

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Mayor John Schaaf at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, City of North Oaks, Minnesota. Present were Council Members Mike Egelston, Marty Long, Gregg Nelson, Katy Ross and Mayor John Schaaf. City Administrator Michael Robertson, City Attorney David Magnuson, Recording Secretary Linda Hanson and Videographer Kevin Scattum were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

With minor additions, Council Member Marty Long moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gregg Nelson and passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

NOHOA President Mark Azman and NOHOA Vice President John Murphy, gave an update on the West Rec Center. Vice President Murphy stated that NOHOA met with four contractors who submitted bids. Two finalists were selected and one was chosen. President Azman negotiated the contract which should be finalized in a week. The plan is to break ground early in September with the hopes of having the building ready for hockey season. NOHOA is also in process of raising money for a soccer pavilion and playground.

Mayor Schaaf mentioned that the City Council and members of the NOHOA Board met before the Council Meeting to continue the sharing of ideas that affect the City. President Azman thanked the City for the help given to make the West Rec Center project possible.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 10, 2014 for approval
2. Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission Meeting of July 17, 2014 for approval
3. Minutes of the Regular Planning Commission Meeting of July 31 for approval
4. One Day Liquor License- Hill Farm Society, September 13, 2014 for approval
5. Licenses for Approval:
 - Mechanical Contractors Plumbing & Heating:** Aerotek Heating, Cooling, and Duct Cleaning; Airtech Heating & Cooling (Hamlin Mechanical, LLC); Binder Heating & A/C; Liberty Comfort Systems; Practical Systems; SR Mechanical, Inc.; TLT Enterprises Inc.
 - Arborists:**
 - General Contractors:** Classic Construction of Cedar, MN, Inc.
 - Sewer/Water Installation:** Classic Construction of Cedar, MN, Inc.
6. Claims for Approval: Check numbers 011047-011079

Council Member Ross made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Council Member Egelston. The motion carried unanimously.

Petitions, Requests, & Communications

1. Blake Huffman, Ramsey County Commissioner

Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman updated the Council on the work he has been doing since elected 2 years ago. He explained that he had five priorities: provide public safety, take care of those in need, grow business, cut costs, and take care of infrastructure. His office has been active in what he called economic gardening. Seventeen small businesses are involved in this program and they have all doubled their employment.

Commissioner Huffman also gave an update on TCAAP. Arden Hills has approved the master plan and are ready to approve the Rules and Regulations. Both commercial and residential property will be developed. Three neighborhoods are planned. One will be a suburban type neighborhood, one will be smaller homes and townhomes up on the hill and the third will be more of an uptown area with commercial and residential development. The clean-up should be done by early 2015 with commercial, retail, and residential housing starting in 2016. The Army property will also see new buildings. This property is used for deployment and welcoming home troops. The piles of concrete will be crushed and used as the base of roads in the area saving a great deal of money.

Commissioner Huffman gave an update on property taxes. The County tax levy will remain the same as it has for the past two years. Residential values have gone up 11% while commercial has gone up 1% County wide. This will shift some tax burden to residential properties.

He also gave an update on County libraries. The White Bear Library is closed due to renovations and will open summer of 2015. The Shoreview Library will begin renovations in 2016.

Council Member Egelston thanked him for the work he did on the Lake Gilfillan project. Council Member Ross thanked him for being part of the process of resurfacing Highway 96 making it much quieter for North Oaks homeowners. Mayor Schaaf expressed the City's appreciation for the work being done.

2. Police Office Thank You

Administrator Robertson gave an update on the legal case that involved a ticket resident Karl Schwappach received for failure to obey a lawful police order to stop. Mr. Schwappach challenged the ticket and took the matter to court. He eventually plead guilty but after a significant amount of legal cost to both the City and NOHOA. The Council wanted to thank Sargent John Eastham and Prosecutor Joe Kelly for their efforts in resolving this matter. Prosecutor Joe Kelly was unable to attend because he was at military training. Sargent Eastham, who originally wrote the ticket, was present and expressed his appreciation for the support from the City Council and City Administrator. He said he had never been thanked for his work in such a public forum.

Unfinished Business

1. Public Hearing-Certification of Unpaid Assessments

A Public Hearing is required to certify unpaid assessments. Administrator Robertson reviewed the following assessments that would be addressed at the Public Hearing:

A. Lake Gilfillan Augmentation Maintenance Assessment

Water began to be pumped into Lake Gilfillan in 2012. There was an initial assessment that covered equipment to bring water to the Lake. Now, an annual maintenance fee is required to pay for the yearly permit, electricity costs to run the pump, and water usage. This first year the cost is greater (\$133) as quite a bit of water was added and there was a one-time charge for restoration costs. In the future, the cost should be much less. If the assessment is not paid by October, it will appear on next year's taxes with 6% interest added.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:29 PM.

Gerald Dietrich, 15 East Gilfillan Road. Mr. Dietrich asked if lower fees would be assessed in the future. Administrator Robertson said that it's based on the amount of water pumped into the lake and since no pumping of water has been needed so far in 2014 because of the wet spring, the fees should be much less. The City owns the pump and City volunteers along with the DNR and St. Paul Regional Water all are active in maintaining the system. The DNR has established the limit on how much water can be added to the lake.

B. Unpaid Services Assessment

Administrator Robertson noted that two properties, 4 Robb Farm Road and 28 Nord Circle, have not mowed their lawns and the City has contracted to mow them. Currently the owners owe \$180 each for the mowing. Mowing will continue at a cost to the owners unless they start cutting their grass. In addition, two properties at 2 Long Marsh and 1 Nuthatch were assessed for removal of trees infected with Oak Wilt.

Building Official Greg Schmit is in process of reviewing septic maintenance reports to make sure all systems are up to date according to code. It's possible that by September there may be additional properties that will be assessed for septic maintenance.

C. Unpaid Code Violations

A \$100 dollar ticket was issued to the property owner at 5320 Hodgson for cars parked in the front yard.

D. Scott Reed's Ticket Appeal

Three letters were sent to Mr. Reed, homeowner of 28 Mallard Road, to remove a pile of construction materials and a pile of brush in his yard. When no action was taken, a \$100 ticket was issued.

Scott Reed, 28 Mallard Road, was present and explained that the pile of construction materials were a pile of timbers he planned to use around a garden. Due to the wet weather, he was not able to move them at the time that the letters were sent. Since then, he has moved the timbers and has cleaned up the brush that was around his fire pit. He stated that he was disappointed in how this matter was handled. Administrator Robertson noted that Mr. Reed made no attempt to contact him until the ticket was sent, which was six weeks after the initial letter. Mayor Schaaf explained that the matter would be taken under consideration at the September Council Meeting.

Council Member Ross moved at 7:44 pm to continue the Public Hearing for Certification of Unpaid Assessments until September 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Egelston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Proposed 2015 Budget, Version I

The Finance Committee has begun the process to set the 2015 budget. There will be a number of work sessions so that the budget can be finalized before the Truth in Taxation meeting in December. Administrator Robertson asked Council to let him know of any changes they'd like to see in the budget. Robertson noted that property valuations are rising in North Oaks. He should know the actual amount of tax base growth by September 1st.

Robertson said that there is \$7000 in the budget for paying the Natural Resources Commission but these have always been unpaid volunteers. Bob Larson, Chair of the NRC, stated that he would rather use the money for educational uses and for materials for new homeowners.

Robertson asked if the Council was satisfied with the budgeted amount for the Bonfire dance. Council Member Egelston stated that since the event now is in the budget, planning could begin earlier than it did this year and perhaps some of the costs could be lowered. The Council Members agreed that this is a community event they would like to see funded.

Council Member Reports

Councilmember Mike Egelston

1. NOHOA

Council Member Egelston stated that the West Rec Center is progressing and that NOHOA also is looking at how to treat trees affected with Emerald Ash Borer. Some of the larger trees on NOHOA land may be treated.

The Declarations for the Homeowner's Association are complete for both Charley Lake and Red Pine Farms. A road study was also done and a six year plan was created so that all roads in North Oaks will be maintained in a timely manner. A stormwater drainage

study was also completed and can be shared with the City. Council agreed that the City Engineer should review the study.

Council Member Katy Ross

1. Ground Water Meeting hosted by the DNR

Council Member Ross attended the DNR meeting on groundwater issues. It was a standing only crowd with many concerned about the issues affecting White Bear Lake.

2. Lake Johanna Fire Department Relief Association

Council Member Ross attended the meeting and learned how investments are handled by this association.

3. Planning Commission Meeting

Council Member Ross said the Planning Commission discussed the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) used in the Building Code. The City is in process of updating the Zoning Ordinance and the FAR is considered an area of confusion in the current code. The discussion included whether the Code should remain the same or if the City should use another way to figure the size of the house on a lot. It was decided that a committee made up of Planning Commission, City Council and Architectural Supervisory Committee members, and the Building Official Greg Schmit would be formed. Administrator Robertson is in process of organizing this committee.

Council Member Ross also reported that Paul Lesieur, 31 East Pleasant Lake Road, came to the Planning Commission Meeting to discuss the process for changing the height requirement for homes from 35 feet to 42 feet. He explained that builders were having some difficulties designing and building a variety of styles because of the height restriction of 35 feet. Mr. Lesieur will come to a future Planning Commission meeting with this proposal.

Council Member Marty Long

1. NRC

Council Member Long reported that the NRC is continuing to work on the tree ordinance in an attempt to preserve heritage trees. They are working with Shoreview on the Emerald Ash Borer situation which will lead to a loss of many trees in North Oaks.

2. Sheriff Report

Council Member Long attended the Ramsey County Sheriff Meeting. He reported that there have been a few break-ins recently. He stated it is important to not be foolish and to lock your cars and doors. The break-ins occurred in the day time deep inside North Oaks.

Council Member Gregg Nelson

1. Financial Committee

Council Member Nelson attended the Finance Committee meeting. Employment reviews, cable commission issues, next year's budget, assessments, culvert replacement and the investment policy were all discussed.

Mayor John Schaaf's Report

The Mayor stated that the Finance Committee will meet a number of times to complete next year's Budget.

The Night to Unite was a success. Six events took place in North Oaks and the Mayor attended three of these. He was impressed that Chief Boehlke from the Lake Johanna Fire Department gets to many events along with the Ramsey County Sheriff.

The Mayor met with the City Administrator to discuss a number of issues. The Cable Franchise is being negotiated and the Cable Commission is dealing with a reduction in revenues. The negotiations may end up in arbitration with increased legal fees for the Commission. This issue will be discussed at the next Mayor's Managers Meeting in September. Shoreview is very concerned about the cost of the cable negotiations and may withdraw from the Cable Commission.

Administrative Report

1. Annual MN Data Practices Report

Administrator Robertson gave the yearly report. The only data request he received was from Karl Schwappach. Mr. Schwappach paid over \$200 for copies of the information he requested in pursuing his legal claim.

2. Update on Culvert Replacement

The City is in process of getting bids to get the work done. The plan is to complete culvert replacements by late September or early October.

3. Joint Committee to look at space for the Recycling Program

Currently, the City uses the space in Mel's Service building for recycling. NOHOA needs this space as their operations are expanding. He suggested the City work with NOHOA on a joint solution.

A motion was made by Council Member Long and seconded by Council Member Egelston to appoint Council Members Ross and Nelson to the Joint Committee to find a space for recycling. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Road Update

City Administrator Robertson gave an update on road construction. The County will begin work will begin on Hodgson (CR 49) next week from South Birch to County Road J and it will be open to local traffic only. Work is scheduled to be completed by Labor Day. Also the eastbound Highway 694 ramp going to southbound 35E will be closed due to needed repairs. Those going to downtown St Paul will be affected.

City Attorney Reports

No report

Miscellaneous

Next Natural Resource Commission Meeting August 21, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting August 28, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting September 11, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the Community Meeting Room

Hill Farm Days are scheduled for September 13, 2014.

Adjournment

On motion duly made by Council Member Gregg Nelson, seconded by Council Member Katy Ross and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest:

Respectfully Submitted

Mayor John Schaaf

Linda M. Hanson
Recording Secretary