

*City Council Proceedings*

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

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City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Mayor Nickolay called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Nickolay, Ryan, Bass, Seiler, and Wolf.

Staff Present: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Glen Sticha, and Barb Ulschmid

Others Present: City Engineer Chris Cavett

It was moved by Seiler, seconded by Ryan to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried. (5-0)

City Engineer Chris Cavett provided a timeline overview on the TH19/ Main Street 2020 Improvement Project (which includes full roadway and utility reconstruction of Main Street between TH21 and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE). As the project manual and bidding documents are finalized for publication, the subject revisited is how to best manage and encourage substantial completion of Main Street, (west of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE/SE) prior to Dozinky weekend. This is a sensitive issue having the west portion of the project substantially complete and available for possible use and pedestrian safety during the Dozinky weekend is important to the community and for many of the businesses on Main Street. City Engineer Cavett asked the Council to consider the use of an incentive clause in the construction contract.

An incentive would be provided for substantial completion of the project between TH21 and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE/SE with enough time in advance for New Prague Utilities to finish the installation of the street lights on that segment of the project prior to Dozinky weekend. After recent discussions with MnDOT District 7 Management, MnDOT has offered to match a City incentive 50/50 up to \$25,000 for a total potential combined incentive of \$50,000.

After discussion, it was moved by Nickolay, seconded by Bass to propose use of an incentive clause in the project construction contract. This would be done in cooperation with MnDOT and the City's share of the obligation would be \$25,000. All voted in favor except Councilmember Seiler who voted no. Motion carried. (4-1)

Mayo Clinic Emergency Medical Services provided the Council with a presentation and overview of their ambulance operations/services. North Memorial had provided their presentation at the January 7, 2020 Council meeting and have been the ambulance service from 2010 to the present. These presentations were intended to be informational and for discussion purposes only. The contract for Ambulance Services and Building Lease Agreement would cover May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2025.

Presenting on behalf of Mayo Clinic Emergency Services were James R. Hebl, M.D., Regional Vice-President of Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS), Paul E Drucker, R.N., Senior Director of Mayo Clinic Ambulance and Brad Schoenbauer, Community Board Member of Mayo Clinic Health System-New Prague. Mr. Schoenbauer talked about healthcare in New Prague from a

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Community Board Member's perspective. Stated if Mayo wouldn't have partnered with Queen of Peace Hospital 9 years ago, the hospital would have closed. Dr. Hebl explained that MCHS is committed to offering more and more services locally and the importance of an integrated EMS System and the Home Hospital Concept. Mr. Drucker provided details on the quality of service Mayo Clinic Ambulance and EMS could offer to the New Prague Community. The Council was reassured they would be able to make a smooth transition from North Memorial to Mayo by May 1, 2020 for continuance of service.

As a follow up to Mayo's presentation, there were two residents who asked to comment. Ron McBroom, 711 1<sup>st</sup> St SE and Vern Oraskovich, 713 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE. Both shared their concerns as to why they would not want Mayo to take over the Ambulance/EMS services not only because of the quality of service, but also because of the expense and not allowing the patient to go where they want to go if out of the Mayo network. Highly suggested having a public forum before a decision is made.

Mayor suggested putting this topic on the next Council agenda for further discussion on both North Memorial's and Mayo's informational Emergency Medical Services presentations and determine what direction they want to pursue for future Ambulance Services and which will best serve the need of the New Prague Community.

Planning/Community Development Director Ken Ondich presented to the Council an introduction of amending Ordinance No. 309 relating to animal regulations. Staff has been increasingly experiencing confusion and questions about the City's current dog license ordinance relating to the time period in which the license is valid which currently states that all dog licenses are due "annually" on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April. The confusion is that licenses are not valid for a calendar year time period and the April 15<sup>th</sup> due date is not an easily identifiable date for renewal. City staff suggested that the renewal period should run concurrent with the calendar year instead.

Another topic of concern relating to this ordinance is the control of animal feces, not only for dogs but also for cats. Staff was looking into drafting an ordinance amendment to add cats to the ordinance language. In discussion Bass mentioned that the ordinance amendment should not only include dogs and cats, but expand to all domestic animals. Between 180-210 dog tag licenses are issued each year at a current cost of \$10 (with a cost of \$5 for replacement tags).

It was agreed by the Council to make the registration date change to January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and also expand the ordinance amendment regarding feces control to include all domestic animals, not just dogs and cats. The Staff will make the updates and present at the February 3 2020 Council meeting.

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Public Works Director Glen Sticha shared his concerns regarding the misuse/abuse of the compost site located at 1503 Columbus Ave. N., just east of the New Prague High School. This compost site has been available to residents of New Prague to get rid of their grass clippings, tree brush and leaves for years. Many years ago it was only open during the day Monday through Friday. Since approximately 2001 to the present, this site has been open 24/7. Initially, this schedule seemed to work well and only periodically found garbage within. In the past few years, Public Works is noticing that it is becoming more of a dumping site. Staff is also confident that homeowners from outside the City limits are utilizing this site as well. Public Works Staff have caught people from outside City limits utilizing this site and actually arguing that they have a New Prague address and trying to justify why they should be able to use it.

Maintaining the Compost area is a time intensive process. Public Works Staff spends time rolling the leaf piles over on a regular basis which eventually turns into a fine dirt that could be used as top dressing on lawns if it was screened and treated for weeds. It's getting to the point that there is too much of this dirt and are running out of room. There is no resale value because every nearby recycling center does the same thing.

The other issue is the tree brush and logs. In the past, the City had hired chipping companies and get rid of the wood chips for about \$2,000. This year was impossible to find anyone who would take care of this at a reasonable price instead were asking \$7,000 to \$10,000. This year's pile was the biggest pile seen in a number of years which is surprising because we didn't have any major storms. This year staff had no choice but to burn the brush because there were no extra funds to chip the pile and the space was needed for dumping snow. Burning is a problem because there are homes and schools nearby. Had to wait for one of those rare wind-free days and needed continuous monitoring for 24 hours which took employees away from other jobs during a busy time of the year.

Director Sticha contacted local communities with open compost sites to see if they had similar problems and how they handled. There are only two local communities that offer a compost site to their City residents and they are Lonsdale and Montgomery. Those without compost sites pay their garbage hauler or haul it to places like the SMSC Organics Recycling facility owned by the Mdewakanton Sioux Community or The Mulch Store. Both of these facilities charge \$8-\$12 per cubic yard. SMSC does offer a few Sundays in the spring and fall they can dispose of yard waste for free.

No actions were taken at this meeting but discussed options to alleviate these problems. Council suggested to mention in the City Newsletter. Mayor and Council suggested looking at options that don't require a person to sit at the compost site, (cameras, badges, fences, signage).

City Administrator Mike Johnson provided an overview on the appointment of Municipal Trustees to the New Prague Volunteer Firemen's Relief

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Association and inquired who the Council would like to serve on this board. In accordance with MN Statute 424A.04 Subd. 1, the City shall have three (3) designated municipal representatives that serve as Trustees which historically have been: an Elected Municipal Official (Mayor), an Elected or Appointed Municipal Official (City Administrator) and a Chief of Municipal Fire Department (Fire Chief). The official term of the Appointed Municipal members is a one year term or until the person's successor is qualified, whichever is later.

These individuals involvement is related to working with the Relief Association relative to the certification and the City's contribution to the Relief Association. Annual report on how the Relief Association's Assets have done as far as growth in the past year is reviewed annually. In July is when they get the form from the Fire Department as far as the analysis that they do on the Relief Association that determines what the City's financial contribution should be for the following budget year. Wolf suggested including these annual appointment approvals with the others within the January meeting's agenda.

After discussion, it was moved by Seiler, seconded by Ryan to approve the City's three representatives as the Mayor, City Administrator and Fire Chief. All voted in favor, motion carried. (5-0) Also, noted this will be included in the annual appointees agenda in first meeting of January.

It was moved by Nickolay, seconded by Bass to approve the following consent agenda items:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. January 7, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting and January 13, 2020 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Claims for Payment - January 21, 2020
- C. MN Lawful Gambling LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling (Pull-Tabs) for New Prague Firemen's Relief Association on Feb. 21, 2020 at Knights of Columbus at 411 4th Avenue SW, New Prague
- D. MN Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit (Raffle) for New Prague Veterans Memorial event on Feb. 22, 2020 at the New Prague Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Avenue, New Prague
- E. MN Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit (Raffle) for New Prague Ducks Unlimited, Chapter 263 event on March 6, 2020 at the New Prague Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Avenue, New Prague
- F. MN Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit (Raffle) for New Prague Baseball Booster Club event on May 16, 2020 at the Memorial Park Baseball Stadium, 400 Lexington Avenue S., New Prague
- G. Purchase of an Industrial Tractor Mounter Snow Blower - Glen Sticha, Public Works Director.

All voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

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Miscellaneous Items:

Kirby Johnson - Mayo Hospital Administrator commented per Mr. McBroom's and Mr. Oraskovich's comments earlier this evening. Available to the Council on anything they heard and any questions they may have. Wanted to make sure that the Council is OK with the way he and the Mayo Clinic as a whole have handled the information appropriately. If there are any concerns, to please let him know. Also, in their thought process and research, he doesn't want anything they are doing to restrict them from understanding what their service would look like. Offered to a draft agreement so they can compare apples to apples with North Memorial's services. Would like to invite Staff and Councilmembers to take a tour of the medical center, especially the Emergency Department. Would like to provide an opportunity for them to see what it's like at Mayo on a day to day basis. Commended North Memorial and the good job they are doing. The prehospital and hospital relationship is important and don't want this to come between them and communication remains a focus. Whatever their decision, Mayo will continue to contribute to the well-being of our community/residents and anyone who accesses healthcare.

Glen Sticha - Provided an update on the Biosolids Fire that occurred on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at the far west side of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There will be discussion with the engineers at Bolton & Menk and the appropriate level of technology or other needs to address this situation that occurred.

Mike Johnson - Asked the Council if it was OK to hold a Special Council Meeting to review the Personnel Policy on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Council agreed this date and time worked.

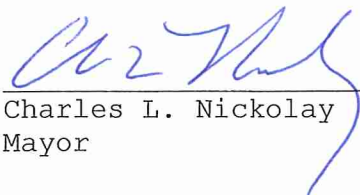
Shawn Ryan - On behalf of the NP Orioles, inquiring on the change with the 3.2 liquor license potentially being discontinued. Shawn to contact Mike and discuss.

Chuck Nickolay - Towards Zero Death (TZD) - Confirmed that Rik Seiler is the Council representative for this committee.

Following discussion, it was moved by Nickolay, seconded by Seiler to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:58 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

ATTEST:

  
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Michael J. Johnson  
City Administrator

  
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Charles L. Nickolay  
Mayor

