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 7:00 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, Patricia Youker, Bob Morse 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 Johnson, seconded by Morse, it was

19-09-238 “RESOLVED that the September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as amended and presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 3, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Morse, seconded by Youker, it was

19-09-239 “RESOLVED, to approve the September 3, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.
B. September 10, 2019 Special Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Morse, it was

19-09-240 “RESOLVED, to approve the September 10, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

Ayes – 5   Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. September 3, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Youker, it was

19-09-241 “RESOLVED, to approve the September 3, 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 Morse, it was

19-09-242 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Items #7A-7D for the September 17, 2019 meeting be approved as follows:

A. Approved Claims #78245 Through #78301 and Electronic Claims #1412 Through #1416 for Payment
   1. US Bank Payment in the amount of $5,116.87
B. Approved 2019 Bow Hunting Permits:
   1. Hans Henning hunting at 486, 470, and 467 Bear Avenue N
   2. Scott Flesch hunting at 3717 and 3781 Labore Road, 3827, 4107 Centerville Road, and 3985, 3993, 3999, 4011 and 4025 Clover Avenue
C. Authorized Termination of Firefighter Steven Jensen
D. Approved Submittal of an Application for a State-Funded Grant from the Minneapolis Foundation.”

Ayes – 5   Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None.
PRESENTATIONS:

A. Proclamation Recognizing Good Samaritans

Mayor Gunderson read a Proclamation Honoring Heroic Efforts of thirteen individuals whom saved a life. The Proclamation read as follows:

*Proclamation Honoring Heroic Efforts*

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2019, Vadnais Heights residents Steph and Michael Zeece noticed that a neighbor had collapsed in the street and was experiencing chest pains and difficulty breathing; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Zeece stayed with the neighbor, Ms. Zeece ran to alert neighbors Jon and Kimberly Hedger, paramedics, that a man had collapsed in the street and also called 911 (Kimberly is a paramedic with Allina and Jon is a chaplain student and long-time EMS with Life Link); and

WHEREAS, the Hedger’s began performing CPR (chest compressions and ventilations) as soon as they realized that the gentleman was in full cardiac arrest, and continued assisting after Ramsey County Sheriff’s Deputies Joe Stradinger, Norman Thurmer, Dustin Walsh, and Samantha Loe arrived on the scene; and

WHEREAS, they all continued to work on the gentleman until the Vadnais Heights Fire Department and Allina reached the scene and took over the life saving activities; and

WHEREAS, on that day, as a result of the Zeece’s quick response to the situation and the heroic efforts of the Hedger’s, Ramsey County Sheriff’s Deputies Joe Stradinger, Norman Thurmer, Dustin Walsh and Samantha Loe, Allina staff Christina Johnson and Steve Boos, and the Vadnais Heights Fire Department staff Ryan Eckert, Nate Krause, Matt Montain, David Bahl, and Mark Sheldon, a life was saved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heidi Gunderson, Mayor of the City of Vadnais Heights and on behalf of the Vadnais Heights City Council, hereby offer heartfelt thanks to Vadnais Heights residents Michael and Steph Zeece, Jon and Kimberly Hedger, Ramsey County Deputies Joe Stradinger, Norman Thurmer, Dustin Walsh, Samantha Loe, Allina staff Christina Johnson and Steve Boos, and the Vadnais Heights Fire Department staff Ryan Eckert, Nate Krause, Matt Montain, David Bahl, and Mark Sheldon for their professionalism and heroic efforts to make Vadnais Heights a safer place to live, play, work and do business.

B. Proclamation Honoring Firefighters, Police, Emergency Medical Staff and Military

Mayor Gunderson read a Proclamation Honoring Firefighters, Police, Emergency Medical Staff and Military. The Proclamation read as follows:

*Proclamation honoring firefighters, police, emergency medical staff and military*

WHEREAS, Congress and the President of the United States have designated certain dates of every year that honor and recognize those who have made sacrifices in order to safe guard our citizens and our beliefs and way of life; and

WHEREAS, too many firefighter, police, emergency medical service, and military volunteers and personnel have fallen while protecting the public in catastrophic events such as Nine Eleven, and

WHEREAS, Nine Eleven claimed the lives of 2,977 people including 412 emergency workers, (343 firefighters including a chaplain and two paramedics from the New York City Fire Department, 37
police officers from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Departments, 23 police officers from the New York City Police Department, and 8 emergency medical technicians and paramedics from private emergency medical services, and one patrolman from the New York Fire Patrol; and

WHEREAS, the number of victims continues to grow as the effects of the exposure of that event continues to kill responders who were on scene; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vadnais Heights recognizes and appreciates these noble individuals and acknowledges that others like them will continue to unselfishly make sacrifices in order to safeguard that which we hold dear.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heidi Gunderson, Mayor of the City of Vadnais Heights and on behalf of the Vadnais Heights City Council, hereby call upon all citizens to remember fallen firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services, and military personnel and volunteers who have made the ultimate sacrifices in their service to protect that which we hold dear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we thank all firefighters, police, emergency medical service, and military volunteers and personnel that continue to make Vadnais Heights a safe place to live, play, work and do business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Setting Preliminary Levy for 2020 and a Public Hearing

Finance Director Sundberg reviewed the proposed preliminary levy for 2020. The proposed levy would fund the general fund, 2009 Debt Service and the Capital Improvements Plan. He noted that any of the funds could be amended except for the debt service fund.

Council Member Urban said that it is important to note that the increase that we have is a small portion of the total tax bill that the residents will receive. Sundberg noted it was between 20-23% of their total bill.

Mayor Gunderson noted that the Council has been working on the 2020 budget for several months and that staff have reviewed the various components of the budget and how the funds are spent and are continuing to look at areas for improvement. She noted that action taken today is just to establish the maximum preliminary levy and that the Council will continue to refine the budget.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Urban, it was

#19-09-243 “RESOLVED that the Council establishes the date of December 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for the public meeting at City Hall to discuss the 2020 levy and budget and adopts the preliminary maximum gross tax levy payable in
2020 against taxable properties in the City of Vadnais Heights for the following purposes and amounts: General Fund - $4,079,381; Bonded Debt - $514,799; and Capital Projects - $300,000, for a total of $4,894,180.”

Ayes – 5  Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 734 – Subdivision Ordinance Amendments

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that there are two actions before the Council: 1) adopt Ordinance 734 concerning certain amendments to the Subdivision Chapter; and 2) approve a resolution for Summary Publication of the Ordinance. Wall noted that this amendment is before the Council as a result of feedback from residents and the Council. The proposed amendments are intended to bring this chapter of the Code into a similar format as the zoning sections, update language to be consistent with State Statutes and streamline the review process for certain requests. He said that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission reviewed the materials at their September meeting, and the Planning Commission discussed it at their July meeting and held a public hearing on it at their August meeting.

Wall said that the Planning Commission recommends that the Council approve the Ordinance Amendment as proposed, and that the Parks Trails and Recreation Commission had two minor changes.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#19-09-244 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts Ordinance No. 734 concerning certain amendments to the Subdivision Chapter; and approves a resolution for Summary Publication as presented.”

Ayes – 5  Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Consider Setting Tuesday, October 1, 2019 Workshop and Agenda:

City Administrator Watson noted that the next Regular Council Workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall and that the agenda will include an update from the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce about their programs and discussion of the Draft 2020 Budget will continue.
COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Farrell reported that the construction on Buerkle Road is nearly finished. He thanked the Council for taking action to repair that road. He noted that the work on McMenemy may soon be completed. He stated that work on the I-694/Rice Street bridge project continues and said that I-694 will be closed this weekend.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the Planning Commission meets on the 24th. And that the Garceau Task Force will hold its 5th meeting next week. At that meeting, the Task Force will be having a group discussion on development scenarios and the SWOT analysis process. He said that he is hoping that the Task Force will have a recommendation for the Council later in the year.

City Attorney Beckman noted that the Ramsey County District Court has changed its schedule and has changed the law enforcement center arraignments to morning sessions.

Fire Chair Leier said that today the Council recognized good Samaritans that saved a life and public safety responders for participating in that effort and also recognized 911 and the lifesaving efforts, hazards of the job and the dedication it takes. He said that the Council forgot to thank themselves, the policymakers that support those efforts.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that the Kohler Road Task Force met last week. An Alternatives Analysis was completed and the Task Force is recommending that the City do a more formal survey of the area. Sandvik said that he will bring more information about this to a future Workshop. Sandvik noted that the Heritage Days Committee held their wrap-up meeting and also that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission met this week. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 4.

Council Member Morse noted that the Vadnais Heights Community Foundation corn feed was well attended. He said that he has heard from a lot of the residents that they appreciate that organics collection is available in the City. He noted that he continues to reach out to folks about signing up for POLCO because it is important for the City.

Council Member Youker met with Public Works Director Farrell at the Aster Meadows site and did an inspection of storm water runoff. She also noted that VLAWMO has been selected to move forward to participate in the Section 319 Small Water Sheds Focus Program which is a MPCA partnership to create a focus and prioritized work plan to track and improve water quality.

Mayor Gunderson said that she attended the Kohler Road Task Force meeting. She said it was great to have so many people that live on the street attend and give feedback. She said it was great to see so many people show up for the Vadnais Heights Community Foundation corn feed.

City Administrator Watson thanked everyone that helped out with Vadnais Heights Community Foundation picnic when it was moved indoors due to weather.
A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Johnson at 7:51 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator