

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Mayor Michael Egelston at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Mayor Egelston and Councilmembers Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, Katy Ross and Rick Kingston. City Administrator Michael Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson, City Forester Mark Rehder and Videographer Maureen Anderson were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor asked for a moment of silence for former City Clerk Nancy Rozycki who passed away January 4, 2016. Former Mayor Bill Ecklund spoke about her many years of service at the City of North Oaks.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Long moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Former Mayor Bill Ecklund was concerned about the current Gate House. He said that the City should not consider purchasing the current Gate House as the City should not own any property. Mayor Egelston stated that it was not the intent of the City to own property including the Gate House. The City is very conscious of privacy, but wants to be proactive in determining the condition of the building and what might be done.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 30, 2015 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of December 17, 2015 for approval
3. Appoint Shoreview Press as the Official Newspaper
4. Approve Pay Equity Report
5. Approve Resolution 1311 Approving Transfers for 2015 Financial Statements
6. Licenses for Approval:

Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating: (2015) Glowing Hearth & Home; **(2016)** Air Mechanical, Inc.; Associated Mechanical; Bonfe's Plumbing, Heating, Air Service; Centraire Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.; Corval Construction, Inc.; Dean's Professional Plumbing; Genz-Ryan; Hagen Remodeling & Construction, LLC DBA Hagen Fireplace Solutions; Hearth & Home Technologies DBA Fireside Hearth and Home; Forced Air Inc. DBA Wenzel Heating & A/C; Home Energy Center; Kath HVAC; Krinkie Heating & Air; Massman Geothermal & Mechanical, LLC.; Metro Heating and Cooling; Plumb Right Corp.; Practical Systems; Pronto Heating & Air Conditioning; Riccar Heating and Air; Schulties Plumbing, Inc.;

Arborists: (2016) Alex's Lawn & Tree; Bartlett Tree Experts; Budget Tree Service, Inc.; Cameron Tree Service; Hayden's Ridge Tree Service; Hugo's Tree Care, Inc.; Langer's Tree Service LLC; Moga Tree Service; Monster Tree Service; Morgan's Tree Registry; Moongate Garden Design DBA Branch & Bough; Northern Arborists; Precision Landscape & Tree, Inc.; Primeau's Tree Service Quality Turf Maintenance Co.; Rainbow Treecare; SavaTree; S & S Tree and Horticultural Specialists, Inc.; The Davey Tree Expert Co; Treecology; YTS Companies, LLC;

General Contractors: 2016: Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
Sewer/Water Installation:

7. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 011666-011709 (Voided Check 011665)
Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Councilmember Ross. The motion carried unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Approve Resolution 1310 Honoring Bill Campbell for 15 Years on the Planning Commission

Mayor Egelston commended Bill Campbell for his hard work over the past 15 years as he served on the Planning Commission. Councilmembers all had complimentary comments in regards to the work done by Mr. Campbell.

Councilmember Nelson moved to approve Resolution 1310 Honoring Bill Campbell. With a second from Councilmember Ross, the motion carried unanimously.

2. CSO Bob Parrott, Ride-Along

CSO Bob Parrott invited the Councilmembers and Mayor to ride along with him on his North Oaks route before he retires in February. Mr. Parrott has been the CSO for the past five years.

3. Jerry Hromatka- NE Youth & Family Services Annual Report

Mr. Hromatka from NE Youth & Family Services reviewed some of the high lights and the services they offer. This organization works with 15 communities helping those who may have mental health issues as well as preparing dropouts to finish school and be ready for the workplace. They also work with seniors and others needing help in the communities they serve. The city cost was \$6,206 for 2015, but North Oaks received over double that amount in services. NE Youth and Family services will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. Mr. Hromatka reminded the Mayor that the Mayors' Golf Tournament will be June 13, 2016 and is a good fundraiser for them.

Councilmember Kingston asked about volunteer opportunities. Mr. Hromatka stated that the senior program can always use volunteers as well as the mentoring program. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hromatka for the work he and his organization do and stated the benefit to the City is well worth the money spent.

4. City Forester Mark Rehder Annual Tree Report

Forester Rehder reviewed the annual Tree Report. Each year he marks between 200 and 300 trees for removal due to Oak Wilt. This past year he found the disease on 29 new sites. However less than 1% of oaks have succumbed to Oak Wilt in North Oaks. Dutch elm disease has remained fairly consistent, but the Emerald Ash Borer is not yet found in the city. He believes it is probably in North Oaks, so he will be watching as early detection can lower the incidence and spread. There are also more tree diseases that are showing up in Minnesota. He also applies for grants and is active in the Shade Disease Program.

Mr. Rehder is also working with NOHOA to identify trees on the trails that could be dangerous to users and need to be removed. He also reminded the viewers that he does a tree inventory for individual homeowners for \$75.00 and some of that goes to reforestation. Education is an important part of his job. Mayor Egelston encouraged

homeowners to use the service offered by Mr. Rehder for a tree inventory which helps the homeowner identify the types of trees on their property as well as their respective condition.

Unfinished Business

1. Approve Police Officer Job Description

Administrator Robertson and Councilmember Long have met with the Sheriff to discuss a job description for a new officer in North Oaks. This would be a regular deputy that could write tickets and make arrests as well as perform policing activities. Under Ramsey County rules this position would have to be a special duty position and would take until May to hire someone for this position. The officer would be a regular deputy supervised by the Sheriff but the City would be part of the hiring process. Councilmember Kingston stated that he would like to be part of the interview.

Robertson stated that because the officer would not start until sometime after May 1st that their salary cost for 2016 would not be that much different than the CSO budget. He said the City will have to pay upfront costs for a vehicle which should be about \$67,000. There would also be additional costs for any officer time between when Bob Parrott retires and the new officer starts.

Councilmember Long said that the City is looking for an officer that will have increased communication with the homeowners as issues arise. Mayor Egelston asked that if homeowners had an opinion about hiring a full time deputy they should either contact him or the City.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the Police Officer Job Description, to approve making a transfer for funds from the General Fund to cover the vehicle needed and to direct the staff to engage Ramsey County to begin the interview process for this position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.

2. Revised Clearview Ordinance 115

Administrator Robertson and City Attorney Magnuson presented a revision of the current Clearview Ordinance. A penalty was added for non-compliance so that the Ordinance can be more easily enforced.

Councilmember Long reminded the viewing audience that this is a safety issue not an aesthetic issue and that most in the City do comply. Fire trucks and school buses have complained about having to drive down the middle of roads due to overhanging branches. There is a danger to bicyclists and pedestrians as well when brush is near the roads. Councilmember Kingston stated that it is important that the first contact on this issue be congenial.

Councilmember Nelson moved to approve the revised Clearview Ordinance 115. With a second from Councilmember Long, the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Approve Phase I Site Assessment for Gate House

Mayor Egelston stated that the City of North Oaks does not plan to purchase the Gate House; however, the City is being proactive in deciding what to do with the building. Administrator Robertson suggested that the Council approve (not to exceed) \$3,000 to hire the City Engineer to perform a Phase I assessment the building.

Councilmember Long made the motion to approve hiring the City Engineer, not to exceed \$3,000, to assess the condition of the current Gate House. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

2. Approve Request for Appraisal for Gate House

Councilmember Nelson approved a motion directing the City Administrator to hire an appraiser to appraise the value of the Gate House. Councilmember Kingston seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. Appoint New Commissioner

Two candidates came forward for consideration to serve on the Planning Commission. It was decided to interview both candidates before making a decision. A decision will be made prior to the next Council Meeting in February. Council will meet at a workshop at 6:30 p.m. on February 11, 2016 to discuss the candidates and will appoint the new commissioner at the regular meeting.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Katy Ross

Planning Commission

Councilmember Ross reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in December. Councilmember Ross will serve as the chair due to Bill Campbell's retirement until the new member is on board and a final decision is made on who will take the Chair position. At the next Planning Commission meeting, the Rental Ordinance will be discussed.

Councilmember Ross will attend the Maintenance Building meeting with NOHOA representatives.

Councilmember Marty Long

1. NRC

The Natural Resource Commission is working on a best practice water management plan.

2. Deer Management

The Deer Management program is moving ahead.

3. VLAWMO

VLAWMO has had some change in staff and they are currently working on grants.

Councilmember Rick Kingston

1. Tick Task Force

David Neitzel, Epidemiologist Supervisor from the Minnesota Department of Health, spoke at the last meeting. He has been researching incidences of Lyme Disease for years and is willing to work with the task force. A graduate student from the University of MN has also been assigned to help with the issue. One of the first steps is reducing the deer population and the DNR has given the City a permit to remove up to 200 deer.

The Chair of the committee Dr. Brooke Moore, is working on an article for the North Oaks News. Also a survey will be sent out to homeowners about incidences with tick borne illnesses. It will most likely come through an email blast, but if a homeowner does not have email, a hard copy can be sent from the City Office.

Councilmember Long stated that he attended the last meeting and liked that the information given is based on science. He stated that deer management is just one component of tick control and that more will need to be done.

Councilmember Gregg Nelson

1. Finance Committee

Councilmember Nelson attended the Finance Committee, but all items have been discussed.

2. North Suburban Cable Commission

Councilmember Nelson attended the Cable Commission meeting where their 2016 Budget was approved. They are not increasing the assessment to the City for 2016. The contract with Century Link was approved

Mayor Michael Egelston's Report

Mayor Egelston thanked the Community as he enters his second year as Mayor. At the area Mayors' meeting he learned that Kowalski's will take over the former Rainbow location in Shoreview. Also work will begin on 694 to add a third lane of traffic between Rice and Lexington. Rosedale Mall will also be getting a facelift. Lexington Avenue over Highway 36 will be closed for a while due to work on Highway 36. He has been active working with the Golf Club on the roads they use.

Mayor Egelston has also met with Commissioner Huffman in regards to Centerville Road and County Road J. Ramsey County has decided to install turn lanes into Rapp Farm from County Road J.

City Administrative Report

1. 2016 Meeting Dates

Administrator Robertson gave the Councilmembers the list of 2016 meeting dates.

City Attorney Reports

City Attorney Magnuson stated that he has been working with NOHOA's attorney about the roadway responsibilities. The main concern is to keep the roads private.

Miscellaneous

**Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting Thursday, January 21, 2016 @ 7:00 pm
in the Community Meeting Room**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting Thursday, January 28, 2016
@ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 7:00 pm
in the Community Meeting Room**

Adjournment

**On motion duly made by Councilmember Long, seconded by Councilmember Ross
and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.**

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Michael Egelston

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary