

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. May 13, 2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Matt Schutte, Tony Schultz, Cheryl Sanden and Emily Krage. Staff present: Chris Peterson, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Brett Hurley

**Public Comment Period:** None

**Root River Market – Summer Wednesday Farmer’s Market / Food Truck:** Manager David Wilson asked to once again have their summer event. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE EVENT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. It was noted that David would not have to come back each year if there were no changes.

**Nature Center Heating System:** Chris Schroeder was present to discuss his recommendation to switch out the boiler system to a gas boiler. He did not think a forced air furnace would be the best solution due to the need to add ductwork, insulation, dampers, etc.. Chris handed out an estimate for a gas boiler. MOTION TO APPROVE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**International Owl Center – Option to Purchase Agreement.** Peterson ran the agreement by the attorney to revise the agreement in order to clarify the two properties referenced in the agreement. The requirement for the flowage easement was added to the agreement. Karla pointed out the name of Owl Center should be International Owl Center throughout the agreement. Karla mentioned that previously agreement had said 1 million assets, and now it says cash only. Peterson said the attorney was concerned with the term “assets” because that could include a letter of credit which would not meet the intent. Peterson said at a minimum it should exclude a letter of credit and thought council had previously agreed it could include pledges since there is a further condition that construction must start within two years of the purchase. Peterson explained that official approval of the agreement cannot take place until the legal description is worked out. Peterson said she would check with the attorney once more and have it read 1 million assets, excluding letters of credit, if he is comfortable with paragraph 9(c) having enough protection. She will bring the agreement back for approval when the legal description is finalized.

(Tony Schultz arrived)

**Banners for Light Poles:** Karla Bloem had previously talked with City Council about allowing the Owl Center to replace some of the Banners. She brought an example. The Owl Center will pay for the banners and wanted approval for how many they can hang up. There was discussion about the ties and size, as well as a comment that some banners should stress not only owls, but other things such as deer hunting, fishing, snowmobiling. MOTION SCHULTZ TO ALLOW THE OWL CENTER TO PUT UP 8 BANNERS WITH THEIR DESIGN AT THEIR EXPENSE, SECONDED BY KRAGE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Peterson asked who should arrange for the banners for other themes/organizations? It was suggested to talk to the Chamber of Commerce.

**City Park – Horseshoes, Access, Sidewalk:** Discussion for needs at City Park, new Playground. Maintenance will add at least two trash cans. There have been concerns about the worn-out appearance of the horseshoe area. Thesing suggested removing the backboards and stakes until they are needed for Hoedown. One light pole would be removed and light added to other pole. Others discussed moving them to another area of park or to other park. The discussion on horseshoes was tabled until someone brings a proposal. Dick Snow mentioned there are plans to expand the memorial. Thesing noted that there is not supposed to be motor vehicles in City Park, but they are allowed at times such as Hoedown. He said the existing curbcut along Lincoln St. is where the new sidewalk will be installed. He suggested Hoedown use another location around the park which would not cross a sidewalk. Schutte asked about the possibility of reinforcing sidewalk, Thesing said that would be a possibility, but the sidewalk will be built up and still may get cracking with heavy vehicles. MOTION TO REMOVE THE CURBCUT BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SANDEN, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Water Treatment Facility – Pay Estimate #7 Wapasha Construction:** MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO PAY WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION’S ESTIMATE #7 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$293,164.07 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Consent Items:** MOTION BY KRAE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT ITEMS (Minutes and Financial Report/Payment of Bills), SECONDED BY SCHULTZ; UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**Department Reports:**

Police: Hurley requested the council give the requested financial assistance to Houston County Victims Services. MOTION TO APPROVE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Maintenance: Thesing reported they have been working on park landscaping. He reported on progress for Water Treatment Plant. Cheryl mentioned she would like to see a landscape trailer used to transport the riding lawn mower. Thesing noted he does not recommend keeping the old pick-up once the new one comes. Therefore, a plan for another vehicle would be needed in order to use a trailer.

**Closed Session regarding Real Estate at 109 W. Cedar St. per MN Statue 13D.05**

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Motion to Adjourn:** MOTION BY SCULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:49 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.