

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
AUGUST 18, 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 7:07 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 Beckman, City Attorney; and Peggy Aho, Deputy City Clerk.

Everyone present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

20-08-128 “RESOLVED that the August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 4, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

20-08-129 “RESOLVED that the August 4, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. August 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Morse, it was

20-08-130 “RESOLVED, to approve the August 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Morse, it was

20-08-131 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7D for the August 18, 2020 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #79590 Through #79648 and Electronic #1531 Through #1535 for Payment
 - 1. U.S. Bank payment in the amount of \$2,480.75
- B. Consider Approving a Resolution for Re-Enrollment in the Livable Communities Act through the Metropolitan Council
- C. Consider Approving the LG220 Application for Exempt Gambling Permit for the Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation for a Raffle
- D. Consider Approving 2020 Bow Hunting Permits for:
 - 1. Ricky Kohler hunting at 3951 and 3967 Centerville Road
 - 2. Tracy Selix hunting at 3910 and 3900 Stockdale Drive
 - 3. Robert Brown hunting at 780 North Oak Drive
 - 4. Richard Giese hunting at 3736, 3728 and 3720 Edgerton Street
 - 5. Jordan Kimball hunting at 3998 McMenemy Street
 - 6. Michael Luger hunting at 3924 Stockdale Dr
 - 7. Dan Tschida hunting at 3568 Searle Court
 - 8. Elliott Bucholz hunting at 3568 Searle Court”.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the floor to the public at 7:11 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed Open to the Public at 7:11 p.m.

PRESENTATION(S): None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Consider Approving Amended 2019/2020 Goals and Work Plan

City Administrator Watson noted that as discussed at the last Workshop, the 2019-2020 Work Plan and Goals has been amended and it will now be called the 2020-2021 Work Plan and Goals. This amended document is before the Council for approval. Amended to include the Street Improvement Plan, the Capital Improvement Plan, Communication and Engagement Strategies, and the social media efforts and other communication efforts have been ramped up. Staff want to begin explore increasing housing programs and lastly preserving the City's trails system.

Mayor Gunderson thanked staff for working on this and for their support on the Council's goals.

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

20-08-132 "RESOLVED, to approve the 2020-2021 Work Plan and Goals, as presented."

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Review Applications for Community Engagement Committee

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik has before the Council a continuation of the conversation the Council has been discussing since July and staff have solicited letters of interest including the City's website, social media and the City's newsletter which was sent out to residents last week. He noted that the Mayor and the Council have reached out to various individual organizations and residents in the City. He noted that they have received some letters of interest, and need further decision from the council whether to continue to try to get more interest, and to direct staff on next steps.

Council Member Youker agrees with the hybrid scenario to make sure that everyone has a chance to apply that is interested. Sandvik said that he has listed the things to solicit letters of interest but perhaps there are portions of the City that they have not reached. He said if the Council is comfortable with the hybrid option, they could possibly pull the Committee together in September. Mayor Gunderson asked Youker if she thinks the Council should extend the deadline for applications. Youker replied yes. Gunderson said she could support that.

Sandvik said we could open it until the end of month or the weekend prior to the September meeting and then have staff put together a potential schedule to bring the committee together in September. Gunderson said that would be appropriate. She thanked those that have applied as well as Sandvik for his work on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Trackless Sidewalk Machine Purchase

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell said in thinking ahead to next winter, the trackless machine the City currently has is used to clear trails. This is one of the priorities for capital purchases for 2020 which was put on hold due to the pandemic. He said that this is the workhouse for clearing sidewalks and trails in the City. Farrell highlighted some things about the machine. He said it is compact and narrow, heavy duty and clearing snow after a significant snow fall would not be possible without this machine. The state contract expires the end of this month so it is important to have approval for the purchase at this meeting. He noted that the current unit is 14 years old, and generally a machine such as this is replaced around year 10. We use it year round. He said that it has been breaking down a lot and the repair bills are getting more and more expensive every year.

Council Member Urban said he supports the purchase. He questioned using it for mowing, and asked if that is an attachment like on a skid steer. Farrell responded yes, and that the City has 5 implements for this machine so it is very versatile. Council Member Morse noted that he appreciates the work Farrell put in to make sure that the trails are cleared as soon as possible because more people are staying home. He said that he also supports the purchase.

Mayor Gunderson said that said since she has been around she has noticed consistently that when the City needs to replace a piece of equipment, the equipment is well past its useful life and thanked the staff for their work on maintaining the City's equipment. Farrell said we have good experienced staff and appreciates the support from the Council for Public Works this year.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Morse, it was

20-08-133 “RESOLVED, to authorize the purchase of the 2020 MT7 Municipal Tractor and attachments as included in the approved 2020 Capital Improvement Plan from Macqueen Equipment for a total price of \$133,780 with trade in.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Accepting FEMA - Assistance to Firefighter Grant Award for \$313,333.33 to purchase SCBAs

Interim Fire Chief Hearden noted that he is asking for Council approval to accept FEMA's assistance for a Firefighter Grant Program for \$313,333.33 to purchase SCBAs. He noted that the grant isn't the full amount needed but it does cover about 90 percent of the costs. The City will need to provide matching funds of \$15,666.67.

Urban asked what the does the personal equipment for each individual firefighter cost for the whole set up. Hearden said they ball park at \$7,000 a set for just the SCBA, the turnout gear (boots, pants, helmets, gloves and jackets) are between \$6,000 and \$8,000. Urban asked how much of the personal equipment can be transferred to another firefighter. Hearden the SCBAs can be used by anyone after cleaning. The turnout gear is fitted to an individual firefighters but it is still useable it is given to a training firefighter and once they become a firefighter they are issued their own personal gear which lasts about 10 to 12 years. Urban said it would be nice to see how the firefights equipment has evolved over time.

Hearden noted that a lot of credit for obtaining the Grant to Dustin Kalis and Chris Dubay for all the work they put into this grant application.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

20-08-134 “RESOLVED, to accept the FEMA grant award from their Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program for \$313,333.33 to purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) and that the City contribute non-Federal funds of \$15,666.67.”

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

City Administrator Watson noted that the City has offered and Hearden has accepted the full-time Fire Chief position.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Planning Commission is going to meet in-person next Tuesday. On the agenda will be two residential variances and a site plan and a couple variances for an office building on White Bear Parkway. He noted that they will be setting up a Google sign-up sheet for residents to preregister to testify in-person.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell noted that there has been an extensive amount of water work done on Arcade. They are looking at another Friday night closure. They hope to be done paving substantially by the end of the month. They will begin working on Primrose next week.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik thanked the election judges for their work at the Primary. He noted that Parks and Rec summer programs are wrapping up this week. He thanked the Parks and Rec staff including Katie, Theo, Annie and Jessica for their very creative work this summer. He said that the City was able to offer soccer, t-ball, tennis and virtual day camp programs this summer. The City is currently running a “Tennis Park Scavenger Hunt” and a couple rackets have been turned in for tennis packs. He noted that the City is running a photo scavenger hunt this Friday and that the challenge is to find a face in nature. Citizens can share their photos in the comment section on the City’s Facebook page. Sandvik also noted that the Parks and Rec

Department is looking at implementing pickle ball courts more information will be given later. Sandvik shared mail received from the Johnson family.

Council Member Morse mentioned that Gables Pines will be holding a drive through breakfast fund raising event this Friday. The White Bear Lake Rotary Club will be collecting used electronic equipment and working with PC's for People and give used refurbished electronic equipment to those that have a need for it. Two collection dates, September 11 and 25 at the South Campus.

Council Member Urban previously brought up concerns about crime in the City and how Rush Line BRT Project is coming into the City and how that will affect the crime rate. He said that he continues to be concerned that, in general, crime is increasing in the Twin Cities and perhaps the country. He said that today, the Minneapolis homicide rate is where it was at the end of last year. He said he is really concerned about the amount of break-ins in the City. He said that he would like to have the Sheriff's office and someone from the County Attorney's office come in and give the Council an update on crime. He said that we should also bring someone from the County Parks Department. City Administrator Watson said that he sent an invite to the Sheriff's office and has a commitment from the County Parks Department. He said he will check with the City Attorney's office about a contact with the County Attorney's Office.

Council Member Youker thanked a resident, her husband, who cleaned up a tree that came down in Heritage Park.

City Administrator Watson noted that he has invited NYFS to attend a future Council meeting to introduce their new director and to give an update on services. Watson welcomed new Fire Chief, Chris Hearden, whom was offered the position with the City and accepted it. Watson said that Hearden is excited to bring his ideas to the Department. Watson noted that he and Wall have been meeting with permitting software companies about upgrading the City's permitting software.

Council Member Youker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Council Member Morse, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator