsletter will be coming out soon, please read it. Call city hall if you have questions. New website will be up in September.

Regarding the height of the mound in the roundabouts is for the traffic light safety. Muehlbauer said maintaining them is a good idea. As long as you slow prior entering them and give cars room. Feldman said are we going to do anything with the mound? Teicher said in the joint powers agreement the county is in charge of maintaining the roundabouts and they are aware of it.

- C. Upcoming Events - Sept 4th: City Offices Closed – Labor Day
Sept 5th: School Starts for ISD #15
Sept 5th: City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm
Sept 9th: Citywide Garage Sale

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular city council at 6:45 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk