

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Mayor Gregg Nelson at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota.

Council: Acting Mayor Gregg Nelson, Councilmembers Marty Long and Katy Ross.

Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Deputy Mike Burrell, Videographer Maureen Anderson, and Recording Secretary Mary Mullen.

Absent: Mayor Mike Egelston and Councilmember Rick Kingston.

Pledge of Allegiance

Acting Mayor Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

Marc Asch, 34 North Oaks Road, expressed concern regarding the lack of inspection of septic systems prior to the sale of homes. He stated non-conforming septic systems are passed from owner to owner as an inspection is not required at the transfer of property. He added failing septic systems will result in severe consequences for homeowners. Mr. Asch urged the City Council to consider adopting a septic inspection requirement at the transfer of property to ensure that the City's septic systems are functioning and conforming.

Acting Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Asch for his comments. He requested that Administrator Robertson discuss this issue with the City's Septic Inspector and provide further information for the City Council's review.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of March 8, 2018
2. Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting of March 15, 2018
3. Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of March 29, 2018

Licenses for Approval: Air Mechanical; All Poolside Services Inc.; Alliance Mechanical Services; Construction Mechanical Services; Joseph Houle Contracting, Inc.; Minnesota Mechanical LLC; Hair on Earth Massage Therapy; Sabre Plumbing Heating & A/C; Standard Heating & Air Conditioning; Tim's Tree Service LLC.

Approval of Claims: 012636 - 012670

Councilmember Long moved to approve the Consent Agenda, with a second from Councilmember Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Deputy Mike Burrell Report

Ramsey County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Burrell provided an update on happenings during March 2018. He stated he has been focusing on enforcement of vehicle weight restrictions

with the assistance of Traffic Deputy Mike Casey. He noted 13 vehicles have received citations for being overweight. The majority of high load vehicles are moving trucks and small contractors. He noted a truck carrying a storage pod was stopped and weighed in at 15,000 pounds over the weight limit. He encouraged residents to call the City office if they see a large truck that appears to be over the weight limit.

Acting Mayor Nelson asked when weight restrictions will be lifted. Administrator Robertson stated the restriction will be lifted by the State based on observations, most likely near the end of April.

Deputy Burrell stated there have been reports of construction zone theft in the Rapp Farm development, as contractors leave trailers onsite filled with high value items. He said contractors have made some changes to ensure the security of their equipment. He noted this type of theft is a County-wide problem.

Deputy Burrell stated many residents have reported a scam involving phone calls from someone claiming to be from Xcel Energy. He stressed that residents should never give payment information over the phone, and should call Xcel Energy directly. Councilmember Ross said an item could be added to the North Oaks News to remind people what to do in case of a phone scam. Deputy Burrell thought that was a good idea. Acting Mayor Nelson thanked Deputy Burrell for his service.

1. Tick Task Force Survey Results – Chair Brooke Moore

Acting Mayor Nelson introduced Dr. Brooke Moore, Chair of the Tick Task Force. Dr. Moore presented the results of the 2017 Tick Task Force Survey, which is the third such survey completed in North Oaks. She stated the Task Force was formed in 2015 by a group of concerned residents to address the increasing number of Lyme Disease cases in North Oaks. She added the Task Force's goal is to develop integrated management, monitoring and reporting, and the survey is a part of this multi-tiered approach. She noted it is hoped that the Survey results will provide accurate data to guide future efforts, and a more realistic picture than that which is presented by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Dr. Moore reviewed the results of the survey, including number of respondents and percentage of residents who found ticks on a family member, both before and after they had a chance to bite. She stated the overall survey response was positive. She added a question related to presumed location of exposure was added in this survey.

Dr. Moore stated survey participants indicated that they had an increased awareness of the problem which led them to seek care sooner. She added information regarding the Tick Task Force is published in the North Oaks News on a regular basis, and through NOHOA news blasts. She encouraged residents to create tick-free zones by implementing landscaping strategies such as keeping grass shorter, trimming trees and shrubs, removing leaves, debris, wood and brush, and creating a border between lawn and woods.

Dr. Moore stated Tick Task Force materials are available at all the City's common public places. She added the Minnesota Mosquito Control District (MMCD) has recommended plans to provide information and support to residents, and NOHOA has implemented all of these plans.

Dr. Moore stated the Conservation Area, which is under a Minnesota Land Trust easement, continues to have a high concentration of ticks. She added the Tick Task Force plans to reach out to the Land Trust to discuss reducing tick population growth without disrupting natural habitat.

Dr. Moore urged residents to minimize risk to themselves and their family through personal protection - regular tick checks and the use of tick repellent on people and dogs, as well as chewable tick repellent products for pets.

Dr. Moore stated cutting back dense vegetation around homes can help control the mice that carry the ticks. She added the City is sponsoring brush pick-up days, and residents have expressed their appreciation for this service. She noted the reduction in the deer population should help to decrease the tick population.

Dr. Moore stated the Tick Task Force will continue to educate the community through articles in the *North Oaks News*, NOHOA email blasts, and *North Oaks Living* magazine. She urged residents to protect themselves when ticks are active.

Acting Mayor Nelson asked whether the Task Force had discussed possums. Dr. Moore stated both possums and turkeys eat a large number of ticks. She added the "Munch Bunch" goat-for-hire grazing service could be a way to help decrease the tick population. Acting Mayor Nelson thanked Dr. Moore for her report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. Discussion of 2018 Special Projects

Administrator Robertson reviewed the City Council's funding priorities as determined in November 2017: General Fund balance, Fire Fund, lake weed removal, cable equipment upgrade and Special Projects Fund.

Administrator Robertson said that the General Fund balance is now in good shape and does not need additional funds. He identified approximately \$90,000 available for projects identified by the City Council. He stated that of that amount \$20,000 is earmarked for lake weed mitigation. He recommended that an additional \$15,000 be transferred to the Fire Fund for future equipment purchases.

Robertson said the City's cable broadcast equipment dates from 2006, and some equipment was well used when purchased. He noted Maureen Anderson, North Suburban Cable TV, has provided a list of equipment that is failing and recommended for replacement. Acting Mayor Nelson reviewed the cost estimate from the Cable Commission for upgrading equipment. The upgrade would provide high definition broadcasting and would allow for remote meeting attendance.

Councilmember Long stated the City receives franchise fees from the Cable Commission totaling \$80-90,000. Robertson agreed, adding those funds go into the general fund as general revenue. Councilmember Ross asked whether NOHOA has any share in the Cable TV equipment maintenance. Robertson stated NOHOA has expressed an interest but has no money in this year's budget.

Councilmember Ross asked whether funding should be reserved for any unexpected projects in 2018. Robertson stated that is an option. He added the entirety of the funding allocation can be approved tonight, or a portion of funding could be reserved for future allocation. Councilmember Long stated he would support dividing the Special Projects Fund into separate allocations. Councilmember Ross agreed, adding the Cable Commission could provide an estimate of future possible costs.

Councilmember Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Long, to approve the following funding allocations, with the balance of \$10,000 to remain in reserve in the Special Projects Fund:

- **Fire Equipment Fund - \$15,000**
- **Lake Weed Removal - \$20,000**
- **Cable Equipment Replacement - \$45,000**

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of Council Chamber TV Equipment Replacement

Acting Mayor Nelson stated this item was reviewed under the previous Agenda item.

3. Review of Highway 96 Site Monitoring Project

Administrator Robertson stated the City Council has received a report related to this Agenda item in their packet. He said pollution from a former dump site on Highway 96 in White Bear Town has infiltrated to the northwest under Lake Gilfillan. He noted wells in this area have been tested for years, and there has been no indication that the situation is accelerating; in fact, pollutant levels in many wells have dropped. The City's consultant Michelle Hosfield of Wenck & Associates will attend a future meeting to review the report.

Councilmember Reports

- **Councilmember Katy Ross** - Councilmember Ross stated she recently completed the Citizen Academy, hosted by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, that takes participants behind the scenes to experience the work and activities of the Sheriff's Office. She added this is free and open to the public. She also attended a meeting with

Administrator Robertson and elected officials of adjacent communities which featured a discussion of City preparedness for critical incidents.

Councilmember Ross encouraged residents to sign up for a recycling tour. She added the first tour took place this week, while two more tours are planned for May and June.

Councilmember Ross thanked Natural Resource Commissioner Kate Winsor for her monthly column, "Recycle Bin", in the *North Oaks News*. She added Ramsey County Recycling recognized Ms. Winsor for the column in 2017, specifically a column regarding recycling of furnace filters.

Councilmember Ross urged residents to recycle plastic bags at disposal sites at local grocery stores rather than putting them in their recycling bins.

Councilmember Ross stated a Senior Chore Program, sponsored by Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) will be under way from April 23 - May 12, 2018. The program connects young people in the community with senior residents who need help with yard work, spring cleaning and other chores. Interested seniors can contact NYFS or the City office for further information, which will also be available in the next issue of *North Oaks News*.

Councilmember Ross thanked Administrator Robertson for researching the past 20 years of City variances. She added this research will be helpful in the Council's review of the Variance process.

- **Councilmember Marty Long** - Councilmember Long stated a potential joint study with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would review the feasibility of zebra mussel treatments in Pleasant Lake. He added this issue will be discussed at an upcoming Regular City Council Meeting.

The Cable Commission is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and they are also cutting their budget for next year.

Councilmember Long stated he has received phone calls from residents regarding property valuation increases. He asked whether information could be made available for residents who wish to request a review. Administrator Robertson stated residents can contact the Ramsey County Assessor's Office (651-266-2131. The North Oaks representative is Paul Williams).

City Administrator Report

Nothing to report.

City Attorney Reports

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission meeting will be held April 19, 2018.

Next Planning Commission meeting will be held April 26, 2018.

Next Regular City Council meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2018.

Meetings are held in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite, 150, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember Long made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ross, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Acting Mayor Gregg Nelson

Mary Mullen
Recording Secretary