

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Mayor Michael Egelston at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Councilmembers Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, Rick Kingston, and Katy Ross. City Administrator Michael Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson and Videographer Maureen Anderson were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

None

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 10, 2015 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of September 17, 2015 for approval
3. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting of September 24, 2015 for approval
4. Licenses for Approval:
Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating:: Dean's Professional Plumbing; Massman Geothermal; Pronto Heating & Air; R & S Underwood Heating & A/C LLC
Arborists
Sewer/Water Installation:
5. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 011543-011578

Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Councilmember Rick Kingston. The motion carried unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman & Ramsey County Library Director Susan Nemitz-Presentation about the new Ramsey County Library

Commissioner Huffman addressed the Council to discuss the new Shoreview Library being built in 2015-2016. He stated that over 3,000 North Oaks residents used the Shoreview Library last year. The current library building has been sold to Mounds View Schools for their district offices allowing more space at the Turtle Lake site for the all-day kindergarten program.

Susan Nemitz, Director of the Ramsey County Library, was excited to announce that groundbreaking for the new library will be held October 22, 2015 at 2 pm. She encouraged homeowners to sign up on the Ramsey County Library site for information on the progress of the construction. Ms. Nemitz explained that in 2008 Ramsey County reviewed all libraries and created a Facilities Master Plan. In the process of their review, they realized a void in the northern suburbs. Both Roseville and Maplewood had more services at their libraries. The current Shoreview library was built in 1990 and was not built with the internet in mind. In 2012 when they did the pre-design they

realized that the public space in the current library was not large enough. As part of their review, they realized that building a new space would cost nearly the same as remodeling the current library due to the sale of the old building. The cost is estimated to be \$15 million with \$3.5 million coming from the sale. The new library will be south of the current library on the corner of Highway 96 and Victoria and will have full services. The new building will use raised floors that can house wiring under the floor to deliver data. It will also have more natural light and meet Green standards. The children's and teens' area will increase in size and a program space will be included for classes.

Ms. Nemitz stated that a Capital campaign committee could use help to raise funds for the extras like art work or special items that the community would like to add to the space. The current library will be closed at some period for about six weeks before the new building opens.

2. Golf Club Road Use

Mayor Egelston has had conversations with North Oaks Golf Club management regarding their road use. Currently no City ordinance covers maintenance vehicles.

Chris Leonard, 2 Martin Lane, said he would like to see less maintenance vehicle use of Martin Lane in front of his home. His neighborhood would like to see clear markings on the roadway where maintenance trucks need to enter and cross, a limitation on how far the equipment can go on the roadway (short distances of 50 to 100 yards), and lights or reflective devices on all equipment. Mr. Leonard has been working with the Golf Club and they have been willing to put down a different product on the gravel section of the road in front of his house to reduce the dust.

Ernie Peake, President of the Golf Club, along with Director Joel Livingood and Course Superintendent Brian Boll addressed the Council. They are interested in working with the City and homeowners on this problem. One issue is that the golf course has several roads running through it making it impossible to not use the roads for crossing.

Mr. Boll explained that the maintenance area was built in the 1950's and at that time the roads were not as busy. He explained that safety is his number one concern and that there have been zero incidents or accidents. He agrees that greater visibility is a good idea. He also explained that if they used different routes they could actually be on the roads longer. They do not like to use the roads around the golf club due to more pedestrian traffic in that area. The club does plan to build a new maintenance facility when feasible which would lead to 50-60% less traffic. The reason for this is that the new facility would house a washing station, so they would not need to go off site to clean vehicles. He stated that the Club does want to be a good neighbor and they are willing to do more training for employees.

Dick Leonard, former owner of 2 Martin Lane and now at 325 Wilkinson Lane, stated that the house on Martin Lane has been owned by his family for three generations.

The Mayor stated that further study is needed and that the City's first responsibility is to the homeowners and the second to the businesses. The City may need to recraft its ordinance to cover maintenance vehicles.

3. City Logo

Kathy Emmons, NOHOA Secretary, Amy Blahosky, NOHOA Communications, and homeowners Jim Nancekivell and Corey Johnson presented to the Council the new NOHOA logo. They reviewed the extensive process they went through to make the final decision. The new logo will appear on NOHOA communications, trail markers, buildings, future merchandise, and car/bike stickers when they are reordered. The Committee would like to see consistency between the City and NOHOA in messaging. The City will consider this as it reviews its current logo.

New Business

1. Review of Evergreen and Willow Road Traffic Issues

This item was moved up in the Agenda due to the number of homeowners in the audience. Mayor Egelston stated that a young driver was drag racing down Evergreen and ended up out of control and running into a garage on Willow Road. Administrator Robertson has asked the City Engineer to look at the issue of traffic on these two streets.

Nancy Erickson, 8 Evergreen Lane, stated that a speeding problem on Evergreen, Willow and Larkspur has been ongoing but is especially a problem when residents leave in the morning and return home in the late afternoon. She is hoping a solution can be found.

Nancy Collins, 10 Larkspur Lane, stated she sees a number of cars who cut through the neighborhood and do not stop at the stop signs. She would like to see Larkspur made into a cul de sac to stop the traffic that is cutting through.

Randy Erickson, 8 Evergreen Lane, said that at one time Mel's Service put in a speed bump but that it has since been removed.

Lisa Michalsky, 3 Evergreen Lane, would like to see a three way stop sign on Evergreen, Willow and Larkspur. She would also like to see more patrolling of the area with tickets issued for speeding.

Jean King, 12 Evergreen Lane, would like to see the sign that says, "No Through Traffic" moved closer to the beginning of Evergreen Lane rather than well past the intersection.

Mark Kerfeld, 12 Larkspur Lane, agreed that part of the problem on Evergreen is the people who cut through. He would like to see an additional stop sign added as well as redesigning Evergreen so that the road would not go through.

Bill McNee, 11 Sunset Lane, stated that speed bumps are not the solution. He also stated that a speeding issue exists on West Pleasant and that he too would like to see greater patrolling.

Amy Blahosky, 4 Woodhill Lane, agreed that speeding is an issue. She also stated that many speed on North Oaks Road as well.

Gerald McGuire, 9 Evergreen Lane, would like to see signs that say, "Slow, Children" in the area. He would also like to see a lower speed limit. City Attorney Magnuson explained that a speed limit less than 30 miles an hour would have to be approved by the State Highway Department and that the City would have to pay for a speed study.

Mayor Egelston said the City has been working with the City Engineer to find solutions. The engineer did give some possible suggestions including additional stop signs, a greater police presence, and reducing the radius on the corner of Willow and Evergreen.

Keith Ross, 8 Larkspur Lane, stated that patrolling the area will only work for a while as long as patrol cars are out there. He stated that he too would like to see a stop sign at Larkspur.

It was agreed that the Council will review this information and report back at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Public Hearing to Approve Final 2016 Assessments

Administrator Robertson reviewed the proposed assessments. The Public Hearing was opened at 8:58 pm and with no comments was closed at 8:59 pm.

Councilmember Nelson moved to approve Resolution 1305 Establishing the Final 2016 Assessments. Seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

2. December Meeting Date

The December Council Meeting needed to be rescheduled due to conflicting schedules. It was decided that the best date would be Monday, November 30th, 2015 at 7:00 pm with the Truth in Taxation Meeting at the same time and date.

Councilmember Long made the motion to approve November 30th, 2015 at 7:00 pm for both the Truth in Taxation meeting and the regular December Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

New Business Continued

1. CUP 15-10, NOHOA, Tree Removal in Shoreland District

Administrator Robertson reviewed the CUP application for removal of trees in the Shoreland District. Robertson stated that this is a proactive plan to hopefully get ahead of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and spread out the cost once it hits North Oaks. The CUP would allow NOHOA to remove 35 of the more distressed trees along the

shoreline as well as to treat a few of the larger trees with hopes of saving those. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

NOHOA Executive Director Kimberly Murray stated that there are 700 ash trees around Pleasant Lake and they are starting to deal with the problem. They are also working with the City Forester and the DNR on various options to treat EAB. The plan would be to remove trees as money is available. Once EAB is established in the community, NOHOA will have no other choice but to remove the diseased trees unless it can be contained in some way. NOHOA is planning to start on the trails since that is the area where residents could be injured if a diseased tree falls.

Director Murray asked if the City would be willing to waive the \$400 fee for the permit so that more could be spent on the removal of trees as needed. She stated that NOHOA is nonprofit and they are attempting to prevent a disastrous outcome if EAB manifests like it has in other communities to our east. Ms. Murray agreed that homeowners near the selected trees will be notified prior to removal.

Councilmember Long with a second from Councilmember Kingston moved to approve CUP 15-10 allowing NOHOA to remove designated trees in the Shoreland District. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Long made a motion to waive the \$400 application fee for the CUP. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed, three in favor and two against. Councilmember Nelson and Mayor Egelston voted against the motion.

2. Approve 2016-2018 Sheriff's Contract

Administrator Mike Robertson stated that the Sheriff's contract is renewed in a three year cycle and is up for renewal now. The language of the contract has remained the same but shows a 1.5% increase in cost for 2016.

Councilmember Ross mentioned that she has had complaints from the community that the Sheriff's Office does not always get back to residents. Councilmember Nelson mentioned that the vehicle parked by the gate house is still there and he would like to have it removed before signing the contract. Administrator Robertson said he would discuss these items with the Sheriff and will also send the annual evaluation that he receives from Ramsey County to the Councilmembers for their input.

Councilmember Nelson moved to table the approval of the Sheriff's Contract for 2016-18 until further information is gathered. With a second from Councilmember Ross the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor also reminded the community to lock car doors and entrance doors to help deter break-ins. It is also important to report any incidents to Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. Mail theft is also becoming an issue in the community. Homeowners are reminded to keep an eye out especially before any holidays.

3. Approve Deer Management Bid

Three bids were received by the City for removal of deer. Administrator Robertson recommended approval of the lowest bid by Nuisance Animal Removal Service. They were the contractor last year and worked well with the City. Councilmember Kingston would like to see the City make a greater effort to remove more deer due to the high Lyme disease incidents in North Oaks. He would like to see the number of deer reduced to ten per square mile and to use other methods for removal besides trapping.

Administrator Robertson said that the City can also get a shooting contractor. The budget also has more money set aside for deer removal this year.

Michael O'Brien from Lakes Area Wildlife Control, who had the second lowest bid, spoke about other options which he said he could do. Councilmember Long said that they had been working on this process for several months and the City needed a decision. Administrator Robertson said he had not checked references on Lakes Area Wildlife Control because they were not the low bidder. The company chosen would need to be on the DNR approved contractor list. He recommended moving ahead with the lowest bid for trapping and then seek a second bid for shooting deer.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the trapping contract for Nuisance Animal Removal Service. Councilmember Long seconded the motion which passed with three votes. Mayor Egelston voted no and Councilmember Kingston abstained on this vote.

Councilmember Nelson moved to direct the City Administrator to canvas additional bids for a shooting contract. Councilmember Kingston seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Proposed Century Link Cable TV Contract

Councilmember Nelson attended the Cable Commission meeting. The Commission approved a new contract with Century Link which is the first competitive bid ever received to compete with Comcast. This could lead to both more and less expensive services. To enter into a new franchise with Century Link, an ordinance needs to be created.

Councilmember Kingston moved to direct the Cable Commission to draft findings and if appropriate a proposed ordinance to adopt the Century Link franchise. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Katy Ross

Councilmember Ross reported that recycling is now taking place weekly. She attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting that was well attended. She also attended the Lake Johanna Fire Department meeting. Fire Station One in Arden Hills will close in 2017 because it is no longer needed. They are doing a Blood Drive on October 14th, 2015 from 2:00 to 7:00.

Councilmember Marty Long

The Natural Resource Commission is working on the Water Resources Best Practices Draft and VLAWMO did not meet this month.

Councilmember Rick Kingston

Councilmember Kingston stated that Lyme's Disease issues have been discussed and that a student with a master's degree in Public Health is going to work with the Tick Borne Disease Committee to study what is happening in North Oaks.

Councilmember Gregg Nelson

Councilmember Nelson gave his report on the Cable Commission earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Michael Egelston's Report

Mayor Egelston thanked the Council for covering for him in his absence.

Administrative Report

1. Upgrade of City Web Site

Administrator Robertson reported that the City Web Site has not been changed since 2002 and an upgrade is needed. Administrative Assistant Kathy Laur has been researching options and suggests the City stay with the same company, but move up a level for better services. The cost is \$6,359. This investment would make it easier for people to find information and would be much more user friendly. The Councilmembers stated that they would like to take a look at what the upgrade would accomplish.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve the upgrade expenditure, but with no second, the motion died. Councilmembers agreed to take a look at the upgrade this month if interested and decide at the November meeting on how to proceed.

2. Annual Data Practices Report

Administrator Robertson gave the Annual Data Practices Report to the Council.

City Attorney Reports

No special report this evening was given.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting October 15, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting October 29, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting November 12, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Councilmember Katy Ross, seconded by Councilmember Kingston and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Michael Egelston

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary