

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MAY 4, 2021**

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, and Council Members Greg Urban, Patricia Youker, Steve Rogers and Erik Goebel.

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, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Chris Hearnden, 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

21-05-073 “RESOLVED that the May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 20, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-05-074 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the April 20, 2021 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. April 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Youker, it was

21-05-075 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the April 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Urban, it was

21-05-076 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7D for the May 4, 2021 meeting be approved as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #80555 Through #80607 and Electronic Claims #1625 Through #1629 for Payment
- B. Consider Approving a Lawful One-Day Gambling Permit for NWTF North Metro Longbeard’s Chapter at Jimmy’s Food & Drink on June 23, 2021
- C. Consider Authorizing a Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund
- D. Consider Approving a Service Agreement with USTA Northern for 2021 Adult Tennis Lessons.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Update from VHEDC – Liz Moscatelli

Liz Moscatelli, VHEDC Executive Director, gave an update on VHEDC business retention activities and said that she has been busy doing meetings with local businesses finding out some of their challenges or things they are working on. More meetings are scheduled. She noted that they have set up COVID resource/business information pages on their website. She said that Biz Recycling is still one of their major partners, and if businesses are interested in receiving a Biz Recycling grant she can get them information. Raising Stars Business Leader event will be held on June 2 at Jimmy’s. They have been continuing work on the HR resources with local businesses. Moscatelli noted that the

VHEDC Annual magazine will be coming out in June and there is their annual Golf event scheduled for June 21st at the White Bear Yacht Club, she said registrations are being done online.

She noted that they are still working through NE manufacturing education grant and they have had a lot of setbacks because of COVID but they are still working with schools to get work on it geared back up and working in the area of manufactured equipment. They are putting a lot of students in summer work camps that encourage students to go into manufacturing related careers and that goes through the summer. There are 17 North Metro Young Professionals this year.

Mayor Gunderson questioned about the BR and E, and asked if they have a number goals for the year, or is it difficult to get businesses to participate. Moscatelli said that she has committed to 10 for the year and they have done 9 right now, so one more to do.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Housing Program and the Issuance of Bonds for a Multifamily Housing Project (Lincoln Place and Vadnais Highlands Housing Project)

City Administrator Watson noted that the action before the Council is to give host approval for the Vadnais Highlands in Vadnais Heights and the Lincoln Place in Mahtomedi. This is an affordable housing project they are doing a reinvestment on. He noted that the Council gave preapproval in December and this is cleaning it up and giving Mahtomedi preliminary approval to issue the bonds outside their city limits and giving host approval.

Chris Maida, Trellis, Trellis, noted some of the benefits of this project and the scope is that it will be visible to the life of the residents. Each unit will get washers and dryers, dishwashers and replace all the mechanicals and adds better ventilation and they are also adding some amenities to the outside on the playground. New parking lots, new improved front decks, new landscaping and greenery. They are excited about it and appreciate the City's support.

Council Member Youker thanked them for the interest in our City and said that this will be very well received by the people that live there.

Mayor Gunderson opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Gunderson closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-05-077 “RESOLVED that the Council approves the Joint Powers Agreement for Lincoln Place and Vadnais Highlands to allow Mahtomedi to issue bonds for a project outside their City limits.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Youker, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-05-078 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution Giving Host Approval to the Issuance by the City of Mahtomedi of Conduit Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds on Behalf of Vadnais Lincoln Limited Partnership.”

Ayes - 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Case 21-008: Dave and Barbara Barrow Variance at 3651 Edgerton Street

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the applicant’s request for a variance to construct a porch and deck at their property located at 3651 Edgerton Street which is a single family dwelling with an attached garage. The existing condition is nonconforming and requires a variance from the rear backyard setback which is 25 feet. Wall reviewed the survey. He noted that the proposed improvements are allowed in this zoning district and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Wall noted that the City should support investment in residential properties that does not detract from the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Wall noted that the Planning Commission conducted a Public Hearing in April and recommended approval by the Council based on findings of fact and subject to conditions.

Mayor Gunderson said she can support the variance request as requested because it is a beautiful addition.

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

#21-05-079 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a Resolution approving the Variance Request as proposed in Planning Case 21-008 based on the findings of fact and subject to conditions.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Planning Case 21-006: 3291 Labore Road, LLC – Variance and Site Plan Review at 3291 Labore Road

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the application for two variances as well as site plan review to construct a new office-warehouse building. Subject property is zoned and guided industrial and is an allowed use in this zoning district and the proposed use is allowed. Wall reviewed the variance request which is for setback on a portion of the parking lot. Wall reviewed the proposed building materials, landscape and utility plans. He noted that staff are requesting a revised landscape plan. Wall said that the Planning Commission conducted a

Public Hearing and are recommending final approval by the Council based on findings of fact subject to conditions.

Council Member Youker asked if the holding ponds proposed would be on a maintenance schedule. Wall said when a project comes forward within Ramsey/Washington Metro Watershed District we don't have to include same level of conditions as we for a project within in a VLAWMO District because they have their own standards/requirements for properties within their District.

Mayor Gunderson said it is good to be as flexible as possible when people want to invest in the community and build on a vacant site.

Upon motion by Urban, seconded by Youker, it was

#21-05-080 “RESOLVED that the Council adopts a resolution approving variances and site plan review at 3291 Labore Road based on findings of fact subject to conditions.”

Ayes - 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

Council Member Youker thanked Scout Troup 494 for their community service project in Heritage Park last week. She also noted that VLAWMO met last week and their 2020 Annual Report has been posted on their website and on May 11 from 5 to 6 pm there is an upcoming event gaining skills and selecting steps towards pollinator friendly lawns and gardens.

Council Member Rogers noted that a week ago yesterday the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission met and will be starting to work on their 2021 budget and as part of that process they will be visiting the City parks. There have been about 50 trees identified in the parks that have been infected with emerald ash borer. A week ago tonight the Planning Commission met and there is an Arcade Street project coming before the Council that will have a number of variances including a signage variance.

Council Member Urban said that he hopes the Council will follow-up at the next Council meeting on Heritage Days. He said he just heard that marching bands will be allowed at parades this summer and he is hoping to get Heritage Days dialed in at the next meeting.

City Administrator Watson noted that the City is having its annual audit. He said it's a little more sophisticated this year because the City accepted the CARES act dollars.

Mayor Gunderson attended the NYFS Board of Directors meeting and May is Mental Health Awareness month. She also noted that the Ramsey County's Block Captains newsletter is saying that they are tentatively planning Night to Unite for August 3. She said this weekend is Mother's Day weekend and if you haven't done your shopping yet check out Merrick's plant sale on Friday and Saturday.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Youker at 7:41 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved