

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by 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 Katy Ross, Rick Kingston, and Kara Ries; City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Debbie Breen, and Videographer Maureen Anderson. Councilmember Marty Long was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Ross made a motion to move Consent Agenda item # 3, Minutes of Special council meeting of 1/24/19, from the Consent Agenda to New Business.

Seconded by Councilmember Ries. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Ross made motion to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Kingston. Motion was passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

No citizen comments.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 10, 2019 for approval.
- Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting of January 17, 2019 for approval.
- Minutes of the Special Council meeting of January 24, 2019 for approval. (*moved to New Business)

Licenses for Approval: Primeau's Tree Service; Central MN Tree Service; The Snelling Company; Master Gas Fitters Inc.; The Fireplace Guys; Deans Professional; Condor Fireplace & Stone

Approval of Claims: Checks #12988-13023

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

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

Jerry Hromatka, Northeast Youth & Family Services reviewed their Annual Report. NYFS serves everyone including 4,000 youth and families. They serve mental health, day treatment and community service programs. Highlights include:

- NYFS Programs includes: mental health, community services, academics, employment, life skills, out of school, and senior chore.
- 75% budget goes to day treatment, with revenue sources from: contracts, insurance, fees, grants, and contributions.
- What the City support pays for: services for residents, benefits like education and effective workforce, reduced costs to public, leverage outside resources. They are trying to intervene early to ensure a proactive response.

- Focus on 21st Century Skills –teaching kids current skills, SEL (social emotional learning) to make sure they have good work skills.
- They work with communities, school districts, collaborations, faith community and businesses

Mayor Nelson asked where most donations come from. Mr. Hromatka stated foundations/corporate, business, and faith communities. Mayor Nelson asked when City donates. Administrator Robertson stated that City of North Oaks has it included as part of its regular budget. Mr. Hromatka stated that the City will receive information in June stating what the bill may look like and its due in January.

Deputy Mike Burrell Report:

- Not much action this month with weather and resident travel. Numerous traffic related accidents - County Road J and Rapp Farm was the most significant, a head on collision between 3 vehicles. 1 driver from White Bear Township without license was cited.
- The other accidents within North Oaks and outside were mainly spin outs and vehicles off the road.

Clearview Update:

City Forester Mark Rehder and Administrator Robertson went out on Wednesday to review all properties that had been previously identified as needing remediation. Only 7 remain out of the original 128, and the forester has talked to these residents. These are primarily evergreen trees, which are more difficult to trim back and residents desire the screening from neighbors. Overall, the City has received a great response with people calling in to confirm that they are lined up with tree services to complete the work. Administrator Robertson asked for council guidance on how to proceed with the remaining 7 residents. Council consensus was that they be given one final notice letter before the City acts to complete the work and bill the resident.

Unfinished Business

Public Hearing – Proposed Tobacco 21 Ordinance

- Katy Engman – MN Association for Nonsmokers introduced herself as a resource if there were any questions on tobacco 21 initiatives.
- City Attorney Magnuson has reviewed the proposed ordinance. The original tobacco ordinance was taken from League of MN code so not much update was required. The 2 new notable changes to existing code: he updated it to include reference to electronic smoking devices, and to state that people need to be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products. The Ordinance already includes compliance checks. Magnuson stated that we need to designate an effective date for a new ordinance. There are 3 businesses in City who sell tobacco items: Winestreet, Walgreens and the North Oaks Golf Club. They have been notified of the proposed Tobacco 21 ordinance and no feedback has been received from them. Councilmember Ross suggested June 30, 2019 to allow notice to license holders.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Tobacco Ordinance with a compliance date of June 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.

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. Mayor Nelson stated the Comprehensive Plan has been discussed by the Planning Commission for over a year and that four public hearings were held in Oct. and Nov. 2017, and Sept. and Nov. 2018. Once they completed their work and approved it, it was submitted to the Council. He also stated a draft of the Comp plan was sent to the Met Council in April. The City was told it must meet the requirement that future developments must average 5 housing units per acre. The City suggested that potential redevelopment of the Village Center office area when market conditions warrant could meet this requirement.

Councilmember Ross confirmed that the Met Council was insistent that we must have some higher density housing opportunities in the plan. Mayor Nelson confirmed that the City was referring to the office buildings behind the Village Retail Center, currently doctors, dental, and healthcare offices which are about 10 years old right now, which means it could be quite a while before they get updated and replaced. The Met Council has mandated the low density, with City administrator suggesting Village center commercial center as best option with lowest impact to residents.

Comments from the public include:

NOHOA Board Member Joanne Hanson, 5 Sumac Lane. She said that on behalf of NOHOA board they disagree with the density zoning piece of the Comprehensive plan. MN statute 47353 that talks about comprehensive planning states that the plan must comply with current zoning, which means the City would need to change its zoning to allow this. She asked that we remove the paragraph on density from the plan. She asked that we take another look to see if other density options are out there to meet this requirement.

Mayor Nelson asked Ms. Hanson if she feels that NOHOA's other issues have been sufficiently addressed. Hanson confirmed that their changes have been incorporated.

On East Oaks development she feels we need to make sure we are informing residents of potential costs, impact to schools, etc.

Tom Watson, 45 East Pleasant Lake Road, former mayor whose term ended in 2009. He stated with the adoption of the Comp Plan in 1998 the Plan stated that North Oaks held no public land so we did not have to comply with the standard requirements for public parks, infrastructure, etc. He also noted that the Met Council reviewed the East Oaks Master Plan and agreed with it so they cannot retroactively try to demand higher density in the East Oaks area. Watson noted that Lake Elmo drafted their Comp plan after North Oaks plan and tried to make the same argument that they were not subject to the Met Council density rules. Lake Elmo got into trouble because they didn't have any master plan or land agreements like the East Oaks PDA. At the time having the Good Shepherd facility helped

with the low-income requirements. Watson said Met Council can ask us to do anything, but feels that we don't need to comply with them based on those 1998 agreements. Mr. Watson feels that the current Met Council doesn't know this unique North Oaks community, and they can't say they are going to come in and buy our land and put up density housing as there is no public land.

Councilmember Kingston asked Councilmembers Ross and Ries as Planning Councilmembers during this process for their take on Mr. Watson's comments and reviewing the plan again. Councilmember Ries stated she would like to see the Met Council calculations for the 290-unit requirements. Councilmember Ross confirmed the requirements by the Met Council. Administrator Robertson stated that East Oaks proposal was not in the Comp Plan because we hadn't received the application at the time the Comp Plan was finished.

Attorney Magnuson stated it is a 1 sentence law noting that zoning must comply with the Comp Plan and that the City just needs something to state we are working to comply with the Plan. We can have in the plan what we want, then it's up to Met Council to decide if they are unhappy with our zoning requirements.

Marc Asch, 34 North Oaks Road. He is concerned about putting something in the plan even if we don't expect it to happen. He believes that Met Council will use it to push for higher density.

Joan Brainerd, 14 East Oaks Road, referenced Page 33, 3rd paragraph regarding the 1994 Housing Action Plan. Robertson said he thought it was standard Met Council language. It doesn't have much application to us as our average income levels are too high to qualify for any grants.

Bill Ecklund, 15 Larkspur Lane, expressed concern that a new City Planner might not be aware of our neighborhood dynamics. He is also worried about leaving a trap for the future by adding some of this new language requested by Met Council.

Councilmember Ries mentioned that the Planning Commission has been reviewing and revising the Comp Plan for year but the topic of density has just come up in the last month. Administrator Robertson stated that April 18, 2018 was date of the meeting with Met Council and then the added density was discussed at Planning Commission meetings in May and July. It was included in the Comp Plan draft between July and September 2018.

Mayor Nelson said the options were to move forward with plan as is and see what Met Council does or hold and review it. Councilmember Ross stated that we haven't had a planner for a long time and now that we have new planners she would suggest we see if they have ideas to address the density issue. Councilmember Kingston was concerned if we need to get something confirmed before East Oaks plan moves forward.

Councilmember Ross moved to table approval of Comp plan for a month, to allow a meeting with planners, former Mayor Watson and others. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kingston and passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Discussion of City Communications:

Commissioner Ries said she is the Council Cable representative and has been reviewing the City website to see where communications can be enhanced. Results have shown that the most commonly used feature on the website is looking at Agendas, followed by Minutes, and Ordinances. She suggested we could also possibly link community groups and links to Polco surveys, etc. She is working with City staff to make Ordinances more searchable, possibly craft an e-newsletter on the website, and/or send out a quarterly newsletter. Mayor Nelson confirmed websites can always be improved, as technology is constantly changing. Of highest priority for him would be making ordinances searchable via PDF. Councilmember Ries will look at existing contracts to see what can be changed.

2. Select alternate Council liaison for the Natural Resources Commission:

Mayor Nelson selected Councilmember Ries as the alternate for NRC meetings. All agreed – no vote needed.

3. New Consent agenda item – Minutes from Special City Council meeting, January 29, 2019:

Councilmember Ross indicated that the Minutes from the Special council meeting on January 24, 2019 regarding Planning Commission applicants were detailed, but appear condensed as presented for approval. Councilmember Ross would like to put some of the detail back in. Administrator Robertson reduced the minutes to leave out some of the personal detail, however Ross believes some of the information about candidate's skillset is valuable to have on record, for future discussion of planning Councilmember vacancies. Councilmember Kingston agreed to work with Ross and Recording Secretary Needham to restore some of this detail. Minutes to be presented for approved at the March council meeting.

Councilmember Reports

Kara Ries

- Attended the Cable meeting in which the workers handbook was discussed and the City of North Oaks agreement confirmed. Under the contract we have 2 community event videos, along with a new 5 minute quarterly update. Possibilities for use of this video time: Town hall meetings, fairs, Mayor update. She also attended the League of MN Cities meeting designed to share information with newly elected Councilmembers. City Administrator Robertson stated that Dana Healy from the Cable Commission has asked to have a workshop with Council. Mayor Nelson agreed to have them come by to meet.
- Councilmember Ries also had a ride-along with Officer Burrell where information was shared on North Oaks issues and safety in our community.
- A community informational meeting regarding suburban Coyotes is tentatively for the evening of March 14th. This workshop may feature presentations from the DNR, a U of Minnesota professor, and Mario Lee, our Ramsey County animal control officer.

Katy Ross

- At the North Oaks special council meeting in January: Mark Azman, Sara Shah and Stig Hauge were selected as new Planning Commissioners. The February Planning Commission meeting will be continuation of public hearing of the East Oaks development. Administrator Robertson is putting together tours with North Oaks Company to review the property proposed to be developed. Councilmember Ross mentioned that timing might good to get the planning commission together to cross train new commissioner along with the current members.
- Recycling has been continuing as possible as weather permits. Peterson Waddle only closed 1 day during the extreme cold due to the Eureka recycling plant being closed, and having nowhere to deliver that day. We believe all Christmas trees have been picked up by Waste Management.
- Sunday March 10th from 1-4 p.m. is the Home Improvement Fair at the North Oaks Golf Club. The City will have a locking mailbox on display at the fair. There will be several options for ordering mailboxes: 1) small box vs. larger box, as well as including installation and newspaper slot options. She is putting together pricing to have ready for the fair, and then will bring the mailbox to the City office to have available for viewing.
- She is working with Green Light Recycling on a City cleanup day. They are targeting a recycling and shredding event day on June 22nd 9 – 1 p.m. at Southpointe fields. The list of items is extensive and includes; lights, mattresses, residential appliances, toner, etc. There is a cost per item, and City staff will be onsite to take payments. Looking at having some type of discount coupon for residents, such as 1 free item.

Rick Kingston

- Shared the Tick Task Force meeting minutes from Brooke Moore: North Oaks 2017 Lyme Disease incidents have dropped to ½ of other communities, while tick borne disease is remaining constant or increasing across the county. Excellent work by all. The Polco survey tool will be used for the next Tick Task Force survey.
- Kathy Emmons from NOHOA asked him to provide information obtained from earlier research regarding video surveillance at entrances. No proposals were made, Councilmember Kingston shared their research in case this would come up again at any point in the future.
- Also had a ride along with Officer Burrell and it was an interesting experience.

Mayor Gregg Nelson

- Appreciated the presentation by Northeast Youth and Family Services.
- Appreciated work on the mailbox security initiative by Councilmember Ross.
- He expressed gratitude for fresh eyes on the Cable Commission and assistance pulling together the coyote presentation by Councilmember Ries. Mayor Nelson stated they

received a report of an attack by coyote on a dog last week, and is looking forward to the presentation.

- Deer efforts are well managed and we seem to be at appropriate deer population levels for our community.
- He welcomed the new Planning Commission members, and was grateful for all the well qualified applicants from within our community.
- He enjoyed the League resources to advise Cities and Council members on best practices.

City Administrator Report

He urged all Council members to visit the fire stations. The current fire plan has just been delivered by the fire chief and will be provided to Council members.

City Attorney Report

None.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting is Thursday, February 21, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

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

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Next Tick Task Force Meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Ross, seconded by Councilmember Ries and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

City Administrator Mike Robertson

Debbie Breen
Recording Secretary