

Mayor Dave Olson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm for the purpose of rezoning Parcel 240567000, Lot 18, Block 2, Prairie Meadows Addition, from Residential R-1 to Commercial C-2. In attendance were: Mayor Dave Olson, Councilors Kevin Knutson, Cheryl Sanden, Emily Krage, Matt Schutte. Also in attendance were: Chris Peterson, Chief David Breault, Audrey Hegland, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Linda VonArx, Sheryl Sherry, Carol Meeks, Marlene Schultz, Fred Huhn, Gene Lundak, Hein Bloem, Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer, Dennis Eich, Tom Johnson, and Sue Weigrefe.

Ordinance No. 228 reads as follows:

ORDINANCE #228 REZONING
PARCEL 240567000, LOT 18, BLOCK 2, PRAIRIE MEADOWS ADDITION, IN THE CITY
OF HOUSTON, HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA, FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO C-2
COMMERCIAL

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. That, upon the recommendation of the Houston Planning Commission, the following described real estate be rezoned from R-1 One Residential to C-2 Commercial:

PARCEL. 240567000, LOT 18, BLOCK 2, PRAIRIE MEADOWS ADDITION, IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Section 2. The official zoning map of the City of Houston shall be amended accordingly.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its publication.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Houston this 14th day of May 2018.

Mayor
David Olson

Attested by:

City Clerk
Christina Peterson

Mayor Olson called for any public comment regarding the proposed rezoning. Fred Huhn asked about the water runoff that could result from the new building and affect his property. Peterson assured him that the drainage would be addressed so that there will not be a problem. The utility easement will be discussed next month as it must be done separately.

There being no more public comment or questions, Mayor Olson closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 pm and convened the City Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:04 pm. There was no public comment.

MOTION MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #228 REZONING PARCEL 240567000, LOT 18, BLOCK 2, PRAIRIE MEADOWS ADDITION, IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON, HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA, FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO C-2 COMMERCIAL; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A second public hearing will be held in June for easements. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR EASEMENT VACATION, LOTS 18-20, BLOCK 2, PRAIRIE MEADOWS ADDITION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Root River Market – Business Loan: The EDA meeting minutes were included in the Council packet; the EDA recommends a loan for the Root River Market in an amount of \$3,000 to assist with various projects that are needed, with terms based on previous standards or prime plus 1%. A promissory note was included in the packet for Council review with interest rate of 2% on the \$3,000 principal for a three-year term. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE \$3,000 LOAN TO THE ROOT RIVER MARKET AT 2% INTEREST FOR THREE YEARS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library Property – Tree: Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer, speaking on behalf of the Library Board, stated that one of the Japanese lilac trees has been removed without the Library’s knowledge or consent to make room to remove a mobile home from an adjacent mobile home park. The owner of the mobile park was also unaware this was going to happen. The Library purchased and planted a row of these trees in 2002 between the Library and the park, and has been caring for them since that time. There has been some discussion as to where the lot lines actually are, but Thesing said it appears the trees are on City property, although some of the branches do extend over into the mobile home park.

Regardless, Bayer said the tree should never have been removed without the Library’s knowledge, and whoever is responsible should purchase and plant a replacement of equal size at no expense to the Library. In response to a question, Peterson said that a permit is not needed to remove a mobile home. The mobile homes in this park have been there a very long time and it appears it would be difficult to remove them, should it become necessary. This issue should be addressed before a new replacement tree is planted. Peterson will ask the Police to check into the incident and determine who cut the tree down, and will talk further with the property owner about the landlocked situation and how homes can be removed if necessary as well as getting the tree replaced.

Knights of Columbus – Sign at City’s East Entry: Dennis Eich presented a request from the KC organization which is a joint membership of Houston/Rushford. They asked Council’s permission to install a 4x4’ KC sign on the east end of town. The sign will be of durable, non-wood material with fiberglass poles and ground cover placed to aid in mowing. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ALLOW THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE EAST END OF TOWN, IN THE AREA DESCRIBED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Houston School District – Request for Public Access Channel: In 2008 the school had requested a public access channel that never materialized. The City has a franchise agreement with AcenTek. The school would like to have their own PAC and to do so, the City needs to officially request to change their franchise agreement to include the school. It may be possible to cooperate with the school in placing information on both sites – the City’s and also theirs. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY REQUESTING TO ACENTEK THAT THE CITY’S FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BE MODIFIED TO INCLUDE A CHANNEL FOR THE SCHOOL; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OHV Project – 90 acres available – Appraisal: As per Planning Commission members, the OHV clubs would like to see more land made available for the OHV Trail system. DNR grant funds may be available to purchase a 90 acre parcel for sale. There is an easement to access the 90 acres; it is the attorney’s opinion is that this is a valid easement. There is no urgency about acquiring this land other than the fact that the property might be sold to someone else. Comment was made that this property does not butt up to the other OHV land owned by the City. Peterson said the Planning Commission would rather purchase a 120 acre parcel which abuts city land and is owned by the same person. Although, it is not for sale. If the Council decides to look further into the 90 acres, an appraisal is needed. Sanden suggested that more information be obtained and have the City attorney check into it further. Schultz stated the OHV members should get started with the land the city already owns instead of seeking additional land. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE THAT THE CITY TABLE THE DECISION TO GET THE APPRAISAL DONE ON THE 90 ACRES THAT IS FOR SALE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

International Owl Center – Agreement Type: After meeting with the Owl Center Board about the project, Peterson had the city attorney summarize possible options. They are:

1. License Agreement
2. Lease Agreement
3. Option to Purchase Agreement
4. Sale with Deed Restriction
5. Easement Agreement

The attorney suggested a license or lease agreement with option to purchase. A license would hold the spot until the Owl Center Board is ready to build, at which time it would become a sale.

Peterson said language would be added to clarify what “ready to build” means; whether it refers to being ready to build the entire facility or on the land they already have. The City needs assurance that it would get the property back if something should happen with the Owl Center. Peterson will have the attorney draft a license agreement with option to purchase. When a draft is available, she will share it to the Council and if satisfactory, then presented to the Owl Center Board.

MnDot Hwy 16 Project Timeline: MnDot will be doing a milling and overlay project in Houston in the next couple of years. ADA work is needed but could potentially wait until the next full reconstruction project. Thesing mentioned that when the sewers on Cedar Street need work they could be lined, but watermain work would be ideal during the full reconstruction in approximately eight years. MnDot project representatives viewed the long-standing problem on the corner of N. Henderson and Hwy 16 and will consider a fix with the mill and overlay project.

Personnel Committee Recommendations: The Personnel Committee conducted its initial review of Suzie Peterson and gave her a raise accordingly. They also reviewed the applications for the Summer Maintenance employees and have made their recommendations to Peterson. Schutte gave a list of recommend summer rec hires. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE EMPLOYING TREVOR LUNDBERG, CAIDEN DANIELSON, EMMA GEIWITZ, JAYTIN MILLEN, JADEN ABRAHAM, MADELYN SROCK, ALYSSA ROSTAD, JENNIFER ALBRECHT, BECCA ROSTAD, GRETCHEN HILL, KATIE WALKER, AND MIKKEL SCHUTTE FOR SUMMER REC, AND DAKOTA STAMPKA, DUSTIN STAMPKA, TANNER KRAGE, JACK CHIGLO, LEONARD OLSON, LES ROESNER AND KEN CARRIER FOR CITY SUMMER MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Valley View Foundation and Hoedown – Temporary Liquor Licenses: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSES FOR VALLEY VIEW FOUNDATION FOR AUGUST 11, 2018 AND FOR HOUSTON HOEDOWN, JULY 27-29, 2018; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Root River Market: Hein Bloem spoke on behalf of the Root River Market; they request their Farmer’s Market project be placed on the City’s “Events” list so they can have a food truck present at their Farmer’s Market. The Farmer’s Market would be on the sidewalk in front of the Market. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ADD THE FARMER’S MARKET TO THE CITIES EVENT LIST; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Bloem stated the Farmers Market may be held weekly or bi-weekly, it has not been decided at this time.

Minutes: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 9 AND APRIL 30 MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report: MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Review of Bills: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Police: Chief Breault is preparing for the coming Triathlon, bringing extra law enforcement assistance to help the event run smoothly. The squad is getting some repairs done but will be ready in time for the Triathlon. The State will be providing over \$900 per officer for the next four years with the stipulation that it be used for training.

Nature Center: Sue Weigrefe listed upcoming events and activities at the Nature Center, including the popularity of the zip line. She stressed the need for volunteers to be trained in its use. September 15 there will be a Rattlesnake Jaboree hosted by Friends of the Nature Center as a fundraiser at the Community Center with a rattlesnake exhibit, with DNR cosponsorship. Zip Line training: To use zip line, a trained volunteer must be present. A sign-up sheet is on the Nature Center FB page. She is forming a Junior Conservation Corp for youth to become involved with the Nature Center and also with its maintenance. The annual prairie burn will occur when the weather permits.

She spoke of a recent walk-through in South Park that revealed a concerning amount of noxious weeds that are crowding out the grass trying to grow, and if something is not done soon, will likely take over the area and become impenetrable. This will a loss of valuable City property. The area is a resource for nature and bird enthusiasts as well as hikers and campers. She asked Council to get involved in stopping this before it is too late. The weeds/brush are very difficult to eradicate and spread by birds that eat the berries.

Maintenance: Prairie Meadows intersection has been ground in preparation for the second lift station to be installed; it had been delayed due to rain. Because of the heavy rains, Thesing said that over 600,000 gallons are going through the sewer plant which is many times over average. He encourages all residents to be sure their sump pumps are running into the street and not outside the house. The new water meter reader is working well and will continue to improve as staff become more familiar with it. The reader automatically downloads into the office computer. Ballfield outfield signs: To encourage more signs and also others to renew, Thesing asked Council to approve charging \$900 for three years advertising instead of the previous \$1500/3 year contract. Council approved his request. Letters will be sent out to all involved. A new blower has arrived that was badly needed. Cedar Street hydrant needs to be painted; will check into whether it can be sandblasted. Otherwise it will be scraped by hand and painted.

Council: Councilor Knutson commented on the many four-wheelers and golf carts there are now in town and whether they are licensed. Golf carts are to be licensed and operate according to roadway rules, and four-wheelers must obey all traffic laws but the City does not license them.

Adjournment: MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.