

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, and Council Members: Greg Urban, Patricia Youker, Steve Rogers and Erik Goebel.

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Jesse Farrell, Public Works Director; Chris Hearden, Fire Chief; Erich Hartmann, City Attorney; and Peggy Aho, Deputy Clerk.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Gunderson, seconded by Rogers, it was

21-02-027 “RESOLVED that the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda as amended to add Appointments to the Parks, Rec and Trails and Planning Commission, be approved.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 2, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-02-028 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the February 2, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. February2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-02-029 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the February 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-02-030 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7F for the February 16, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80274 Through #80329 and Electronic Claims #1595 Through #1599 for Payment
 - 1. US Bank in the amount of \$4,026.27
- B. Consider Approval of Two Polling Place Agreements with Ramsey County
- C. Consider Approving Restated Conditional Use Permit and Agreement with Five Star Mobile Estates, LP
- D. Consider Approving an Agreement with Safe Assure Consultants, Inc. for 2021 Services
- E. Request for a Leave of Absence – Montgomery
- F. Consider Appointing Commissioners as Recommended by Council Member Rogers.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:07 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:07 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Celebrating Vadnais Heights Lions Club 40 Years: Mayor Gunderson read the following proclamation:

Recognizing the Vadnais Heights Lion's Club on their 40th Year

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, from 1947 to about 1980, the area was served by the Vadnais Heights Booster or Community Club, which helped the community with such things as lobbying for street signage, street lighting, assisting scouting and sports for youth, and providing community recreation such as community dances, festivals, including the start of "Heritage Days";

WHEREAS, the Community Club saw little growth, and their long-term members retired and the Club announced that it would fold in 1980; and

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lion's Club appointed White Bear Lake Lion Member Jim Honsa to be the guiding Lion to lead the development of the Vadnais Heights Lion's Club which was chartered on October 31, 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hank Tessier, Councilman David Garceau, Sr., Building Official Jerry Theis and City Clerk, Clerk/Treasurer Gerry Urban, along with a few members of the City's Planning Commission along with twenty other members of the community signed the original charter to establish the Vadnais Heights Lions, that is displayed at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, today the Vadnais Heights Lion's Club has about 60 members; and

WHEREAS, the Lions are known for the various avenues of service, including sight, hearing and living up to the Lions motto "We Serve" they try to help in with whatever the community needs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Lions have helped with area scouting programs, created and maintained our community food shelf, purchased vision tests and glasses, built ramps and purchased wheelchairs for handicapped, helped support park improvements, helped purchase public safety equipment, including defibrillators, provided a Holiday Toy/Gift program for children, put on the largest garage sales in the City and helped with many community festivals, such as Heritage Days, Halloween Parties, and other community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Lions are able to provide all these services by raising funds at events such as their pancake/waffle breakfasts, Heritage Days events, annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive, and Fall Golf Outing and through donations from the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Vadnais Heights Lions have partnered with the City's Recreation Department, Fire Department, Rotary Club, the VHACF and the VHEDC on many events and programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Heidi Gunderson, Mayor of Vadnais Heights, do hereby congratulate the Vadnais Heights Lion's Club on their 40th Anniversary and thank them for providing their services to the community using the funds they raise at various events.

Lion Paul Schirer gave an overview of the Food Shelf program which was established with coordination from the City in 1984.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Planning Case 21-001- Jimmy's Minor Site Plan

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the application before the Council from Gerald, Inc (Jimmy's Food and Drink) for a minor site plan review to construct an outdoor patio on the subject property. There are no negative impacts to other surrounding uses and no changes to the existing traffic patterns.

Charles Cook, owner of Jimmy's, said that they are looking to change Jimmy's a little in light of the changes that have been necessary due to COVID. Council Members Urban, Youker and Goebel said they can support the project. Mayor Gunderson said that it looks great and thanked them for their continued investment in the community.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-02-031 "RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution approving a Minor Site Plan at 1132 East County Road E as presented."

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Public Improvement Hearing and Assessment Hearing for the 2021-1 Street Improvements Project

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell gave an overview of the 2021 street improvement projects. Scott Haupt, S.E.H., presented a PowerPoint and noted that the recommended improvements for the project area include: reclaim existing pavement and gravel, make minor sanitary sewer and water main repairs, pipe lining and minor storm sewer improvements, spot curb and gutter repairs, improvements to pedestrian ramps, and place new bituminous pavement and restoration. There are also cost sharing opportunities through VLAWMO grants for residents if they want to put in a rain garden.

Haupt noted that the total project cost is estimated to be \$1,206,300 and of that the City's contribution is about 72% and 28% for special assessments to benefiting parcels. Haupt noted that the next step in the project schedule is to get City Council approval of the plans/specs and authorize bids next month and then authorize bidding which would be opened on April 15, 2021 and City Council awards contract on April 20, 2021 and construction estimated to be May through September.

Council Member Youker asked if this comes in under \$1.2 million would the amount that the City contributes remain the same. Farrell responded that City's contribution comes from franchise fees and applicable utility enterprise funds. The assessable cost is set by how much benefit does the project bring to each property. When bids come in, they might be lower than the estimate, and if nothing goes wrong during the construction, we come in lower, but because we are finalizing assessments tonight they do not get recalculated. If a project were to come in higher, the assessment amount would not change.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m. Michael Simon, 68 Suzanne Ave, said that he is pleased that the City is working on the roads in this area. Neal Philastre, 41 Southwood Dr., asked whether they might be adding a storm sewer in front of his mom's house because water tends to pool in front of her driveway. Farrell said that they would look into that and if there is something they can address during design they will.

Mayor Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Farrell gave a presentation on the Assessment Hearing for the 2021 Street Improvements Project. Farrell reviewed the requirements including preparation of a Feasibility Report, conduct a public improvement hearing and have advertised the hearing and sent out letters. The next step would be to obtain bids.

Farrell noted that the amount of assessment will be finalized tonight after the Public Hearing and is proposed at \$5,075 for each benefiting property. Farrell reviewed the breakdown of funding for the project.

Council Member Goebel asked if there are any other access points to televise the lines from the other side of the line rather than having people go into homes. Farrell replied that there is but it is very expensive to do it that way because it requires a specialized robot. He said that the City does televise its sanitary mains. Farrell said that property owners could probably join together to get a cost savings. He also noted that the City will credit each property \$100 off their utility bill if they provide proof that they have had their line televised.

Farrell noted that he had received a letter from Lesley Van Berkom regarding the proposed assessment and that copies were given to each Council Member. The letter will be added to the minutes.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:59 p.m. Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-02-032 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution Ordering the 2021-1 Street Improvements Project as presented.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-02- 033 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution Adopting the Assessment Roll as noticed for the 2021-1 Street Improvement Project at \$5,075 per unit.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Replacing Assistant Fire Chief Vehicle

Chief Hearden requested approval to replace the 2011 Assistant Chief’s vehicle with a 2022 Chevy Tahoe which would be designed for the type of operations an Assistant Chief vehicle is used for. He said that this purchase is part of the 2021 CIP budget. Hearden said that if they order the vehicle now they may take delivery in September. City Administrator Watson noted that they are proposing to keep the 2011 vehicle to pick-up dirty hoses, and such.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-02-034 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the specifications and authorizes the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe SSV (Special Service Vehicle) as requested.”

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik thanked the Vadnais Heights Lions for their contribution to the community. He noted that the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission has their first meeting of the year next Monday and that the CEC meets next Wednesday. He also thanked the Council for the approval of the Parks, Rec and Trails and Planning Commission appointments.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell noted that he and Ken Laccase thank the Council for their support for the street improvement program.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that this month's Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. He noted that the Planning Department is progressing on the implementation of OpenGov for the permitting process. It is tentatively scheduled to go live sometime next month. They hope to come to a future meeting with a demonstration of the new software.

Fire Chief Hearden thanked the Council for all their support of the Fire Department and for the approval to purchase the Assistant Fire Chief vehicle.

City Attorney Hartmann noted that EBBQ has hired a new paralegal as fulltime support staff for prosecution efforts.

Council Member Goebel reminded people that VH Area Community Foundation grant applications are due on February 28.

Council Member Youker reported on the status of the Lampert Lake Pond and meander project.

Council Member Urban noted that he would like to have future discussion regarding the potential next steps for ditching in the City.

Council Member Rogers noted that as a liaison for the Planning Commission and Parks, Rec and Trails Commission he and staff conducted interviews for the openings on the Commissions. He thanked everyone that applied.

City Administrator Watson noted that the Goals Session is scheduled for 3 pm, March 22.

A motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 8:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned.