

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Mayor Mike Egelston at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Mayor Mike Egelston and Councilmembers Marty Long, Rick Kingston, Gregg Nelson and Katy Ross. City Administrator Mike Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Kathy Laur 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 Kingston and passed unanimously.**

### **Citizen Comments**

Jey Carlson of 15 Raven Road reported that on Tuesday, July 19, his truck was broken into on his driveway around 4:00 am. He is a contractor and his tools were stolen. The thief/thieves smashed the passenger side window of his truck. That same night another car was broken into on Meadowlark Lane. When they got up that morning it was discovered that Jey's truck was damaged and the tools stolen. He lost thousands of dollars in tools. He spent two days dealing with the incident which set him back two days of work. He's having ADT install security all around his home. Since the KARE 11news story about the wealth in North Oaks there has been an uptick of cars that don't belong here trolling the neighborhoods. Mayor Egelston asked Jey to come to a public hearing to talk about the importance of security when the discussion of replacing the gate house comes up.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the City Council Workshop of July 6, 2017 for approval
2. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 13, 2017 for approval
3. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission of July 20, 2017 for approval
4. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting of July 27, 2017 for approval
5. Hill Farm Historical Society Temporary 1 Day Liquor Permit for Sunday, September 10, 2017
6. Variance 17-03, 6 Hackberry Lane -ISTS
7. Variance 17-04, 15 Eagle Ridge Road-ISTS
8. Licenses for Approval: #012393-012406  
**Mechanical Contractors:** American Eagle Plumbing Inc; KB Service Company; G&H Heating and Air; Glowing Hearth & Home; Kramer Mechanical Plumbing & Heating, Inc; Reibel Heating & A/C

Claims for Approval: #012393-012406

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

### **Petitions, Requests, & Communication**

1. Deputy Mike Burrell's Report

He reported that there have been several notable incidents this past month. July saw two automobiles broken into and personal affects taken. The suspects have not been caught.

Packages have been stolen from residents' porches including medical supplies that were stolen off of a doorstep. This is happening in the same neighborhood, the Prairie section of North Oaks. Another resident on West Pleasant Lake Road put stuff out for the Salvation Army and those items were stolen.

Several trespassers have been cited. A bicyclist was trespassing through Mel's Services and ran right into a cable they didn't see and was injured and had to be taken to the hospital. The individual was mailed a citation.

Solicitors have been coming into North Oaks to get residents to replace their roofing. One particular contractor was fairly aggressive. Deputy Mike stopped him and he was cited and told to leave. This is one of many calls regarding solicitors. Mike will cite all trespassers and solicitors.

He's has been out redirecting traffic in response to the detour on Centerville Road when needed.

He has cited several construction trucks for speeding through the city and has noticed that trucks have slowed down quite a bit since he started ticketing them. This had been happening in primarily the Red Forest area of town.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### 1. Review Proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance

Mayor Egelston reviewed the proposed ordinance. Attorney Magnuson said the ordinance is far more reaching on outside storage than you'd find in other cities. This ordinance takes a broad swing at the issue. Mayor Egelston said if a property has a hardship the City will work with them. Councilmember Long said the City is taking on enforcement of the countryman deed and he's not willing to do that, it should be a NOHOA issue. Structures and outbuildings should be the only thing addressed in the ordinance. Councilmember Kingston said the part about compatible roof shingles should be left to the ASC. Council agreed to remove all language that is not structure related and to change the appeal time to 30 days.

**Councilmember Nelson made a motion to set a public hearing at the next city council meeting, with a second from Long. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **New Business**

#### 1. 2017 - 6 Month Budget Report

Administrator Robertson reviewed the 2017 budget. Building Permits have surpassed the estimate for the year. Fees and reimbursements are running ahead of schedule. No expenditures are concerning.

#### 2. First Draft-Proposed 2018 Budget

Administrator Robertson reviewed the first draft of the proposed 2018 budget. With the City starting to take over sewer and water all sewer and water expenditures and revenues will be removed from the General Fund and moved into their own budget.

This is standard practice in most cities. An agreement has been reached with White Bear Township on fees for sewer and water system maintenance.

Robertson meets next week with the cable commission so he will have a better understanding of what the franchise fee estimate will be. He said North Oaks residents have been less likely to “cut the cable” than other residents. He also meets with Ramsey County and should have property value information.

Robertson noted there have been complaints about the number of turkeys and specifically aggressive turkeys. He asked the Council to think about whether turkeys should be removed along with deer. He has asked the City’s contractor for an estimate.

Robertson said that the company that was used last year to remove weeds in Pleasant Lake has been booked for 2018. The cost for removal will be available by the September City Council meeting.

Staff salaries have not been determined yet and will be discussed with the Finance Committee.

Police costs remain in flux at this moment depending on whether or not Falcon Heights joins our group of contract cities or negotiates their own separate contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff’s office. These costs should be available by the September Council meeting.

Councilmember Long noted that S & S Tree is willing to make any of the main roads compliant with Operation Clearview. He thought that as many as 50% of the properties weren’t compliant and are a safety risk to residents and emergency vehicles. Council felt these costs should be borne by the property owners. Council directed Robertson to continue to enforce the Clearview ordinance and directed Councilmembers Long and Ross to look into S&S Tree’s proposal.

The City Council would like Mel’s Services to do one more cutting of the road sides this summer in addition to weed whipping around the signs. Robertson said the estimate for this was \$2,000.

**Councilmember Ross made the motion to approve Mel’s Services doing one more cutting and weed whipping around signs, with a second from Councilmember Nelson. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 3. Review of Trail Crossing Costs

Administrator Robertson presented a memo from the City Engineer listing the cost of doing crosswalk marking, warning signs and crosswalks with flashing beacons. The City Engineer noted that most communities they are moving away from marking crosswalks except at obvious crossings because they give pedestrians a false sense of security. The discussion was tabled for now.

### 4. Review of Culverts

Mayor Egelston said there have been concerns regarding the culverts and lake levels from Lake Gilfillan through North Mallard Pond. The lake and pond levels have been set at the DNR approved levels. One of the culverts was recently fixed because it was at the wrong elevation. The City will continue to monitor the issue.

### 5. Review of Surface Pros

Councilmembers Long and Ross noted their tablets were not working consistently. IT will look into it.

### 6. Short Term Rentals

Councilmember Ross said that some residents are listing their homes for rent on VRBO and Airbnb for the Super Bowl in 2018. She said this violates the countryman deed and the rental ordinance was never meant for short term rentals. She would like to add a time period to the rental ordinance of a minimum of six months. Administrator Robertson said a public hearing would have to be held to change the ordinance. She asked about a lodging tax. City Attorney Magnuson said that Stillwater has a lodging tax of 3%. Councilmember Ross said she would write an article for the paper with a checklist of what's required to rent a home in North Oaks. The Council consensus was that they should not overreact to a few rentals and they should look at this issue for a while before changing the ordinance.

## **Councilmember Reports**

### ● **Councilmember Katy Ross**

The Planning Commission is working on the Comprehensive Plan. A draft of it will go to the Met Council now. After their comments are received the draft plan will go to surrounding cities.

The height of houses was discussed. They are talking about recommending a cap on heights but they are still discussing.

We are up to 92-94% of homeowners' that are recycling. North Oaks is the #1 city in Ramsey County for recycling. The City makes it easy to recycle. We are the only city that allows the recycler to pick up stuff that doesn't fit in the cart. Weekly recycling has also helped. Two scheduled recycling tours are filled up. There is a waiting list for another one.

- **Councilmember Marty Long**  
Hotdog with a Deputy had great feedback from everyone involved.  
The North Oaks Company wants to see the gatehouse issue resolved.  
The Mayor stated that the city needs to look at all of the entrances.  
NRC talked about water quality and goats. Three or so homeowners have had goat  
“contractors’ remove weeds, buckthorn, etc.
  
- **Councilmember Rick Kingston**  
The Tick Task Force had a meeting a few weeks back. NOHOA is working with Adams Pest Control to make sure they are being effective around the community. The Tick Task Force will reduce their meeting frequency to a quarterly basis instead of monthly. A lot of really positive comments have come from residents on the Tick Task Force.  
  
The Mayor and Rick met with NOHOA board members about things both organizations can do jointly.
  
- **Councilmember Gregg Nelson**  
The Cable Commission people approved a contract with Comcast. Shortly after Cor Wilson said she was going to cutback her hours and then retire they asked her to leave now.  
The Mayor and Gregg met with the water department.
  
- **Mayor Michael Egelston’s Report**  
He and Councilmember Nelson met with St. Paul Water about killing the weeds in the lake. He met with Blake Huffman who has just closed on the house at 5320 Hodgson Rd. The house will be worth about \$500,000 when it’s done being remodeled.

### **City Administrator Report**

#### 1. Annual Data Practices Report

This is a yearly report required under State law. There were six data practices requests from August, 2016 through July, 2017.

### **City Attorney Reports**

NOHOA attorney Tim Hassett and City Attorney Dave Magnuson haven’t had a chance to meet in the last month.

### **Miscellaneous**

**Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting is Thursday, August 17, 2017 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room**

**Next Tick Task Force Meeting is Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, August 24, 2017 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting is September 14, 2017 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room**

**Adjournment**

**On motion duly made by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Kingston and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.**

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

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Mayor Michael Egelston

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Kathy Laur  
Recording Secretary