

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



City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Mayor Nickolay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Nickolay, Jirik, Ryan, Tuma  
Absent: Bruzek

Staff Present: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Glen Sticha, Jim Gareis, and Mary Jo Hruby

It was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Ryan to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion except Bruzek who was absent. (4-0)

Planning/Community Development Director Ondich reviewed the Summary of 2015 Growth Statistics Report. The number of new single family construction permits decreased from 30 in 2014 to 21 in 2015. Value of the constructed single family home permits decreased by approximately \$1,416,576 from 2014 to 2015. The average new construction single family home values increased from \$184,408 in 2014 to \$195,984 in 2015. For the ninth year in a row, there were no townhomes or multifamily housing units constructed. The number of commercial/industrial permits fell slightly from 26 in 2014 to 18 in 2015. The value of commercial/industrial permits decreased from \$1,125,990 in 2014 to \$510,128 in 2015. Some projects that were completed in 2015 including but not limited to interior alterations at Busch Brothers, building addition in the Industrial Park for Rahn Industries, new concession stand for the Baseball Field and new windows at Raven Stream Elementary School. It is noted that for 2016 the State is retaining review and permitting authority for the indoor pool addition and the larger renovations that will be going on at the CEC building in the middle school. We will not be seeing that as revenue or permit data for New Prague locally. The State has authority to keep the revenue at state level. School projects and hospital projects the State will hold onto. We will have small permit authority on these projects such as reroofing, windows, boilers etc.

Planning Director Ondich reviewed the annual commercial building audit and vacant lot inventory. There have been 15 new business openings in New Prague and the immediate area, by either new business start-ups or businesses moving into New Prague; there have been 19 business closings/changes (closings means actual business closings or moving out of New Prague and changes means changes in ownership, name changes, change in business location within the City, changes in services, or expansions). There are 34 vacancies of various commercial spaces/lots. New businesses include: Farmhouse Market, Shopko Hometown, Awesome Blossoms and Gifts, South Metro Homes, Tracker Management, a used vehicle consignment lot, Rahn Industries, CVF Raceing, Brusseau Diversified Wealth Management. Some notable changes include: The Broz Hotel and adjacent building and vacant lots are under new ownership, Pauly's Pub was purchased and became Whiskey Business, Vintique moved to a larger location on Main Street, Second Skin Tattoo closed, Secure Base Counseling Center is renovating a vacant space for expanding operations, Fishtale Grill is under new ownership, Domino's remodeled. Mr. Ondich reported on the vacant lot inventory for industrial, commercial and residential properties.

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There are a total of 223 residential vacant lots available to build on.

Discussion was held on the process to review future needs of the outdoor swimming pool and future needs for community athletic facilities.

The outdoor pool will continue to be used in 2016 providing there are no major breakdowns. There needs to be further discussion on what to do with the outdoor swimming pool long term and what the Community wants.

The Council sees a need to interact with the New Prague School Board in collaborative discussion concerning the need for additional baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, etc. facilities to ensure that any facility duplication could be avoided and that any facility cost sharing could be explored.

The Council will continue discussion on the outdoor swimming pool and the community athletic facilities at the February 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

It was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Ryan to approve the following consent agenda items:

- A. Approve previous meeting minutes
- B. Approve claims for payment
- C. Approve monthly financials

All voted in favor of the motion except Bruzek who was absent. (4-0)

It was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Jirik to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion except Bruzek who was absent. (4-0)

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Charles L. Nickolay, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael J. Johnson  
City Administrator