

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, Minnesota. Present were Councilmembers Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, Rick Kingston, Katy Ross and Mayor Michael Egelston. City Administrator Michael Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson and Videographer Maureen Anderson were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

After moving the Lyme Disease discussion to Petitions, Requests and Communications, Councilmember Nelson 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 June 11, 2015 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of June 18, 2015 for approval
3. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting of June 25, 2015 for approval
4. Minutes of Recycling Committee of June 22, 2015 for approval

5. Licenses for Approval:

Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating:: Master Gas Fitters; River City Sheet Metal; Ray N. Welter Heating Co; Sunburst Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Arborists

General Contractors: All Poolside Services, Inc; Kalifornia Pools

Sewer/Water Installation:

6. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 11411-11471

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

Petitions, Requests, & Communication

1. Proclaiming Tuesday, August 4, 2015 as Night to Unite

Administrator Robertson presented a Proclamation from the Sheriff's Office asking the Council to proclaim Tuesday, August 4th as Night to Unite. Mayor Egelston asked that the activities planned be posted on the City website.

Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve the Proclamation setting Tuesday, August 4, 2015 as the Night to Unite. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson and passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Resolution 1299 Setting Public Hearing for Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to consider approval of Conduit Bonds for Northeast Youth & Family Services Refinancing

Administrator Robertson said that Northeast Youth and Family Services have requested a public hearing be set for the Conduit Bond for funding their headquarters remodel. This commitment would not cause any liability for the City. Mayor Egelston invited the viewing audience to attend public hearings if interested. He stated it is important that the Council hear from homeowners as issues come up and the Council appreciates input.

Councilmember Nelson with a second from Councilmember Long moved to approve Resolution 1299 Setting a Public Hearing for Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Lyme's Disease Discussion

Anne Hed, 9 Oriole Lane

Ms. Hed has had Lyme's Disease and it took years for her to receive proper treatment. She is Vice-President of the Minnesota Lyme's Disease Association. Her purpose at the meeting was to help with education and awareness and be a resource for residents. The Association also tries to educate doctors on the disease. She said that ticks pick up Lyme's Disease from the white footed mouse, which is a carrier of the disease. They can transmit the disease to other rodents, deer, squirrels, birds, humans, etc. through bites.

She reviewed a variety of products that she brought with her to the meeting. A tick tube filled with cotton balls soaked in Permethrin is helpful as the mice or rodents go into the tube and collect the cotton for their nests and this kills the ticks. She also said that a person could spray clothes with a product containing permethrin and let that product dry for 24 hours before wearing the items. Services are also available that can spray or put out these tubes or homeowners can make their own. She also suggests the use of treated socks that also can stop the ticks.

Mayor Egelston stated research has shown that there is a much higher level of infected ticks in what are called "fragmented forests." These are patches of forests that are less than five acres in size. These patches are not large enough to support the predators that prey on the mice and rodents so a large population develops. This describes large areas of North Oaks. He also said that rodents prefer shady areas. You can reduce the number of rodents by keeping wood piles away from the house and reducing the amount of underbrush on your property. Pets also often bring ticks into the house.

Councilmember Kingston stated that the tubes are a good idea and that permethrin is quite effective against ticks and is longer lasting, but he wanted residents to know that this product is very toxic to cats but not to dogs. Treating pets for ticks with a spot-on product is a good idea.

Tami Coyle, 37 North Oaks Road

Ms. Coyle stated that three out of the six members of her family have contracted Lyme disease. She never saw a tick on her children, does not have a pet, and she checks them

constantly. She is very concerned about the issue and is afraid to now live in North Oaks. She would like the City to look at what other communities are doing and she would like to know why it is so bad in the City of North Oaks.

Dr. Brooke Moore, 9 Thompson Lane

Dr. Moore has treated a number of children in North Oaks for Lyme Disease. She stated that mice are part of the tick life cycle but that deer increase the problem. Her research shows that as deer population decreases, the number of incidents also decreases. There should be less than 10 deer per square mile. She stated that many cases go unreported, but that many people in North Oaks are being infected.

Councilmember Kingston asked Dr. Moore what the City should do. She stated that the deer population should be reduced as a first priority and then deal with the mice population.

Mackenzie Anderson, 12 Sunset Lane

Ms. Anderson stated that her son contracted Lyme's Disease and she would like to see something done about the issue.

John Murphy, 6 Evergreen Road

Mr. Murphy stated that anything the City could do to raise awareness of the issue would be helpful. He would like to see any action taken that could reduce the number of ticks.

Andrew Gamson, 26 Meadowlark Lane

Mr. Gamson is very concerned about Lyme's Disease as he has five children, one now that may have Lyme's. He believes that since there is so much Lyme's Disease in North Oaks, it would be a good place to study the issue. He suggested the City look for funding to do a study.

Anne Hed, 9 Oriole Lane

Ms. Hed stated that funds are available for educating physicians as it is difficult to find doctors to treat Lyme's. It is a difficult disease to diagnose and many do not present with the bull's eye rash so it goes undiagnosed. Many times there are no visible signs of a bite and blood tests are unreliable. Also, Ms. Hed explained that there are often co-infections that are often not tested. She stated that a course of antibiotics for a minimum of 10 days is needed and that many believe it should be a 30 day or more treatment. Councilmember Ross agreed that the disease is often misdiagnosed.

Jessica Wefel, 5 Blue Goose Road

Ms. Wefel would like the City to study the scope of the problem in North Oaks.

Amy Blahosky, 4 Woodhill Lane

Ms. Blahosky has a child that had a tick bite and she is concerned. Mayor Egelston stated that the City will talk to other communities both in and outside of Minnesota to find out what has been done. He stated that the DNR controls how many deer the City can remove each year and perhaps they would allow an increase. He agrees with the

need for a task force and would like to see Ms. Hed help with that. He also agrees that education is a key part. Councilmember Kingston stated he was willing to be the Council liaison to a task force.

Administrator Robertson stated that NOHOA did a survey in 2014 and approximately 50 residents reported they'd had Lyme's Disease. He also mentioned that this spring the City had the lowest deer count in years.

Unfinished Business

1. None

New Business

1. Discussion of Changing to Weekly Recycling

Councilmember Ross stated that the Recycling Committee has met to review recycling in North Oaks. They recommend that the Council consider changing to weekly recycling. This would help the homeowner in several ways. They wouldn't have to remember which week was recycling week. It would allow those households that fill up their recycling bin every two weeks a chance to recycle more. It would take less time on recycling days and free up more space in the recycling building. Councilmember Ross reported that 85% of residents currently recycle. The cost to add weekly recycling is \$12.00 a year per household.

Councilmember Nelson moved to establish a date for a Public Hearing for August 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm to hear testimony on changing to a weekly recycling program. Councilmember Kingston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Ross agreed to put something in the paper and the Mayor encouraged homeowners to come to the Public Hearing or send comments

2. Approval of Forestry Best Practices

Administrator Robertson reported that the proposed Tree Ordinance discussed earlier in the year has been withdrawn in favor of a Best Practices document. The goals of this document are to increase tree species diversity, reduce the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and Oak Wilt Disease, reduce the possibility of future diseases, remove nuisance trees and reduce the removal of Heritage trees. These are recommendations and do not have the same force as an ordinance or law.

Mayor Egelston asked that this information be posted on the City website and he asked Councilmember Long to write an article for the North Oaks News on this matter. A suggestion was also made to include this information in the NOHOA Welcome Package if they are willing.

Councilmember Nelson with a second from Councilmember Kingston moved to approve the Forestry Best Practices Document. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approve Sidewalk Construction Agreement-Ramsey County

Administrator Robertson reviewed the agreement with Ramsey County to construct a sidewalk along Hodgson. The new agreement has minor changes suggested by the City.

It has been approved by the Ramsey County Engineer and is in now in the Ramsey County Attorney's hands. Robertson suggested that the Council approve the agreement subject to Ramsey County not making any additional changes.

Robertson noted that the construction will not be as soon as hoped because Xcel Energy cannot move the power poles until early September. This means that the deadline of Labor Day for installation cannot be met. Mr. Robertson has put a call into the Mounds View School Superintendent to seek his opinion whether the project should proceed in the fall. Council was in consensus to move ahead this fall. The project will take two to three weeks to complete.

Councilmember Long moved to accept the changes to the original agreement to construct a sidewalk along Hodgson sharing the costs with the City of Shoreview and Ramsey County. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Katy Ross

Councilmember Ross met with Councilmember Nelson, Building Official Greg Schmit, Administrator Robertson and NOHOA Liaison Paul Lesieur to review the Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The FAR regulates the size of home that can be built on a given lot. In reviewing the issue, it was agreed to simplify the Ordinance by changing some of the requirements. A Public Hearing will take place at the Planning Commission meeting on July 30, 2015 at 7:00 pm, and if approved will go to the next City Council meeting on August 13, 2015 for review.

Councilmember Ross also met with Councilmember Nelson, Planning Commissioner Kara Ries and Administrator Robertson to discuss the revisions to the septic system ordinance. They currently have a draft and will bring it to the August 13th Council Meeting.

Councilmember Ross also is looking into having a Clean Up Day for the City. Shoreview and Arden Hills conduct one twice a year. She is requesting information from them about the cost of this event.

Planning Commission Report

Councilmember Ross attended the June Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Egelston spoke at this meeting about a housing maintenance ordinance. The Planning Commissioners will be looking at this idea.

Councilmember Marty Long

1. NRC

Councilmember Long reported that the NRC enjoyed meeting with the City Council to review some of their goals.

2. VLAWMO

VLAWMO had a workshop with Wenck Associates. They are exploring feasibility studies to deal with the issues in the City lakes including the sediment in Pleasant and Charley Lake.

Councilmember Rick Kingston

Councilmember Kingston gave an update on the North Oaks Heritage and Architectural Preservation Project. He reviewed the following reasons for creating this Committee:

1. To promote a sense of community,
2. To preserve and enhance the beauty of North Oaks,
3. To enhance the home values within the community by;
 - a. Encouraging proper maintenance of properties;
 - b. Encouraging the preservation of noteworthy architectural residences;
 - c. Demonstrating by example how older dated properties can be rejuvenated to enhance their value with a special focus on the older sections of the community. By fostering innovation and flexibility hopefully unique benefits to these homeowners will be evident.

The Committee has identified the stakeholders including residents, builders, remodelers, realtors, the North Oaks Company, and the North Oaks Golf Club. The next step is to identify resources. Councilmember Kingston along with the co-chairs of the Committee met with the Urban Land Institute. This organization works more with business development and housing initiatives used for multi-use and high density projects which do not pertain to the City of North Oaks.

Ideas the Committee are looking at are ways to encourage home maintenance and creating codes for maintenance upkeep that can be enforced. Other resources have been identified by the Committee. Now the Committee is taking action to bring the stakeholders together to create a shared vision and to make the vision a reality.

Councilmember Gregg Nelson

Councilmember Nelson reported on the delineation survey for weeds in Pleasant Lake that should be done shortly. He is also gathering information on the cost to harvest some of the weeds and has asked the Department of Natural Resources for permission to do this. Harvesting could start this year around the beach and boating access if all goes well. More likely the approval will be for next year.

1. Finance Committee

Councilmember Nelson attended the Finance Committee meeting where the personnel policy was reviewed. This item appears later on the agenda.

2. North Suburban Cable Commission

Councilmember Nelson also met with the North Suburban Cable Commission which is continuing to negotiate a contract with Century Link for cable alternatives. No action was taken at this time.

Mayor Michael Egelston

Mayor Egelston reported that he met with the North Oaks Golf Club to review future plans. He also met with Fire Chief Tim Boehlke to review how things were going in the Fire Department. At that time the blood drive was taking place and Mayor Egelston encouraged Chief Boehlke to let him know when the next blood drive is scheduled so the City can help spread the word about this important event. Mayor Egelston will also attend the area Mayors' Meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015.

Administrative Report

1. Approve Personnel Policy

Administrator Robertson presented the proposed Personnel Policy. Both Mayor Egelston and Councilmember Nelson have reviewed it. Councilmember Ross did have questions about the pregnancy and parenting leave. City Attorney Magnuson stated that much of the proposed policy is State mandated but a city like North Oaks does not need to follow some State mandates due to its small number of employees. Council asked that the grievance procedure be made more informal. The Council also decided to remove the optional policies from the document. Robertson said he would make the changes and bring back a new draft to the next CC meeting.

2. Amendment to Recycling Center Lease

Administrator Robertson presented a NOHOA proposed amendment to the Recycling Center lease. NOHOA is proposing the first increase in rent since 1989. Currently the City pays \$650 annually to lease the recycling space. The rent proposed is \$1400 in 2016, \$1470 in 2017, \$1540 in 2018, and \$1620 in 2019. Council requested NOHOA's justification for the increase in the rent. Council also asked that the lease should have language to include NOHOA's responsibility for maintenance and repairs. The issue was tabled and will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

3. Resolution 1298 Setting Construction Hours

Administrator Robertson reported that there is no formal document regulating hours for construction. Resolution 1298 would set the construction hours at 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday-Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays with no construction that uses power equipment or loud vehicles on Sunday. Robertson indicated that these hours were pretty standard in most communities.

Councilmember Kingston moved to approve Resolution 1298 setting construction hours as noted above. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

City Attorney Reports

No special report

Miscellaneous

The Natural Resource Commission Meeting scheduled for July 16, 2015 @ 7:00 pm is cancelled.

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting July 30, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting August 13, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room.

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor Michael Egelston

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary