

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Mayor Michael Egelston at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, MN. Present were Councilmembers Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, Katy Ross and Rick Kingston. City Administrator Michael Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson and Videographer Maureen Anderson were present.

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

None

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015 for approval
2. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting of March 26, 2015 for approval
3. Approval to Not Waive Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability
4. Licenses for Approval:
Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating: Abbott Ferraro Heating & Cooling; Air Comfort Specialists, Inc; Centraire Heating & A/C; Gallagher Heating & A/C; Hamlin Mechanical LLC dba Air Tech Heating & Cooling; Home Energy Center; Liberty Comfort Systems; Stein's Heating & Cooling, Inc
Arborists: Hayden's Ridge Tree Service; Monster Tree Company
Sewer/Water Installation:
5. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 01130-011371

Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Councilmember Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Presentation of 2014 Audit, Andy Berg, Abdo, Eick & Meyers

Auditor Andy Berg reviewed the Management Letter giving an opinion on the City's Audit. He said it was a clean audit and that they found no issues. The fund balance of \$1,358,541 is 63% of the 2015 budgeted expenditures. This is lower than last year due to a transfer of \$310,000 into capital funds. Two fire trucks are scheduled to be purchased over the next few years and money is being set aside for these large expenditures. Property taxes are 54% of the revenue source in North Oaks with the rest coming from licenses and permits and charges for water and sewer. The largest expenditure remains public safety. The per capita amount spent is consistent with other cities with a similar population size of North Oaks.

2. Request to Proclaim May 13, 2015 World Falun Dafa Day

Cheng Wan, 20 South Long Lake Trail, came to the podium asking the Council to proclaim May 13, 2015 World Falun Dafa Day. The Council explained that this is not the type of proclamation that they believe should be approved due to separation of church and state and that this is more of a federal government issue.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to take no action. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendment 15-02, 111-893 Village Center Drive, North Oaks Village Center, LLC: Amending Ordinance to Allow Therapeutic Massage in a Commercial District

Councilmember Ross said that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on allowing therapeutic massage in a commercial district. No comments were made at the hearing. A subcommittee was formed to review the request. The committee reviewed what other cities have done and has presented language to create an Ordinance covering regulation of massage. The Mayor and Councilmembers thanked the committee members for their hard work.

Councilmember Nelson with a second from Councilmember Kingston made a motion to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow therapeutic massage as an allowed use in a commercial district. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ordinance 113 to Regulate Therapeutic Massage in North Oaks

A recommended Ordinance to regulate massage therapists and establishments was presented to the Council. This would require licenses to be issued as well as background checks.

Councilmember Long with a second from Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve Ordinance 113 to regulate therapeutic massage in North Oaks. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Recommendation for Summer Hours

Administrator Robertson presented a request to start summer hours at the City office. He explained that Friday afternoons are often slow and that builders want to handle business earlier in the day in the summer. Mr. Robertson suggested the office open at 8:30 instead of 9:00 and close at noon on Fridays from April 27th to September 4th.

Councilmember Long made the motion to approve the recommended summer hours with a second from Councilmember Ross. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve Electrical Inspection Fee Increases

Electrical Inspector Pete Tokle requested an increase in his fees. This is the first increase since 2010. He also simplified some of the fees.

Councilmember Ross made the motion to increase the electrical permit fees requested by Electrical Inspector Pete Tokle. With a second from Councilmember Kingston, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of Mel's Service Building Damage

Administrator Robertson met with Steve Elfstrom and Lonnie Waddle about the damage done to the building. The garage door was damaged by the paper company which has agreed to pay for the damage. The wall damage would be the City's

responsibility. Steve recommended the walls be shielded with metal to prevent future damage. Steve is willing to do the labor, but the cost of materials is around \$1,000. The building is owned by NOHOA, but it is the City's responsibility. This expense will be part of the Recycling Budget.

Councilmember Long moved to approve the cost to improve the service building so that damage would be less likely in the future. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed unanimously.

4. Establish a Recycling Subcommittee

Councilmember Ross suggested after meeting with NOHOA that a recycling subcommittee be formed to look at recycling and what might be done to improve it. Six people have expressed an interest in being on the committee. The committee would meet a couple times to evaluate options. Mayor Egelston stated that he has heard a number of comments on the recycling program and said communicating options is very important.

Councilmember Kingston made the motion to establish a recycling committee. A second was made by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously.

5. Approve Septic Inspector Contract

Administrator Robertson stated that Building Official Greg Schmit is resigning as Septic Inspector effective May 1, 2015. Mr. Schmit recommended that the City hire Brian Humpal who has done a number of compliance reports in the City. He is willing to work for the same compensation and is licensed to do this work.

Councilmember Nelson with a second from Councilmember Long moved to allow the City Administrator to enter an agreement with Brian Humpal to become the new Septic Inspector. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Resolution 1296- Approve Plans & Specifications for Hodgson Road Sidewalk

Administrator Robertson presented Resolution 1296 to the Council for approval. The City Engineer asked for a change in the opening day for bids to May 12th, 2015. Mr. Robertson has met or talked with Shoreview, Ramsey County, Incarnation Church and Chippewa Middle School to discuss the addition of a sidewalk from the Village Center to Chippewa Middle School. Shoreview will pay for the section within its City limits and North Oaks will do the same in North Oaks. Ramsey County is willing to provide some additional funds as the sidewalk is part of its right of way. The cost to North Oaks is estimated around \$50,000 for construction. Shoreview has agreed to do the snow removal and North Oaks will pay for the engineering costs. Mayor Egelston stated this was a small price to pay if it saves even one child's life.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve Resolution 1296 for plans and specifications for the Hodgson Road Sidewalk. The motion carried unanimously with a second from Councilmember Kingston.

7. Review of Sewer & Water Report

A report by the City Engineer reviewing the location and age of all the private sewer and water utilities was reviewed by the City Council. The North Oaks Company would like to have the City take-over ownership of the facilities it owns. Councilmember Ross

suggested a subcommittee be formed to look at all issues. Councilmember Long, Mayor Egelston and Administrator Robertson have agreed to be on the committee.

Councilmember Ross made the motion to recommend that the Council create a subcommittee consisting of Councilmember Long, Mayor Egelston, and City Administrator Robertson to study the transfer of private sewer and water utilities from North Oaks Company to the City of North Oaks. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Reports

Councilmember Katy Ross

Councilmember Ross attended the Lake Johanna Fire Department Board of Directors meeting. She wanted to share that she toured three fire stations and found it fascinating. All the fire fighters have other jobs but also have paid shifts as fire fighters. They are very well trained. The department is staffed now from 6 am to 10 pm but in July will be fully staffed for around the clock coverage. Currently there are 68 fire fighters with three women. Mayor Egelston added that he also enjoyed the fire station tour also and that the fire department has added computer added dispatch coordinated through Ramsey County. This allows for the fire fighters to know at all times where the trucks are. He added that they do a great job for the City. Councilmember Ross reminded homeowners to clearly display reflective address numbers on the house and mailbox so that emergency responders can find the house.

Councilmember Ross also mentioned that the recycling committee will begin meeting next week. She also attended the Planning Commission meeting where time was spent working on the Therapeutic Massage Ordinance.

Councilmember Marty Long

1. VLAWMO

Council Member Long attended the VLAWMO Board Meeting. They are planning to do a feasibility study of Pleasant Lake to study increased volume demands. He invited the Council to attend a tour of the St. Paul Water Authority treatment plant.

2. Police Report

Councilmember Long stated that the police would like to encourage homeowners to properly dispose of all prescription drugs. He also stated that the police department had a reduction in costs which was passed along to the cities.

Councilmember Kingston

Councilmember Kingston shared that a study group was formed to look at how to revitalize the older sections of North Oaks. Homeowners Dale Heiden and Jim Nancekivell are members with Councilmember Kingston acting as a liaison to the City. They have met and are now looking at what other cities have done. The committee has recommended a name for the organization: the North Oaks Heritage and Architectural Preservation Project (NOHAP) with the purpose to maintain the heritage, diversity and vitality of the community.

Council Member Gregg Nelson

1. North Suburban Cable Commission

The Cable Commission has created a committee to look for additional funding sources to replace the loss of revenue from Comcast. A special meeting will be held on April 16th to discuss negotiations for a franchise with Century Link which would allow more competition in the area.

2. Finance Committee

Items from the Finance Committee were discussed earlier in the meeting so no new information.

Mayor Michael Egelston's Report

Mayor Egelston was present at the Remodeling Event which was well attended. He said that he had many comments about noxious weeds and recycling. He also met with Bill McNee and NOHOA to discuss common interests with the City. He is also looking at what might be done to better market North Oaks.

Mayor Egelston also shared his experience touring both the Lake Johanna and Roseville Fire Departments. He stated that when a call comes in from North Oaks, Roseville is also alerted. He noted that the number and length of trains appears to be increasing due to the transporting of crude oil. The biggest worry about the increase in the number of trains is that they can stop emergency vehicles from getting to where they need to go. New oil pipelines will eventually reduce the number of trains traveling through North Oaks but that will probably take years.

He agreed with Councilmember Ross about the importance of using 3 ½ inch reflective house numbers which is in the City Ordinances to help emergency vehicles find all addresses. He also wanted to remind homeowners that it is very important to keep vegetation back 5 feet and also 12 feet high from the roads as the vegetation can damage the trucks as they maneuver through the smaller streets.

He also met with Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin and with Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman regarding moving work on County Road J to a higher priority. He stated that this year road construction will make moving around the area much more difficult.

Mayor Egelston said that the City is making an effort to clean up some issues in the community regarding storage of boats, cars and other items.

Administrative Report

1. Resolution 1297 for Approval of a Change to City Administrator's ICMA-RC Retirement Plan

Administrator Robertson stated that he wanted to put some of his retirement benefits into a Retirement Health Savings account. This would be at no cost to the City. City Attorney David Magnuson stated that this is a common practice and serves as a bridge between retirement and Medicare benefits.

Councilmember Long moved to authorize the change in the City Administrator's ICMA-RC Retirement Plan with a second from Councilmember Kingston. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Reports

No report.

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting April 16, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting April 30, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room. A Joint Workshop with the City Council will be held at 6:15 on April 30, 2015.

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting May 14, 2015 @ 7:30 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Councilmember Ross, seconded by Councilmember Kingston and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Michael Egelston

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary