

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Swearing in of Newly Elected officials

Former Mayor John Schaaf did the honors of swearing in re-elected Mayor Mike Egelston.

Mayor Egelston swore in newly elected Councilmembers Rick Kingston and Marty Long.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2016 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of December 15, 2016 for approval
3. Appoint The Shoreview Press & St. Paul Pioneer Press as Official City Newspapers
4. Approve Official 2017 Holidays
5. Licenses for Approval:
Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating: Affordable Comfort Mechanical DBA Apollo Heating and A/C; Assured Comfort, LLC; B & D Plumbing Heating & A/C Inc; CMS Mechanical Services, LLC; Hearth & Home Technologies, LLC DBA Fireside Hearth & Home; Forced Air Inc., DBA Wenzel Heating & A/C; Kath HVAC; Krinkies Heating & A/C; Monster Tree Service; Schulties Plumbing, Inc.; White Bear Heating & Cooling; Plumb Right Corp.
Arborists: A Cut Above Tree Service; Alex's Lawn and Turf D.B.A Dreamscapes; Bartlett Tree Experts; Budget Tree Service, Inc; Houle Contracting; Hugo Tree Care, Inc; Moga Tree Service LLC; Precision Landscape & Tree, Inc.; S&S Tree; Woodland Restorations LLC; Northern Arborists; Quality Turf Maintenance Co.; Hayden's Ridge Tree Service,
General Contractors: Kraus-Anderson Construction Co.
6. Claims for Approval: #012120 - 012160

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

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Deputy Mike Burrell Report
The last month has been relatively quiet. Because of the significant snowfall there has been a higher rate of accidents. There have been relatively few accidents compared to the rest of the county.

Countrywide and countywide fraud is on the rise. Keep an eye on your bank accounts.

Lots of people are going out of town. Please call or email him so he can do house checks while you're gone.

With the retirement of Sheriff Matt Bostrom Undersheriff Jack Serier will be taking over the position until January, 2019 which is the rest of Sheriff Bostrom's term.

2. Building Official Kevin White-2016 Building Report

He noted the Charley Lake Preserve development is complete. The last building permit has been applied for. The trends that he's seeing are that builders are moving away from sport courts in new homes and that they're putting up more model homes than they had before. It's a pretty good indication that the builders are optimistic about the coming year.

Unfinished Business

New Business

1. Set 2017 Council Duties

Mayor Egelston's noted that Councilmember Ross is taking the Police Department and Councilmember Kingston the Fire Department.

Councilmember Long made the motion to approve the Council responsibilities with a second from Councilmember Kingston. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Appoint Bob Larson as North Oaks Representative to the VLAWMO Technical Committee

Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve the appointment of Bob Larson to the VLAWMO Technical Committee with a second from Councilmember Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Establishing a Stewardship Award

Councilmember Long suggested that this would be an award for people taking good care of their property around the city. Cutting trees in compliance with the City Forester, cleaning up buckthorn and other invasive species would be recognized by this award. The focus is on cleaning up the community. Mayor Egelston suggested that the NRC draft guidelines that will entail what the stewardship should be about while staying within the NRC's best practices policy. Councilmember Ross suggested that anyone should be able to nominate a property.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve consideration of a stewardship award with a second from Councilmember Ross. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve Community Room Rental Rates & Policies

Administrator Robertson said that the proposed policy for renting the room would be the same one that NOHOA had established with the exception of a cleaning fee if the room is not left in the shape it was found.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the policy for the use of the Community Meeting room with a second from Councilmember Kingston. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Evergreen/Larkspur/Willow Road Survey

Mayor Egelston reviewed the NOHOA survey of the residents on those roads. He said he appreciated the high rate of response. Some residents feel like the speeding and traffic problem has improved and some feel it didn't. A large majority of the residents do not want Willow Road or Evergreen Road closed. There was some interest on speed bumps on Evergreen Road and everyone wants more enforcement. NOHOA wants to meet with the city to go over these issues and come to a resolution. Councilmember Nelson recommended more studies should be evaluated on speed bumps/humps before any are installed.

Councilmember Reports• **Councilmember Katy Ross**

The Planning Commission is working on a comprehensive plan.

She reviewed the changes to recycling with single sort recycling starting January 3. Pickup schedules have changed because Monday pickup has been eliminated. New wheeled recycling carts will be delivered the week of January 23. She said to contact City Hall if you do not want a cart or if you will be out of town during the delivery week.

• **Councilmember Marty Long**

Marty said it was his twentieth year of service to the community in various capacities and he thanked voters for re-electing him.

VLAWMO: We received half of the grant money for our watershed.

He was happy the agreement to acquire water and sewer utilities from North Oaks Company was completed. He noted it took three Mayors and three city administrations to get done

• **Councilmember Rick Kingston**

He said the Tick Task Force has finished the survey that will be given to residents. Whether you've been affected by ticks or not, residents are encouraged to take the survey.

• **Councilmember Gregg Nelson**

Deer Management has been going well so far this year.

- **Mayor Michael Egelston's Report**

NOHOA and the City are trying to work collaboratively together on a variety of issues.

The Mayor and Administrator Robertson met with the military to discuss how small cities operate because the military will be serving small communities in Africa. The military was interested in learning more about what North Oaks does, particularly regarding wells and septic systems and they will be working with the City in the future.

Taking over water and sewer utilities from the North Oaks Company has taken a long time but the North Oaks Company will not be around forever. The City will be around and having the City operate the utilities is important to residents.

City Administrator Report

1. Information on Youth Involvement in City Government

Councilmember Long said he would like to see more youth involvement in the community as a way to develop future leaders. He has discussed this subject with Sheriff Serier and asked Administrator Robertson to find out what other communities are doing. He would like to take the most interested youth and get their feedback on what is working in the community and what is not.

Robertson provided information on a variety of ways other cities involve youth, whether from membership on City Commissions to shadowing elected officials and staff. This type of program typically starts in the fall once school has started. Councilmember Long commented that North Oaks has one of the most educated cities in the state along with the most stay-home-parent households and the lowest divorce rate. Involving the youth in city government is a positive thing. Mayor Egelston asked that they bring a proposal back to the Council and suggested possible projects. Councilmember Kingston wondered if students could get some school credit for this work.

City Attorney Reports

1. Approve Not Waiving Municipal Tort Liability Limits

City Attorney Magnuson said that the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust requires cities to determine yearly whether or not they will waive tort liability limits. Magnuson recommended that the City not waive the limits as it could cost taxpayers depending on future claims.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve not waiving municipal tort liability limits with a second from Councilmember Kingston. The motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Next Tick Task Force Meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room.

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting is Thursday, January 19, 2016 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room.

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, January 26, 2016 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room.

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is Thursday, February 9, 2016 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Councilmember Long, seconded by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Michael Egelston

Kathy Laur
Recording Secretary