

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

With three items added to the Administrative Report, Council Member Egelston moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ross and passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Layna Peltier, 16 Wildflower Place

Layna gave an update on the West Rec warming house construction progress. Concrete has been poured for both the main building and the garage. Trees are in the process of being planted. The septic is going in this week and the old well is out and the new one is ready to be hooked up. The expected completion date of the project is mid-December. Fundraising is also taking place for an additional recreational building for the east side of the community.

John Murphy, 6 Evergreen Road, NOHOA Vice-President

John added that he met with the City Forester Mark Rehder and others to look at the best place to plant the new trees at West Rec to help create more privacy for neighbors.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 11, 2014 for approval
 2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of September 18, 2014 for approval
 3. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting, September 25, 2014 for approval
 4. Approval of ISTS Variance #14-12, 21 North Oaks Road
 5. Approval of ISTS Variance #14-13, 4 Poplar Lane
 6. Approval of ISTS Variance #14-14, 11 Hawk Lane
 7. Licenses for Approval:
 - Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating:** Sharp Heating and Air Conditioning; Sustainable Heating & Cooling, Inc.
 - General Contractors:**
 - Arborists:** Hayden's Ridge Tree Service, LLC; YTS Companies, LLC
 - Sewer/Water Installation:**
 8. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 011112-011146
- Council Member Ross made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Council Member Egelston. The motion carried unanimously.**

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

None

Unfinished Business

1. Amendment 13-08 to 1991 CUP to replace entrance sign at North Oaks Golf Club

Administrator Robertson stated that approximately a year ago the North Oaks Golf Club requested an amendment to their 1991 CUP to replace the entrance sign at the club.

They were given approval but decided that they wanted to postpone action until they were happier with the design. They presented a new design and Robertson said that the proposed design is similar to the one recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. Dick Haugen, General Manager at the Club, stated that they now have agreement on the design and have no problem with the conditions.

Council Member Egelston made a motion to approve Amendment 13-08 to the 1991 Conditional Use Permit for a new entrance sign at the North Oaks Golf Club with the following conditions:

- 1. The project construction shall match the information provided;**
- 2. The sign must be at least 10 feet from the edge of the blacktop.**

Council Member Ross seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Final Approval, Rapp Farm Phases V & VI, 63 Lots

Ben Gozola, City Planner, explained that Phase V will add 33 lots to Rapp Farm now and Phase VI will add 30 in the spring or summer of 2015. The plan meets the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and would allow for homes up to 8,000 square feet in size on some lots.

The City Planner stated that all issues have been addressed and they are in compliance with the Master Design Plan. Administrator Robertson said that the grading plan was being revised and asked to add a tenth condition that all plans were subject to the approval of the City Engineer. Staff recommended approval with ten conditions.

Council Member Long asked about the ponds and drainage and if they were located on private lots. Gary Eagles, Vice President of North Oaks Company, explained that the ponds were located on outlots. It will be easier to access the outlots for storm water maintenance as opposed to private lots and they would also provide some additional open space.

Mayor Schaaf asked if the construction entrance along the western border is still open. Mr. Eagles explained that the entrance is now closed and the area has been graded and seeded. He also stated that the company is meeting with residents to discuss more recreational areas. The current landscape plan has several possible areas for park usage.

Council Member Egelston moved to approve Rapp Farms Phases V and VI based on the Staff recommendations to include the following conditions:

- 1. The Development Agreement is completed, is acceptable to the City Attorney and is executed.**

2. **An escrow covering outstanding work items at the time of executing the Developer's Agreement shall be submitted to the City; amount to be reviewed and approved by the City Engineer.**
 3. **The applicant shall provide evidence to the City that all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained from VLAWMO.**
 4. **The Final Easement Plan shall be updated as follows:**
 - a. **The proposed easement limit for the ponding areas as shown on Kurth's plan shall fully encompass the high water elevation limit as shown on Sathre-Bergquist's Plan.**
 5. **All easements shown on the final plans shall be dedicated via instruments acceptable to the City Attorney.**
 6. **In addition to the easements shown on the final plans, drainage easements over all wetlands, consistent with easement boundaries in Phases I through IV shall be dedicated with Phases V and VI.**
 7. **All improvements shown on the final plans shall be installed as per approved construction documents.**
 8. **The proposed Landscaping Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City Forester prior to installation of plantings.**
 9. **Local street signs meeting City of North Oaks standards shall be posted at each proposed intersection.**
 10. **All plans are subject to final approval by the City Engineer.**
- Council Member Ross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

3. NOHOA Trail Crossing

Because this issue was tabled at an earlier meeting, Council Member Long, with a second from Council Member Ross, made the motion to take it off the table for further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Robertson explained that NOHOA had contacted the City to discuss the trail they had constructed to connect the Charley Lake Preserve and Red Pine Farm neighborhoods to the trail around Pleasant Lake. The trail would cross West Pleasant Lake Road just south of the canal between Charley Lake and Pleasant Lake and they had asked the City for approval. After reviewing the proposal briefly at the last meeting the Council tabled discussion for further information.

City Planner Gozola reviewed the three options NOHOA presented for crossing West Pleasant Lake Road. The first option which is the most southern meets the stopping sight distance recommendations. It has the greatest separation distance from the guardrail, but northbound traffic may have more difficulty seeing the crosswalk as many travel too fast in the area coming around a curve. Option two is the most northern option, but southbound traffic may not have a clear view due to the guard rail. The third option is in the middle. The City Engineer prefers either option one or three, with the top choice being number one because in his view this one has the best sight line. Signage and perhaps markings on the road would be needed as well as removal of some shrubs and trees to improve sightlines.

Kristie Elfering, NOHOA Engineer said she is not in favor of Option One because of the sharp curve coming from the south making it difficult to see around the curve. Safety is her concern, but she stated there is not a perfect solution as this is a mid-block crossing. She prefers option two because pedestrians can see in both directions and it is furthest from the woods. The guard rail is low to the ground, so cars could see over it.

Mayor Schaaf expressed concerns that there are few roads that have painted crossings in North Oaks. This trail crossing will have a lot more traffic than in the past due to both the new developments and the ability of existing neighborhoods to now use the trail to get to the middle school. He also stated that many do not use the designated crossings. His preference is option three in the middle as he believes this one would give the greatest amount of protection. Ms. Elfering stated that Option Three could present an issue if two cars meet while pedestrians are on either side.

Tom Dougherty, President of North Oaks Company, reminded the Mayor and City Council that North Oaks Company owns the property closest to option one and there is no trail easement on this property.

Council Member Long appreciated all the work NOHOA has done, but stated that due to the hill, curve, and tree canopy this is a bad area for a crossing. The trail users would have to be warned.

Layna Peltier added that she supports the crossing for the students who want to bike from existing neighborhoods to the middle school. Currently, the existing trail that runs from the Wildflower area to Pleasant Lake has no markings. She would like to see that trail crossing marked as well.

Council Member Ross stated that pedestrians and bikers will cross wherever they come out on the trail. Council Member Egelston stated that road markings are not that effective and caution signs will need to be added. Administrator Robertson suggested that boulders or some type of barrier be used to slow trail traffic and direct them to the crossing.

Mayor Schaaf suggested that the warning signs be installed on the road now and that NOHOA use barriers to turn trail users as they reach the road to where it wants them to cross. The trail would be evaluated next summer.

Council Member Long made the motion to direct the City Administrator to put up trail crossing signs on the road and to ask NOHOA to put in barriers to slow trail traffic and then revisit the issue in June of 2015. Council Member Egelston moved to second the motion and it carried unanimously.

New Business

None

Council Member Reports

Council Member Mike Egelston

1. NOHOA

Council Member Egelston stated that most of the meeting was covered, but he did report that NOHOA is looking at putting soccer fields at Wilkinson Lake. Some area homeowners would like other types of recreational areas.

Council Member Katy Ross

1. Planning Commission

Council Member Ross reported that the Planning Commission looked at a proposal to change the allowed building height in residential areas. They are looking at changing the definition of grade and for measuring building heights. A public hearing will take place on October 30th, 2014. She appreciated the variety of options that staff had provided for review.

The revised Proposed Tree Ordinance was reviewed and again sent back to the NRC for changes.

Council Member Marty Long

1. NRC

Council Member Long stated that the Tree Ordinance is a big issue in addressing the importance of the forest. He stated that the Golf Course is a good example of what the NRC would like to see. They are taking out a large Cottonwood tree on the 3rd hole, but are replacing it with 12 other diverse trees. The NRC is hoping that an ordinance that makes sense can be passed to protect the forest for long term.

Mr. Long also reported on the condition of Pleasant Lake. Fish samples have been sent to the lab to check for heavy metals. The lake is clearer than expected so there is some concern about weeds, which decrease the recreational value of the lake.

2. Ramsey County Sheriff

Council Member Long mentioned that North Oaks has had some break-ins and that it is important to lock doors and cars.

Council Member Gregg Nelson

Not present.

Mayor John Schaaf

Mayor Schaaf along with Council Member Egelston and Administrator Robertson met with the residents of Waverly Gardens. They were well received and answered a variety of questions.

Mayor Schaaf also reported that the Finance Committee is continuing to finalize the 2015 Budget.

Mayor Schaaf has received several calls about boats on the lakes. He reminded the community that the State of Minnesota owns the lakes and they are managed by the Department of Natural Resources. They have the right to put powered boats into the lakes to take fish or any other tests and do not need North Oaks permission.

Administrative Report

1. Proposed 2015 Budget Update

Administrator Robertson reviewed the proposed 2015 budget. The second set of property taxes have not been received yet but it appears the City is ahead of what was levied due to payment of past delinquent taxes. New building continues to look positive with Charley Lake and Rapp farms showing high demand.

Expenditures were also discussed. Robertson continues to work with staff and the City Engineer, Planner, Building Official, and Forester on their projections. The cost of Public Safety (Police & Fire) is now set for 2015.

Robertson stated that the Finance Committee recommended a workshop take place before the November City Council Meeting to discuss salaries and the final budget. The first part of the meeting would be closed to discuss personnel matters and then the meeting would be opened to discuss budget items.

Council Member Ross made the motion to set a closed workshop from 5:30 to 6:00 November 13, 2014 to discuss personnel reviews and salaries and a second workshop open to the public from 6:00 to 6:45 to discuss the 2015 Budget. Council Member Egelston seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Investment Committee

The Finance Committee recommended seeking a few talented individuals who live in the community to examine City investments.

Council Member Ross made the motion to direct Mayor Schaaf, Council Member Nelson, and Administrator Robertson to seek out individuals to serve on an investment committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Long and carried unanimously.

3. Cable TV Update

The Cable Commission has reached an agreement with Comcast to extend the current contract for two years at the same terms. Part of this agreement would require the member cities approving the franchise extension and approving the transfer of the cable franchise to a new company called Midwest Cable. Two thirds of this new company would be owned by Comcast shareholders and one third by Charter Communications shareholders. These agreements are expected to be before the City Council for approval in November.

4. Polling Places

Tuesday, November 4th is Election Day and there are two polling places: one at City Hall and one at Waverly Gardens based on where your residence is located. If someone does

not know where they should vote, they can call the City offices at 651-792-7750 or go on the Ramsey County website and use the precinct finder. Absentee ballots will be available at the City offices October 27-31 from 8:00 to 4:30, Saturday, November 1 from 10:00 to 3:00 and November 3 from 8:00 to 5:00. Anyone wanting to vote before October 27, 2014, should contact Ramsey County.

5. Update on Culvert Replacement

The contract has been signed to replace the culverts in the City and a pre-construction meeting should take place next week.

City Attorney Reports

No report

Council Member Egelston stated that he believed that St. Paul Water would be putting in a cover for the light at the new oxygenation system. Administrator Robertson stated he has been in conversation with them and they stated they would do it. He will send an email letting them know they need to get it done.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting October 16, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting October 30, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting November 13, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

A reminder that the December City Council Meeting has been moved to Monday December, 8th 2014 with the Truth in Taxation meeting prior to the Council Meeting.

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Council Member Long, seconded by Council Member Ross and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor John Schaaf

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary