

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
OCTOBER 2, 2018**

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 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, City Planner/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Fire Chief Ed Leier, Finance Director Bob Sundberg, City Attorney Caroline Bell Beckman, Deputy City Clerk, Peggy Aho and Jeff Melcoch, Cable Producer.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Upon motion by Gunderson, seconded by Johnson, it was

18-10-158 “RESOLVED, that the October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Urban, it was

18-10-159 “RESOLVED, to approve the September 18, 2018 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Nyblom, it was

18-10-160 “RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda 7A-7C items for the September 18, 2018 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Approve Claims #76750 Through #76814 and Electronic Claims #1278 Through #1282 for Payment
- B. Approve Certification of Delinquent Utility Accounts
- C. Accept Donation to the VHFD from Resident, Deborah Savageau.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Proclamation: Minnesota Manufacturing Week – October 1-7, 2018 and Presentation
Ling Becker, VHEDC Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Minnesota Manufacturing Week and manufacturing in the City of Vadnais Heights. Becker highlighted a couple of manufacturers in the City. Mayor Fletcher said it’s great to have so many manufacturing businesses in our City and gave credit to VHEDC and former City Administrator Gerry Urban for their work in getting the businesses to locate in our City.

Becker gave an overview of the Gen Z Connections careers and skills manufacturing program to help connect young people with manufacturers. The program runs each summer. Students rotate through the participating businesses. Becker noted that VHEDC also sponsors a career expo each year with the schools and is doing an MEA sampler program where students will spend two days at various businesses (automotive, construction and manufacturing) to get some hands on experience.

The purpose of Gen Z Connections is to provide students with paid hands on learning opportunities. Program partners included the Minnesota Department of Labor of Industry and other industry partners (businesses and schools), and Ramsey County who was the employer of the students. The school foundation helped to fund steel toed shoes for the students and the program also received grants from Comcast and the Mold Craft and Builders Association. There were two groups of students: Team Milling and Team Molding which both rotated between 4 businesses. Bela Larsen, a student and Vadnais Heights resident, spoke about her experience in the Gen Z program this past summer. She said it was a chance for her to get exposed to the manufacturing side of business and it was a fantastic opportunity.

City Administrator Watson read the Proclamation: Minnesota Manufacturing Week – October 1-7, 2018 as presented for approval.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunderson, it was

18-10-161 “RESOLVED, by the Vadnais Heights City Council that the week of October 1-7, 2018 was hereby proclaimed Minnesota Manufacturing Week.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Consider Koehler Road Task Force Appointments

Mayor Fletcher said that the City has struggled for several years on trying to find a safe way for people to walk and or bike from Edgerton and Koehler Road. He noted that there is a shoulder that people bike on but no sidewalk and that makes walking somewhat complicated. Fletcher said that he believes it would be a good idea to get the kids separated from the cars and that may mean reclaiming some property.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that the right-of-way in the area varies in size and location. Fletcher said that there is some land behind the homes in that area that could potentially be used for a trail. He said that in hope of reaching some type of solution, the Council is putting together a Task Force. He noted that the Council is appointing 8 residents to the Task Force and he asked Council Members Gunderson and Nyblom to also be on the Task Force. He asked Council Member Gunderson if she would chair the Task Force. Gunderson agreed. Fletcher noted that the Parks and Rec and Trails Commissions will also be adding one person each to the Task Force and the school district has been asked to participate. He said that it is the Council’s goal to have a balanced work group.

Gunderson thanked the residents that have volunteered to be on the Task Force.

Upon motion by Nyblom, seconded by Johnson, it was

18-10-162 “RESOLVED, that the Council appoints the following community members to the Koehler Road Task Force: Dorie Olson, Larrie Pittelko, Charlie Evertz, Cindy Collova, Rick Halverson, Erin Florin, Lucie Passus and Michael Schmidt; and Council Members Gunderson (Chair) and Nyblom.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Approving Planned Unit Development for Meadow Brook Townhome Association

Planner/Community Development Director Wall said that the issue before the Council is to follow-up on discussion the Council had at its last meeting about sign placement at the Meadow Brook property. The Townhome Association is proposing to add a monument sign at the entrance. As previously discussed, they would be allowed to request an amendment to the Planned Unit Development agreement and with the amendment the sign could be located on the property line as depicted in the aerial photo which would be inconsistent with City Code requirements. He said that there would be a follow-up conditions as part of the amendment.

Wall noted that he had followed-up with the gentleman that spoke at the last Council meeting about the resident's concerns regarding the proposed sign placement. David Metkowski, 3206 Edgerton Street, the Townhome Association President, noted that the Association wants to put the sign up in hopes to deter people from going into the neighborhood because they think it is the way into a different development.

Upon motion by Johnson, seconded by Nyblom, it was

18-10-163 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Minor Planned Unit Development Amendment for the Meadow Brook Townhome Association with the following conditions:

- 1) A Development Agreement Amendment between the applicant, and all others with interests in the subject property, shall be entered into with the City, to be filed at the applicant's cost with the offices of the Ramsey County Recorder and/or Register of Titles;
- 2) Sign/Building Permit(s) shall be submitted for administrative review/approval, prior to the installation of any signage on the subject property; and
- 3) The proposed sign shall be located on the property boundary line, outside of city right-of-way, and shall not be illuminated.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Setting Tuesday, October 16, 2018 Workshop and Agenda

City Administrator Watson noted that at this time there is one item for the Workshop meeting and that is the Houston Engineering Survey of Drainage Ditches. He also

suggested adding an update by S.E.H. on the plan to improve drainage on Buerkle Road and a discussion of AFSA's planned expansion and the need to issue bonds through the City.

COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Finance Director Sundberg reminded the Council that the City set the levy at 3.4 percent. Sundberg had nothing else to report.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall had nothing to report.

City Attorney Beckman said that she will not be at the October 16 meeting, but Mr. Erickson will attend.

Fire Chief Leier had nothing to report but did say that the Vadnais Heights Fire Department paid honor to Joe Parise, State of Minnesota Correctional Guard, as the funeral procession passed through the City on 35E.

City Administrator Watson said that he and S.E.H. will be meeting with residents on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the proposed 2019 improvement projects. He also noted that the City will have to go back out to fill the city engineer position, sometime later this year, first part of next year, and that the new Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik starts on Monday, October 8.

Council Member Urban said that he had nothing to report.

Council Member Johnson said that he had attended the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee meeting where the Committee authorized doing a study of the planned project from White Bear to downtown St. Paul.

Mayor Fletcher said that he is holding a waffle eating contest for the candidates for City Council and Mayor and himself at the waffle breakfast on October 7.

Council Member Gunderson noted that the Taste of Northeast Youth and Family Services will be held next Thursday at the Commons. Tickets are still available. There will be 30 plus restaurants taking part and a silent auction.

Council Member Nyblom said that he had nothing to report and that he hopes to see everyone at the waffle breakfast.

ADJOURN MEETING:

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

APPROVED