

State of Minnesota
Counties of Scott & Le Sueur
City of New Prague



City Council Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2009

Mayor Bender called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following members present: Bender, Bartusek, Betterton, Guerrette, Wilcox.

Staff Present: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Dennis Seurer, Renee Christianson, Mark Vosejпка and Mary Jo Hruby.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

City Administrator Mike Johnson reviewed the Emergency Services Center Building Project Change Order No. 7 with Ebert Construction. It amounts to \$7,505.00 to cover exterior electrical work at owner-provided generator, transformer and transfer switch.

It was moved by Wilcox and seconded by Betterton to approve Change Order No. 7 with Ebert Construction for the Emergency Services Building Project. All voted in favor of the motion.

City Administrator Mike Johnson informed the Council that the contractor is requesting and the architect is recommending the Emergency Services Building Project be accepted and that final payment is made. The one (1) year warranty period on the new building expires on April 10, 2010.

Randy Engel from Buetow and Associates stated it was a pleasure to work with all members of the City.

It was moved by Bartusek and seconded by Guerrette to accept the Emergency Services Building Project and approve final payment with Ebert Construction. All voted in favor of the motion.

City Planner Renee Christianson gave a presentation on the further study of the 10th Avenue SE pedestrian crossing. She reviewed the traffic studies at both the intersections at 9th Street SE and 3rd Street SE and the previously studied intersection at 5th St. SE. The City of New Prague has no adopted policy regarding the installation of pedestrian crossings or crosswalk locations. The City has adopted the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices but it does not offer guidance on where/when to install crosswalks. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has developed a guidance document for the installation of crosswalks. It is recommended that a minimum of 20 pedestrian crossings per hour (or 15 or more elderly and/or child pedestrians) exist at a location before placing a high priority on the installation of a marked crosswalk alone.

It was moved by Betterton and seconded by Wilcox to not put a pedestrian crosswalk on 10th Avenue SE at this time. All voted in favor of the motion.

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City Planner Renee Christianson informed the Council of a federal economic development grant to help off-set some of the infrastructure costs related to hospital development. Region 9 Development Commission has offered to write the grant application that would be seeking upwards of \$1,000,000 in grant money. They do charge a fee to cover their cost of services. The contract contains up to 40 hours of services @ \$35 per hour, plus reimbursable expenses.

It was moved by Bartusek and seconded by Betterton to approve contract with Region 9 Development Commission and authorize the transfer of up to \$1,600 from the General Fund - Unallocated Budget into the Planning Department -Professional Services Budget. All voted in favor of the motion.

City Planner Renee Christianson reviewed with the Council the Conditional Use Permit C2-2009 to allow a Church to locate at 1201 1st Street NE on Lot 5, Block 1, East Gate Plaza, in the B-2 Community Commercial Zoning District. New Day Church has a purchase agreement on the building which is currently owned by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. The building was constructed in 2001 and has been predominantly vacant for the past five years.

Council Member Guerrette asked if there will be a Monday through Friday day care at this church.

Doug Pint, Representative of New Day Church, stated the only day care would be during church services on Sunday.

It was moved by Wilcox and seconded by Bartusek to approve RESOLUTION #09-11-02-01 RESOLUTION OF THE NEW PRAGUE CITY COUNCIL GRANTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT C2-2009 TO ALLOW CHURCH TO LOCATE AT 1201 1ST STREET NE ON LOT 5, BLOCK 1, EAST GATE PLAZA IN THE B2 COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED BY NEW DAY CHURCH. All voted in favor of the motion.

Planning Director Ken Ondich informed the Council of an application received requesting the partial vacation of the drainage and utility easement located on Outlot A of the Eastland Development. The property is owned by Witt Development, Inc. Witt Development submitted a Concept Plan for review for a 1 lot and 1 Outlot development on the existing Outlot A of Eastland. This concept plan calls for the construction of a segment of 1st Street SE and a reconfiguration of an existing water retention pond on Outlot A. The existing water retention pond is covered by a large drainage and utility easement. With the reconfiguration of the pond, the drainage and utility easement can be reduced to the area south of the proposed 1st Street SE. A Public Hearing needs to be scheduled before the partial vacation of the drainage and utility easement can be approved.

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It was moved by Bartusek and seconded by Guerrette to approve RESOLUTION #09-11-02-02 RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PARTIAL DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT VACATION COMMENCED BY A PETITION OF ALL ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS. All voted in favor of the motion.

Planning Director Ken Ondich reviewed with the Council the concept plan review of Eastland #2 consisting of 1 Lot and 1 Outlot on approximately 2.6 acres in the B-2 Community Commercial Zoning District as proposed by Witt Development, LLC.

Public Works Director Dennis Seurer reviewed the 5th Ave. NW extension/regional pond construction project and approval of final pay request contingent upon the advice of the City's Attorney as to the disbursement of the final payment.

It was moved by Wilcox and seconded by Bartusek to approve the final pay request and to accept the project as completed for 5th Avenue NW Extension/Regional Pond. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Dennis Seurer reviewed the request for reduction of retainage for Chard Tiling and Excavating for the 2009 Street and Utility Improvement Project. They have satisfactorily completed all their work for 2009. There are no apparent quality, performance or warrantee issues.

It was moved by Bartusek and seconded by Betterton to approve the reduction of retainage for Chard Tiling and Excavating for the 2009 Street and Utility Improvement Project from 5% to 2%. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Dennis Seurer reviewed with the Council the sidewalk snow removal routes. Priority Route #1 is the first route that is completed after a snowfall event. Priority Route #2 is completed as time allows with limited staff and equipment available. Typically Route #2 is completed within 2 days of the snowfall event. Staff is recommending adding 5th Street SW to the City's sidewalk snow removal Priority #1 Route since it will complete the loop from Highway 21 to 1st Av. SE and adding the newly constructed walking path in Foundry Hill Park to the City's snow removal Priority #2 Route.

Council Member Guerrette asked about adding 9th Street SE along Settlers Park to the snow removal routes.

Mr. Seurer stated there are other parks that are not maintained and recommended that Staff take a look at it and then have it go to the Park Board for review. It would then be brought back to the Council.

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Mayor Bender stated concern with the snow removal in the Central Business District.

It was moved by Wilcox and seconded by Betterton to approve the amendment to the City's sidewalk removal routes by adding 5th Street SW to the City's sidewalk snow removal Priority #1 Route and adding the newly constructed walking path in Foundry Hill Park to the City's snow removal Priority #2 Route. All voted in favor of the motion.

City Planner Ken Ondich reviewed the Park Board projects and goals for 2010 which can be used for the City's general fund budget preparations.

Police Chief Mark Vosejпка informed the Council that the 2010 Squad Car was put into service, replacing a 2006 Crown Victoria. He asked the Council to declare the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria squad car as surplus property and decide on an option for disposal.

It was moved by Betterton and seconded by Wilcox to designate the 2006 Crown Victoria squad car as surplus property and keep as an in-house vehicle for use by City Hall staff. All voted in favor of the motion.

Police Chief Vosejпка reviewed the 2009 Dozinky Festival event. The Car Cruise was well organized and on schedule. The change in the Parade line up area worked well and the Parade was organized and on time as well. The Softball Tournament and other activities in Memorial Park went well. It was a good weekend and nothing really got out of hand.

It was moved by Bartusek and seconded by Betterton to approve the following consent agenda items:

- A. Approve previous meeting minutes
- B. Approve claims for payment.
- C. Approve Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for St. Patrick Athletic Association on January 29, 2010 at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Dennis Seurer invited the Council to the neighborhood meeting for the 2010 Street and Utility Improvement Project on November 12th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Director Ken Ondich informed the Council that the CapX2020 Public Meeting will be at Lonsdale American Legion on November 12th from 1-4 P.M. and 5-8 P.M. The formal hearing will be at the New Prague Park Ballroom on December 9th from 1-5 P.M. and 7-10 P.M.

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Council Member Guerrette stated she attended the League of Minnesota Cities Conference and found it very interesting. She also indicated the possibility of the Council Members having a City email address rather than using their own personal email.

Council Member Wilcox informed the Council about a School Board Member contacting her if the City would be interested in forming a committee together on recreation facilities.

Mayor Bender stated he would like to see City Newsletters going to Business people that do not get them.

It was moved by Betterton and seconded by Wilcox to go into closed session at 8:47 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.06 (Labor Negotiations Strategy). All voted in favor of the motion.

The following went into closed session: Mayor Bender, Council Members Bartusek, Betterton, Guerrette, Wilcox, and City Administrator Mike Johnson.

The City Council came out of closed session at 10:32 P.M.

Motion by Council Member Bartusek, seconded by Council Member Betterton, to have the City Administrator prepare the 2010 Budget with the following wage/benefit parameters:

1. No Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the 2009 Wage Schedule for 2010. (wage freeze).
2. Provide for eligible annual position step increases to be included in 2010.
3. Health Insurance Changes for 2010 to include changes in deductibles from \$1,200 to \$2,250 for single insurance and from \$2,400 to \$4,500 for family insurance; increase cost sharing on monthly health insurance premiums to 90%/10% split for single/family insurance in 2010, with the possibility of going to 85%/15% in 2011 and to 80%/20% in 2012.
4. No change to the City's annual VEBA contribution for single/family health for 2010, but attempt to align the union/non union-contribution to the non-union amount.

After discussion, all voted in favor of the motion.

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There being no further business, it was the consensus of the Council to adjourn at 10:35 P.M.

W. A. Bender, Mayor
City of New Prague

ATTEST:

Michael J. Johnson
City Administrator