

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JUNE 16, 2020**

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, Council Members: Bob Morse, Patricia Youker and Greg Urban.

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, Interim Fire Chief; Erich Hartmann, City Attorney; and Peggy Aho, Deputy City 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

20-06-103 “RESOLVED that the June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 2, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

20-06-104 “RESOLVED that the June 2, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. June 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

20-06-105 “RESOLVED, to approve the June 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

20-06-106 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A and #7J for the June 16, 2020 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #79373 Through #79423 and Electronic Claims #1512 Through #1516 for Payment
 - 1. U.S. Bank in the amount of \$4,801.72
- B. Consider Approving a Development Agreement with JACON LLC.
- C. Consider Approving a Development Agreement Amendment with Arcade MOB Partners LLC.
- D. Consider Approving a Development Agreement with Highpoint Ridge LLC and Diggers L. L. C.
- E. Consider Authorizing Execution of Lease Agreement for Copy/Scanner Machines with Loffler
- F. Consider Approving LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Vadnais Heights Lions Club
- G. Consider Approving a Solicitation Permit for Aptive Environmental
- H. Consider Approving Termination of a City Employee
- I. Consider an Amendment to City Code, Section 36-373, Discharge of Surface Waters Prohibited
- J. Consider Approving a Donation to Vadnais Heights Food Shelf”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

PRESENTATION(S): None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Staff Recommendation on Heritage Days

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik introduced the item. He noted that Heritage Days is a big event for the City which takes a lot of planning and donations from local businesses. Typically, the event starts on a Thursday afternoon, and runs Saturday through Sunday. Unfortunately, there are constraints this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that staff have been looking for input from all that help make the event happen and continue to talk with them, because the event is so reliant on donations and volunteers. Sandvik reviewed the recommendations from staff which include proceeding with a Medallion Hunt and a limited fireworks show. Staff are also exploring a way to host a bags tournament, co-ed softball tournament, a stand-alone car show, and perhaps having a limited fireworks show.

Council Member Urban asked what the normal budget is for Heritage Days. Sandvik replied around \$25,000. Urban asked how much the fireworks show costs. Sandvik noted that last year it was \$6,500 and they also rented a stage for the various shows. He said that the parade has some cost but is also a revenue generator as well as registrations fees from the bags and softball tournaments but the biggest cost is staff time.

Urban said that the parade is something he has always enjoyed. He said he doesn't see any harm to the community in doing a parade. He asked if the bands that typically march in the parade are in session and would they participate so we can get a parade worth coming to see. Sandvik said that staff's recommendations are based on what the rules/guidelines currently are. He said that a concern with a parade is that the streets are typically lined with people and we are told we can't facilitate events that draw a crowd. Beyond that the participation is a concern, they have reached out to people that normally participate in the parade and there is not a lot of interest in participating. Urban said he would support having at least a parade and that he would like to find a way to do the parade as long as we can get enough people to participate.

Gunderson shared Urban's sentiment with the event and that she is very sad that we are talking about cancelling it and said she hopes the City can do the parade but she also doesn't think the City should sponsor an event that is outside of the recommended guidelines.

Council Member Youker asked about hosting a 'movie in the park'. Sandvik said we could spread out the people and do a movie in the park, but the City doesn't have a lot of money to work with and cost again is an issue. Urban said that he wouldn't want to put a parade on if it's not a good one.

Council Member Morse said he thinks the items staff are thinking of doing are great. He talked about what the City of White Bear Lake is doing, which he is on the Committee for, and said that they are going to make their parade a stationary parade. He thinks it's important that the City has something for the people and that we need to be creative. Morse thanked Sandvik for coming forward with the recommendation from staff.

Urban asked if it would be possible to do a one day event perhaps on a Sunday, with a car show and some sort of food items with some music playing in the background.

Gunderson suggested putting something together for later in the year. She asked what the Lion's Club is thinking. She asked if they want to try to put something together when it's appropriate to do so. Sandvik noted that there is some hesitation from the Lions because they are concerned about close proximity and touch. Gunderson said that she thinks the Fall would be a good time to the Booya and perhaps the City could help the Fire Relief Association with that and also plan an amended version of Heritage Days once restrictions loosen up. Sandvik said the Fire Relief Association has said they might be interested in doing the Booya in the Fall.

Sandvik said that staff would like specific direction from the Council, so that they can immediately begin to make adjustments and plan. He said they haven't been aggressively seeking donations due to the COVID pandemic. He said that they can go back out to solicit funds and that there may be opportunity to use some of the assumed savings in Parks and Rec budget. Gunderson said she would love it if something could be put together. She thinks we should look into doing something in the Fall in coordination with the Fire Department. She said we should get creative and work with some of the other partner agencies. She said she can't see putting the wheels in motion for a watered down version of Heritage Days. Urban said he would like to see a parade, Booya, and beer sales, and see it held where it has always been held. He said he would like it to be a priority for the Workshop meeting in July to hammer something down, looking at the trends and see how things are moving in the State. Urban said he would like to frame it as some semblance of a normal Sunday Heritage Days event with a specific date and everything worked out before the workshop in July. Gunderson said she would like to know what the Fire Relief Association and Lions are thinking and said that she would prefer pushing it out to September which may allow us to do more of what it always looks like.

The Council decided to cancel the regular Heritage Days event in August and move it to later in September. Gunderson encouraged Sandvik to reach out to the other organizations

that normally work with the City on the event and see what their level of interest is in participating and what their thoughts are.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of an Individual 2020/2021 Liquor License and Renewals

City Administrator Watson introduced the item before the Council for approval, 2020/2021 Liquor License and Renewals. He introduced Stacie Reiner, VP of Finance and Administration at Top Ten Liquors, whom gave a brief overview of Top Ten Liquors moving into the Mad Jacks location.

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

20-06-107 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves an Off-Sale Liquor License for Top Ten Liquor, 935 E County Road E, for a period of September 21, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and the renewal of On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Aaron of Vadnais Heights dba the Old Clover Inn, 705 E County Road F and Element Indoor Golf Club, Inc. dba Element Indoor Golf Club, 4255 White Bear Parkway, Suite 2100, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Approval of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Preparedness Plan

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik introduced the item before the Council for consideration. Staff worked together to develop a Parks and Rec Preparedness Plan based on items that the Council has approved. This Plan addresses the use of the City’s facilities and public spaces. This will be used for all programming including at the Commons. The City is moving forward with recreation programs, things will look different, but starting the first week of July, tennis will be beginning.

Council Member Youker said that the Plan talks about masks and wearing them during outdoor recreation programs. She asked if we expect participants to wear masks when playing outdoor recreation such as tennis. Sandvik said that similar to two meetings ago we would ask the users to tell us how they will follow current guidelines. Gunderson asked if we will have them sign a waiver? Sandvik replied that we do have a waiver, that comes with recommendations and guidelines, that they have to sign off on but this won’t guarantee that the guidelines will be followed.

Youker said she is hung up on masks for activities being held outdoors. Sandvik said this is following the CDC recommendation, we have provided people with this document, but it's only a recommendation and it is for protection of the City.

Council Member Morse said that masks are recommended but it's not required, and that ultimately it will be up to the parents and the participants whether they wear them. He asked about the language on page 4 that says that participants are required to have no contact and that no congregating would be allowed at the sites and that participation of participants is required. He asked how the City would monitor this? He asked if the language could be softened with regards to no congregating being allowed and that cooperation of participants is required. Sandvik said we are trying to address what the City's approach best is and are utilizing state and federal language. He said that by no means will we watch and enforce. Morse said he would like to see the language changed to read cooperation by participants is appreciated instead of required. He also asked that no congregating at recreation facilities is allow should be softened up a little bit. Morse asked if this Plan can be changed as the guidelines change.

Council Member Urban suggested throwing out the Plan and make the people renting the facilities to sign a waiver saying they would agree to comply with current guidelines. Gunderson said she would not support that because the City is required to have a Preparedness Plan in place. She said she would support Council Member Morse's proposed language change and said that the Council needs to make responsible decisions and that the City needs to comply with the guidelines to carry on with limited programming and that is the way it is.

Sandvik said he will make the corrections suggested by the Council and put the Preparedness Plan on the website. Gunderson said that staff have been fantastic and thanked them for their work on this and on other social media.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Council approved three Development Agreements at tonight's meeting for office expansion for JACON, parking lot expansion for Arcade MOB Partners, LLC and Highpointe Ridge LLC and Diggers LLC. He said that these projects are expected to move forward. He said that the Aster Meadows project continues to progress. He noted that the Willow Ridge East Apartment project which is a Workforce Project approved by the Council a couple years ago is almost completed and that they will be looking for a Certificate of Occupancy soon. He noted that the Planning Commission meets next week, virtually, and has one item on the agenda to consider which is an office building.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that staff have been working closely with the Frattalone Project developer to create a MOU for grading activities. Those

activities will begin later this week. They have been working closely with the neighborhood to make sure that the construction traffic is split between two routes. He said that there have been a few complaints about traffic level. He noted that they have put up eight 20 mph construction zone signs. He noted that the developer was willing to do this to help mitigate traffic. He noted that the Twin Lakes Outlet project will begin in July and that there are a lot of various projects in that area. He noted that Ramsey County Commissioner Fretham hosted a community conversation on water in northern Ramsey County and that it was very well attended. He also noted that the 2020 Street Construction project pre-con meeting is scheduled for Thursday and that some of the work may start early July.

Interim Fire Chief Hearden noted that the Fire Department just wrapped up the 2020 Ramsey County Firefighter 1 and 2 program. They had 14 students from surrounding communities that just passed their certification tests. He said over the years they have had over 300 students go through the certification program and Vadnais Heights plays a big role in it.

City Attorney Erik Hartmann noted that EBBQ continues to learn and adjust with everything happening with the law. He said that he has been working with Wall on the Development Agreements.

Council Member Morse thanked staff for their work during this challenging time. He thanked the Fire Department for being such a modal Fire Department. On June 6, he was working with a number of people on food giveaway. He thanked all whom helped and Rudy's Red Eyed Grill who put together a food truck and filled it with food. He said there is power in the community and we can do a lot if we are unified. He said he really appreciates the Council and on how they continue to work things out. He talked about the various things that the Council has done in the last year and a half including: the resolution to the Governor, refinancing the Commons saving the residents over \$671,000, getting City owned land back into the tax rolls, the increased improvements to the City streets, updating the City's parks, the implementation of an organics site. He said they truly are making a difference for people that they serve in the City, residents and businesses.

Council Member Urban thanked Morse for his comments.

Council Member Youker also thanked Morse for his wonderful speech and said while it would be nice to be recognized for what we have done that is not what we are here for.

City Administrator Watson said that this week he has his monthly Sheriff's meeting, and that this will be the first meeting since the protests in Minneapolis and St. Paul. He also thanked the Council for agreeing to pursue creating an inclusivity committee.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Morse for the words. She said that criticism is hard, and the Council works hard to come together on things even though we don't agree and we have done a lot of good work.

She noted that recently, the Council cancelled its first meeting in July, and said that typically that meeting is replaced with another to work on the budget. She would like to add on to that Workshop agenda revisiting of the Goals session to look at where the City was and what it has achieved and what it wants to achieve moving forward. She noted that she will come back with some framework on how to structure that.

A motion was made by Morse that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Council Member Morse seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved