

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 Sara Shah; City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham, and Videographer Maureen Anderson.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing**

Mayor Nelson declared the hearing open at 7:01. There were no citizen comments relating to the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing.

**Councilmember Long moved to close the Truth-in-Taxation hearing at 7:02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 8, 2018 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting of November 15, 2018 for approval
3. Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of November 7, 2018
4. Appoint Shoreview Press and St. Paul Pioneer Press as 2019 Official Newspapers
5. Appoint Abdo, Eick & Meyers as the 2019 City Auditor
6. Approve 2019 Municipal Calendar
7. Approve Liquor Licenses for North Oaks Golf Club; Panino's North Oaks Hospitality/Tria Restaurant & Bar; Winestreet Spirits; Suishin Restaurant, Inc.; Taste of Scandinavia

Licenses for Approval: Sunderland Plumbing, Inc.; Genz Ryan Plumbing and Heating Company; Northern Arborists; Precision Landscape and Tree Inc.; Houle Contracting; Budget Tree Service; Woodland Restorations LLC; Alex's Lawn and Turf LLC; Moga Tree Service; Langer Tree Service LLC; Tim's Tree Service

Approval of Claims: Checks #12906-12949

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

## **Petitions, Requests, & Communication**

Deputy Mike Burrell Report:

- Deputy Burrell reported on case in November where a call about a suspicious vehicle led to the arrest of an individual who had stolen packages and mail from residents in North Oaks.
- A woman was arrested in relation to medication stolen from a citizen; the case is currently being investigated.
- Speeding tickets have been issued to both contractors and residents.
- As the evening hours are darker sooner these days, Deputy Burrell reminds residents and cyclists to make themselves visible when walking and biking around town.
- There has been an uptick of complaints about drivers rolling through or ignoring certain stop signs in the City. Complaints were most frequent for Don Bush Road and Meadowlark Lane, Monarch and Crescent, and North Oaks Road and Red Forest Way. One suggestion is to change the four-way stops to two-way stops. Mayor Nelson suggested the City Engineer take a look at these intersections and make a recommendation to the Council about how to proceed.

## **Unfinished Business**

### 1. Approval of Proposed 2019 Tax Levy

Administrator Robertson reviewed the status of the proposed 2019 tax levy and budget. As it currently stands there is a projected surplus of \$34,758 in the budget. That amount could be used to reduce the proposed tax levy or for a special project. The current proposed levy of \$1,692,700 would represent a 4% increase in the City portion of a resident's property taxes. There was considerable discussion of whether to set the levy at a 4% or 2%. The discussion focused on the possibility of unexpected expenses occurring.

**Councilmember Kingston moved to approve the 2019 Tax Levy at a 4% increase. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Shah. Councilmember Kingston, Mayor Nelson, and Councilmember Shah voted for the motion and Councilmember Ross and Councilmember Long voted against. The motion passed 3-2.**

### 2. Approval of 2019 Budget

**Councilmember Long moved to approve the 2019 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

### 3. Proposed Social Media Policy

Mayor Nelson reviewed the changes made since the last meeting. City Attorney Magnuson thought the policy was well done.

**Councilmember Long moved to approve the Social Media Policy with the understanding it will be reviewed by the League of Minnesota Cities and in 3 months' time by the Council and as needed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

### 4. Approval of Certificate of Compliance

Administrator Robertson reviewed the reason why staff thought that some sort of permit was necessary. This application would help ensure the safe moving of soil and compliance

of new fences, sheds, and other projects with the Zoning Ordinance. Councilmember Shah questioned charging money for this permit when residents are already paying the Architectural Supervisory Committee for the same type of verification process. Robertson suggested that the fee be removed if that was a concern.

**Councilmember Long moved to table the motion and continue discussion of the Certificate of Compliance. Tabling was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.**

### **New Business**

1. Proposed Lake Johanna Fire Department Contract

**Councilmember Ross moved to approve the contract with Lake Johanna Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

2. Proposed City Forester Contract – Mark Rehder Forestry and Davey Tree Expert Company (S&S Tree)

Mark Rehder of Mark Rehder Forestry and Gail Nozal of Davey Tree Expert Company discussed their proposals to be the City Forester in 2019. Councilmembers Kingston and Shah said that Davey Tree's charge per hour was over 30% higher and that was a big issue. **Councilmember Kingston moved to approve Mark Rehder Forestry as the City's Forester. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross. Motion passed unanimously with Councilmember Long abstaining.**

3. Review of 2018 Forestry Report

Mary Johnson of S&S Tree reviewed the 2018 report. Highlights include 91 trees at 53 sites identified with Oak Wilt (this is the same number as in 2017), 10 trees at 7 sites with Dutch Elm Disease (this number remains low), and approximately 40 trees at 30 sites are identified as risk trees.

### **Councilmember Reports**

Katy Ross

- Planning Commission is in the final stages of review and revision of the City's Comprehensive Plan. North Oaks Company will be at the next Planning Commission meeting to discuss their new development plan.
- Mail and package thefts are on the rise due to the holidays. Residents should take steps to protect mail and package deliveries and report any missing items to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.
- Ramsey County SCORE meeting was attended; two events will be scheduled for 2019. Saturday, June 22 is tentatively scheduled as a cleanup day.
- Waste Management will pick up Christmas trees from January 2 to January 11 for free.
- The recycling schedule will shift by one day the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's.

- Councilmember Ross attended the League of Minnesota Cities meeting; many cities are producing small videos to help communicate with their residents and the City of North Oaks will look into doing this.

#### Sara Shah

- The City's email blast is continuing to go out to interested residents.
- The Facebook page is attracting more residents.
- Staff met with Councilmember Shah to outline ideas for content to the Facebook page.
- Videos could be an effective way to communicate with the City. Deputy Burrell could do videos on major police issues affecting North Oaks residents.
- CTV meeting on December 6 dealt primarily with franchise fees.

#### Marty Long

- VLAWMO has been conducting surveys with residents on Pleasant Lake and other lakes to gather data for further project ideas.
- Councilmember Long suggested hosting some themed community visioning events at the North Oaks Country Club.

#### Rick Kingston

- Tick Task Force (TTF) will be meeting in January and will converting their survey to the new survey tool.
- Deer traps will not be baited until January.

#### Mayor Gregg Nelson

- Councilmembers and Planning Commission Members will be shifting come January; Mayor Nelson thanked Councilmember Shah for her work with the Council.
- The League of Minnesota Cities seminar focused on social media, and Mayor Nelson applauded the City's efforts to improve communications through social media channels.

#### **City Administrator Report**

- Next week's Planning Commission meeting will be a review of North Oaks Company's proposed development plan.

#### **City Attorney Report**

##### 1. Decision Whether or Not to Waive Statutory Tort Limits

Attorney Magnuson recommended not waiving the tort limits.

**Councilmember Ross moved to not waive the tort limits. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.**

**Miscellaneous**

Next Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment**

**On motion duly made by Councilmember Long, seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.**

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

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City Administrator Mike Robertson

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Gretchen Needham  
Recording Secretary