

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JUNE 15, 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 7:05 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; Jesse Farrell, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Chris Hearnden, 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 Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

21-06-095 “RESOLVED that the June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 1, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-06-096 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the June 1, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. June 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-06-097 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the June 1, 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 Goebel, it was

21-06-098 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7B for the June 15, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80717 through #80771 and Electronic Claims #1635 through 1644 for Payment
- B. Consider Approving the LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Vadnais Heights Lion’s Club to Conduct a Raffle at Heritage Days.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

A. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatment – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that EAB does have a presence in the City and the City has done some tree removal. The City has been contacted by the University of Minnesota’s Department of Plant Pathology which is looking identify some trees in public spaces to do a fundal treatment as an attempt to prolong the life of the ash trees.

Council Member Urban asked if there will be any cost to the City for this treatment. Sandvik responded that there will be no cost to the City. He noted that the City will begin taking ash trees down in Community Park this fall.

Council Member Youker asked if there is a plan to replace the trees being removed. Sandvik said not at this time.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-06-99 “RESOLVED that the Council authorizes the City Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Minnesota – Department of Plant Pathology.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of an Individual 2021/2022 Liquor License and Renewals

City Administrator Watson noted that before the Council are two Liquor License Renewals for the Old Clover Inn (on-sale) and Speedway #4471 (3.2 off-sale).

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-06-100 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the annual renewal of two individual liquor licenses for Old Clover Inn and Speedway, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 conditioned on the establishments passing their Fire Certificate of Occupancy inspections.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Notice of Public Nuisance Abatement – 1311 East County Road D Circle

Fire Chief Hearden noted that before the Council is a Notice of Public Nuisance Abatement which has been sent via certified mail after the normal Code procedures were done. When the recipients did not receive the certified mail, the City had the property owners served by the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office and one of the property owners did receive the notice. Hearden noted that at this point staff are asking that the abatement order be extended until the next meeting to make sure that all property owners have been notified.

Mayor Gunderson opened the hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Steve Scherer, property owner, noted that he has been the main cause of the program. He said he hopes to have the problem taken care of before the next Council meeting, and he said that he will contact the City as things get done. Gunderson continued the hearing to the July 20, 2021 Council meeting.

C. Consider Entering into an Agreement with Ramsey County for 694/Rice Street Project

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell gave an overview of the 694/Rice Street Project and said that the estimated contribution from the City is around \$400 for the \$23 million project. He said that the Agreement before the Council formalizes the cost participation with all the parties and ongoing maintenance of the area by Shoreview, Little Canada and Vadnais Heights.

A motion was made by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-06-101 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution authorizing the Mayor and the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Ramsey County for construction costs and maintenance responsibilities associated with the completed 694/Rice Street Improvement Project.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 1 (Urban)

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell noted that Public Works continues to do patch work on City roads and that they put down 4 tons of asphalt material today. He asked that people contact him if their roads have not been patched. He reminded residents of the City’s irrigation restrictions and said that there should be no watering between noon and 6 pm. He noted that the daily usage in the City is quadruple what is used during the winter.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met last night and Heritage Days Committee met the week before. He said that the City’s Summer Camp programs began this week and also noted that Music in the Park series will be coming back in July and August. He also said that the installation of the rec registration software is nearly complete.

Council Member Rogers noted that the Heritage Days Committee is still looking for volunteers for three areas: parade lineup activities on the 14th of August; the blood drive being held at the Commons on the 13th of August; and the Senior Picnic being held on the 12th of August. He said that during the Heritage Days celebration there will be a medallion hunt, fireworks, a merchandise mart and a car show.

Rogers said that the Parks and Rec Commission went on the road to Westfield Park to look at the warming house, boards and fencing and then to Bridgewood Park to look at the pickleball courts. He noted that VLAWMO made a presentation on a rain garden which they are planning for Bridgewood Park.

Council Member Urban asked about another nuisance property in the City and asked if staff have an update. Fire Chief Hearden said that they have done their normal Code procedures and have

sent out two notices to the property owner and also met with the homeowner. The homeowner has agreed to do a lot of the improvements, but as of today, there have been no improvements made, so the question is what our options for next steps are. Hearden said that we have option of citations or to go directly to the abatement process which adds a great expense to the City. City Attorney Beckman said if we are going to proceed with abatement we have to get a title report to make sure that we get proper notice to all parties. She said that the City can do both at the same time, issue a criminal citation and begin the abatement process.

Urban said we owe it to the surrounding neighborhood to do something. Hearden agreed, but what direction do we go, abatement, citation or both. Urban said we should do both. Mayor Gunderson said that she thinks staff should continue with the citation process and begin the abatement process.

City Administrator Watson said that the Council should consider code enforcement before properties get so bad, it would be a more proactive approach because you may head off problem properties before they get so bad. Hearden reviewed the steps of the abatement and citation processes. He said that they will begin the process tomorrow.

City Administrator Watson noted that staff are moving forward with the Munch Bunch goats and said that more information will be available at the next Council meeting. Watson said that it appears that Saturday's Properties is moving forward on the property to the north of Perkins.

Mayor Gunderson noted that the kids are out of school. She said that NYFS is still hiring for their Seniors Program.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator