

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

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.

ROLL CALL

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

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator; Ed Leier, Fire Chief; Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Erich Hartmann, City Attorney; Jesse Farrell, Public Works Director; and Peggy Aho, Deputy City Clerk.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Youker requested that Item #7C, Approve Lighting Improvement Program at Vadnais Heights Commons be moved to a future Council agenda so that staff have additional time to research alternatives. Council Member Johnson asked that Item #7A.1, Approve 2009H Debt Service Payment in the amount of \$446,911.25 be moved to Item #12D.

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Johnson, it was

19-02-135 “RESOLVED, that the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 5, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

19-02-136 “RESOLVED, to approve the February 5, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. February 5, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

19-02-137 “RESOLVED, to approve the February 5, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

19-02-138 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A, #7B and #7D for the February 19, 2019 meeting be approved as follows:

A. Approve Claims #77365 Through #77429 and Electronic Claims #1335 Through #1340 for Payment

~~A.1. Approve 2009H Debt Service Payment in the Amount of \$446,911.25~~

B. Approve Service Agreement with SafeAssure Consultants for 2019

~~C. Approve Lighting Improvement Project at Vadnais Heights Commons~~

D. Approve Vadnais Heights Fire Association’s Request to Expend Gambling Funds Outside the City’s Trade Area:

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Proclamation in Recognition of Ling Becker, Executive Director of the Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation:

City Administrator Watson noted that Ling Becker, Executive Director of the VHEDC, has decided to move on to a new opportunity. Watson read the proclamation before the Council for approval:

*Proclamation Honoring
Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation’s
Executive Director, Ling Becker*

WHEREAS, Ling Becker began work with the Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation as their executive director since August, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Becker’s drive and determination has made a lasting contribution to the City of Vadnais Heights and VHEDC throughout her career; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Becker has been invested in the success of area businesses and has focused on creating an overall community environment that supports economic vitality and enhancement of the workforce including non-profits; and

WHEREAS, since Ms. Becker began working at VHEDC, VHEDC's operational budget has quadrupled and the number of investing businesses has tripled; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Becker launched the NE Metro Business and Community Expo in 2015, and partnered with the City of Vadnais Heights in 2015 on the Business Retention Project; facilitated the development of four editions of the VHEDC and Vadnais Heights Business Magazine; assisted dozens of businesses with resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 Ms. Becker led a manufacturing partnership project with industry partners and area schools which won the 2017 Economic Development Association of Minnesota's Partnership Award and in 2018 was named as a (REAL) Power 50 recipient in the Minnesota Business Magazine; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2019, Ms. Becker will be ending her career at VHEDC and will be becoming the new Workforce Director at Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens and businesses of the City of Vadnais Heights, the City wishes to recognize and thank Ms. Becker for her tireless service to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heidi Gunderson, Mayor of Vadnais Heights, on behalf of the Vadnais Heights City Council, do hereby join the staff and residents of Vadnais Heights in expressing appreciation to Ling Becker for her loyal and dedicated service. I extend my personal best wishes for her new position with Ramsey County and for continued success in life's pursuits.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Ling Becker who has been a great asset to the community. Becker thanked the Council and City staff for creating a wonderful community and for working so hard and said that it has been an honor working with all.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Purchase of New Playground Equipment for Bear Park:

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik gave an overview of the process for updating Bear Park. Staff have received three proposals. Minnesota Wisconsin Playground is a company that the City has worked with in the past. Brought the design and proposal to the Parks Commission in January and they approved moving forward with the process. Letters were sent to 91 residents in the area and put on the City's website, Press Publications and other social media sites for seeking feedback from the public.

Council Member Urban noted that there is a lot of support for the work on this park. Council Member Johnson said that he had a neighbor approach him with positive comments. Council Member Morse said that he lives in the neighborhood and the neighbors are very positive and excited about the change. Mayor Gunderson noted that the refurbishing of the park came out of feedback from the community. Sandvik reviewed the drawing of the park site which shows the toddler area which will be updated and the other pieces that are being replaced.

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

19-02-139 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the purchase of playground equipment for Bear Park as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Garceau Corner Task Force:

Planner/Community Development Director Wall noted that the memo builds off discussion at a Workshop earlier this month on the Garceau Site. He said that staff are looking for authorization to recruit members for a Task Force which could include residents from the neighborhood, and well as two non-neighborhood residents, Council Members, Planning Commission, and business representatives, etc. Wall noted that he would propose four meetings, at least. He then reviewed possible agendas items and the structure for the four meetings with a focus on commercial or residential redevelopment. Wall said that the ultimate goal will be to have a vision that is based on a market reality that we can realize and work with a development partner to implement.

Mayor Gunderson asked for volunteers from the Council to be on the Task Force. Council Member Johnson volunteered to be the Council liaison and Council Member Youker volunteered to be an alternate. Wall noted that staff would propose having regular updates to the Council on the process of the Task Force.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Morse, it was

19-02-140 “RESOLVED that the Council authorize staff to establish and recruit members for the Garceau Corner Task Force as requested.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Consider Setting Tuesday, March 5, 2019 Workshop and Agenda:

City Administrator Watson proposed having an update on the Commons bookings and revenues for 2019 and the Commons Lighting project on the March 5th agenda.

D. Approve 2009H Debt Service Payment in the Amount of \$446,911.25:

City Administrator Watson explained that the payment to the 2009H Debt Service in the Amount of \$446,911.25 is the City’s annual bond payment for public works facility and Fire Hall on County Road F. Due to term out in 2033.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

19-02-141 “RESOLVED that the Council authorize the payment the 2009H debt service payment in the amount of \$446,911.25 as requested.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Gunderson said that the Public Works Department is doing a good job plowing and keeping the streets clear, they are looking great. Public Works Director Farrell said that Public Works has been dealing with the record amount of snow for February and a couple water main breaks. Also had a sanitary sewer backup, and reminded people to be mindful of what goes down the toilet. The precon for the Rice/694 Bridge project was last week and residents will start noticing upfront utility work this week.

Planner/Community Development Director Wall noted that there will be a Planning Commission meeting next week, have a variance application for a new billboard on the old Vadnais Inn property. He thanked Ling Becker for her support, guidance and friendship and wished her the best of luck.

City Attorney Hartmann noted that he attended the City Attorneys conference. They stressed that a number of cities have experienced litigation regarding ADA compliance. They recommend that cities do an audit to figure out any changes a city needs to make and make them.

Deputy Clerk Aho had nothing to report.

Fire Chief Leier thanked City Administrator Watson for his comments about cleaning snow around the hydrants. We will need the public’s help on clearing the snow around the hydrants. He also said congratulations to Ling Becker on her new job.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik said congratulations to Ling Becker. He noted that staff are finishing up on planning the summer rec opportunities. The final details should be available the end of February beginning of March.

Council Member Morse noted that he is the co-chair for the Community Advisory Committee for the BRT project. If anyone has feedback that he can bring forward to the Committee please contact him. He also thanked Ling Becker for her friendship.

Council Members Urban, Youker and Johnson said congratulations to Ling Becker.

City Administrator Watson said that last week Department heads met with Council Members Morse and Youker to teach them about the City and the operations. He noted that he attended the VHEDC’s Women’s Luncheon and the Mayor was the keynote speaker. He said that tomorrow he will be meeting with Ling to talk about the transition and how the City might be able to help while VHEDC finds their next person.

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Mayor Gunderson said she was the guest speaker at the VHEDC Women's Luncheon. She said that she appreciated Ling Becker's ability to always find a way and think outside the box.

Council Member Morse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Youker. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

APPROVED