

City Council Proceedings

1479

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

}

City Council Meeting
Monday, August 2, 2021

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

Staff Present at Meeting: Jim Gareis, Ken Ondich, Matt Rynda, Patty Solheid and Barb Ulschmid

Others Present: City Attorney Scott Riggs (On-Line) and Financial Advisor Terri Heaton, Baker Tilly (In-Person)

Mayor Jirik asked if there were any additions to the Council agenda. There being none, motion by Ryan, seconded by Bass to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Mayor Jirik explained the need to appoint an Acting City Administrator (Deputy Clerk) should the City Administrator be out of town or absent due to a disability, a topic discussed at the last City Council meeting. City Attorney Scott Riggs was present online for the meeting and strongly encouraged to appoint an Acting City Administrator with the consent of the Council which hasn't previously occurred. City Administrator Mike Johnson is retiring on August 20th and the new City Administrator Joshua Tetzlaff does not start until August 30th. Mr. Riggs suggested this agenda item be implemented this year and should also be added from this point forward to the Annual Appointments line item of the City Council Agenda to be reviewed/approved annually at the first Council meeting of each year. Discussion took place on the wording of the City Charter 6.01 and MN State Statute 412.151.

Mayor Jirik recommended Planning/Community Development Director Ken Ondich be appointed to this role being he works so closely with the City Administrator. Motion by Ryan, seconded by Seiler to appoint Ken Ondich as the Acting City Administrator. All voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Planning/Community Development Director Ken Ondich presented a request for a partial vacation of public drainage and utility easement for applicants Sarah & Matt Thompson at 1418 12th Street SE. The vacation would reduce the current 20' drainage and utility easement to 10'. The reason the applicants are looking to vacate the north 10' of the existing 20' southerly drainage and utility easement is to allow them to keep an existing above ground pool in place. The Thompsons' purchased the property earlier this year and it was determined during the closing process that the above ground pool, a deck attached to the above ground pool and sport court were all located within a portion of the rear drainage and utility easement and were recently installed without permits. During city staff's (Planning/Public Works/Engineering) review of the violations, it was determined that the existing 20' drainage and utility easement was not necessary going forward and could be reduced to 10' from the rear (south) lot line which is typical of rear drainage and utility easement areas.

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Since the Introduction of the Ordinance, the public notice was published in the New Prague Times and notices were mailed directly to utility companies so they could provide comments on the vacation request. There were no concerns from any utility company.

Mayor Jirik officially opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m. and allowed for public comment. There being no public comment, motion by Seiler, seconded by Wolf to close the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Motion by Seiler, seconded by Wolf on the adoption of *ORDINANCE #323 VACATING A PORTION OF A CERTAIN DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT IN THE PLAT OF PRAGUE ESTATES EIGHTH ADDITION*. All voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Terri Heaton, Financial Advisor with Baker Tilly presented to the Council an overview on the review and approval of a Resolution awarding the sale of \$5,465,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021A. The \$5,465,000 in bonds would be sold and the proceeds would be used to finance \$5,005,000 for Utility Improvement Project/Assessments/Central Plaza Development Projects (15 years) and \$460,000 - Water Building Expansion (15 years). Other background information shared included details on Standard & Poors Bond Rating and Official Statement (OS), Bid Results of Bond Sale and Resolution Awarding the Sale.

Ms. Heaton provided an overview of the seven bids received on the City's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021A. The lowest bid on the bonds was from Robert Baird, Inc. at 1.19%. She also reported on the bond rating from S & P Global Ratings dated July 28, 2021. The City retained its "AA" Long-term rating with an outlook that is stable and overall, a very positive report. The Resolution Awarding the Sale also had all of its blanks filled in with the final numbers from the bond sale.

After discussion, it was moved by Bass, seconded by Ryan to approve *RESOLUTION #21-08-02-01 AWARDING THE SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2021A, IN THE ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$5,465,000; FIXING THEIR FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS; DIRECTING THEIR EXECUTION AND DELIVERY; AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PAYMENT*. All voted in favor, motion carried. (5-0)

Public Works Director Matt Rynda provided an update on the TH 19 / Main Street Reconstruction Project (2020-2021 CIP) on behalf of City Engineer Chris Cavett, not present at this evening's meeting. The road closure has now extended to east of 7th Avenue SE, which is the end of the project. Last week, completed all the removals of the black top and curb. This week, working on storm pipe from Pershing to Lexington, should be finished by Thursday and at that point will switch to Sanitary from Lyndale to 7th Avenue. Upon completion of Sanitary (early next week), will switch to the Water Main and Services. Hope to have all the pipe work completed by August 16th. Also, light bases being installed this week along with conduit and pulling wire, should finish this week. Majority of sidewalks up to Suel Printing done by next week. The project is going well and continues to be a bit ahead of schedule.

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Mayor Jirik asked if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda. There being no questions, motion by Wolf, seconded by Seiler to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. July 19, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes and July 19, 2021 Special Closed City Council Meeting
- B. Claims for Payment - August 2, 2021
- C. 5th Ave. NW Traffic Concerns - Public Works Director Matt Rynda
- D. Satisfaction of Community Development Program Repayment Agreement for PID 24.007.0230 - Planning/Community Development Director Ken Ondich
- E. New Prague Area Education Foundation 2021 Brain Power Walk/Run for September 11, 2021 - Police Chief Jim Gareis
- F. Amend the Liquor License for the Expanded Permanent Patio Area at the Giesenbräu Bier Co. Outdoor Biergarten - Planning/Community Development Director Ken Ondich
- G. Approval of Dance Permit for Schultzy's Restaurant Group dba 1319 Woodfire Tavern

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

Miscellaneous Items:

Shawn Ryan - Brought up some concerns about the east side ramp of Humble Pie and discussed with Staff.

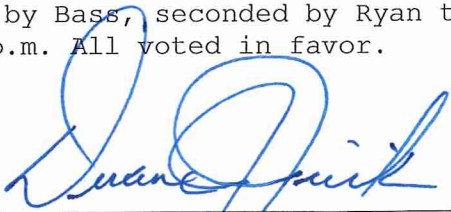
Bruce Wolf - Inquired about the City's strategy with Ash Trees and Ash Borer insects already destroying Ash trees in surrounding communities. Mr. Rynda shared that the trees are checked monthly by the Parks Dept. and so far, no trees have been identified with this insect. This question will be added to the upcoming Park Board agenda. Discussion on putting together a plan for a grant write up was discussed as well.

Duane Jirik - Discussion took place about a group in town collecting signatures for a new post office.

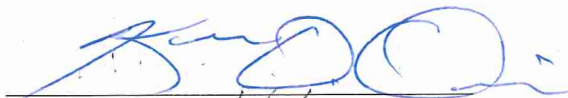
Shawn Ryan - Shared that there are street signs on the west side of 10th Avenue that are really faded, especially if you are heading north. Mr. Rynda will look into replacing those signs. Explained Public Works had ordered a bunch of signs a couple weeks ago. Each year there is a budgeted amount for signs.

There being no additional business, motion by Bass, seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:37 p.m. All voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

ATTEST:



Duane J. Jirik
Mayor



Kenneth D. Ondich
Planning/Community Development Director

