

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Mayor John Schaaf at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Councilmembers Bruce Ackerman, Mike Egelston, Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, and Mayor John Schaaf. City Administrator Michael Robertson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson and Videographer Kevin Scattum were present.

Mayor Schaaf stated that the Truth in Taxation meeting was held at 6:00 PM and that residents can view the meeting on the cable channel. No residents were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Schaaf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

None

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 14, 2013 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of November 12, 2013 for approval
3. Licenses for Approval:
 - General Contractors:**
 - Mechanical Contractors: Metro Heating & Cooling; Perfect Climate, Inc.**
 - Arborists:**
 - Sewer/Water Installation:**
4. Claims for Approval: Check numbers through 10719
5. Variance 13-12; 1 Wishbone Lane; Brad and Jacqueline Winger
Application for three variances in order to construct a new home on a currently undeveloped lot
6. Variance 13-13; 17 Dove Lane; John and Susan Reed
Application for three variances in order to redevelop an existing lot by demolishing the existing structure and constructing a new home
7. Liquor Licenses: North Oaks Golf Club, Panino's, North Oaks Hospitality/Tria Restaurant & Bar, Winestreet Spirits, Suishin Restaurant, Inc., Taste of Scandinavia; Cigarette licenses for Walgreens, North Oaks Golf Club, and Winestreet Spirits

Councilmember Ackerman made a motion to move items #5 and 6 to New Business for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Long and carried unanimously.

With the removal of items 5 and 6, Councilmember Long made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Egelston. The motion carried unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communications

1. Jim Bode, St. Paul Water Authority, Review of Oxygenation Project

Mr. Bode gave an update on the Oxygenation Project. It is substantially complete at this time. It became operational in November and will continue to run throughout the winter. The system uses three line diffusers that are up to a mile long located in three different parts of Pleasant Lake. The lines diffuse oxygen at the bottom of the lake which is expected to reduce or eliminate algae blooms, ensure dissolved oxygen presence, decrease chemical demand and improve overall water quality. If repairs are needed, the lines can be floated to the top. Mr. Bode also stated that since the system will run in the winter signs will be posted for potential open water. The total cost of the project was \$938,138.

Councilmember Egelston asked if improvement in the lake would be seen this year. Mr. Bode believed that it would be evident especially in late summer. Councilmember Nelson asked if the new gravel parking lot would be completed as stated in the plan. Mr. Bode stated that he expected it would be done this spring.

Councilmember Nelson also mentioned that the light used at the oxygenation building area on West Pleasant Lake Drive is too bright. He would like to see a cover of some kind used. Mr. Bode stated he would look into this matter.

Administrator Robertson asked if there could be a fish kill like the one that happened in Lake Owasso. Mr. Bode explained that he did not expect it. Lake Owasso had different conditions in the lake at the time of the fish kill.

Unfinished Business

1. Subdivision Application 13-10 to merge lots 30 and 32 Crescent Lane.

Administrator Robertson explained that they have not received a building permit application at this time and that absent an application he suggested tabling this item. Mr. Robertson will ask the applicant to send official notice.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to table Subdivision Application 13-10 until April of 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ackerman and passed unanimously. Mayor Schaaf explained that the application can come off the table at any time.

New Business

1. Approval of the 2014 Budget

Administrator Mike Robertson reviewed the proposed 2014 Budget, Version 8. The budget includes a 1.75% increase in the tax levy which equals the increase in property values in the City. This is the first time in five years that North Oaks has had an increase in property values. The major increase in expenditures seen in the Budget is for public safety. Ramsey County is now passing on the cost of retirement benefits to individual departments creating an increased cost for public safety to its clients. The tax levy will bring in \$1,275,575 or an increase of \$22,336. Increases in building permits are expected and no fee increases are projected for 2014.

Revenues are projected at \$2,010,583. The property tax and assessments make up 71% of budget revenues. 13% is licenses and permit fees and 15% are fees for sewer and water services.

Expenditures are projected to rise 4.6% mainly due to Public Safety, which is 43% of all expenditures. Administration is 12% and Infrastructure (Roads, Sewer & Water) is 10% of all expenditures. Total expenditures are projected at \$2,010,287 with a \$5,000 contingency fund.

Councilmember Ackerman asked about the decrease in administrative costs.

Administrator Robertson stated that benefit costs have gone down as well as the cost for the phone system. Councilmember Ackerman also asked about the reduced cost for Wenck Associates who does water testing in North Oaks. Mayor Schaaf explained that Wenck's opinion is that they only need to report to the Council on the testing once a year unless the Council feels that it should be more often. He suggested this be reviewed once their report is submitted in the spring.

Councilmember Nelson asked if there would be a surplus at the end of this year and Mr. Robertson stated that there would be.

Councilmember Nelson moved to approve the 2014 Budget Version 8 which began with former Administrator Melinda Coleman and concluded with City Administrator Robertson. Councilmember Long seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Approve Resolution 1275 Adopting 2014 Tax Levy

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the 2014 tax levy of \$1,275,795. Councilmember Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. ICMA Plan Adoption

Administrator Robertson explained that he does not elect to use the State of Minnesota PERA system for retirement but instead chooses to use the International City Managers' Association Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC) Fund, a decision he made at the

beginning of his career. City Attorney Dave Magnuson reviewed the plan and had no concerns with it.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Ackerman to approve the ICMA-RC Plan for Mr. Robertson's retirement contributions. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Variance 13-12, 1 Wishbone Lane, Brad and Jacqueline Winger

The applicants are requesting three variances to construct a new home on a currently undeveloped lot. The variances involve encroaching on the setbacks. This is an older lot that was platted before the Ordinances were in place. It is a difficult lot and the Staff has agreed that it meets the standard for practical difficulties for a variance.

Councilmember Ackerman would like a more detailed description of a suitable site. He also wanted to make sure there was enough space for a second septic site if needed.

Michael and Tracy Konobeck, 2855 Garfield Street NE, Minneapolis came to the podium to answer any questions. Mr. Konobeck stated that the driveway would enter off Wishbone Lane.

Councilmember Ackerman asked about the reduction in square footage requirements for older lots. Councilmember Nelson stated that this was done so that older lots could still be buildable. Administrator Robertson said he would have Building Inspector Greg Schmit write a memo on this.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Egelston to approve Variance 13-12 for 1 Wishbone Lane for the variances as listed in the Staff report with the following conditions:

- 1. All work to be completed by January 1, 2015.**
- 2. The ISTS be located per survey/site dated November 21, 2013.**

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Variance 13-13, 17 Dove Lane, John and Susan Reed

The applicant is requesting three variances to order to redevelop an existing lot by demolishing the existing structure and constructing a new home. The new owners will remove the failed septic system near Lake Gilfillan and replace it with a modern system.

Mr. John Reed, 8 Dove Lane, said that he and his wife have been long time residents of North Oaks and like the Gilfillan neighborhood. The house was not well maintained and they purchased it knowing that they would probably have to tear it down. Putting in a new septic system will make this a better property. They consulted with the University of MN regarding the septic system and they would have three different options to use if the new septic site failed for any reason. Councilmember Egelston stated that this is what needs to be done to make these old lots buildable. Councilmember Ackerman wanted to know if the septic system would work for a larger family. Mr. Reed explained that it is designed for a three bedroom home which is what they plan to build.

Councilmember Nelson agreed that this is a good thing for the City to see newer homes built on the older lots and come into compliance. Mayor Schaaf stated that the new high performance septic systems are able to be used in a much smaller area than regular septic systems used before.

Councilmember Long made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Egelston, to approve Variance 13-13 for 17 Dove Lane for variances needed based on the Staff report with the following conditions:

- 1. Work to be concluded by January 1, 2015.**
- 2. The building and ISTS be located per survey/site plan prepared by Kurth Surveying, Inc. dated September 30, 2013.**
- 3. The existing parking pad is removed from the 30 foot east property line setback.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Reports

1. Councilmember Mike Egelston

NOHOA

Councilmember Egelston was not able to attend the meeting as he attended another City event. He said the budget passed.

2. Councilmember Bruce Ackerman

VLAWMO

There was no VLAWMO meeting this month. He will be attending the December meeting.

3. Councilmember Marty Long

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission forwarded the two applications for variances with their approval and both were acted on earlier in this meeting.

NRC

The NRC is working on finalizing the language for the Tree Preservation Ordinance. The NRC will now meet the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room.

4. Councilmember Gregg Nelson

Lake Johanna Fire Department

The LJFD did not meet this month.

The Finance Committee

The 2014 Budget is now passed.

5. Mayor Schaaf's Report

Mayor Schaaf, Councilmember Nelson, Councilmember Egelston and Administrator Robertson attended the Ramsey County League of Local Government annual meeting

hosted by the City and held at the North Oaks Golf Club. The cities of New Brighton, Maplewood, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Little Canada, Arden Hills, and St. Paul, Ramsey County and the school districts of Mounds View, White Bear, Roseville, and St. Paul all had representatives at this meeting to discuss collaboration. Former City Administrator Melinda Coleman was also at the meeting.

The Finance Committee has wrapped up for the year. He thanked Councilmember Nelson and Administrator Robertson for their hard work on this committee.

Mayor Schaaf has been in communication with NOHOA and it is his understanding that NOHOA is working with Pemtom to come to an agreement to have Charley Lake and the proposed development on the Moga property become part of the organization.

Administrative Report

1. Met Council Letter

Administrator Robertson said that he sent a letter to the Met Council disagreeing with their 2040 population projection of 6,200 people in North Oaks. He believes they are 700-800 too high. This is important as it may affect the next Comprehensive Plan update and cause the Met Council to ask for a higher density of development in the City. He stated that all of the land has now been platted in the City and that there are about 300 lots left to develop. The Met Council is reviewing the response and will get back to the City.

2. Traffic Chevrons at East Oaks Road curve

Administrator Robertson has been in contact with Steve of Mel's Service to look at the issue. The City Engineer will also look at this area. Steve would like to see the yellow and black chevrons at this curve to make it more visible. Administrator Robertson suggested it should be carried over until the engineer's report is complete. Council agreed to carry this over until the next meeting.

City Attorney Reports

None

Mayor Schaaf asked Carol Beatty, the new Editor of the North Oaks News to introduce herself. She said she has worked for St. Paul Companies (now Traveler's Insurance) for a number of years and has done a lot of volunteering since leaving the company. Her position will begin with the January issue.

Miscellaneous

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting January 23, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Natural Resource Commission Meeting December 19, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

**Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting January 9, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the
Community Meeting Room**

The Mayor wished the Community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment

**On motion duly made by Councilmember Long, seconded by Councilmember Nelson
and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.**

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor John Schaaf

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary