

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 9, 2018 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Mayor David Olson, Matt Schutte, Kevin Knutson, Cheryl Sanden and Emily Krage. Also present were: Christina Peterson, Audrey Hegland, Randy Thesing, Brett Hurley, Philip Teague of Bolton & Menk, Matt Fitting, Sue Weigrefe and Marlene Schultz. Mayor Olson moved the agenda order, placing Public Comment first on the agenda, to be followed by the scheduled Public Hearing.

Public Comment: Matt Fitting stated that July 7 marks the date that his father passed away 20 years ago. To commemorate his passing, Fitting said he would like to host a golf tournament, followed by a street dance for the public, located between JT's and AcenTek in the afternoon/early evening. A local band will be providing the music. He requested Council's permission to close the South portion of the block on Sherman Street from the hours of 5-9:30 pm but certainly no later than 10:00 pm so noise does not become an issue. MOTION MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO ALLOW THE SOUTH END OF THE BLOCK ON SHERMAN STREET BETWEEN JT'S AND ACEN TEK TO BE CLOSED FOR A JULY 7 STREET DANCE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 5-9:45 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Olson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:10 pm.

Public Hearing: Wastewater Facility Plan – Bolton & Menk, Brian Malm and Philip Teague: Teague, a project engineer with Bolton & Menk, presented the wastewater facility plan that the City must submit to the MPCA. It represents a formal planning document that considers the needs of a community, evaluates alternatives, the financial impact of each, and makes recommendations for the future work. The plan is required to be eligible for grants and low interest loans.

Thesing said that the treatment facility has lasted far longer than ever expected but it is at a critical point now; the clarifier has to run constantly and is very old; could go down at any time; there is no second one to take its place. Teague said that discharge limits are constantly becoming more restrictive, especially allowable phosphorus levels. He listed options available:

Option 1: Do nothing, and hope the equipment holds up but the facility is 46 years old and equipment would be expensive to replace.

Option 2: Rehabilitate existing facility

Option 3: Build a new facility but not include nitrogen and phosphorous removal option; could be added later.

Option 4: New Facility with Nutrient Removal; grants are available to help fund this option.

Teague recommended refurbishing the plant for the estimated cost of \$2 million which should last for 20 years. Comment was made that 20 years is not a very long time. If this option is chosen, it would result in a water/sewer increase of approximately \$25 per account for 10 years. Refurbishing the plant would also qualify for a low interest loan.

The public hearing is required as part of the plan application, during which the current treatment facility needs are summarized, alternatives considered and estimate costs listed. There is no charge to the City for plan itself. Peterson presented Resolution No. 2018-4 and requested the Council adopt the Resolution for the wastewater facility plan for submission to the MPCA.

Mayor Olson closed the public hearing at 6:25 pm. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KNUTSON THAT THE CITY ADOPT THE WASTE WATER FACILITY PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MPCA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution – Sale of Parcel #240567000 for Dollar General Store: The Planning Commission and City Council has previously approved the sale of the parcel and it is now in the attorney's hands. They have requested a formal resolution regarding the sale in the amount of \$34,000 to Golden Warriors LLC. The requested Resolution will give Peterson the authority to sign the necessary purchase agreement and other documents as necessary to affect the sale of the real property. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO PASS RESOLUTION #2018-5, FOR SALE OF REAL

PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT B AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AS ARE NECESSARY TO AFFECT THE SALE OF THE REAL PROPERTY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution – Sale of Parcels #240582000 and #240581000 for Residential: The Council has previously discussed and approved the sale of these two residential lots and now a Resolution approving the sale is necessary. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO PASS A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF THE TWO PARCELS #240582000 AND #240581000 LOCATED IN PRAIRIE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OHV Project – Preliminary Engineering for Parking and Access: The Council had previously agreed to hire Trails Unlimited to design the trails, expense for which would be initially paid for by the City and reimbursed by Grant and Aid funds. There are other aspects to the project, one is the parking lot located near the levee road; the necessary paperwork needs to be submitted to the Army Corps. Also to be determined is any emergency access that would be necessary. The DNR funds can be used to pay planning and design. Because there are grant dollars available for this at this time, it would be a good time to direct Bolten & Menk to start the preliminary plans for the parking lot. Schultz asked if there would be any ground work done this year for the parking lot; since if there won't be, she would plant it again this year. Peterson said there would be just planning at this time. She requested the Council authorize Bolton & Menk to move ahead with planning for the preliminary emergency routes as well. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE THAT BOLTON & MENK START THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE PARKING LOT AND ALSO THE NECESSARY EMERGENCY ROUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Flood Levee Recertification Update: The City is hiring Mead & Hunt to do the recertification that was required and submitted last year to FEMA. Now FEMA has concerns about a 1200 ft. section of Hwy 76. This portion is at the end of the levee, which was built by the Army Corps of Engineers and turned over to the City. FEMA says this portion of the levee needs to be recertified per FEMA current standards and is now the City's responsibility to do so. Peterson has been in contact with the Army Corps and MnDot regarding this, since the levee was originally built by the Corps, and neither the Corps or the City have authority over Hwy 76. However, if the recertification is not done, then most of Prairie Meadows and some additional areas would be regarded as being in the flood plain. All future homes would have to be built up to a certain level; if done, the homeowners would not be required to take out flood insurance. The City does not have funds budgeted to do this additional recertification. Peterson will determine how many houses would be affected if the City does not arrange for agreements with MnDot and complete additional recertification.

Timeline: If the City decides to go ahead with the recertification, it would be expensive and if the City says no to doing the recertification, any funding possible from the State would be two years out, at least. The City has 90 days to submit a timeline when they would have a solution to the problem. She will also consult with Mead & Hunt about the options. It is hoped that the State Building bond scheduled to be available in two years might be of some help.

Building Code Enforcement – Qualifications for Inspector Certification: The City has been reviewing alternatives to enforce the Building Code. One option is for the City to find a local person able to serve as an inspector. Peterson has checked into what is involved in becoming qualified to be a building code residential inspector, since CMS has indicated they would be willing to continue to handle commercial inspections. Qualifications to become certified, one must have a combination of schooling and experience, and pass an exam. Peterson will advertise this in the Banner.

Resolution – Grant Application for Tree Replacement: Sue Weigrefe has applied for a \$90,000 grant for plants and trees to replace the 200 that were lost to the emerald ash borer. If funded, the grant will allow for 120 two-inch trees to be planted (cost - \$375). that are on the list of recommended trees. People who have lost trees will be consulted and told what is available. If the grant is successful, a contractor will plant the trees. The County is going to help remove the honeysuckle and dead elm trees on West Plum Street. In order to submit the grant application, the resolution must be available. Funds will be included in the grant to compensate Weigrefe for her time spent.

MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #2018-7 TO THE LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000 FOR FUNDS TO RESTORE 120 TREES TO HOUSTON STREETS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

After the dead trees and honeysuckle have been removed at the Nature Center, Weigrefe would like to plant the area with an attractive ground cover with wild flowers with the assistance of the Nature Center staff, volunteers and also local garden clubs. The area will be heavily mulched to be easier to maintain.

Arbor Day Proclamation Resolution: Mayor Olson read the traditional Arbor Day Resolution, which declared that April 28 is Arbor Day, and that Houston should observe the Day and support efforts to protect Houston's trees and woodlands.

Minutes: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 12 MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report / Pay the Bills: MOTION BY SANDEN AND KRAGE TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Nature Center: Sue Weigrefe reported she is working on building a volunteer group to help maintain and run the Nature Center. The zip line has been very popular and needs someone to monitor its use when in operation. She will have an online sign-up sheet for applicants who wish to help and attend training meetings. The training will also include how to staff the Nature Center, greet people properly, do weeding as necessary and ring up sales from the gift shop. A series of programs on birding will be presented by Sue Fletcher which includes trips out to the location where bird species can be found that were the topic of the program that day. Sarah Mann, Chamber Director, is now located in the Nature Center.

Police: Officer Hurley reported that the police are gearing up for the May Triathlon, securing assistance from the Sheriff's Department for traffic control.

Maintenance: Thesing reported that cement trash containers by the Library need to be replaced. They cost approximately \$1,000 each. The Librarian will be asked to select the color. Thesing also stated there are two hydrants that are having problems and a third one, on the corner of Cedar and Grant was reportedly hit by a vehicle and is leaking, and needs to be dug up. The water fountain located in the same area has a broken water main link and will be removed, as it is seldom used. Sewers will be flushed soon; notice will be placed in the Banner. Summer help: Thesing the previous summer help is interested in serving again this year. Thesing reported that he has received the necessary recertification for Step II, which is a requirement in order to work on the new wastewater treatment facility when it is built. Ed Jacobs will be obtaining this same recertification.

City Administrator: Schutte will schedule a *Summer Rec* meeting for potential employees and will bring Summer Rec registration forms to the school for students to bring home and return. On Tuesday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. the County Assessor will be at City Hall for the Board of Appeals meeting; a Council quorum will be required. A special Council meeting will be held on *Monday, April 30 at 7:00 pm* to finalize the agreements with the Owl Center. Mayor Olson and Peterson will be meeting with *MnDot* regarding their plan to mill and overlay Hwy 16. They were asking if the City had any additional work they needed done in town. Thesing stated the section of Hwy 16/Henderson Street needs work; has been a trouble spot for quite some time.

The next Council meeting on May 14 will include a Public Hearing to discuss easement and zoning for the Dollar General property.

Adjournment: MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:25 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.