

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
AUGUST 17, 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, 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**

Council Member Goebel made a motion that the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting agenda be amended to add Item #11B, Resolution Approving a Planned Unit Development Amendment at 905-955 East County Road E.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

#21-08-119    “RESOLVED that the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.”

Ayes – 5                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A.    August 4, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-08-120    “RESOLVED that the Council approves the August 4, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. August 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

#21-08-121 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the August 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-08-122 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7F for the August 4, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80986 through #81043 and Electronic Claims #1659 through #1662 for Payment
  - 1. U.S. Bank payment in the amount of \$3,305.73
- B. Consider Accepting Donations for 2021 Heritage Days
- C. Consider Approval of 2021 Bowhunting Licenses for:
  - Frank Frattalone hunting at 3205 Centerville Road;
  - Robert Krey hunting at PIN 293022430040;
  - Tracy Selix hunting at 3900/3910 Stockdale Dr.;
  - Ross Adrian, Neryssa Adrian and John Adrian hunting at 3719 Centerville Road;
  - Rick Kohler hunting at 3967 and 3951 Centerville Road;
  - Robert Brown hunting at 780 North Oak Drive;
  - Brittany Selix hunting at 3884 and 3900 Stockdale Drive;
  - Dan Tschida hunting at 3568 Searle Ct; and
  - HB Fuller hunting at 1200 Willow Lake Boulevard
- D. Consider Approving Request by Ramsey County and St. Paul Regional Water Services for a Special Archery Hunt in Vadnais/Sucker Lake Regional Park on October 25-27, 2021 and November 15-17, 2021
- E. Consider Approval of Amended Development Agreement for the Holiday Stationstore.”

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.

Patty Bradway, 431 Springhill Road, spoke against the formation of a Human Rights Commission in the City because she doesn't find a reason for it and said she is concerned about the group behind the push.

Jacqueline Schmidt, 450 E. County Road F, said she is not white and has never been treated any differently than anyone else in the City. She said that she has had to call the police four times to report loud music at Kohler Park and asked that the City address how it can enforce the noise level at the area parks.

Craig Conrad, 4305 Jay Circle, questioned the Council about doing a human rights commission, and asked if this is a non-elected type group that would guide the Council and asked why it would be necessary. He said that he doesn't think the City needs a human rights commission.

Priya Bardal, 310 County Road F East, has been a resident of the City for 7 years and said that she is happy living in the City. She said she stands against the formation of a human rights commission. After listening to the video of the July 20<sup>th</sup> CC meeting, and reading up on things, she said as a non-white female living in the City, if she experiences any type of discrimination from a neighbor or business, her first line of action would be to go to law enforcement or come to the City Council. She said she is trying to understand what sort of value a HRC would bring to that type of situation. She said if we have something in place at the state level she does not see the need to add another level at the City. Bardal also said that she doesn't think Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a good idea.

Mary Langer, 606 Springhill Road, said that she is at the meeting to show appreciation for those that have come forward to speak.

Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:41 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Notice of Public Nuisance Abatement at 1311 County Road D Circle

Fire Chief Hearden noted that notice was given and one representative from the property is at the meeting. City Attorney Beckman said that there are a number of property owners on the property, and Mr. Scherrer is present and has been served notice. Beckman said that they have not been able to serve Lemke and as a result of that we can't proceed with abatement of the property. Beckman's recommendation is to publish notice of abatement and give Lemke an opportunity.

Steven Scherrer, 1311 County Road D Circle, said that he appreciates the Council working with him.

Beckman asked if Mr. Scherrer has been in contact with Ms. Lemke. Scherrer responded that he has not talked to her in over a month. Beckman asked him to share the notice he received and said that the City will proceed with publication or notice and get the property owners noticed. Beckman asked Scherrer to have Lemke contact Chief Hearden. Council Member Urban asked is Beckman's time for this is billable to the

property. Beckman responded not until we get into actual abatement. Urban asked then as soon as the abatement notice is published or served? Beckman replied yes, arguably.

Gunderson said the City will continue the public nuisance abatement until September 21, 2021.

B. Resolution Approving a Planned Unit Development Amendment at 905-955 East County Road E

Council Member Goebel noted that at the last meeting he made a motion to approve this and it ended up getting voted down. It sounded like the will of the council was to continue this and have staff bring back a formal PUD document. Planning/Community Development Director Wall thought it had passed but staff would bring back a formal PUD document which is part of the resolution.

Upon motion by Goebel, and seconded by Urban, it was

#21-08-123 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution approving a Planned Unit Development Amendment at 905-955 East County Road E (Vadnais Square Shopping Center) as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell noted his gratitude to Public Works and City staff for the work done during Heritage Days. He said that he appreciates all the efforts.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Fire Chief Hearden thanked all residents for their support of the Booya which sold out early in the day before the parade started. He also thanked all fire fighters and City staff that helped support the Fire Relief Association in being able to put on the Booya. Hearden also noted that the Fire Department requested, submitted a request and received just over \$26,000 from the Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education in training expenses that the Department paid out in June 2000 through June 2021.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik thanked all for helping to at Heritage Days.

Council Member Goebel thanked City staff for the dark park event.

Council Member Youker reported that next Wednesday there is a VLAWMO Board Meeting scheduled. They will be discussing Phase II of the ditch cleaning at that meeting. Youker thanked all for efforts of Heritage Days. Goats wen tan d looked at the goats. Thanked the resident who brought this to her attention to the Council.

Council Member Urban said that the parade was a tremendous success. He thanked the speakers during open to the public at tonight's meeting. He said for some of the reasons brought forward tonight he is not going to support creation of a Human Rights Commission.

Mayor Gunderson thanked everyone that helped with Heritage Days and noted that the senior lunch was good.

City Administrator Watson said the 3 year old kept asking if we can go to work.

Council Member Rogers thanked all for coming tonight to speak. He said he appreciates their thoughts and opinions. Rogers thanked Katie Everett and other Heritage Days Commission members, volunteers, and people that attended.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 8:03 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved