

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting and Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. on February 13, 2017 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Mayor David Olson, Kevin Knutson, Cheryl Sanden and Emily Krage. Also present were: Chris Peterson, Audrey Hegland, Chief David Breault, Officer Brett Hurley, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Roger Meyer, Marlene Schultz, Carol Meeks, Joe Krage, and Ellyn Baumann of the Banner newspaper. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Parking Ordinance Clarification:** There are two existing City parking ordinances and clarification is needed. There are times when strict enforcement of the ordinances is necessary and it appears there is such an instance now. A semi is being parked at home on Elm Street in order to plug in the engine overnight. The street is narrow and this causes traffic and safety problems, especially if there is other vehicles parked on the opposite side of the street. Chief Breault requested the Council's direction as to how they wish him to proceed.

Discussion focused on the two ordinances and which one best suits the needs of the City, including the current situation. One calls for no parking of semis within the residential district unless they are parked in a garage (Minnesota Basic Code 71.01); the other, (City Ordinance 206) allows very limited parking in a residential district; semi's cannot be parked on the street but allowed if parked in driveways, provided there are no complaints or obstruction of streets or sidewalks, etc. No commercial vehicles will be allowed to park on the streets unless they are unloading or unloading, and not for more than 30 minutes. Also to be considered is the problem of snowplowing in winter with vehicles on the street, and another concern is the impact of the weight of the semis on City streets.

Options were discussed including semi owners making parking arrangements with a private party. If the Council opts for Ordinance #206, then Peterson will remove the two paragraphs in the Basic Code, Chapter 71 pertaining to semis and will bring the changes to the Council to make sure it meets their wishes. By choosing #206, it gives the owner some leeway where they can park their large vehicles as long as it is off the street and in a driveway, and is not blocking sidewalks or causing other obstruction. MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ENFORCE ORDINANCE #206; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Sanden stated that all vehicles should be moved off the streets when there is snow expected or already on the ground so plowing can be done. Thesing mentioned that in cases where there is no off-street parking available, vehicles should be moved to a different spot until the area is plowed.

**Friends of the Nature Center – Playground Platform:** Roger Meyer spoke on behalf of the playground tree house that he and a volunteer would like to build in the Natural Playground, paid for by an anonymous donor. He requested Council approval. Meyer described the treehouse in detail, stating he has received the approval of CMS and the City's insurance provider for the project. The insurance requires that any volunteer helping must be 16 years of age or older. Meyer stated the project is also in compliance with the playground safety requirements, which is separate from CMS regulations. There will also be a swinging bridge built from the treehouse that connects to the hill in the center of the Natural Playground. The Council thanked Meyer for his work and MOTION WAS MADE BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SANDEN, TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF THE NATURAL PLAYGROUND TREEHOUSE AS DESCRIBED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Variance Request – 109 E. Elm Street:** Tabled until more information is available.

**Off-Highway Vehicle Project Easement – Survey:** Phase I: The legal description for the OHV easement has been received, and will be inserted into the purchasing document. Phase II will be to insert the property irons for permanent markings. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE EASEMENT PURCHASE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Schultz Property – New Parcel and Driveway:** The Planning Commission has reviewed this; Marlene Schultz plans to build a house and put in well and septic on five acres or more that will be divided from property currently owned by her. She would like to have a driveway exiting onto Jefferson Street, across from the football field. There is a strip of land that belongs to the school and also a ditch that would have to be crossed that is part of the wetland drainage. A span will be necessary over the ditch and will have to meet wetland criteria. For any span over 10 ft. long, an annual inspection by the

County is required; any repairs necessary would be the responsibility of the City. There are still details and measurements to be worked out; if this plan is not possible, Schultz would still have another option which would be to link up with the original driveway to her current property.

**Annexation Order from MN Office of Administrative Hearings:** The judge's ruling was received in January, and has a 30-day right of appeal. After following all available information and maps back as far as 1874, there is no evidence that the Farmers Coop Elevator has ever been in the township; always been in the City. Also included were a small portion of the field near the Elevator near the waste treatment plant and a small portion of the field north of the Elevator. The property owned by Green Acres was requested for annexation but was not granted. Peterson itemized the properties that were granted by the judge for annexation. Taxes will be collected in 2017, with the townships being reimbursed for two years to compensate them for the loss of tax income from the annexed properties. Any annexed properties who had been paying double for water/sewer will now be paying less because they are in the City.

**2017 Summer Rec Director – Hire:** The position was advertised; there were no other applicants other than Matt Schutte, who was approved by the Personnel Committee. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO EMPLOY MATT SCHUTTE AS 2017 SUMMER REC DIRECTOR; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**2017 Summer Maintenance – Advertise:** Peterson will advertise for summer help but not specify hours at this time. An amount has been budgeted, and care will be taken not to exceed this amount.

**Training:** The following City employees will be attending the training related to their job responsibilities: Ed Jacobs (Wastewater Operator Conference); Chief Breault and Brett Hurley (MN Chiefs Association Conference); Chris Peterson (Floodplain Workshop).

**Community Center Maintenance:** The building is aging and needs maintenance. Options for a new building would be to go to the taxpayer in a referendum for support; another option would be for the Chamber or another organization to take the lead and move forward to enlist support and funds. So far no one has stepped forward to take a leadership role and the City staff does not have time or the manpower to spearhead this effort. The existing community center continues to deteriorate. Mayor Olson has contacted a local contractor for an estimate to repair the exterior.

Discussion was had regarding forming a committee to explore options for a new community center. The committee could research cost, location, and the possibility of a referendum. This committee could possibly evolve into forming a community foundation which could help in raising necessary funds. The first step will be to recruit people. Peterson will put this information in the next City Newsletter and call for residents to attend an informational meeting and voice their thoughts. Sanden and Krage volunteered to serve as Council representatives.

**Minutes:** MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Financial Report:** MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Department Reports:** Maintenance: Thesing reported they have filled some of the potholes in the streets but there will be more until the frost is out of the ground. The lawnmower is in for servicing to get ready for spring.

City Administrator: The Bolton&Menk engineer will be here to on March 1 to discuss the water treatment plant. Mayor Olson and Sanden will also attend the meeting.

MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.