

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JUNE 2, 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.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: 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, Jesse Farrell, Public Works Director, Chris Hearden, Interim Fire Chief, Caroline Bell Beckman, City Attorney and Peggy Aho, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Gunderson read the following statement:

Before we begin our meeting I would like to take the opportunity to condemn racism and discrimination in any form. My goal remains to make Vadnais Heights an inclusive community that welcomes residents of all races, genders, religions, beliefs and sexual orientation.

To say that the last week has been incredibly difficult for our community, our state and our nation would be an understatement. First and foremost, my sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Mr. George Floyd as they mourn the senseless loss of their loved one. My heart goes out to the communities that have seen so much violence and destruction over the past days.

Tragedies like this bring out the best and the worst in our communities. The best being the peaceful protests for change, inspiring words from community leaders and people from all walks of life and all areas of the state donating supplies and pitching in to help clean up the hardest hit areas. Supporting one another. Neighbors helping neighbors.

I am choosing not to state the worst, we all know what that is.

I hear a lot of people speaking about it being time to begin healing, it's hard to know how to start that process and I definitely don't have the answers.

I do know that folks are angry, sad and afraid. People are looking for somewhere to place blame as if that would change what has already been done. It is human nature I guess, if we can explain the unexplainable, the solutions seem easier. The truth is none of this will be easy. Healing will take time and effort. We can, and should, all be a part of the healing. We can come together and embrace each other's differences, seek to learn about and from each other and to

find understanding. We can stand up for what is right, and we can fight for systemic change and equality.

As time goes on we cannot forget, we cannot go back to life as it was before, we can't just pretend that none of this happened. We can be better. Each one of us can be part of the solution.

I was trying to decide at what point of the meeting I should make this statement. I decided to do so before the Pledge of Allegiance. We all memorized the Pledge when we were kids, most of us said it every day in classrooms. As adults we don't say it as much as we used to. As we recite the Pledge tonight please think about the final phrase, because words matter. We can rise above this if we are indivisible and continue to fight for liberty and justice for all.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING COUNCIL MEMBER CRAIG JOHNSON'S RESIGNATION AND DECLARING THAT A VACANCY EXISTS

City Administrator Watson noted that Council Member Johnson submitted his resignation to the City Council on May 26. Watson reviewed the resolution before the Council for consideration accepting Council Member Johnson's resignation and declaring a vacancy on the City Council. The Council will discuss the process to fill the vacancy later in the meeting.

Upon motion by Youker seconded by Morse, it was

20-6-96 "RESOLVED that the Council accepts Council Member Craig Johnson's resignation submitted on May 26, 2020 and adopted a Resolution Accepting the Resignation and Declaring a Vadnais Heights City Council Vacancy."

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

20-6-97 "RESOLVED that the June 2, 2020 Amended Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented."

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 19, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Morse, it was

20-6-98 “RESOLVED that the May 19, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Urban seconded by Youker, it was

20-6-99 “RESOLVED, to approve the May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

20-6-100 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A and #7B for the June 2, 2020 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #79309 Through #79372 and Electronic Claims #1502 Through #1511 for Payment
 - 1. US Bank Payment in the Amount of \$2,139.11
- B. Consider Amending the 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Calendar to Cancel the July 7, 2020 Meeting”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the floor to the public at 7:12 p.m. Erwin Burger and his companion Nancy Lee, 537 Vадnais Road, came before the Council to note his concern regarding the Frattalone project that was approved by the Council on Centerville Road. He noted that in recent weeks he has spoken with Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell and Planner/Community Development Director Wall. Burger read communication he had received when the Unweave the Weave project was done that detailed how his property was assessed at that time for water main work, curb and gutter, etc. He said he was assessed at that time for work that was never

completed and he doesn't want to get assessed again for the same items. He asked that the City consider different route for the sewer and water that needs to go to the Frattalone project.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Burger for coming to the Council with his concerns and for making Vaden Heights his home for 40 years. Gunderson asked staff about the status of the Frattalone project. Wall noted that the Development Agreement has been approved and that the plans are available at City Hall for anyone that wishes to see them. City Administrator Watson said that staff will sent up a meeting in the future to give Burger more information on the project.

There being no one else that wished to speak, Gunderson closed Open to the Public at 7:43 p.m.

PRESENTATION(S):

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Planning Case 20-007: Ink Partnership – Variance at 1000 Labore Industrial Court

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed Case 20-007, a request for a variance at 1000 Labore Industrial Court for construction of a new driveway. Total site size is 2.07 acres and contains an existing driveway serving the main building entrance and parking lot and is located on the adjacent unaddressed parcel to the east. The new driveway is required to provide direct access to this property. Wall reviewed the existing driveway and the proposed driveway which is approximately 15 feet from the existing driveway to the west and requires a 25 feet variance from the applicable 40-foot separation standards. The existing use is permitted in the Industrial District and complies with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Wall noted that the existing development is currently served by two driveways from Labore Road. Direct access to the existing buildings was limited and an easement not negotiated with the purchase of the property so the applicant is requesting the variance in order to re-establish their own access. The proposed driveway separation is standard and provides ample space between the driveways. Staff do not believe that this will alter the essential character of the area. Wall noted that the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and recommended unanimous approval of the request.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Morse, it was

20-6-101 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopts Resolution Approving a Variance at 1000 Labore Industrial Court with the following conditions: 1) A zoning permit shall be submitted prior to commencement of any construction activities on the subject property, to be reviewed/approved administratively; 2) The driveway apron shall be constructed of concrete, including curb and gutter; 3) Bituminous removal shall be at least two-feet-wide, using proper

saw-cutting; 4) The driveway shall be constructed in compliance with the applicable code standards, to be reviewed/approved administratively as part of the zoning permit; and 5) The property owner shall re-plant any vegetation removed to construct the driveway, to be reviewed/approved administratively.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Approval of the Individual 2020/2021 Liquor License Renewals

City Administrator Watson introduced the item before the Council for approval, 2020/2021 Liquor License Renewals.

20-6-102 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the renewal of liquor licenses for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for the following:

- Chipotle Mexican Grill/Colorado LLC, dba: Chipotle Mexican Grill #876, 925 East County Road E, #150 (On-Sale and Sunday On-Sale)
- Easy Street Liquor, Inc. dba: Easy Street Liquor, 1150 East County Road E (Off-Sale)
- Gerald Inc., dba: Jimmy’s Grille Exceptionable, 1132 East County Road E (On-Sale and Sunday On-Sale)
- Moderna Coffee Shop, Inc., dba: Gold Liquors, 1658 County Road E East (Off-Sale)
- Kwik Trip, Inc. dba: Kwik Trip #152, 3278 Highway 61 N (3.2 Off-Sale)
- Lakeridge Beverage, LLC dba: Lakeridge Liquor, 101 West Vадnais Boulevard (Off-Sale)
- Lakes Venture, LLC dba: Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, 955 E. County Road E, Suite 130 (Off-Sale)
- Lakes Ventures, LLC dba: Fresh Thyme Liquor, 955 E. County Road E, Suite 150 (3.2 Off-Sale)
- TMK1 LLC dba: Macaluso’s Roadhouse, 3857 Labore Road (On-Sale and Sunday)
- IG Enterprises, Inc. dba: MGM Wine & Spirits of Vадnais Heights, 1050 East Highway 96 (Off-Sale)
- Civitali Restaurant Corp dba: Punch Neapolitan Pizza, 1018 Highway 96 East (3.2 On-Sale, Sunday On-Sale, Wine On-Sale)
- Villesak, LLC dba: SAK’S Sports Bar, 1460 East County Road E (On-Sale and Sunday On-Sale)
- Northern Tier Retail, LLC dba: Speedway #4471, 1010 East County Road E (3.2 Off-Sale)
- Target Corporation dba: Target T-0751, 975 County Road E (Off-Sale).”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPTION FOR FILLING VACANT COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT

City Administrator Watson noted that the memo staff prepared for this item lays out three different options for filling the vacant Council seat as a result of Council Member Johnson's resignation. The Council discussed the various options. Watson asked that the Council think about the options and consult with community members. He will bring back additional information to a future Workshop for the Council to consider. Mayor Gunderson suggested discussing this in more detail at a future workshop.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Interim Fire Chief Hearden noted that over the past weekend the Department did do some extra staffing to assist Ramsey County on a Task Force to allow departments to be at ready with any the civil unrest. Fortunately, they were not called upon. He thanked the Fire Department staff for giving up their extra time over the weekend. He noted that the Department has been assisting several businesses with figuring out what their occupancy levels could be under the new State guidelines.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that Ramsey County Recycling Managers met virtually and discussed how hauler's service runs in Ramsey County are being affected by COVID. He also noted that the Park and Rec staff are working on summer programming and field registrations and mentioned that the Ice Cream Social has been cancelled but an event may take place later in the year. Staff have been looking at the Heritage Days event which is mainly funded by local donations.

Council Member Urban thanked the City and staff for acting like leaders. He noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback on the Resolution that was passed by the Council at a May meeting regarding Open Minnesota. He said he is proud that the Council acted fast to allow the businesses to expand their service areas. He also said that while other places were watching buildings burn, City Staff acted fast to put up barriers to some of our shopping areas to protect them. He is proud that our City was out front protecting our local businesses. Lastly, he said that Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has done a tremendous job this past week and he said he appreciates the Sheriff's Office for their hard work.

City Administrator Watson said that on Thursday when the looting ramped up and the cities of Maplewood and Roseville were experiencing quite a bit of damage our Sheriff's Office reached out about barriers to block off shopping areas, staff came in that evening to put the barriers up. The City coordinated with Walmart and Target and he thanked Council Member Urban for sharing some of his barriers as well. He also thanked the Mayor for being available all day Saturday to

discuss a curfew and for making a declaration. He worked with other cities and mayors and city managers on setting a curfew. He said that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has really stepped up and communicated very well with the localities.

Mayor Gunderson echoed what Sandvik and Watson said. It has been a crazy time. She thanked the Sheriff's Office, the Public Works Department, Ramsey County staff, Ramsey County Commissioner Fretham, Council Member Urban, Senator Isaacson, and local mayors. Gunderson noted that several Committee assignments are vacant due to Johnson's resignation and said that the Council will have to reassign the openings to other Council Members. She said that she is happy to fill in until the assignments have been redone.

Gunderson then made a statement to the 2020 Graduating Seniors.

A motion was made by Morse that the meeting be adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Council Member Youker seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved