

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
April 20, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Acting Mayor Auge at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Acting Mayor Gerald J. Auge. Councilmembers: Terry S. Nyblom, Craig A. Johnson, and Bob Fletcher.

The following members were absent: Mayor Marc A. Johannsen.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Kathy Keefe, Assistant City Administrator; Mark Graham, City Engineer; Ed Leier, Fire Chief; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Carie Fuhrman, Planning/Community Development Director; Caroline Bell Beckman, City Attorney; Jeff Melcoch, Cable Producer; and Beckie Gumatz, Deputy Clerk.

Acting Mayor Auge provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-094 “RESOLVED, that the agenda for the April 20, 2016, Council Meeting be approved.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 6, 2016 Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-095 “RESOLVED, to approve the April 6, 2016 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. April 6, 2016 Regular Meeting

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-096 “RESOLVED, to approve the April 6, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-097 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda items for the April 20, 2016, meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Approve Claims #72685 through #72746, and Electronic Claims #949 through #953 for payment.
A-1. US Bank Visa Payment in the amount of \$5,793.47A
- B. Conditionally Approve a For-Profit Solicitor’s License for Aaron Jahnke of Corbin Exteriors Beginning April 21, 2016 Through December 31, 2016
- C. Approve Termination of Firefighters Daniel Mohler and Calvin Harris effective April 1, 2016
- D. Approve Appointment of Nick Harris-Billups from Probationary to Regular Firefighter effective April 1, 2016
- E. Approve a Public Outdoor Event for VHEDC and Press Publications to hold the Community Business Expo on Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Vadnais Sports Center

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one wished to speak.

PRESENTATIONS

Rice Street Bridge

Beth Engum, Project Manager with Ramsey County Public Works, gave an update to the status

of the Rice Street Bridge/I-694 Interchange Improvements.

In 1999, MnDOT turned back Rice Street to Ramsey County with a commitment to have the bridge over I694 replaced in the future. In 2004, MnDOT did a project that took a look at the corridor and proposed a partial cloverleaf design. Since that time, there has been significant transportation investment in the region. This has bumped the Rice Street Bridge project down the road. Right now, replacement of the Rice Street Bridge over I-694 is not part of MnDOT's 20 year replacement program. As a result of this, Ramsey County and the three surrounding communities (Little Canada, Shoreview, and Vadnais Heights), have been working at the County level to look for funding for replacement. They have been putting grant applications together for federal funding, state funding, as well as asking the state legislature for money. The County is currently asking the Legislature for \$20.5 million, to include funding for design and construction.

Councilmember Fletcher asked if the proposed cloverleaf design is still feasible given the recent construction improvements made in the area near the east side exit ramp. Ms. Engum responded that design could still work, however, that design took into account some improvements that didn't come to fruition. One improvement that design assumed was that I-694 would be getting more lanes, and that design also would take up much of the space on the old county public works site, leaving it largely unable to be redeveloped.

The goals for this project are to improve traffic operations, provide access to the former public works site, and to provide improved pedestrian and bicyclist facilities.

There are seven interchange concepts that have been looked at since February 9, 2016. Designs that have been looked at include taking the existing diamond interchange and making it wider to accommodate more lanes, a design that would be similar to the project done at Highway 36 and Rice Street, and using the existing bridge as well as building another bridge and having each bridge utilize one-way traffic.

The county's preferred alternative would utilize roundabouts at the ramp terminals coming off of I-694 onto Rice Street. There would also be roundabouts at the closely spaced intersections to the north and to the south of those ramp terminals. One reason for this design is that close intersection spacing is very problematic. If the county was to go with signal intersections with wider roadways, traffic would end up backing up through the adjacent intersections. It would not help to clear up any of the current traffic issues.

Ramsey County does not currently have any roundabouts on its roadway system. There are roundabouts within the county, but they are located on city systems. The county is looking at roundabouts for this project specifically because it fits the configurations of the intersections involved, and, roundabouts are a good method of traffic control at intersections. They have been shown to improve safety and reduce delay. There are over 2,000 roundabouts in the United States. When compared to their previous intersection configurations, roundabouts have been shown to reduce fatal crashes by 89%, and have a 39% reduction rate in all crashes.

Councilmember Fletcher asked about the number of lanes going into each roundabout. Ms. Engum responded that they will be two lane roundabouts. The reason that they allow for the Rice Street section to be four lanes instead of seven is because with roundabouts you don't need turn lanes. The county has also proposed adding a trail on the east side, and sidewalk on the west

side.

Councilmember Fletcher asked about property acquisition. Ms. Engum responded that there will be property acquisition. The county is very early in figuring out the impacts to surrounding properties and is working to adjust the design to mitigate the impacts.

Councilmember Fletcher asked about involving the city's community development staff in regards to impacts to area businesses. Ms. Engum responded that City Engineer Graham has attended all meetings, as have representatives from all impacted communities. Ms. Engum also stated that the county will continue to work with cities and that this design is not final and can be changed going forward.

Councilmember Fletcher stated his concern that roundabouts take more land and that will have an impact on our business community. Planner/Community Development Director Fuhrman noted that she has met with a research firm hired by the county to talk about land use implications earlier in the process. There was further discussion regarding impacts to businesses.

Councilmember Nyblom asked about the impact to the Vadnais Inn's physical structure. Ms. Engum responded that the county is not far enough along to be able to determine impacts to businesses from a footprint standpoint. They have been provided access with this alternative.

As far as business owner communications, Ms. Engum stated that Ramsey County is currently going to visit each City Council. Once each Council has been met with, the county will be setting up a meeting with area business owners to gather feedback.

Councilmember Fletcher asked if the other alternatives are still on the table. Ms. Engum responded that the county is moving forward with this option based on the fact that it accomplishes the majority of the goals. The other alternatives are not an option unless the county finds out that as they continue the process, a major change would need to be made.

There was discussion regarding the heavy traffic in the area and that an additional lane will be added to I-694.

Councilmember Johnson asked how the trail will be put in. Ms. Engum answered that the trail option will need to be looked at in more detail in order to find the best path to keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe.

Councilmember Fletcher asked if there would be pedestrian overpasses or underpasses with this project or if the pedestrian trail would be at grade level. Ms. Engum responded that this project will be putting a trail on the road bridge. They are also looking at having the trail be tucked below the ramp coming off of westbound I-694 at the north terminal.

Councilmember Fletcher asked about the status of the bonding proposal at the legislature. Ms. Engum stated that there is a bill proposed and that the county has a meeting with a bonding committee set up for the following week. The county is currently asking for \$20.5 million to fund both design and construction of the project, and would allow them to begin construction in 2018.

Council thanked Ms. Engum for her presentation.

“Start by Believing” Resolution

Administrator Watson stated that Ramsey County Public Health and the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office have started a new joint initiative called “Start by Believing” which is a national public awareness campaign designed to improve the response to sexual violence survivors. The goal of the initiative is to partner with other county departments, local law enforcement, community groups, and residents to provide education, training, and outreach to reduce the disbelief, shame, or blame sexual violence survivor’s encounter.

Acting Mayor Auge read the resolution aloud.

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-098 “RESOLVED, to adopt a resolution supporting the “Start by Believing” national public awareness campaign designed to improve the response to sexual violence survivors.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Volp Vadnais Heights LLC Heights Plaza Planned Unit Development Amendment – 1020 Highway 96 East

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman explained that Volp Vadnais Heights LLC has submitted an application to amend their Planned Unit Development to replace two freestanding signs on their property. The signs are located just south of the driveway on Centerville Road and just east of the driveway on Highway 96. The proposed new signs would advertise the shopping center as well as tenants. The signs are proposed to be 25 feet in height and a little over 80 sq ft.

Councilmember Fletcher asked about the height of the signs and the height of building along Highway 96. Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman stated that the height of the sign is 25 feet and the height of the building is 26.5 feet. She also explained that the reasoning for the proposed height of the signs is for traffic and pedestrians to have better site lines when leaving or entering the property.

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman also noted the zoning of the site. It is zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) with C-2 underlying zoning district standards. The site acts like more of a C-3 zoning site, which would allow for signs up to 65 feet in height. Staff is not recommending that new signs be allowed up to this height; but it was noted for comparison-sake. The amount of traffic going by this site per day is roughly 19,000, making it act much more like a commercial highway district versus a neighborhood commercial business district.

The reasoning for needing a PUD amendment is that the proposed signs exceed the height limit of a C-2 district sign, as well as the size requirement. The other reason for the amendment is they are asking to exceed the number of tenants that may be displayed on each freestanding shopping center identification sign, which is normally two.

In the immediate vicinity, Cub Foods has a freestanding sign which is 34 feet at grade, and 29 feet in height at street level. Another area sign is at 27 feet 8 inches at grade, 26 feet in height at street level. The Holiday sign across the street is at 19 feet 2 inches. There is another area sign at 20 feet 4 inches. This proposed sign would fall within the range of these area signs.

The Planning Commission has met and held a public hearing on this item and recommended approval of the PUD amendment. Staff would recommend approval based on the following factors: the site is unique in the amount of vehicular traffic that travels by it daily; to address the vehicle traffic and pedestrian safety concerns; the sign heights are within the range of sign heights in the area; the new signs are an aesthetic update to the existing signage, which coincides with the existing construction that is being conducted on the site; and it will help to enhance the image of the shopping center property, as well as the Highway 96 and Centerville corridors, meeting the intent of the Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Volp, Volp Vadnais Heights LLC, thanked Council and staff for their support.

Acting Mayor Auge opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

No one wished to speak.

Acting Mayor Auge closed the public hearing at 7:51 p.m.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-099 “RESOLVED, to approve the amendment to a Planned Unit Development for two freestanding signs at the corner of C.S.A.H. East Highway 96 and Centerville Road, subject to the condition that the curbing and landscaping be restored where Pylon Sign #1 is installed and details of the PUD Amendment shall be entered into the Development Agreement.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. North Star Mini Storage Vadnais Heights, LLC Special Use Permit, Variances, and Site Plan – 3880 Labore Road

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman stated that Kiehm Construction, on behalf of North Star Mini Storage, has submitted applications for a Special Use Permit, Variances, and a Site Plan. The property is located east of Labore Road and north of Goose Lake. The site is zoned Industrial and encompasses 6.94 acres. The property is currently not served by water and sewer.

The applicant is proposing to build two structures; the first would house the living quarters as well as the office space and would be 1,680 sq. feet. The second structure would be the actual mini storage facility and would be 62,000 sq. feet in size. They are proposing roughly 165 storage units on the first floor, and 384 storage units on the upper level. The storage units will range in size from 6 feet by 5 feet, up to 24 feet by 55 feet.

The application is for a Special Use Permit for self-storage unit facilities with living quarters in the Industrial District. Their proposal does meet the requirements, and the conditions of approval will be included in the Development Agreement, including, but not limited to, that the living quarters be sprinkled.

The next applications are for variances. The first variance is requested because City Code requires that any two access points in the Industrial District be at least 150 feet apart. The applicant is proposing to have the two access points be about 55 feet apart. Staff is in favor of allowing this variance because the spacing requirement is meant for more traditional industrial settings that may have large amounts of semi-truck traffic.

The second variance is related to wetland buffer area. There is a small part of wetland area on the property that will be encroached upon by driveway. The driveway area will come within about 5 feet of the wetland edge. Staff is in favor of allowing the variance, as long as the applicant works with VLAWMO on a compromising solution to lessen the impact to the wetland. Staff has spoken with VLAWMO staff about this.

The next variance is regarding the Landscape Plan. Landscape requirements are based on the square footage of the building. This is a very large building, and with the landscape requirements they are required to plant 125 trees on the site. The applicant has requested a variance from this, and staff is supportive of granting it as they are doing a good job of buffering and planting a significant amount of landscaping for the area. The applicant has also offered to make up for the trees that he will not be planting and donate them to the City to plant wherever it chooses.

Lastly, there is a billboard currently located along the west property line of the site. It is currently considered an existing legal, non-conforming sign and does have the right to remain where it is and be maintained. The applicant is proposing to keep the pole in the same location, but shift the billboard to face northbound traffic and turn it into a digital billboard. Staff has reviewed the proposal, it meets the code requirements and staff recommends approval conditioned upon it meeting the three conditions outlined in the memo: (1) approval from MnDOT, (2) a slight reconfiguration of the driveway so that there is no billboard over the driveway, and (3) that the city's digital sign requirements be met.

The Planning Commission has held a public hearing and recommended approval of this item, subject the conditions of approval and that the applicant be required to enter into a development agreement.

City Engineer Graham commented on city water and sewer issues. The sewer and water lines end prior to reaching this site. The challenge is being able to not only serve this property and their needs, but also have the correct size pipe put in the ground in the event that Labore Road were to ever extend further to the north. In working with the developer and their engineer, the agreement is that the developer will extend the sewer and water themselves to city standards.

Acting Mayor Auge asked about the impact on Macaluso's. City Engineer Graham stated that there will be no impact to the restaurant, but that in extending the watermain pipe, they will need to dig up the road in that area. When a contractor is chosen for that job, they will have discussion about potentially doing the project overnight, or on off hours, so that the road will not be torn up during the day. Acting Mayor Auge also asked if the utilities will be run up the east side of Labore Road. City Engineer Graham answered in the affirmative, but that they will not be disrupting the road.

Acting Mayor Auge opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

No one wished to speak.

Acting Mayor Auge closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Councilmember Nyblom stated his support for the project.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Fletcher, it was

- 16-04-100 “RESOLVED, to approve the Special Use Permit for a self-storage facility with living quarters; a Variance to the wetland setback, driveway spacing, and landscaping provisions; and a Site Plan Review for the property located at 3880 Labore Road, subject to the following conditions:
- 1) The structure size shown in the floor plan is larger than what is shown in the Site Layout Plan. The Site Layout Plan shall be updated and submitted to the City; all setbacks shall be met.
 - 2) The exterior materials of the living/office structure shall be constructed of the same material as the self-storage unit facilities. Final colors/architectural features shall be reviewed by staff prior to building permit approval.
 - 3) The living quarters shall be sprinkled.
 - 4) Prohibit any and all commercial, industrial, or residential uses other than storage within the self-storage facilities.
 - 5) Prohibit storage of any hazardous materials, chemicals, gasoline, or flammable liquids in any storage space, except for normal household quantities. Prohibit the storage of propane tanks or flammable gases.
 - 6) A temporary restroom facility is not permitted to serve the facility.
 - 7) The parking spaces shall meet the minimum size requirements and handicap stall requirements per Code.
 - 8) All conditions outlined in the VLAWMO memo shall be adhered to, including, but not limited to the requirement of a De minimis exemption application submittal for the 167 square foot wetland being impacted and additional information being submitted for the runoff and stormwater plans.
 - 9) A solution should be found between the applicant and VLAWMO to reduce the impacts and minimize the disturbance

to the 833 square foot wetland to the northeast of the self-storage structure. This shall be coordinated with VLAWMO staff.

- 10) Lighting shall be hooded or controlled (downcast) so not to light adjacent property. The Lighting Plan shall be adjusted to reduce footcandles at the property lines. A revised Lighting Plan shall be submitted to city staff for review.
- 11) A permit shall be obtained prior to the installation of any signage on site or modification to the billboard.
- 12) The proposal to keep the billboard in place, but rotate it slightly and change one side to a dynamic sign is approved, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Approval from MnDOT.
 - b. Slight reconfiguration of the driveway, so that the bituminous surface is not directly below the base of the sign or actual sign. This would then meet the City Code requirement that a billboard cannot occupy airspace above a driveway or parking area, which is in place to protect the safety of pedestrians or vehicles from ice or snow falling.
 - c. The dynamic sign requirements of the Sign Code (24.130(3)).
- 13) All conditions outlined in the City Engineer's memo shall be adhered to and will be included in the Development Agreement.
- 14) All conditions outlined in the Fire Chief's memo shall be adhered to and will be included in the Development Agreement.
- 15) The Owner, developer, and any others with interests in the property shall enter into a Development Agreement to the city attorney's satisfaction and must be filed with the offices of the Ramsey County Recorder and/or Registrar of Titles.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Body Art Establishment Zoning Code Amendment – Open and Continue Public Hearing

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman recommend to open and continue the public hearing on this item until the May 18, 2016 Council Meeting. Staff will be leading further discussion of the Planning Commission's recommendation at the May 4, 2016 workshop. As the public hearing was already noticed, staff wanted to make sure and give the opportunity to anyone who may have seen it and wished to speak on this item tonight.

Acting Mayor Auge opened the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

No one wished to speak.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-101 “RESOLVED, to open and continue the public hearing on the Body Art Establishment Zoning Code Amendment until the May 18th Council meeting.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

D. City Center District Awning Signage Zoning Code Amendment – Open and Continue Public Hearing

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman noted this item is the same as the last, staff is proposing to open and continue the public hearing to the May 18, 2016 Council meeting, with further discussion occurring at the May 4, 2016 workshop. As the public hearing notice was published, staff would like to give the opportunity to anyone wishing to speak on this item tonight.

Acting Mayor Auge opened the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

No one wished to speak.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Fletcher, it was

16-04-102 “RESOLVED, to open and continue the public hearing on the Awning Signs in City Center Zoning Code Amendment until the May 18th Council meeting.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Conditionally Approve Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Easy Street Liquor located at 1150 East County Road E

City Administrator Watson noted this application is for a new owner with a new business name. This current application will be approved through June 30, 2016, to get them on the same cycle as the rest of our liquor licenses in the city.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-103 “RESOLVED, to conditionally approve the Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for East Street Liquor.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. 2016 Street Crack Seal Award

City Engineer Graham stated that each year the city takes bids on this type of project. This year, the low bid was received from Northwest Asphalt Maintenance, Inc. Staff recommends approval of the contract in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-104 “RESOLVED, to award 2016 Street Crack Sealing Project to Northwest Asphalt Maintenance, Inc. in a not to exceed amount of \$65,000 with the Payment from Account No. 402-173-44020.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Garceau Corner Demolition and Clean-Up Grant Applications

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman explained that staff and Council have been working towards the redevelopment of this site. There are currently three grant opportunities that staff would like to apply for. There is the Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) Grant, the DEED Contamination Cleanup Grant, and the Ramsey County Environmental Response Fund (ERF) Grant. Staff is seeking Council’s approval to submit these grant applications. There is a 12% match required for the DEED Contamination Cleanup Grant. As cleanup estimates have come in at \$1.3 million, the estimated match by the City would be \$167,000. Hopefully, that amount can be recovered once the property is sold to be redeveloped.

Johnson asked about the probability of the City receiving any of these grant funds. Planner/Community Development Director Fuhrman responded that staff is very hopeful.

Upon motion by Fletcher, seconded by Nyblom, it was

16-04-105 “RESOLVED, to authorize application for the Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA).”

Ayes –4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-106 “RESOLVED, to authorize application, committing local match (12%), and authorizing contract signatures for the DEED Contamination Cleanup Grant.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-107 “RESOLVED, to authorize application for the Ramsey County Environmental Response Fund (ERF).”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

D. Luther Subaru Acura Development Agreement

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman noted that originally the applicant had requested to delay the construction of the sidewalk, which was indicated in the development agreement language. They have now indicated that they will be installing the sidewalk during the project construction. The applicant will also be using the vacant lot to the west of their site for storage of vehicles during construction. They are also working with Ramsey County to get a cross access easement for the driveway that enters onto the Vadnais Sports Center property.

Steve Sabraski from Landform Professional Services clarified that they will not be using the vacant lot for storage of vehicles. He also thanked staff and Council for their support of the project.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-108 “RESOLVED, to approve the attached Development Agreement for the Luther White Bear Subaru Acura expansion project, subject to the condition that U.S. Bank sign the Consent Form.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

E. Consider Setting May 4, 2016 Workshop and Agenda

City Administrator Watson presented potential items for the May 4, 2016, Council Workshop including: Body Art Establishment Zoning Code Amendment, City Center District Awning Signage Zoning Code Amendment, 2016 Utility Maintenance Improvements, 2016 Street

Improvements, 2016 CIP Items, Fixing the median in front of City Hall, and a sidewalk along Koehler Road.

Councilmember Fletcher asked for discussion at a future workshop on garbage cost and the City's cost. There was discussion of the current contract that the City has, which goes through 2019.

Nyblom asked if any children living on Searle Ct. would be allowed to walk to school along a trail on Koehler Road. City Engineer Graham stated he would talk with the White Bear School District to find out. There was further discussion regarding Koehler Road.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

16-04-109 “RESOLVED, to Set a May 4, 2016 Workshop meeting and Agenda including discussion of a Body Art Establishment Zoning Code Amendment, City Center District Awning Signage Zoning Code Amendment, 2016 Utility Maintenance Improvements, 2016 Street Improvements, 2016 CIP Items, Fixing the median in front of City Hall, and a sidewalk along Koehler Road with a 5:30 p.m. start time.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance Director Sundberg had nothing to report.

Planning/Community Development Director Fuhrman reported that the Planning Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26. There will be two public hearings; Gentry Academy and Liberty Village.

City Engineer Graham reported that hydrant flushing is going fine. The Spring Clean Up day is Saturday, April 23 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The next Council meeting is the assessment hearing for the 2016 Street Project; English Street and Montmorency Street, and Hoffman Road East. The Parks Commission met and a recommendation for Community Park playground will also be coming to the next Council meeting. He also reported on having met with the pole provider for street lights, and will be placing an order at the end of the week.

Chief Leier reported there have been recent news and newspaper reports about communities struggling with recruiting fire fighters and retaining them. This has been and will continue to be an issue. The Fire Department interviewed five very good candidates who will all be entering the program. Two have previous experience with other communities. In the last six weeks, the Fire Department has responded to six structure fires in other communities. He also reported that the Waffle Breakfast and Fire Department Open House was a success.

Assistant City Administrator Keefe had nothing to report.

City Administrator Watson reported on the road closures along I-35E. Generally speaking, the ramps that are currently closed will open in June. Ones that are open will close in June. The southbound lane of I-35E onto County Road E will close in June and remain closed through September. The northbound off ramp from I-35E onto Highway 96 will close in June and remain closed until August. It is also expected that the Goose Lake Bridge will open in November.

Attorney Bell Beckman reported on the Lemke court hearing. The court has granted the motion for summary enforcement. She also noted that Erich Hartmann will be at the next meeting and that Natalie Staheli is doing great and has been a great addition.

Councilmember Johnson had nothing to report.

Councilmember Fletcher reported that the City Center Task Force met to discuss pedestrian crossing between the Fairfield Inn and City Center Lane over to Jimmy's. They are looking for a solution to help pedestrians cross County Road E. He also thanked Planner/Community Development Director Fuhrman and City Engineer Graham for all their hard work.

Councilmember Nyblom reported Spring Clean Up is on Saturday to assist property owners to keep their properties clean. He also thanked residents for attending the Waffle Breakfast and Fire Department Open House.

Councilmember Auge reported he has concerns regarding traffic and speeding on Centerville Road near the school. He also attended a business meeting for Fire Department and believes they are doing a good job.

Upon motion by Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin P. Watson, City Administrator

ATTEST:

Gerald J. Auge, Acting Mayor