

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. June 10, 2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Matt Schutte, Tony Schultz, Cheryl Sanden, Emily Krage. Staff present: Chris Peterson, Ed Jacobs, Brett Hurley, Sue Wiegrefe

**Public Comment Period:** Council Member Sanden suggested the City establish rules for the new playground and thought Brett Hurley could prepare draft rules to review at a future meeting.

**Eagle Scout Proposal – Hoedown Sign Lincoln St. Right-of-Way, Jack Chiglo:** Jack shared information on his proposed sign project to replace the Hoedown sign. He presented a site plan and measurements showing the existing sign is in the Lincoln Street Right-of-Way but outside of the MnDOT Right-of-Way. He noted he may shift the sign location to be further from the existing tree. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Temporary Liquor License – Houston Hoedown July 26-28, 2019:** MOTION TO APPROVE BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Water Treatment Facility - Pay Estimate #8 Wapasha Construction:** MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO PAY WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION'S ESTIMATE #8 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$153,698.86 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Electric Car Charging Station Proposal – Hein Bloem:** Hein shared statistics on the increase in use and sales of electric vehicles in the U.S. Hein suggested Houston create a charging station in the City. He handed out a drawing of proposed location in the city parking lot, behind the old law office building. Council gave him support to continue his investigation. Hein mentioned there is potential grant funding for projects like this.

**Summer Rec Employees 2019:** Park/Rec Director Matt Schutte gave list of Summer Rec hires for 2019. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE 2019 SUMMER REC EMPLOYEES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Nature Center – Sue Wiegrefe Resignation:** Sue shared information on her plans and thanked everyone for their support. The Council thanked her for her time with the City. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM SUE WIEGREFE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lorraine Culver spoke in support of the Nature Center. She hears people talk about what a great place it is, and she wants to see it boom. She hopes it will continue to be open five days a week. She noted how the staff is important to direct visitors to the amenities and to spend time planning and writing grant applications for the facility. She also stated she had trouble sending email to council for various reasons.

Karla Bloem asked what the Council's thoughts were to move forward at the Nature Center. Schutte stated there are options to consider including keeping the center as is, maintain as a visitor center, coordinate more with Summer Rec, etc.. Sue Wiegrefe commented on types of visitors such as school groups who often double up with visits to the Owl Center and enjoy the bees and natural playground at Trailhead. School groups only pay when there is a specific program offered for them.

Schultz asked what conversation has been occurring regarding filling the Nature Center Manager position. Peterson noted various feedback she has received about the focus of the Nature Center and whether it should be more visitor center or environmental education based.

Sue Fletcher commented on what a gem the Nature Center is. Keeping it a Nature Center will get people to stay in town longer. Schutte questioned if it is realistic for a city of our size to afford a Naturalist. Fletcher felt it was realistic and there were ways to make it work. Sanden suggested an option to hire a full-time person to avoid turnover and expand the duties. Duties could including summer rec, campground, parks, etc.. Schultz agreed with the concept whether it was part-time or full-time, opening the option for Administrator to shift some duties related to parks and recreation to that person.

Mayor Olson assigned Cheryl Sanden and Tony Schultz to put together some options and call upon the Friends of the Nature Center for input as needed.

#### **Police Personnel:**

**Matthew Fetzer Resignation:** MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF OFFICER FETZER; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**David Breault Resignation/Retirement:** MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF POLICE CHIEF BREAUT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Staffing:** Hurley noted he has advertised to fill the openings. He requested council's approval to move forward with the interview process for one full-time and one part-time officer. Schultz asked about the need for current staffing levels. Hurley stated the filling the current staff levels is very important. The part-time is only 20 hrs/month, but it allows to keep Saturday's covered. Schutte asked if it has ever been looked at to contract with the County. Mayor noted it is expensive and the County would have to hire more staff. Hurley stated another city that inquired found cost to be twice the city's police budget to contract with County.

MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO INTERVIEW FOR POLICE POSITIONS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPOINT BRETT HURLEY AS HOUSTON POLICE CHIEF; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Police Committee suggested wage for Brett Hurley to be \$70,000 based on 45hr/week, equating to \$29.91/hr. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY CHERYL, TO APPROVE THE NEW WAGE FOR BRETT HURLEY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Consent Items:**

Minutes: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bills: Question from Krage on the balance of the Mission 66 Playground account. Peterson noted a the DNR reimbursement of \$90,000 came in after the council packet was distributed. MOTION BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND PAYMENT OF BILLES, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Department Reports:**

Maintenance: Jacobs reported he had a visit from the MPCA and the Corps of Engineers will be here this week to inspect the levee. Ed requested permission to remove the cherry trees by the Library, Council approved.

**Closed Session regarding Real Estate at 109 W. Cedar St. per MN Statute 13D.05.** AT 7:32 PM, OLSON MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MN STATUTUE 13C.05, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ, MOTION CARRIED. COUNCIL MEMBER SANDEN RECUSED HERSELF AND LEFT THE MEETING.

**Open Session 8:23 p.m.**

**Meeting Change:** Krage made a motion, seconded by Schutte to move the next regular council meeting to July 15, motion carried.

**Motion to Adjourn:** MOTION BY SCHUTTE , SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:28 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes by Christina Peterson, City Clerk