

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 7, 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 7:07 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

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Urban, it was

#21-09-124 “RESOLVED that the September 7, 2021 Amended Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 17, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-09-125 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the August 17, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. August 17, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-09-126 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the August 17, 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

#21-09-127 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7H for the August 17, 2021 meeting as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #81044_through #81117 and Electronic Claims #1664 through #1668 for Payment
- B. Consider Approval of 2021 Bowhunting Licenses for:
 - Elliott Bucholz hunting at 3568 Searle Ct
 - Richard Giese hunting at 3728 and 3720 Edgerton Street
 - Scott Peterson hunting at 3728, 3720 and 3736 Edgerton Street
 - Mike Fahey hunting at 4028 and 4016 McMenemy
 - Cole Fahey hunting at 4028 and 4016 McMenemy
 - Scott Flesch hunting at 3781 Labore Road, 4011, 4025, 3999, 3985 and 3993 Clover Ave and 3827 Centerville Road and 3485 Willow Lake Blvd and 0 East County Road F
- C. Consider Approving Application for a Solicitor’s Permit for Cole Thurston with Legacy Restoration LLC
- D. Consider Approval of a Variance Extension at 3868 McMenemy Street
- E. Consider Approval of Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Holiday Stationstore with Zephyr Vadnais Heights, LLC
- F. Consider Accepting a Donation from AT&T / FirstNet and the National Volunteer Fire Council
- G. VHFD Officer Roster
- H. Consider Approving Application for a Solicitor’s Permit for Custom Remodelers”

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.

Kerrie Seigler, 633 Pleasant Ave, St. Paul Park, said that there are many great programs available to help get the cats trapped and treated and that there is no reason to quit feeding them. Please don’t tell people to stop feeding the cats. Mayor Gunderson noted that the City is looking into the trap, neuter and release programs and said that the news is not a comprehensive overview of how we are addressing the cat issue. Seigler will get information about the resources to City staff.

There being no one else that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:17 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Proclamation: National Direct Support Professionals Week (September 12-18, 2021)

Mayor Gunderson read the following proclamation declaring the week of September 12-18, 2021, Direct Support Professional Recognition Week:

WHEREAS, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the primary providers of community-based long-term support services for thousands of individuals with disabilities in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are valued for their work in building close, respectful, and trusted relationships with individuals to assist them with their most intimate needs; and

WHEREAS, DSPs provide essential support to individuals with disabilities to stay connected to family, friends, coworkers and the community, helping them to define and live a quality life; and

WHEREAS, DSPs provide a broad range of individualized supports, including meal preparation, medication assistance, personal care and life skills training, mobility, work and life enrichment opportunities and other daily tasks; and

WHEREAS, DSPs support informed choices and person-centered practices that honor and respect the individuals with disabilities they serve; and

WHEREAS, an adequate workforce of high-quality DSPs is necessary for the people of Vadnais Heights to meet obligations to people with disabilities and minimize more costly settings such as hospitals or institutions; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are one of the fastest growing positions in America and demand for their skills is great, yet low wages and demographic trends are creating a growing shortage of DSPs, leading to increased turnover.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heidi Gunderson, Mayor of the City of Vadnais Heights, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2021 as Direct Support Professional Recognition Week.

Merrick, Inc. staff thanked the Council for issuing the proclamation. They noted Merrick employees 70 DSPs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Purchase Agreement with Rumblestrip Holdings, LLC for 3429 and 3437 Centerville Road

Planning/Community Development Director Wall presented the item before the Council which is a purchase agreement for the property and gave a brief history of the property. He noted that the Garceau Task Force was convened in 2019 which brought us to where we are today. Wall said special thanks to the Task Force. The Task Force process brought forward a recommendation on potential uses to the Council. He said that staff mailed out over 500 letters to breweries and distilleries in the five state area, notifying them of this opportunity and trying to create interest in the site. There were only two serious buyer groups that indicated their interest in the property and the City began negotiations with them. Wall noted that there has been a lot of work, behind the scenes, negotiating this agreement. Wall said that the action before the Council allows the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the agreement, it does not approve the development of the site.

Jason Medvec, Chief Officer, Rumblestrip Holdings, Inc., said that they are happy to be before the Council for action on the purchase agreement for the property. He thanked the Council for their work on making this proposal come to life and they are super excited. Mayor Gunderson said it is exciting to see someone that sees a vision for the site.

Council Member Youker thanked Rumblestrip Holdings for their interest. Council Member Urban said the City is glad to have them coming back into the City and wished them the best of luck. Council Member Goebel also welcomed them and said he was a member of the Task Force and thanked Ashley Wilke, a Task Force member, who first advocated for a brewery. Council Member Rogers thanked them for investing their time, talent and thanked them for the investment in the City.

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-09-128 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopt the Resolution approving the Purchase Agreement with Rumblestrip Holdings, LLC.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Development Agreement with Dakota UPREIT

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the action before the Council which is follow-up to a planning case that was before the Council in August. Wall noted that Dakota UPREIT is proposing to add three additional uses, such as commercial recreation involving indoor recreational instruction, participative athletic uses could include uses such as sports facilities/training, fitness training, a gymnastic/jump center, martial arts or dancing schools, amusement arcade, repair services, and warehousing. Wall noted that outdoor storage of materials, equipment and or vehicles will be prohibited. Wall said that the applicant has reviewed the conditions to the development agreement and supports the amendment.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-09-129 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Development Agreement with Dakota UPREIT Limited Partnership for the Rear Tenant Space Uses at 905 East County Road E, Vadnais Square Shopping Center as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell reported that Commerce Court water tower painting project is proceeding ahead of schedule and should be substantially completed by the end of the month. He said that the 2021 Street Improvements Project is also going well, and noted improvements in Bridgewood Park, on Clover and improvements on drainage on Stockdale and the Suzanne neighborhood has been transformed. He thanked the Council for their support for these projects.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik thanked the community for attending the final Music in the Park series at Bear Park and said that the entire Music in the Park series was a success. He noted that he and Administrator Watson will be meeting with a facilitator soon regarding the community survey and will have him come to a future workshop in the next month or two.

Council Member Youker noted that planning for maintenance on Ditch 14 is in process and extension of cleaning the ditch out from the meander to Edgerton.

Council Member Rogers noted that the last few weeks the recycling pick up has been a day late. City Administrator Watson noted that he and Sandvik have been fielding calls about this and have been talking to the providers but they think it came down to lack of available labor (drivers) but they believe it has been fixed.

Council Member Urban asked the status of the City’s own ditch project. Farrell noted that the project got held up a little bit because the City needed to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with VLAWMO to get permission to work on it. VLAWMO approved the JPA at their last meeting. Urban asked when there will be some sort of plan, feasibility or project estimated for them to look at to decide the future of the project. Farrell replied probably early next year. Urban said he would like to see the Music in the Park series expand in frequency as well as adding food trucks. He said that Ramsey County Sheriff’s department did a great job at the State Fair.

Mayor Gunderson said she too was at Music in the Park and it was a great event. She wished all school aged kids a wonderful first day.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 7:51 p.m. Meeting adjourned.