

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
APRIL 16, 2019**

The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 7:04 p.m.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Craig Johnson, Greg Urban, Patricia Youker and Robert Morse.

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator, Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator, Ed Leier, Fire Chief, Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director, Bob Sundberg, Finance Director, Caroline Bell Beckman, City Attorney, Jesse Farrell, Public Works Director, and Peggy Aho, Deputy City Clerk.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Morse, it was

19-04-167 “RESOLVED that the April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays - 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 2, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

19-04-168 “RESOLVED, to approve the April 2, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. April 2, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Urban, it was

19-04-169 “RESOLVED, to approve the April 2, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Johnson, it was

- 19-04-170 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Item #7A-7F for the April 16, 2019 meeting be approved as follows:
- A. Approve Claims #77592 Through #77628 and Electronic Claims #1357 Through #1361 for Payment.
 - 1. US Bank Payment in the amount of \$8,587.61
 - B. Approve Cancelling the Regular Workshop and Regular Council Meetings Scheduled for July 2, 2019
 - C. Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Right Call Officials for 2019 Umpire Services.
 - D. Approved Hiring Renee Prola to Fill the Vacant Accounting Technician II Position.
 - E. Acknowledge Receipt of Quarterly Building Permit Report.
 - F. Accepted and Acknowledged 2019 Heritage Days Grants/Conations.”
- Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Gunderson welcomed anyone from the public to speak.

Ron Pierson, 4015 Alpine Avenue, addressed the Council about a neighbor who appears to be collecting a lot of autos, trailers, snowmobiles, other equipment, wood, etc. and storing it in the yard. He asked that City staff again look at the accumulation of items. He noted that three fireman from the City’s Fire Department came out and said that they would get back to him and he hasn’t heard back from them. He said since that time it appears that someone has remodeled the property and he believes that someone may be living in the garage. He asked if it is legal to run a construction company out of a yard. Pierson said he would appreciate getting an official response to his request made last October on the matter from either the City Council or a City employee.

Gunderson thanked Pierson for coming back and being patient. Fire Chief Leier noted that he had previously met with Mr. Pierson about the existing conditions and said that a letter was sent to the property owner. Leier said he will follow-up with Pierson and the property owner and get back to City Administrator Watson with an update.

There being no one else wishing to address the Council, Mayor Gunderson closed the meeting to the Public at 7:14 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Consider Approval of Case 19-004: Dietz Minor Subdivision 3925 and 3935 Centerville Road:

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed Planning Case 19-004 before the Council for consideration and a public hearing. The property owner is requesting a minor subdivision. Wall reviewed the layout of the property showing the minor subdivision lot line adjustment, and drainage and utility easement. New and existing parcels meet the R-2 minimum lot size, width and depth standards. No new buildable lot is being created.

Parcel A is being enlarged by approximately 15,000 square feet by reducing acreage on Parcel B. Wall said he believes it is Dietz' intention to sale Parcel B and wishes to have a little more land on the property he resides on.

Staff recommends approval of the following actions, with conditions: 1) approve the Resolution approving a minor subdivision at 3925 and 3935 Centerville Road; and 2) accepting the drainage and utility easements on both of the properties. Wall noted that this matter requires a simple majority vote by the Council.

Council Member Urban said it appears that there isn't much of a discussion because it meets the Code in every way. What is the reason that the Council needs to act on items such as this and would it make any sense that when we update City Code we change the Code to allow an administrative change instead of holding a public hearing or policy issue. Wall said that the City would still need to approve it. Wall said he will talk to City Attorney, Hartmann, about proposing a change to code. Urban he doesn't see a reason that just changing a lot line should need City Council action but should only need administrative approval. Wall said he could also talk to the County to see what might be a better approach for items such as this.

Mayor Gunderson Heidi asked if anyone is wishing to speak on this item. Closed public hearing at 7:21.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

19-04-171 "RESOLVED, to approve the proposed Minor Subdivision at 3925 and 3935 Centerville Road, based on the finding of fact that the request is compliant with the applicable City Code standards and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan."

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

19-04-172 "RESOLVED to accept the drainage and utility easement on 3925 and 3935 Centerville Road."

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Buerkle Road Improvement Project:

Public Works Director Farrell noted that City crews have been patching on Buerkle Road and they have put down 8 tons of patching material and did not finish. Scott Haupt, S.E.H., presented on the Feasibility Report for this project. Haupt gave the history of action by the Council on this project which began with direction by the Council last June to initiate a project.

Haupt reviewed the Feasibility Study findings. He reviewed the project costs estimated to be \$645,000. City contribution would be \$455,000 and assessable cost to property owners would be \$189,300. Haupt said that the City would use funds from the utility fund and that the project costs pertaining to the road improvement will be split 50/50 with benefitting properties. The next necessary step would be an assessment hearing which they would schedule for May 21.

Haupt reviewed the project schedule. Next step would be plans and specifications.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

19-04-173 “RESOLVED that the Council accept the Feasibility Report prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for the Buerkle Road Improvement Project; adopt a Resolution setting the maximum assessment rates for the Project at \$106.78 per foot; and set the Public Hearing to consider the Proposed Assessments for the Improvements on May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Accepting the Proposal Submitted by S.E.H. to Prepare the Design and Bidding Services related to the Buerkle Road Improvement Project:

Public Works Director Farrell noted that this item is follow-up to previous action taken by the Council regarding Buerkle Road. He noted that S.E.H. submitted a proposal to provide design and bidding services for the Buerkle Road improvement project. Farrell reviewed what the S.E.H. staff would be doing. Most of work would be completed between June and July 2019.

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Johnson, it was

19-04-174 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the proposal submitted by Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for the design and bidding services related to the Buerkle Road Improvements and authorizing the City Engineer to execute the Agreement.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Accepting Bids and Assessment Roll and Schedule an Assessment Hearing for May 21, 2019 for the 2019-1 Street Improvements Project:

Public Works Director Farrell gave an overview of the Project and bids were received on April 4. The costs came in higher than staff estimated. Most of the cost increase appears to be from higher bituminous costs and fuel prices. Farrell reviewed the bids that were received. Harddrives had the lowest bid.

Johnson asked if Harddrives has done work for the City before or any of the surrounding communities around us. Farrell said that that Harddrives has a very good reputation. City Administrator Watson said that they did the County Road E project. Johnson asked if we have a set time that the project would need to be completed. Farrell said the City can build in certain specifications and that typically it is in the contractor’s best interest to finish a project in a timely fashion.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Johnson, it was

19-04-175 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution accepting the bids, ordering preparation of the proposed assessment roll, and setting May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. as the Public Hearing Date to consider the Proposed Assessments for the 2019-1 Street Improvements.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Setting Tuesday, May 7, 2019 Workshop and Agenda:

City Administrator Watson noted that the Workshop agenda may include: Budget 101 including a discussion on the usage of City Funds and GASB and also a presentation by Jeanne Weigum with the Association of Non-Smokers – Minnesota will give a look at the City’s Tobacco/Smoking Ordinance and propose a change to the age requirement.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Farrell noted that Public Works is currently doing pothole patching and street sweeping continues.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Planning Commission meets next Tuesday night and will discuss two items: public hearings regarding City Code amendments, an application for a preliminary plat site plan and variances for an automobile dealership on Hwy 61. He also noted that staff are working to schedule the first Garceau Corner Task Force meeting in late May.

City Attorney Beckman reiterated that on Monday, April 29, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi will be putting on a presentation about sex trafficking at Bent Distillery at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Chief Leier thanked Public Works staff and the Fire Department staff for their work during the storm when a tree fell and took out power lines in early morning hours. Public Works staff responded within 20 minutes. Once Conexus showed up and removed the wire, Public Works and Fire cut up and removed the tree from the road. This was a prime example of City employees doing the right thing for the community.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik and Farrell met with S.E.H. about the Kohler Road Alternatives Analysis. They are also working with Ramsey County on this. He said they plan on updating the Task Force members once the Feasibility Study has been completed. He thanked all for coming out to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and the Waffle Breakfast.

Council Member Morse said there is a lot of energy in the room at the Heritage Days Committee meetings. He invited all to join the Committee. He said that he attended the Waffle breakfast and it was great.

Council Member Johnson said that he and Council Member Youker met with Assistant City Administrator Sandvik to discuss the Commons and reviewed expenditures and revenues and discussed maintenance items and possible ways to spruce up the Commons. They plan on meeting with Lorah Palmer to continue the discussion.

City Administrator Watson reminded all that the Goals Session is scheduled for Monday, April 22 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Commons. Watson said that he participated in the VHEDC Executive Director interviews where they interviewed two qualified candidates. He said that he looked at Polco prior to today's meeting and 72 people have signed up, there have been 31 comments and over 250 responses to the questions posted.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson that the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m. the motion was seconded by Morse and carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator