

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
APRIL 6, 2021**

The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Acting Mayor Urban at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Acting Mayor Greg Urban, and Council Members: Patricia Youker, Steve Rogers and Erik Goebel.

The following members were absent: Mayor Heidi Gunderson

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Chris Hearden, Fire Chief; Caroline Beckman, City Attorney; and Peggy Aho, Deputy 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 Goebel, it was

21-04-057 “RESOLVED that the April 6, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 16, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-04-058 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the March 16, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

D. March 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-04-059 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the March 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. March 22, 2021 Goals Session Special Workshop Council Meeting

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

21-04-060 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the March 22, 2021 Special Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Rogers, it was

21-04-061 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7D for the April 6, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80440 Through #80509 and Electronic Claims #1610 Through #1619 for Payment
- B. Consider Approving Donation to Mounds View High School Senior Party Committee
- C. Consider Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Equipment
- D. Consider Entering into a Service Agreement with Elaine Schrade for Tai Chi Lessons.”

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Acting Mayor Urban opened the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Urban closed the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Planning Case 21-003: MSP Vadnais, LLC – Concept Planned Unit Development Plan at 3580 Arcade Street

Planning/Community Development Director Wall gave a presentation on Planning Case 2021-003 and the applicants request for a Concept Planning Unit Development at 3580 Arcade Street. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request last month. Wall reviewed the subject property which is to build an office building on the site area, guided as zoned and guided as City Center and the property is 7.04 acres. Wall said that the proposed use is permitted and is consistent with the 2040 Comp Plan.

Wall highlighted some of the flexibility that would be required as part of the PUD process. They are not proposing to subdivide the property, because they own the entire property but they are proposing to have two buildings with an underlying circulation drive and will stand along Arcade Street and the other property line near Midwest EMT. Wall reviewed the appearance of the proposed building, which will be similar to the Midwest ENT Building and Summit Orthopedics.

Wall noted that the applicant is requesting consideration for flexibility for the proposed signage and said it is consistent with other business signage in the area. Wall noted that this would be a single tenant building. They are requesting a reduced set back from Arcade Street and the reduced set back from the north line. They are also proposing a monument sign be located on Arcade Street and wall signs on the north and east sides of the building. Flexibility is being requested for that additional signs. Staff does suggest that the existing monument signs could be reduced to one sign with both tenants.

Wall reviewed the site plan which will include 262 parking spaces which is over built for the space that is being built. The proposed use on its own, would need 95 stalls. It includes parking stalls that are 18 feet in length, which is shorter than our standards. Not all the spaces will be the shorter length, some will be 19 feet, which will meet all our code requirements. They will be meeting all our access requirements and there will be no impact to the circulation. Following the public hearing, the Council is required to review the proposed plan and advise the applicant of any positive features or preliminary concerns including the staff recommendations and public comment as part of the PUD plan.

Acting Mayor Urban said that this project is a great addition to our City Center.

Council Member Rogers asked if this is primarily for outpatient care and asked if there are two entrance points, will there be a one way drive or will it go both directions. Wall replied that there are several ways to access the site and that staff does not have any concerns about circulation.

Rogers said they have two signs there now and one more sign would be over the limit. Wall said the code does allow for additional monument designs or free standing signs on the property but it's based on the frontal footage. Rogers then said we have to allow flexibility to allow three signs or a monument with all signage.

Applicant Steve Miller, MSP Commercial, all the site design elements presented were driven by the tenant, Minnesota Gastro.

Urban noted that he appreciates the investment they are making in our City and is very supportive.

Council Member Goebel asked about the adjoin parking lot with Summit, will it be fully utilized. Miller said they over parked that because Summit project has a single story wing. It's at 50 to 60 percent today. Goebel said he would appreciate them not building excess parking and avoid making impervious surfaces that will not be used. He also said that he likes the idea of combining the two signs onto one monument sign.

Urban said we need to respect that two different tenants might both want their own signage. He said he is supportive of the signage as proposed and that he also supportive of less impervious surfaces.

Acting Mayor Urban opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Urban closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Entering into the Closest Unit Dispatch Mutual Aid Agreement with Ramsey County

Fire Chief Hearden recapped the item before the Council for approval. He said that this Agreement would give Ramsey County the authority to track our apparatus/equipment and if there is an event near our border (structure fire, cardiac arrest or drowning) we would join the other communities. He noted that City Attorney Beckman has reviewed the contracts and had one minor change and the contract has been amended to reflect that change. He said that staff are looking for approval from the Council for the contract to be executed. Acting Mayor Urban noted that there was a fire in the City last week where mutual aid was needed as backup. Urban said he will support entering into this Agreement.

A motion was made by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-04-062 “RESOLVED that the Council authorize staff to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Ramsey County to provide for the automatic dispatch of the closest emergency response unit regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.”

Ayes - 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Consider Entering into a Reciprocal Emergency Services Agreement with Maplewood Fire Department

Fire Chief Hearden reviewed the item before the Council for consideration which is a Reciprocal Use Agreement with the City of Maplewood. Hearden said in an effort to provide the best emergency services and automatic response to structure fires, the Vadnais Heights and Maplewood Fire Departments request approval to enter into an agreement to make equipment, personnel and other resources available to both departments. Hearden noted that auto-aid agreements save valuable time in getting additional resources to a fire. He said that this type of agreement is in place with all neighboring fire department within Ramsey County and that currently the Vadnais Heights Fire Department has auto-aid agreements with Lake Johanna Fire Department, Arden Hills and this auto-aid agreement allows Ramsey County Dispatch to dispatch Vadnais Heights Fire Department into the City of Maplewood and vice versa.

A motion was made by Youker, seconded by Goebel, it was

#21-04-063 “RESOLVED that the Council authorize Mayor, the administrator and the fire chief to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Maplewood to provide for the automatic dispatch of the closest emergency response unit regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.”

Ayes - 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Consider Purchasing a Bucket Truck

City Administrator Watson reviewed the action before the Council which is authorization to purchase a 2022 Ford F-550 from Saxon Fleet Services for \$45,316.92 and a Utility Bucket attachment from Truck Utilities/Nesco Rentals for \$68,432. This equipment will replace Unit 108 which was assembled as a retrofit using a 1996 Chevrolet 3500 four door truck that was used as a first responder vehicle by the Fire Department until 2006. The responder body was removed from the chassis, a flatbed and a 37 foot aerial attachment was installed by Truck Utilities for just under \$30,000. Watson noted that this truck was not assembled to manufacturers specifications or safety guidelines for the use it is currently performing, rather it is a vehicle that was put together to fit an immediate growing need.

Watson noted that the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan includes the replacement of this bucket truck which will be used for a variety of ongoing maintenance tasks that include tree trimming along streets and in parks. This proposed purchase is to replace a vehicle that is from 1996 which was actually a fire rig at some point and the City retrofitted into a bucket truck. Watson said that this is an important piece of equipment for the Public Works Department.

Watson noted the reasons to approve this purchase are: it is 25 year old, its unsafe access to bucket, aging parts and repair needs, non-insulated boom, frequent use, non-conforming to current standards, better stability with outriggers, tool and supply storage state contract pricing versus used equipment prices.

Watson recommended that the City get the funding for the amount over the budgeted amount out of the CIP fund balance to shore up that gap.

Council Member Urban said that he supports this purchase. Council Member Youker said she also supports it.

A motion was made by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-04-064 “RESOLVED that the Council authorizes the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-550 from Saxon Fleet Services for \$45,316.92 and Utility Bucket attachment from Truck Utilities/Nesco Rentals for \$68,432.”

Ayes - 4

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik reminded the Council about the purchase of the new Recreation software and noted that they are also working on updating the City’s website as part of the process. The updates will raise the City’s compliance with ADA requirements. Sandvik asked Council members to let him know if they have any input on the website. Sandvik noted that they have implemented a Volunteer in Vadenais Parks program which they will be promoting in the coming weeks. He said that the Parks, Rec & Trails Committee meets on April 26 and the Heritage Committee meets on April 13. The CEC has been meeting for six months and will be coming forward with a recommendation at an upcoming Workshop.

Fire Chief Hearnden talked about the large devastating fire on Centerville Road last week. He thanked the local area fire departments that responded to assist with the fire. He noted that many local businesses and residents have approached Fire with offers to help those that have been affected. Hearnden said that the America Red Cross offers assistance, so that would be the best way to help by offering donations to the Red Cross.

Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that at the next Council meeting there will be a public hearing on the Bluebird Grove subdivision. He has been directing residents that wish to speak at the Public Hearing to the City’s webpage to sign-up prior to the meeting. Wall gave an update on local construction projects noting that the Moores Vincent Estates project has been doing significant grading. There have been several applications for new homes in the Mondello Shores project and he had heard that some of the lots are being purchased by current Vadenais

Heights residents. He said that they expect to see significant construction at the At Home site on McMenemy and 96.

Council Member Rogers noted that the Planning Commission met on March 23 and the major topic of the meeting was the Bluebird Grove project. He said that there were 16 to 20 residents the spoke. He said that the Planning Commission voted to recommend the project to the Council with conditions.

Council Member Goebel extended his gratitude to the fire departments that responded to the fire last week. He also thanked the Red Cross and the neighbors for their assistance to those that were affected. He thanked Jimmy Johns for providing food to those affected.

Council Member Youker also thanked the Fire Chief, the Fire crew and surrounding fire departments for their assistance during the fire and the residents and local businesses for their donations to those affected.

Acting Mayor Urban said again that he appreciates the Fire Department. Urban noted that several residents have reached out to him about the increase in vehicle break-ins in area parks. He said that the Council had previously discussed installation of cameras in the parks at a previous Workshop and he would like the City to work on getting cameras installed. He said that he hopes they will continue to discuss this and look at the cost of equipment, installation and maintenance.

A motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 7:51 p.m. Meeting adjourned.