

The Council Meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. by Councilmember Mayor Gregg Nelson at the Conference Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Mayor Gregg Nelson; Councilmembers Rick Kingston, Marty Long, Kara Ries, and Katy Ross; City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney Dave Magnuson, City Planner Bob Kirmis, Recording Secretary Gretchen Needham, and Videographer Maureen Anderson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments

Rich Dujmovic, 15 Black Lake Road, is not opposed to development per say but opposed development that is not in line with the rules. He specifically brought attention to definitions regarding streets and access, dwelling units (which should be properly counted to reflect true usage of shared resources), and the 1.45-acre minimum for lots in North Oaks. Adhesion to the rules is critical.

Mayor Nelson asked that citizen comments not address items already on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Bill Ecklund, 15 Larkspur Lane, former NOHOA director and former mayor of North Oaks, focused on the role of the City along with NOHOA in sharing responsibilities. NOHOA is essential for the City of North Oaks to maintain its privacy. Mr. Ecklund believes some members of the City Council are attempting to diminish NOHOA's control. He cited the proposed amendment to Ordinance 130, which relates to the organization of the Planning Commission, and which would make it possible to remove two current members of the Planning Commission who voted against approving the Comp Plan at the February City Council meeting.

Susan Hinrichs, 55 East Pleasant Lakes Road, asked if comments and questions could be asked after the New Business portion of the meeting. Mayor Nelson did not agree to this.

Bob Ostlund, 7 North Mallard Road, was interested to know a true traffic count and also what steps need to be taken to remove members of the City Council or the Mayor, and whether or not additional councilmembers could be added to the five that currently compose the City Council. Attorney Magnuson replied that North Oaks is a statutory city, which requires a mayor and four councilmembers. Additional members would require a City charter and changing the City's ordinances.

Kathie Emmons, 20 Duck Pass Road, President of NOHOA's Board, made a statement, which was provided for the record. NOHOA will support and follow the 1998 PDA.

Franny Skanser-Lewis, 3 Red Maple Lane, asked for a thorough review of the City's ordinances and wanted more information about item #4 on the agenda (proposal to amend Ordinance 130 relating to Planning Commission composition and organization).

Anna Burgett, 32 East Pleasant Lake Road, asked about transparency, particularly as to Ordinances 129 and 130 coming up for review at this meeting. She wanted to see a redlined version of the proposed changes to Ordinance 130 showing what edits are being made.

Consent Agenda

Licenses for Approval are as follows: Air Mechanical; Boehm Heating Company; Creative Air LLC; Glowing Hearth & Home, Heating & Cooling Two, Inc.; Metro Heating & Cooling; Pronto Heating and Cooling; River City Sheet Metal; Standard Heating and Air; Summit Heating & Air.

Approval of Claims: Checks Check#: 13059–13097

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

Report from Deputy Mike Burrell

- Criminal activity at Walgreens; Newport cigarettes thief was arrested, released, and stole cigarettes again.
- Intoxicated male at Walgreens was apprehended and taken into custody; he had a warrant out for his arrest.
- A man was arrested after stealing from Cub in Vadnais Heights; he was identified by his tattoo.
- In the three years Deputy Burrell has patrolled North Oaks, he has had many positive interactions with residents, and he enjoys the community part of the policing.
- Body cameras should be given to Ramsey County officers this June.
- Now that the weather is getting warmer, Deputy Burrell will sometimes be patrolling the trails and roads on his bike.

New Business

1. Twenty Year Review of 1999 East Oaks PUD

North Oaks Company (NOC) was not able to attend the meeting this evening. Commercial unit counts are key, according to Councilmember Ries, and NOC needs to supply those numbers. Tom Watson quoted from Section 6.3 in the East Oaks PDA. The decennial review is outlined there.

Councilmember Long moved to table the Decennial Review until the next City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

2. Consider Taking Traffic Counts at Main Entrances to North Oaks

Councilmember Ross suggests conducting a fresh traffic count from all the main entrances. Administrator Robertson asked Ramsey County to provide the counters. Councilmember Ries suggested a traffic study for roads in the interior of the City. Councilmember Kingston

asked that NOHOA be on board with the traffic counts and any traffic study; Mayor Nelson asked that the City get a bid for this. The Council was in agreement to go ahead with traffic counts and a safety study.

3. Consider & Set Public Hearing for Ordinance 129 Amending City Code Related to Planned Unit Development Processing

Councilmember Ries explained that an amendment is proposed to Ordinance 129 to require developers to provide a complete concept plan for all phases of a development with the initial development submission. Councilmember Ross suggested the public hearing be set for the May City Council meeting. Planner Kirmis agrees with the amendment to aid good planning in the future.

Councilmember Long moved to set a public hearing for the May City Council meeting for the amendment to Ordinance 129. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Ordinance 130 Amending City Code Related to Planning Commission Composition and Organization

Mayor Nelson asked for a discussion of the proposed ordinance at the May City Council meeting. He used a template based on Shoreview's ordinance about the composition of their planning commission. Mayor Nelson feels the current organization of the City's Planning Commission risks conflicts of interest.

5. Consider Need for Staff Assistance

Planning Commission at their last workshop suggested a project manager be hired by the City to assist the City staff. Councilmember Ries asked that the City staff management be reviewed, with her concern being that Planning Commission receive documents and research support in a timely manner, which they recently have not. Councilmembers Long and Ross were concerned that an intern might overburden the current staff because of the management needed. Intern projects could be to organize the City ordinances or revamp the City website. City Council will meet sometime in May to discuss the staffing level; City Administrator Robertson will provide possible meeting dates to the City Council.

6. Establish Committee to Review City Attorney Applications

Councilmember Ries asked that the entire Council be involved in the hiring process of the City Attorney. Councilmember Long asked that the current City Attorney be involved in the search and review process.

Councilmember Long moved to set a create a committee, composed of Councilmember Ries, Mayor Nelson, and Administrator Robertson, head the search for a City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

7. Storage of Ex-Mayor's Records

Councilmember Long asked that notes and details from previous mayors be stored in the City.

Councilmember Reports

Kara Ries

- The Cable Commission has a current proposal that Councilmember Ries does not support as it may raise costs and limit access for residents. She has asked Administrator Robertson to write a letter expressing these concerns to the Cable Commission.
- An overhaul of the website is being considered; a presentation will be put together for the May City Council meeting.
- A newsletter is being considered for the City to publish with City-related information and happenings.

Katy Ross

- Locking mailboxes have been ordered; a total of 100 were ordered by residents.
- The City booth at the Home Improvement Fair was busy with questions about mailboxes, recycling, arborists, etc.
- The Planning Commission has had three workshops to review the Comp Plan and the Nord Parcel. A lot of work has been done by Planning Commissioners to prepare for and participate in these meetings.
- At a recent meeting regarding recycling, a grant was discussed that the City will apply for.
- A recycling and shredding event will happen on June 22 at Southpointe from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marty Long

- Councilmember Long has had many conversations with neighbors and residents about the East Oaks development.
- A new firehouse will be built; North Oaks is 10% to 12% responsible for the total cost of this building. A new hydrant will be added to Nord Circle.
- Councilmember Long has been added to the VLAWMO finance board.
- Councilmember Long has had a few meetings with Bob Fletcher, the new Ramsey County Sheriff, who is also a new North Oaks resident.
- Stormwater pond maintenance is done by NOHOA.

Rick Kingston

- The Polco survey tool is not ready for use for the Tick Task Force (TTF) survey, but the survey is prepared and ready for residents to take using Survey Monkey.
- The TTF is applying for a grant from the state to continue their education efforts.
- Councilmember Kingston attended the NRC meeting last week. A pollinator protection group gave a talk that was impressive.
- Councilmember Kingston and Sheriff Fletcher had a meeting to talk about how the government of North Oaks is balanced between the City and NOHOA.
- East Oaks development discussions lately with residents have been productive.

Mayor Gregg Nelson

- State mayors' meeting is later this month.
- Two beehives have been installed on Mayor Nelson's property.
- Mayor Nelson is offended at Mr. Ecklund's comment that he is trying to dissolve NOHOA; he is in fact a supporter of NOHOA. Mayor Nelson addressed Mr. Ostlund's questions about how to remove City Councilmembers and the Mayor. He mentioned that the City Council meetings are run differently than the Planning Commission meetings.

City Administrator Report

1. A League of Minnesota Cities Workshop, Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. will be open to the public.
2. Brush pick up day will be May 24; more details will come out in an e-blast and Facebook.
3. A workshop was suggested to discuss the decennial review for some time in May.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting is Thursday, May 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Next Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, April 25, 2019, @ 7:00 pm

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is Thursday, May 9, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Councilmember Ross, seconded by Councilmember Kingston and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

City Administrator Mike Robertson

Gretchen Needham
Recording Secretary

*Memo from NOHOA entered into record separately