

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 7:00 p.m.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Bob Fletcher, Councilmembers: Craig Johnson and Greg Urban.

The following members were absent: Councilmembers: Terry Nyblom and Heidi Gunderson.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Kathy Keefe, Assistant City Administrator; Mark Graham, City Engineer; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Ed Leier, Fire Chief; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Caroline Bell Beckman, City Attorney; Jeff Melcoch, Cable Producer; and Beckie Gumatz, Deputy Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Administrator Watson explained that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has some changes to the agreement on tonight's agenda so he would like to remove it tonight and bring it back to a later meeting.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

17-02-040      "RESOLVED, that the agenda for the February 15, 2017, Council Meeting be approved, as amended."

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A.      February 1, 2017 Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

17-02-041      "RESOLVED, to approve the February 1, 2017 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented."

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. February 1, 2017 Regular Meeting

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

17-02-042 “RESOLVED, to approve the February 1, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Johnson, it was

17-02-043 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda items for the February 15, 2017, meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Approve Claims #74053 through #74104, and Electronic Claims #1057 through #1062 for payment.
  - A-1. US Bank Visa Payment in the Amount of \$8,216.65
- B. Accept and Acknowledge 2017 Heritage Days Grants/Donations
- C. Approve Appointments to Planning Commission

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Ted Wilebski, spoke about the Friendship Games. Friendship Games is a hockey exchange tournament program. It will take place in St. Paul from March 12, 2017 to March 21, 2017. Friendship Games is a partnership between St. Paul hockey and various countries around the world. This year the tournament will consist of teams from Japan, South Korea, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hudson WI, and St. Paul. Jimmy’s is serving as the host site and local hotels are also partnering.

Several Boy Scouts introduced themselves. They were at tonight’s meeting working on their Citizenship in the Community merit badges.

Tony Cox asked why there is not a library in Vadnais Heights and how the city could get one. City Administrator Watson responded that Ramsey County provides library services in the community. He noted that there are libraries in Shoreview, White Bear Lake, and Maplewood that residents utilize. Mayor Fletcher added that in order to keep taxes down, the city shares many services with other cities, such as library services, and law enforcement. This helps to keep costs down.

Councilmember Urban also noted that Martin Jokinen and Curt Cooper have been appointed to the Planning Commission as part of the Consent Agenda tonight.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A. VHEDC Update

Ling Becker, Executive Director of the Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation (VHEDC), gave an update to the City Council regarding what the VHEDC has been working on. Ms. Becker spoke about the events that the organization held in 2016, as well as new initiatives they are working on for 2017.

Upcoming events include the 2017 Northeast Metro Expo. This event will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the Vadnais Sports Center. There is also a Business Appreciation event on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at Jimmy’s.

The City Council thanked Ms. Becker and the VHEDC for all that they do to assist businesses in the community.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Authorize Final Payment for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project

City Engineer Graham noted that a contract was awarded to Visu-Sewer, Inc. in the amount of \$140,710.75. The final cost came in under budget and was \$111,945. Staff is asking for release of the final payment of \$5,597.25.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Johnson, it was

17-02-044      “RESOLVED, to authorize final payment of \$5,597.25 to Visu-Sewer Inc. for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Lining Improvements.”

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Approve Vadnais Square Development Agreement

Planning/Community Development Director Wall explained that this is the last step in allowing use of the back tenant spaces at the Vadnais Square shopping center. The first step was rezoning the property to PUD, the second step was approving the site plan, and now staff is asking for approval of the Development Agreement.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

- 17-02-045      “RESOLVED, to approve the Vadnais Square Development Agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the document, with the following conditions:
1. The Owner shall provide a current title report satisfactory to the City Attorney.
  2. The Owner and all parties with interests in the property shall sign the Development Agreement or a subordination.”

Ayes – 3

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A.     MPCA Agreement

Item was postponed.

B.     Authorize Staff to Negotiate a Contract with Selected Planning Consultant for Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning/Community Development Director Wall stated that staff solicited proposals from three firms to provide assistance in completing the Comprehensive Plan Update. The proposals were discussed at the February 1, 2017 City Council Workshop meeting.

A committee including Councilmembers Johnson and Urban, and Planning Commission Chair Carnes interviewed two of the firms on Monday, February 13, 2017. The committee’s recommendation was to ask the City Council to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for assistance with the Comprehensive Plan update process in an amount not-to-exceed \$46,140. Staff will work with Bolton & Menk, Inc. to bring back a formal contract at the March 1, 2017 meeting for City Council approval.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Johnson, it was

- 17-02-046      “RESOLVED, to authorize staff to negotiate a contract for professional planning services with Bolton & Menk, Inc. to assist with the Comprehensive Plan Update process at an amount not-to-exceed \$46,140, to be approved at the March 1 meeting.”

Ayes – 3

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C.     Approve Waiving Field Use Fees for the 2017 Senior Softball Tournament of Champions

City Administrator Watson explained this is a request from the VHEDC and the coordinators of the 2017 Senior Softball Tournament of Champions. They will be utilizing the fields at

Community Park between June 7 and June 11 of 2017. He also noted that the fields will be used between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and city staff will be assisting during the week.

Councilmember Urban asked if it is the intention of this organization to make this a yearly event. City Administrator Watson responded that is their hope.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

17-02-047      “RESOLVED, to waive the field use fees associated with field rentals in association with the Senior Softball USA Tournament of Champions event scheduled for June 7 – 11, 2017.”

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**D.      Consider Setting March 1, 2017 Workshop and Agenda**

City Administrator Watson presented potential items for the March 1, 2017, Council Workshop including: discussion regarding new city center street light banners and flowerpots.

Mayor Fletcher also noted that there will be a special workshop meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 to discuss trails in Vadnais Heights.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

17-02-048      “RESOLVED, to Set a March 1, 2017 Workshop meeting and Agenda including discussion of new city center street light banners and flowerpots with a 5:30 p.m. start time.”

Ayes – 3                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Finance Director Sundberg had nothing to report.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall welcomed the new Planning Commission members. He noted there is a Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 28 where they will discuss a Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Garceau and Houck properties, zoning code amendments, as well as a site plan approval request for Dynamic Air.

City Engineer Graham reported that the ice rinks are now closed due to the warm weather. Staff has been working with Xcel Energy on putting LED lights in residential areas. He also noted that there is a VLAWMO meeting next Wednesday, and the Parks, Recreation and Trails Commission is also working to replace the playground equipment at Lily Pond park.

Attorney Bell Beckman had nothing to report.

Fire Chief Leier reported that the Fire Department is currently recruiting fire fighters. The positions are advertised on the city website as well as the League of Minnesota Cities website.

Assistant City Administrator Keefe had nothing to report.

Councilmember Urban welcomed the new Planning Commission members.

Councilmember Johnson reported that he attended the Fire Relief Association meeting this past Monday.

City Administrator Watson had nothing to report.

Mayor Fletcher stated that he will provide an update on the 2018 Ice Palace project at the next City Council meeting.

Upon motion by Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

ATTEST:

---

Bob Fletcher, Mayor