

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MARCH 2, 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 7:02 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/City Engineer; Chris Hearden, Fire Chief; Caroline Beckman, 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 Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-035 “RESOLVED that the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 16, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-036 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the February 16, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. February 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-037 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the February 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-038 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7D for the March 2, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80330 Through #80384 and Electronic Claims #1600 Through #1604 for Payment
- B. Consider Accepting the Vadnais Heights Lions Club Donation for Park Benches
- C. Consider Accepting Leave of Absence Request from POC Position – Krause
- D. Consider Amending the Staeheli Purchase Agreement with J.W. Moore.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:08 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:08 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Branch 3 Ditch Restoration

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell gave a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed project on Branch Ditch 3. He noted that the City maintains Branch 3 which flows into Ditch 14, Lambert Creek. He said that this could potentially be a project in 2022.

Farrell noted that the scoping document the City received from SEH includes permitting, final design, Plans and Specs, and the bidding process. He said if the Council supports the project, he will go to SEH and then bring to the Council at a future meeting for action.

Mayor Gunderson said this project has been a long time in coming and of interest to the residents. Council Member Urban said this will help a wide variety of the community. Urban asked if staff have any updates on the culvert under CR F or if we had cleaned it

using the new Jet Vac. Farrell replied that they hadn't, but that the Jet Vac was just used for the first time last week for a sewer main issue. He said he can reach out to the County about the culvert, but that he expects that the culvert is damaged but still functioning. Urban asked how this project would be funded. Farrell responded using the surface water utility funds.

Council Member Youker asked how long the City could expect to not have to go in and clean the ditch again once it is cleared. Farrell responded that it depends on the area residents because some residents tend to put lawn clippings, branches, etc. in the ditches. He said that the City will update and increase its overall outreach and education about keeping the ditches clean, and said that perhaps once a generation is how often they would need to be restored

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Kennel License Application at 580 Springhill

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that before the Council for action is an application for a Kennel License application for 580 Springhill Road.

The applicant, Mark Burrs noted that they will never have more than two dogs. Council Member Goebel said fostering pets is a good thing and thanked Burrs for doing it properly.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-03-039 “RESOLVED that the Council approves a Kennel License for 580 Springhill Road, with conditions.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Ordinance No. 749 Amending the 2021 Fee Schedule

Administrator Watson noted that before the Council is Ordinance No. 749 Amending the 2021 Fee Schedule to adjust the rates set by the State of Minnesota Department of Public Health's quarterly water surcharge fee.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-03-040 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts Ordinance No. 749 as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Approving the Plans and Specs for the Commerce Water Tower Project and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that before the Council for consideration is a resolution for approval of the plan and specifications for the 2021-3 Water Tower Rehabilitation and authorization to advertise for bids with an April 1, 2021 bid due date. Farrell noted that the project includes all activities associated with rehabilitation of the 1 million gallon water storage tank located at Commerce Court. Farrell noted that once the bidding process is completed, staff and Council will have conversations regarding the logo when the low bidder is on board.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-03-041 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts the resolution approving plans and specifications for the 2021-3 Water Tower Rehabilitation project and authorizes the advertisement of bids with an April 1, 2021 bid due date.”

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Assistant Administrator Sandvik noted that the City’s Spring and Senior Newsletters were sent out last week. He said that the Parks and Rec spring and summer registrations will open soon. He said that the City will not be hosting an Easter egg hunt this year, but will instead be setting up a scavenger hunt. Sandvik thanked the Vadnais Heights Lions for their donation for new park benches.

Fire Chief Hearden announced that the Fire Department was awarded an additional \$19,000 (funds remaining in the FEMA Assistance Firefighter Grant received in 2020) to buy some additional equipment. He thanked Matt Montain for his work this effort.

Council Member Goebel noted that the Community Engagement Committee met last week and they have scheduled additional meetings. The Committee is hoping to get some recommendations in front of the Council in the coming months.

Council Member Rogers noted that the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission recently met. He said that they discussed whether the City could reach out to area residents to see if any would be interested in volunteering to help maintain the parks.

Council Member Urban said on a positive note spoke he spoke with an owner of Jimmy's who said he was happy and impressed working with the City staff on their project to expand their patio area. Urban said that the City had its first armed carjacking last week. He asked people to stay safe. He also asked about getting the City Prosecutor to come to a future meeting.

Mayor Gunderson noted that she attended the NYFS Board of Directors meeting last week. She said that NYFS has seen a significant up-tick in needs in our community. Gunderson also reminded people to slow down on the roads and watch out for pedestrians.

City Administrator Watson said kudos to Nolan Wall on the implementation of the new permitting software.

A motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 7:44 p.m. Meeting adjourned.