

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 7:01 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 Hearden, Fire Chief; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Erich Hartmann, 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 Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-09-130 “RESOLVED that the September 21, 2021 Amended Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 7, 2021 Closed Session Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-09-131 “RESOLVED that the September 7, 2021 Closed Session Minutes be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

B. September 7, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

#21-09-132 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the September 7, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. September 7, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-09-133 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the September 7, 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

#21-09-134 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7H for the September 21, 2021 meeting as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #81118 through #81168 and Electronic Claims #1669 through #1676 for Payment
 - 1. U.S. Bank payment in the amount of \$4,402.58
- B. Consider Approving Amendment to the Lease Agreement with T-Mobile
- C. Consider Approving Purchase of Replacement – 2022 CIP Unit #118 Elgin Street Sweeper
- D. Consider Entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with VLAWMO for Branch Ditch 5
- E. Consider Approving Public Outdoor Event Permit Application for the Anderson BBQ Supply Steak Cook-Off Event benefiting the Vadnais Heights Lions Club
- F. Consider Accepting Resignation of Kyle Johnson, Public Service Worker and Authorize Staff to Post for the Open PSW II Position
- G. Consider Accepting and Acknowledging F&M Bank’s Movie in the Park Sponsorship
- H. Consider Approval of 2021 Bowhunting License for Jordan Kimball hunting at 3998 McMenemy Street.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:04 p.m.

Katherine Doll Kanne, 369 Edgerton Street, asked the Council to consider revisiting the current Ordinance as it relates to weeds. She said that a resident should be allowed to have gardens with native plantings. Mayor Gunderson said she would support bringing this to a future Workshop for discussion. The other Council members agreed.

There being no one else that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:09 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Public Nuisance Abatement at 1311 E. County Road D Circle

Fire Chief Hearden noted that the public nuisance at 1311 E. County Road D Circle has been ongoing issue for some time. Hearden reminded the Council that the last time this was on the agenda, the Council postponed the hearing to make sure that the City met the requirements of public notification and also gave clear direction to the home owners what needed to take place before the hearing was continued. Hearden noted that the photos included in the packet that were taken the previous week, show that there has been little to no improvement to the property and he stopped by the property before the meeting and still nothing had been done.

Hearden asked that the Council authorize staff to move forward with the abatement of the property. The Council asked what happens next. City Administrator Watson said that the City will hire someone to clean up the outside materials and put them in storage and will hold the materials for a period of time and that the cost to do this will be assessed to the property owner on the property taxes, essentially a lien would be placed on the property.

Mayor Gunderson said reopened the hearing. She asked if anyone wished to speak about the issue. There was not one. Gunderson closed the hearing to the public.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-09-135 “RESOLVED that the Council authorized staff to proceed with the abatement of the public nuisance at 1311 East County Road D Circle for violation of City Code.”

Yeas – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Setting Preliminary Levy for 2021 and Scheduling a Public Hearing

Finance Director Sundberg gave a presentation noted that the two goals for this item are to set the hearing date for the 2022 levy and budget and establish the maximum levy amount for 2022. Sundberg reviewed the components of the levy. Three components of the levy are the general fund, 2009A debt service, and the capital improvement fund. Proposed levy for the general and capital improvement fund is much more than past years but the levy for the debt service will remain the same.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Sundberg for his presentation. She said that the Council has been working on 2022 budget for months. She said that the Council sits at this meeting, not happy to present a high levy percentage. Council Member Rogers thanked last year's Council for taking into account the pandemic by lowering the levy last year to make it easier for everybody in the City. Rogers said that there is no fat in this levy amount/proposed budget and that the Council is budgeting for all things required to run this City. Gunderson thanked staff and Sundberg for working with the Council on this item.

Motion made by Rogers, seconded by Urban, it was

#21-09-136 “RESOLVED that the Council sets the 2022 Levy/Budget Public Hearing for Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7 pm and establishes the maximum tax levy for 2022 at 13.13% (\$5,724,529).”

Ayes – 5 Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

- B. Consider Approval of Property Conveyance Agreements for 3454 Rice Street
Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that included in the Council meeting packet is a resolution about conveying the property located at 3454 Rice Street. He said that Ramsey County Board has approved the authorization to execute a purchase agreement/contract of deed item with the City. The attached agreements and the resolution are combined and developed with all parties. Wall noted that the ultimate conveyance to the developer to develop redevelopment in the future.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-09-137 “RESOLVED that the Council adopt a resolution approving a contract for deed with Ramsey County and a Purchase Agreement with Elevage Development Group, LLC for real property located at 3454 Rice Street.”

Ayes - 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that the water tower project is complete and will be put back into service later this week. Farrell said that he appreciates the Council's support for the 2021 Street Improvements and noted that the final course of asphalt has been placed. He said that staff are beginning to look 2022 street project plans and they are looking at tackling a difficult project on South Oak Drive and Oak Crest. He said that he will be working with SEH to get a proposal as they fine tune the numbers for 2022. Farrell thanked Kyle Johnson who will be resigning from his position in Public Works effective September 24th. He thanked Kyle for his contribution.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall said at the next Council meeting a public hearing will be held regarding the Bluebird development project.

Fire Chief Hearden noted that last week the Department held a car seat installation program.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik thanked folks for showing up to Movie in the Park last week. He said the City had a successful summer program strategy this year. He said that staff are working on the community survey.

Council Member Urban asked if the Council could discuss the Ramsey County Attorney's decision to no longer prosecute felonies that are discovered during traffic stops. Mayor Gunderson said she would be happy to put this on a future workshop because she doesn't want any disinformation spread.

Administrator Watson thanked the City Council for the in depth discussion during the budget planning process.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 7:43 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved