

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Councilmember Mayor Gregg Nelson at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Mayor Gregg Nelson; Councilmembers Marty Long, Katy Ross, Rick Kingston, and Kara Ries; City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham, and Videographer Maureen Anderson.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Swearing in of Mayor Gregg Nelson and Councilmembers Katy Ross and Kara Ries**

All were sworn in by City Attorney Dave Magnuson.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2018 for approval.
2. Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of December 20, 2018.

Licenses for Approval: Aquarius Home Services; Corval Constructors, Inc.; Hearth & Home Technologies, LLC; Hugo's Tree Care, Inc.; Vineland Tree Care; Quality Turf Maintenance; Branch and Bough Tree Service; Kraus-Anderson Construction Company; Paramount Home Services; Major Mechanical Inc.; Krinkie Heating & A/C Co.; Bartlett Tree Experts; Spitfire Plumbing, Inc.; SavATree, LLC; Woodchuck Tree Care, LLC; Davey Tree Expert Company; Cameron's Tree Service; Morgan's Tree Service; CMS Mechanical Services, LLC; Northeast Tree, Inc.; Schulties Plumbing, Inc.; Rainbow Tree Care; Birch Tree Care

Approval of Claims: Checks #12950-12987

**Councilmember Ries moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

**Petitions, Requests, & Communication**

1. Building Official Kevin White 2018 Building Report

He noted the total value of all construction in North Oaks for 2018 was \$24,488,163. The City issued 904 building, mechanical, plumbing, and electric permits for the year. A total of 908 inspections were carried out in 2018. He expects similar construction in 2019 but Rapp Farm is running out of lots so there might be less new homes.

2. Discussion of Coyotes

Administrator Robertson noted that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been alerted about aggressive coyotes in North Oaks, as well as the report of a wolf sighting. Councilmember Kingston asked that residents send comments and opinions to the City about their interactions with coyotes. Councilmember Kingston also suggested that a coyote expert be brought to the City to discuss the increase in the number of coyotes compared to past years.

Citizens came forward with comments about their interactions with coyotes:

- Elizabeth Dujmovic, 15 Black Lake Road: a den of coyotes is near her home, but she has not been bothered by them.
- Johannes Brechtken, 58 West Pleasant Lake Road: he feels they are part of the natural environment of the community. He noted that there has only been one death in the lower 48 from a coyote attack.
- Chris Landon, 5 Capaul Woods: coyotes are seen near his property and on the path near house but there have been no negative interactions with him and his family.
- Katie Robertson, 22 Maycomb Lane: coyote population has increased in the 3 years she's lived here; she carries an air horn with her to drive coyotes away when she walks her dog.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Kingston to bring in an expert about coyotes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.**

### 3. Deputy Mike Burrell Report:

- Deputy Burrell reported an attempted car break-in on Ski Lane; nothing was taken, and the suspect was scared off by a barking dog.
- There have been no formal reports of package theft but he's heard informal comments. He encouraged residents to make reports if they have packages stolen.
- Pedestrian fatalities in nearby cities recently are a reminder for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to be careful. Pedestrians and cyclists should wear reflective clothing or carry lights.
- There have been a lot of animal complaints. Racoons, turkeys, and geese have been the focus of animal complaints recently.
- A small dog was attacked by a coyote in the Pines neighborhood, but the coyote was scared off by the owner.

### Unfinished Business

#### 1. Approval of 2019 Council Responsibilities

**Councilmember Kingston moved to approve the 2019 Council Responsibilities. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Long and passed 4-1, Councilmember Ross voted no.**

#### 2. Resolution 1347 — Approving the 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Administrator Robertson said that the Comprehensive Plan is an unfunded State mandate which is focused on current and future land use in the City. The Planning Commission has been working on it over a year and he thanked Commissioners and past chairs Katy Ross and Kara Ries for their hard work. The Plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

- Joann Hanson, 5 Sumac Lane, NOHOA board member, said she didn't know if all of NOHOA's requested changes have been approved. Robertson noted that the revised Comp Plan had been sent to NOHOA for review.
- Joan Brainard, 14 East Oaks Road, said she'd like to see all the homeowner's associations' listed in the definitions the way they were in the 2008 Plan. She noted a

mistake on Map 14, wanted more discussion of the 1999 PDA and said she was against allowing potential redevelopment of office space in the Village Center into residential use.

**Councilmember Ross moved to table approval. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ries and passed unanimously.**

### **New Business**

#### 1. 2019 Fee Study

Administrator Robertson was tasked with compiling a liquor license cost comparison of neighboring cities. North Oak's fees are well under nearby cities.

**Councilmember Long moved to approve an increase in the On-Sale Liquor license from \$1,250 to \$2,500 effective 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

#### 2. Resolution 1346 — Approving 2019 Fee Schedule

**Councilmember Kingston moved to approve the 2019 Fee Schedule including the increased cost of On-Sale Liquor licensing for 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ries and passed unanimously.**

#### 3. Discussion of Polco Survey Priorities

Administrator Robertson said the Polco software survey tool has been purchased and they'd started setting it up. Councilmember Kingston suggested the Tick Task Force use Polco for their spring survey about ticks and tick-borne diseases. Councilmember Ross mentioned a possible survey about City services and residents' satisfaction with them. Other possible survey topics include the potential housing maintenance ordinance, recycling options, and a single-hauler garbage contract. Results of the surveys will be made public to residents.

#### 4. Discussion of Tobacco 21 Ordinance

Mayor Nelson said he had asked to put this item on the agenda to see if Council was supportive. This ordinance would increase the purchase age for tobacco products from 18 to 21. Jeanne Weigum from the Association for Nonsmokers—Minnesota (ANSR) said North Oaks would be the twenty-second city in Minnesota to adopt this ordinance if they do so. Jeanne explained increasing the sales age to 21 would reduce youth access to all harmful tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and cigars.

**Councilmember Long moved to direct staff to create a Tobacco 21 Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.**

### **Councilmember Reports**

Katy Ross

- Planning Commission held a public hearing about the proposed East Oaks development.
- Interviews for open positions on the Planning Commission are being held. Nine candidates came forward for the vacancies on Planning Commission.
- June 22, 2019 is the date tentatively scheduled for the cleanup day.

- Waste Management will pick up Christmas trees from January 2 to January 11 for free. The trees are taken to a yard waste site for chipping.
- Amount of calls to the Sherriff's office has been down, perhaps due to the holidays.
- Councilmember Ross is asking residents about interest in locking mailboxes. So far, about 60 residents have contacted her saying they would be interested in purchasing a locking mailbox.

#### Kara Ries

- Councilmember Ries thanked residents who voted in recent election; she looks forward to serving on the City Council.

#### Marty Long

- North Oaks Company is considering a road connection to central North Oaks as part of their proposed development.
- Councilmember Long is hosting some neighborhood community events at the North Oaks Country Club. The first event will be for Rapp Farm.

#### Rick Kingston

- Tick Task Force (TTF) will be meeting January 15 at 7 p.m. in the conference room at 100 Village Center Drive.
- Councilmember Kingston thanked all candidates who submitted resumes for the Planning Commission openings. There are many excellent candidates.

#### Mayor Gregg Nelson

- Mayor Nelson is looking forward to working with the Councilmembers and Planning Commission Members as the New Year gets under way. Mayor Nelson asked City Attorney Magnuson to weigh in on whether or not it is best practices to have two City Councilmembers also on the Planning Commission; there will be discussion at February's meeting as to the new Planning Commission appointments.

#### **City Administrator Report**

- City Administrator Robertson attended a Metro Area Management Association meeting earlier in the day and there had been a report on a survey done of suburban residents in the metro area regarding changing the age to purchase tobacco products to 21. The survey reported over 2-1 support for such a change.

**Miscellaneous**

Next Tick Task Force Meeting is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Next Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment**

**On motion duly made by Mayor Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Ries and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.**

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

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City Administrator Mike Robertson

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Gretchen Needham  
Recording Secretary