

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 7:04 p.m.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Craig Johnson, Bob Morse, Patricia Youker and Greg Urban.

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator, Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator, Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director, Ed Leier, Fire Chief, Bob Sundberg, Finance Director, Jesse Farrell, Public Works Director, Caroline Bell Beckman, City Attorney and Peggy Aho, Deputy City Clerk.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Johnson, it was

20-02-023 “RESOLVED that the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 21, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Johnson, it was

20-02-024 “RESOLVED, to approve the January 21, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. January 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Youker, it was

20-02-025 “RESOLVED, to approve the January 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

20-02-026 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A-7I for the February 4, 2020 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #78848 Through #78899
- B. Consider Authorizing the Purchase of a Toolcat Bobcat 5600
- C. Consider Approving Public Outdoor Event Permit for Midwest Multisport Races Half Fast Half 5K Marathon for February 15, 2020
- D. Approve Service Agreement with SafeAssure Consultants for 2020
- E. Consider Approving an Application for Exempt Gambling Permit for Ducks Unlimited Chapter 209 for a Raffle to be held at Jimmy's on March 26, 2020
- F. Consider Accepting Pay Equity Report
- G. Consider Approving Consultant Annual Agreement with S.E.H. and Approving Their 2020 Hourly Billing Rates
- H. Consider Approving a 2020 Donation to the Mounds View High School for their Senior All Night Party
- I. Consider Approving Agreement with Northstar Inspection Service, Inc.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the floor to the public at 7:07 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the floor at 7:07 p.m.

PRESENTATION(S): Commissioner Nicole Joy Fretham gave a presentation on Ramsey County’s vision for a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive. The mission is to have

a county of excellence working to enhance our quality of life. She reviewed the County’s goals for wellbeing, prosperity, opportunity, and accountability. Council Member Johnson thanked Commissioner Fretham for coming to the meeting. He said that one of the City’s highest costs it incurs is the cost of the Sheriff’s office. He asked if Commissioner Fretham could look into how the Sheriff’s budget is allocated to the various communities to make sure it’s a good formula for the City. She said that she will discuss this with their County Manager. Mayor Gunderson also thanked Commissioner Fretham for coming out to speak to the City Council and residents.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Case 19-020: JACON, LLC – Site Plan Review and Variance at 3900 Labore Road

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the applicant’s request to construct a 1,125 square foot office addition to the 2,700 sq. ft. existing building and are requesting a site plan review and variance request. He noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 28 and at that meeting acted to recommend that the Council approve the site plan review and variance request. Council Member Johnson thanked Wall for the presentation. Johnson noted that before there had been petroleum products stored at this site. Wall said he believes they have been removed and screening has been added to the fence.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Morse, it was

20-02-027 “RESOLVED, to adopt a resolution approving a Site Plan and Variance at 3900 Labore Road as requested based on the staff’s findings of fact with 11 conditions.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Case 19-022: BWBR Architects - Planned Unit Development Amendment and Site Plan Review at 1490 East County Road E

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the applicants request for an amendment to the development agreement and request for site plan review at 1490 East County Road E which is the site of the previous dome structure. Wall noted that the proposed building has a smaller footprint then the original one and the site will allow for additional parking. He said that the Planning Commission did recommend that the Council approve this request. Council Member Johnson asked if the County has any plans on adding solar panels to the structure. Council Member Urban said that he thinks

it is important that the exterior look as good as possible. He questioned what this type of building, with the proposed metal exterior, will look like next to the other buildings near the site. Wall said that the dome structure itself was a stark contrast and that this design will probably be less so. Council Member Morse asked if the size of the structure is smaller because of plans for BRT in the area and the need for additional parking.

Ryan Reis, Ramsey County, thanked the City for the partnership in working to get to this point. He said that the City has been very professional and responsive. He noted that the County would like to put solar panels on the building but at this time can't afford to, but the roof will be designed so that installation of solar panels could be installed later. He said that they evaluated a number of different exterior solutions and the proposed finish is the most cost effective and the design is the most astatically pleasing option. He said they recognized the need for additional parking on the site and the new plan addresses some of the parking concerns. He said that there is no plan to have entry on the west side of the building because of security concerns.

Mayor Gunderson asked about the name change and said that she would like to see a rendering of the signage. Reis said that the new signage will need to be permitted through the City and that the Council will have an opportunity to review it. Council Member Johnson asked if the County worked with Gentry Academy to address any of their needs. Reis responded yes and that they canvassed other stakeholders also.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Morse, it was

20-02-028 “RESOLVED, to approve a resolution approving a Planned Unit Development Amendment and Site Plan at 1490 East County Road based on staff’s findings of fact and 9 conditions.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Setting Tuesday, February 18, 2020 Workshop and Agenda

City Administrator Watson noted that the February 18, 2020 Workshop agenda may include a presentation by Ramsey County Economic Development staff, a discussion on franchise fees and a discussion of 2021 Street Improvements.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell reported that a contractor has begun working on Branch 5a ditch maintenance, which is part of a multiyear effort. Farrell thanked Mayor and Council for their strong support of the mission and staff of Public Works Department.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall thanked the Ramsey County and said we were successful in receiving a \$50,000 cost share grant with White Bear Lake and hopefully Gem Lake to study the County Road E corridor from 35E to the county line with a focus on the northeast quadrant and how we land use plan for that area.

Council Member Morse noted that he met with Mounds View Public Schools about what their plans are. They want to come to a future workshop to discuss what they have going on in the career pathways. He said at the last meeting we were looking at refinancing the Commons and he has been working closely with others on the refinancing. There were 13 different bids put out for refinancing. Four of the different banks passed and three were no responses. A couple others indicated that it was too long or too large. They received bids as low as 2.35 percent. Thanked Peoples Bank Midwest for their commitment. We would be saving \$671,000 over 14 years or about \$48,000 a year.

Council Member Youker noted that she went with VLAWMO and residents to the St. Paul Water Department's Mississippi River pumping station in Fridley. It is pretty impressive how much water is pumped through. More information may be found on VLAWMO's website.

There being no further business, Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator