

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MARCH 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/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 Youker, it was

21-03-042 “RESOLVED that the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 2, 2021 Closed Session Meeting – Amending Purchase Agreement with J.W. Moore for the Staehlie Property

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-043 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the March 2, 2021 Closed Session Meeting Minutes regarding Amending the Purchase Agreement with J.W. Moore for the Staehlie Property as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. March 2, 2021 Closed Session – Discuss Purchase of Property at the End of Bear Avenue North for Extension of Park Purposes

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-044 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the March 2, 2021 Closed Session Meeting Minutes regarding the purchase of property at the end of Bear Avenue North for extension of Park purposes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. March 2, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-047 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the March 2, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

D. March 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

21-03-048 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the March 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

21-03-049 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7A1 for the March 16, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

A. Consider Approving Claims #80385 Through #804394 and Electronic Claims #1605 Through #1609 for Payment

1. U.S. Bank payment in the amount of \$5,244.38”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Minor Site Plan at Vadnais Highlands

Planning/Community Development Director Wall gave a presentation on Planning Case 21-002 and the applicants request for a minor site plan approval for Vadnais Highlands. Wall noted that this project consists of 3.71 acres, zoned R-3 high density residential/guided high density residential. The existing development has 35 units in four buildings. The minor site plan request contains a small portion of the overall project. The project will include significant improvements such as enhanced accessible zones, bituminous overlay, replacing damaged sidewalks, three laundry room additions, accessory building replacement, interior unit finish updates, new exterior patios, enhanced landscaping and updated exterior lighting. Wall noted that last December, the Council authorized the issuance of conduit revenue bonds for this project.

Wall noted that staff report no anticipated impacts to surrounding properties, no traffic impacts, and the parking lots will remain the same, but existing pedestrian facilities will be improved, repair work done to existing connections to the buildings, and there will be no impact to exhibiting drainage or encroachment to County Road D.

Wall noted that minor site plans do not require Planning Commission review and said that staff recommend approval of the applicant's request.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-03-050 "RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution approving a minor site plan at 1081-1153 East County Road D with the following conditions: 1) Building, plumbing, mechanical, and any other required permits in compliance with all applicable Code standards shall be submitted prior to commencement of any construction activities and future tenant improvements on the subject property, to be administratively reviewed/approved; 2) Accessible spaces removed as part of the proposed project will be replaced on the subject property, in compliance with applicable standards for size and quantity; 3) Existing vegetation proposed to be preserved shall be done so in compliance with the applicable

requirements of City Code Chapter 38, Article IV, Section 601(11); and 4) Compliance with the conditions included in the Fire Chief's memorandum, dated 02/22/21, and Director of Public Works/City Engineer's memorandum, dated 03/09/21."

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Kennel License Application at 4511 Bramblewood Avenue

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that before the Council for action is an application from Todd Anderson for a Kennel License at 4511 Bramblewood Avenue. Sandvik reviewed City Code requirements and the application process.

Mayor Gunderson opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m. for kennel license application at 4511 Bramblewood Avenue.

Kimberly Westerholm, 4450 Oakhurst, spoke about her concern about the possible sound level with 5 dogs at a residence during a summer afternoon. Westerholm said she understands the need for a kennel license to give the property owner some assurances. She suggested tabling action on this request until the 5 dogs have been at the home for three months to see what the noise level is when the weather warms and people are outside.

The applicant, Todd Anderson, 4511 Bramblewood Avenue, said they have contacted all the neighbors and that all the adjacent neighbors offered to come before the City Council in support of the kennel license. He noted that they have correction collars for all of the dogs and they never go outside without someone being out with them and that they use the barking collars whenever necessary.

Council Member Urban asked the applicant if he can assure the Council that there will not be five dogs barking all summer long. Urban asked if additional conditions could be built into this license approval. City Attorney Beckman stated that the City does have a barking ordinance and has sited people for violations. She said the Council could add a condition to the license that there be no barking violations and that if there are too many complaints for this address their kennel license would be revoked or, perhaps too many complaints filed with the County Sheriff's office could mean revocation of the license. Beckman said that the Council definitely has the discretion to add conditions to the license. She said that the Council could condition the license subject to a 3 month review period and that after 3 months with no violations the license would be approved or the license would be revoked.

Council Member Goebel asked if Ms. Westerholm would indicate that she would be open to reviewing this in 3 months and the applicant would agree, he would then approve the application today with a review period. Mayor Gunderson said she could agree with that also. Beckman said it could be done administratively, reviewed by City staff or it could be

brought back to the Council. Assistant Administrator Sandvik said that the Council would have the authority to revoke the license at any time. Westerholm said she would prefer it to be brought back before the Council for review.

Dave Probst, 4450 Oakhurst, suggested that the City do a trial period for 4 months to allow enough time to experience the five dogs at the residence and see if there is any nuisance barking since they may not be moving in until sometime in May.

There being no one else that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-03-051 “RESOLVED that the Council approve the Kennel License for 4511 Bramblewood Avenue, with conditions subject to Council review at the July 20, 2021 Council meeting.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Ordinance No. 750 Amending the 2021 Fee Schedule

Administrator Watson noted that before the Council is Ordinance No. 750 Amending the 2021 Fee Schedule to adjust the rates for minor changes found during the update to the City’s permitting process plus a few other minor updates that weren’t made in the previous revision.

Mayor Gunderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:49 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:49 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-03-052 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts Ordinance No. 750 as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Approving the Plans and Specs for the 2021-1 Street Improvements 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 Specs for the 2021-1 Street Improvements Project and authorization to advertise for bids with an April 15, 2021 bid due date. Farrell noted that this is the next step in the improvement process.

Farrell noted that one change in the construction project is that he would propose to include smaller City projects such as improvements to trails or parking lots. These are smaller projects that tend to be more expensive if done independently. He noted that he asked S.E.H. to include some improvements to Bridgewood Park and a City parking lot which he believes will cost about \$80,000 and a repair to Stockdale Drive which should be about \$20,000. Farrell said that he thinks the City would get cost efficiencies of a large contract if it were to include these improvements.

Council Member Rogers if this is a standard thing to add to the project. Farrell replied that Council Member Rogers asked if this is a standard thing to add to the project. Farrell replied that he wasn't sure how often city's too this approach, but perhaps Council Member Urban knows the answer. Urban responded that it is very standard for Cities to add to projects because it saves on costs for project mobilization and other costs.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-03-053 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts the resolution approving plans and specifications for the 2021-1 Street Improvements Project and authorizes the advertisement of bids with an April 15, 2021 bid due date.”

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Lift Station

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell reviewed the history of the lift station at the intersection of Meadowood Land and Foothill Trail. He noted that in 2019, the Council authorized a project to look at site improvements, like putting in a driveway at the site and other landscaping. After meeting with the community, there wasn't support for that type of work. He noted that S.E.H. went through and did a complete scope to rehab the lift station's mechanical and electrical equipment. Farrell said that the cost is estimated at approximately \$300,000 including equipment and labor or \$400,000 with the cost of all services plus contingency. Staff are requesting approval of the Plans and Specs and authorization to advertise for bids.

Council Member Urban said that this is the type of infrastructure that gets a lot of attention when its fails, and he is glad that the City is on top of it. Council Member Rogers asked if the neighbors are all good with this plan. Farrell responded that he will be in contact with them regarding the project after schedules are established

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-03-055 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution approving the Plans and Specs for the Vadnais Heights Lift Station Improvements and authorizing advertisement for bids with an April 15, 2021 bid due date.”

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Branch 3 Ditch Restoration

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that before the Council for consideration is a proposal from Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. on an hourly cost basis not-to-exceed \$66,800 for all upfront efforts associated with restoration of Branch 3 and authorization for the City Engineer to sign the agreement with S.E.H. on behalf of the City. Farrell noted that this project would be a deep dive of Branch 3 of Lambert Creek. He gave a summary of what the project might entail. Mayor Gunderson said that this is an exciting project for many of the City’s residents. Council Member Urban agreed and asked what the funding source is, is it from the utility fund. Farrell responded that the funding will come from the City’s surface water utility fund. He said that City property owners pay a quarterly fee which goes into the fund. Council Member Youker thanked Farrell for all his hard work on this project.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-03-056 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution accepting the proposal from S.E.H. on an hourly cost basis not-to-exceed an amount of \$66,800 for all efforts associated with restoration of Branch 3 and authorizes the City Engineer to execute an agreement on behalf of the City.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that last Tuesday the Heritage Days Committee met and the CEC met on Wednesday. He also noted that the City is currently accepting applications for summer rec program help. He thanked the Council and staff for their ongoing support.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Planning Commission meets next Tuesday and they will conduct two public hearings: one on a concept Planned Unit Development for a project on Arcade Street and one on the Bluebird Grove Preliminary Plan. Wall also noted that the OpenGov permitting software is working great.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that he had reached out to professionals that helped the City with its pavement rating program a couple years ago. He said he believes the City should consider doing the pavement rating every two years because it would establish degradation trendlines. He said that he believes our rating would have gone up due to all the work we've done in the past two years. He is also looking to see if it is possible to do a rating on trails and parking lots. He said there is new technology for this and he is looking at it to see if it's worthwhile and cost effective. He said that Ramsey County is looking at the Vadnais Boulevard corridor between the Garceau site and Rice Street.

Council Member Goebel noted that the CEC met on Wednesday. The CEC is hoping bring a recommendation to the Council soon. He said if the Council wishes he could bring a recommendation from the Council asking the CEC for a recommendation on how best to get out to the public what the City is doing on sustainability issues. Mayor Gunderson said that would be a good idea.

Council Member Youker noted that the Lambert Creek Meander project is now finished and it came in under budget

Council Member Rogers noted that the Heritage Days Committee met last week. He said that with the new guidelines from the Governor allow 3000 people at an outdoor event.

Council Member Urban said that he is glad that Heritage Days is being planned and that he hopes it will be a big event.

Administrator Watson reminded the Council that the Goals Session is scheduled for Monday, March 22. He also noted that Congress passed a COVID relief bill and some funds will be given to local communities. He believes the City may receive roughly \$1.5 million. Probably get half this year and half next year.

A motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 8:23 p.m. Meeting adjourned.