

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. July 15, 2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Tony Schultz, Cheryl Sanden, Matt Schutte, and Emily Krage. Staff present: Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Chris Peterson, Brett Hurley, and Steve Skifton.

Public comment: Michelle Lee made a request to dedicate 2nd ballfield in the name of Connie Tschumper. Council referred request to Ballfield and Park/Rec committees.

Gene Lundak, Friends of Library requested to plant Japanese Lilac at library property. Randy said planter is on city property but would need to keep trimmed so canopy didn't overhang property line. City agreed to pay out of General Fund – Parks, \$150 approx.

Houston County Comprehensive Plan – Aaron Lacher: Aaron Lacher from Houston County Zoning explained that the County is in the process of updating comp plan. As part of initial outreach, county is reaching out to each township and city to complete a survey. Aaron worked through a quick SWAT analysis for City of Houston specifically:

- Strength: outdoor recreation, location to larger cities, strong school district, friendly people, strong volunteerism, tree city, owl center, bike trail,
- Weaknesses: infrastructure, lack of commercial businesses –tax base and amenities, lack of finances
- Opportunities: industrial park, new housing option, OHV trail visitors,
- Threats: Newer schools in area, floods, restricted growth due to boundaries
- Aaron asked for feedback on survey that council members completed. Tony suggested asking question regarding county seeking more coordination from cities specific to land use. Emily commented that digital version should reference or link ordinance so respondent would know what current rule was. Add answer option: “don't change” or “neutral” or “not enough knowledge”.
- Anything county should have asked? Untidy parcels. Should not have asked? Simplify topics by separating.
- Committees will be formed for different topics to move plan forward.

Houston Hoedown: Ron Evenson was present to coordinate items for the event. Now that the curb-cut was removed with the sidewalk project along Lincoln Street, vendors will need a way to get in to park. It was proposed to provide access at Jackson St. - south end. Randy suggested a 2x6 to mark spot and put no parking sign. Other topics discussed:

- Legion sponsoring helicopter rides: Hoedown requests landing to be in front of bandshell.
- Tour to Houston sign will be hosted by Karla Bloem.
- No soapbox derby this year.
- Brat hut will not be in park. Hoedown suggested parking hut by side of foodshelf.
- Cornhole tournament on Lincoln st.
- Bouncy house on Saturday.
- No parking signs: police had put up in past. Hoedown will take care of and use signs that say by order of police.

- Boulevard along Lincoln Street. For pedal pull, it is feared grass will get wrecked. Should event be moved? How about using bleachers? Decided to rope off, let grass be and reseed as necessary.
- Thesing requested that sand be cleaned up after fireworks.

Fire Department – Recommendation for Hires

Steve Skifton noted that two spots were open now to replace Kevin Knutson and Tom Hill. Then on August 2nd, Mark Olson's spot will be open. It was requested to hire new members Matt Fitting and Andy Halverson today, and then Christian Connely on Aug 5th, 2019. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE HIRES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fire Dept Training Policy - Tabled

Emergency Plan Update: Hurley is forming committee to update Emergency Management Plan. Tony volunteered to be the council representative.

Water Treatment Facility - Pay Estimate #9 Wapasha Construction: MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO PAY WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION'S ESTIMATE #9 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,998 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stoddard Street Sewer Project – Final Pay Estimate Zenke Inc. : MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO PAY ZENKE, INC. ESTIMATE #3-FINAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,342.72 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MnDOT Hwy 16 Project: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-6 DESCRIBING THE CITY'S INTENTION TO REPLACE WATER MAIN AND REHABILITATE SEWER MAIN IN THE WY 16 RIGHT-OF-WAY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Westgate Industrial Park Improvements: Peterson explained there has been interest in building in the industrial park but there are restrictions due to ponding area and wetlands. Peterson requested approval to hire engineer to explore opportunity to maximize building areas. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE UP TO \$4,000 FOR ENGINEERING; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Municipal Campground Proposal: Peterson explained that she and the Mayor submitted a proposed campground site plan to the MN Department of Health. Tony noted a concern that the area in question may have been promised to Hoedown for use during Hoedown as a swap for giving up area north of tractor pull track. It was suggested to investigate this promise.

Henderson Street – Pavement Project and Consideration of Street Vacation: Mayor Olson talked with the Administrator at Valley View Nursing Home and agreed to share in the cost of pavement work 50/50. The City will review vacating the portion of Henderson Street, south of Cedar St. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-7 ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR STREET VACATION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nature Center Update and Interim Staffing: After meeting with the assigned committee of Cheryl Sanden and Tony Schultz, Peterson had the following recommendations:

- Assign Sue Fletcher as Interim Director
- Maintain Summer hours Thursday-Sunday 9:30-4
- Do not add any additional educational programs for the summer
- Phase out the consignment items in the gift shop
- Do not order new wholesale products for gift shop this summer

MOTION BY SCHUTTE SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Park Deed Restrictions: Tabled

Purchase of Real Estate – Sanden Building Offer: Peterson introduced a Resolution for purchase of the Sanden Building and a draft of a Purchase Agreement. She also pointed out an additional Resolution that would need to be passed in order to begin the process of a loan application.

Peterson highlighted language in the draft purchase agreement. Purchase price proposed \$400,000. A few of the Contingencies include: Inspection period, City to obtain financing, and inspection. The inspection contingency provides that the buyer shall have the right to terminate the agreement during the inspection period if the City finds that the cost of repairing or converting the building to a city hall and community center exceeds \$100,000 by any estimate relied upon by the City from a contractor or contractors of the Cites choosing. Peterson suggested finding the costs for, at a minimum, addition of restrooms, serving area, and HVAC upgrades.

Peterson gave options for action: approve resolution and purchase agreement or direct her to share the draft with the seller. Council did not make a motion for approval and directed Peterson to share the draft with the seller for comment.

MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-8 REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR LOAN TO MIENERGY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Property/Liability Insurance Renewal – Waiver of Liability Limit: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO WAIVE THE STATUATORY TORT LIMIT AND PURCHSAE EXCESS LIABILITY COVERAGE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mosquito Abatement: The proposal from Driftless Region Vector Control LLC was reviewed. Council asked Peterson to review if a grant program still exited to cover these costs. No action.

Matt Schutte Resignation: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-9 ACCEPTING RSIGNATION AND DECLARING A COUNCIL VACANCY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report, Bills, and Minutes: Krage questioned the payment for the Liberty Swing. Peterson explained the two payments were correct and only one should have been labeled final payment. Schultz noted the payment to Bound Tree Medical will be reimbursed by the Stone Church. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, TO APPROVE FINANCIALS AND MINUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Thesing reported on the Water Plant Project and new complexity with the water services on south Grant. They will do more investigating and come up with a solution. Potholes are being worked on. Playground mulching was finished by Mission 66, and they did a great job. Thesing said Maintenance did rebuild the backstops for horseshoe court. Curbs and crosswalks are being painted and other preparations for Hoedown. Schultz mentioned the poor condition of road by football field. Thesing agreed it needs to be looked in to.

Schultz asked about the many trees hanging over Elm Street. Thesing responded that they do trim the boulevard trees occasionally.

Hurley reported he has the new staff starting. Police Department is checking on cars that are blocking alleys.

Peterson pointed out the Nature Center report that was in the packet. She suggested going over to see the HARC Art Show at the Nature Center and witness the activity that goes on at Trailhead Park. Visitation for June was 586 (those who came in to building) and volunteer hours for June = 58.

Peterson also suggested implementing a volunteer morning every couple weeks to get help with routine time consuming tasks such as stuffing water bill envelopes.

Adjourn: MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE, TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:36 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.