



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 7, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson (arrived late to the meeting)

Staff Present: City Administrator: Terrance Post; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Rettinger, seconded by Henderson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of June 16, 2009 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of June 16, 2009 City Council Meeting
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2009-21 Approving Issuance of a Special Event Permit for Birch's 2009 Donnie Smith Bike Show
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Authorize Reconvening the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force

Post reported that at the Council's last meeting, staff had informed the Council that the City of Orono had submitted a copy of their draft 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Long Lake for the City's review. Responding to the Council's request that the City's Comprehensive Plan Task Force meet to complete the review, staff recommends the Long Lake Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force be reconvened for the purpose of reviewing the draft Orono plan and submitting recommendations or comments for discussion to the City Council.

Mayor Gilbert noted a current Council member would need to be appointed to represent the Council on the Task Force, and volunteered to serve in that capacity unless any other members were interested.

A motion was made by Carpenter, seconded by Henderson, to reconvene the Long Lake Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force for the purpose of reviewing the draft Orono 2030 Comprehensive Plan and submitting recommendations or comments for discussion to the City Council; and further to appoint Mayor Randy Gilbert to the Long Lake Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force. Ayes: all.

Update and Discussion on Highway 12 Watermain Repair Project

Wurzer updated the Council on the status of the Highway 12 watermain break repair project and indicated that the City Engineer would be submitting the work plan to Mn/DOT by Friday. Since Mn/DOT has already offered verbal approval for the project, it is anticipated once Mn/DOT receives the work plan it should be approved within a short time.

Wurzer also noted that staff had received plans from Mn/DOT for the mill and overlay of old Highway 12. The mill and overlay project plans were rather extensive but did not seem to address some guardrail and erosion control issues. Mn/DOT is now planning to do the mill and overlay in September/October of this year, which affects a pending City watermain project to install a new watermain under old Highway 12 between the old Billy's Lighthouse site and the curb. Staff and SEH will be trying to work with Mn/DOT to coordinate accomplishing both projects simultaneously so they can be completed in 2009.

Post explained that SEH had been concentrating their work on the Highway 12 watermain break repair project as it would be better for the repair to be complete before the new watermain section is installed. Mn/DOT's original position had been that the mill and overlay project would likely not occur this year. SEH will be accelerating their efforts on the new watermain section proposed.

Wurzer further informed the Council that the wear course for the 2008 Street Improvement Project area would be installed in the coming week and all landscaping repairs had been completed. Borings in the area of a crack underneath the roadway showed the road had been built according to specifications; however, it is likely sump pumps may be draining into a sand vein that runs through the area causing water to get under the street. Staff will be trying to work with one homeowner in particular whose sump pump is always running to hook their sump pump to the tile line and help avoid future roadway cracking.

OTHER BUSINESS

Payment of Water Bills – Council member Rettinger had been contacted by an individual regarding payment of their water bill and questioned what the policy is for addressing overdue bills. Post stated that past due bills may be certified to property taxes, or if delinquent for two quarters water service can be disconnected. He noted that very few services actually need to be shut off as individuals respond to disconnect notices sent in advance. Post reviewed the terms of water bill payment and past due arrangements accepted by staff. Council member Rettinger stressed the importance of applying firm rules to handling of water bill delinquencies, and questioned whether the current interest rate and service disconnect/reconnect fees were adequate. Mayor Gilbert requested Post provide summary information about the average number of delinquencies for Council to review and determine whether further action is of interest.

Lake Association for Long Lake – Council member Carpenter announced that a group of individuals living on or in proximity to Long Lake has taken the initial steps to form an organized not-for-profit lake association through the Minnesota Waters Group. Minnesota Waters and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will be guiding the group as they learn what they as homeowners can do towards improving lake water quality and preservation. The group is hoping to

have 20 interested members by August at which point they would take the next step in the association organization process. Any individuals interested in joining the group would be welcome to contact Council member Carpenter.

Wayzata Boulevard Landscaping Project – Council member Olson asked when the hillside in the Wayzata Boulevard Landscaping Project would be mowed for further evaluation. Post replied that the contractor intends to mow the hillside the following week and then will make a determination on what reseeded is necessary.

Lindawood Lane Cul-de-Sac – Post questioned whether Council members had looked at the island in the center of the Lindawood Lane cul-de-sac, as staff is seeking direction on how to respond to a request from residents that the island be reduced in sized. Mayor Gilbert commented that he did not think the island could be shrunk to a point that would make a difference for larger vehicles. It was noted that the best solutions would be to either remove the island and tree or enlarge the cul-de-sac. Staff was given direction to speak to the residents and find out their desired solution.

Downtown Surface Water Management Project – Post reported a pre-construction meeting had been held with Sunram Construction, and that meetings will be held regularly on site through the duration of the project, and responded to Council member questions regarding easements and removal of trees and bushes in particular project areas.

Purchase of Virginia Avenue Property – Post had received a letter from Bob Brown, director of the Mn/DOT Right-of-Way Department, reminding the City that the City's deadline for deciding whether to purchase the Virginia Avenue property from Mn/DOT is August 31. The proposed purchase price remains unchanged. Council members agreed in light of current market conditions the purchase price proposed should be reduced and the issue should be raised with Mn/DOT.

LMCC Fiber Optic Proposal – Post reported that the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission has a task force exploring the option of the LMCC creating their own fiber optic line to offer wireless internet which would serve all the Lake Minnetonka communities. The task force is seeking stimulus funds to pursue the project. Post anticipated the LMCC would likely be approaching the member cities sometime in August seeking their support.

Thank You – Post thanked the Council for their well wishes during his recent absence.

Culvert Blockage – Public Works Director Wurzer stated he had received a phone call from a resident of the Southwood Shores townhomes reporting the creek was backing up. Staff discovered beavers had built dams blocking two 36" culverts causing the backup. Staff cleared the beaver dams twice within a week's time. Wurzer would be meeting with a representative from the Mn/DNR to pursue obtaining a live trapping permit for a trapper to remove the beavers from the site.

Old Highway 12 Mill and Overlay – Council member Carpenter questioned what code requirements are in place to address guardrail safety standards. He commented that the steel plate guardrails proposed for installation along the lake would not hold anything back safely as the embankment in that area is washing out from under the road, and the surface of the road itself is dropping out. Council members discussed the importance of stabilization in that area for any installed guardrails to safeguard traffic; and more aesthetically pleasing traffic safeguard options that might be available other than steel plate guardrails. It was agreed this issue should be raised with Mn/DOT. Mayor Gilbert indicated he would be meeting with representatives of the County to discuss the County's expectations for the future of the roadway.

Highway 12 Open House – Mayor Gilbert reported that Mn/DOT had held a Highway 12 wrap up open house meeting on June 25 but the meeting had not been well attended. A few residents were present to express concerns about the sound wall and noise levels. Mn/DOT has shared decibel testing results showing that noise from the highway is actually less than had been anticipated. Mn/DOT was looking into a few other issues for residents regarding sight lines and other business.

Open Air Market – Mayor Gilbert reminded the viewing audience that there is an open air market in Nelson Lakeside Park on Thursday nights, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The market is changing and growing each week as new vendors join.

Mayor's Picnic – Mayor Gilbert said he would be hosting his first Mayor's Picnic of the season the following Tuesday, July 14, at City Hall. Council member Olson suggested he host a future picnic in Nelson Lakeside Park during a market night. Council members discussed participating regularly in open air market events.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk