

City Council Proceedings

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

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Special City Council Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2021

Conducted via GoToMeeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which is preventing attendance at the regular meeting location.

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

Staff Present Online: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Jim Gareis, Matt Rynda and Barb Ulschmid

Others Present Online: City Engineer Chris Cavett and Patrick Fisher.

Mayor Jirik asked if there were any additions to the Council agenda? There being none, motion by Bass, seconded by Wolf to approve the Agenda as published. By roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

City Engineer Chris Cavett provided an update to the City Council on the TH#19/Main Street Reconstruction Project (2020-2021 CIP). Mr. Cavett explained the need to modify the existing contract by deducting (\$43,551.79) via Change Order No. 12 and a resolution. The deduction/savings is to provide compensation for the cost of materials and labor for the attempted installation of the powerline casing which had to be abandoned after the realization during the jacking pit excavation where timber obstructions would be encountered within railroad right-of-way during installation operations. An improvised alternative to cross the tracks utilizing the void space in the storm sewer casing, resulted in net savings and proposed reduction in the contract for this work.

The planned cost to install the necessary lighting and fiberoptic conduit across the tracks was \$76,800. The obstruction under the railroad and the need to be creative, resulted in successfully installing said conduit for a reduced cost of \$33,248.21, or a net savings to the contract of (\$43,551.79). This cost and contract savings is part of the City's share of federal funding on the project.

Motion by Bass, seconded by Wolf to approve *RESOLUTION #21-03-15-01 TH#19/MAIN STREET 2020 CIP RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT DIRECTING MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 12.* By roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Planning/Community Development Director Ondich presented an Introduction of amending Ordinance No.321 relating to the possibility of having an indoor firing range in the City. In reviewing the inquiry, staff determined that the Zoning Ordinance did not adequately address indoor firing ranges and researched the topic which resulted in a concept review and public hearing review

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with the Planning Commission for a potential zoning ordinance amendment.

The Staff and Planning Commission are recommending: Defining indoor firing ranges; Listing indoor firing ranges as a conditional use in the I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District; Providing for a set of modern performance standards specific to indoor firing ranges to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those in the range and those outside the range. Director Ondich explained that the Planning Commission conducted a "concept review" of the proposed amendments on January 27, 2021 which was followed by a public hearing on February 24, 2021. No public comments were received at the public hearing and the Planning Commission voted 4-0 to recommend that the City Council approve the amendments.

Director Ondich shared that the language in the proposed ordinance differs slightly from the proposed language in the staff report as the Planning Commission revised performance standard #2 by adding churches and schools and removing the distance limitation between indoor firing ranges. Councilmember Bass pointed out item 7c within the Ordinance, "A photocopy the individual's permit to carry a dangerous weapon." Bass explained a person doesn't need a Conceal and Carry permit to utilize a shooting range and "dangerous weapon" is not accurate because that refers to more than a firearm. Bass suggested deleting this line item as it's unnecessary and would limit the shooting range to only those with a permit to carry. All Councilmembers and Staff agreed. Bass also noted a word change from "are" to "at" within Section 1. Staff will take care of these updates. Other discussion involved noise concerns, soundproofing and location of this facility. City Administrator Johnson explained that just because there are vacant industrial lots doesn't necessarily mean that's where this facility would be located.

After discussion, motion by Bass, seconded by Seiler to approve the INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #321 AMENDING SECTIONS 302, 611 AND ADDING SECTION 745 OF THE CITY OF NEW PRAGUE ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO INDOOR FIRING RANGES including the removal of "are" to "at" and the removal of section 7c. By roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

City Administrator Johnson provided updates on the City of New Prague's 2021 General Fund based on previous actions taken by the City Council to reduce various liquor licenses for 2021 due to Covid-19. At the January 5th and February 16th, 2021 City Council meetings, budget adjustments to the liquor license for 2021 were made and decreased Liquor License Revenue from \$34,100 to \$16,500. Other budget adjustments included: Money was allocated thru fund balance at the end of 2020 for Office Equipment - Mobile Field Force, \$11,000 and Squad Car Dash Camera's for the Police

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Department, \$18,308; also, at the February 16th meeting Council approved for Staff to move forward with the purchase of a video system for the Council/Board Commission meetings and conference room video cameras in the amount not to exceed \$77,848

Motion by Jirik, seconded by Ryan to approve RESOLUTION #21-03-15-02 AMENDING THE CITY OF NEW PRAGUE'S 2021 GENERAL FUND. By roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Mayor lead the Council through details Staff provided including a summary of four (4) qualified proposals from "Executive Search Firms" who submitted their proposal(s) to assist in the recruitment of the next City Administrator. Council agreed on the importance of this process due to how vital this position is to the City of New Prague and its residents. Councilmembers also agreed they want a Professional process that would lead the Council to a conclusion whether the candidate is internal or external.

Discussion took place on the proposals submitted by: Baker Tilly US, LLP - St. Paul, MN; DDA Human Resources Inc. - St. Bonifacius, MN; GOVHR USA - Cottage Grove, MN; and The Mercer Group, Inc. - Mendota Heights, MN. Due to the lack of MN hires, the Council decided to remove GOVHR USA from the interviewing process and focus on the remaining three. To keep the process moving along, the Council agreed to schedule the on-line interviews for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. City Administrator Johnson to provide the Council and Recruiter (once selected) a complete listing of his benefits on what he was provided and compare to what will be asked for by the applicants.

Mayor Jirik asked if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda. There being none, motion by Seiler, seconded by Wolf to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. March 1, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Claims for Payment - March 15, 2021
- C. MN Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit (Bingo & Raffle) for New Prague Ducks Unlimited, Chapter 263 event on April 9, 2021 at the New Prague Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Avenue, New Prague

By roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Miscellaneous Items:

Ryan - Asked if the streetlights on Main Street will all be replaced? Discussion took place on whether the used lights could be purchased. Council can decide whether or not they want to make those available and will revisit this topic.

Wolf - Inquired if there is clean fill left over from the Main Street project, could that be used in the Industrial Park area vs.

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paying for it to be shipped away? City Engineer Cavett provided his concerns on this and said unless there is a grading site plan, he wouldn't recommend. Wolf said instead of hauling clean fill away, save the money and find a place in the City where it could be needed. Mr. Cavett said he would look into this and follow up with the Council. Also, discussion took place on a Dog Park. Asked Staff if Council could get an estimate as to what it would cost to get a Dog Park? Mr. Ondich said he would provide an update on the cost should volunteers want to get a project like this going. Previous discussion did take place on this topic and will revisit. Relying on volunteers to maintain a location like this is a concern and was why it was voted down years ago.

Chris Cavett - Mentioned SEH will be holding two, virtual town hall meetings on the Main Street project for business and property owners on Thursday, March 18th at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Encouraged all to sign up for the Main Street project email and text reminders if they haven't done so already. Go to the project website on the City of New Prague website to locate this information.

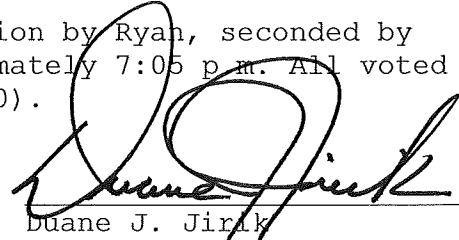
Mike Johnson - With the passage of the Federal Legislation, there will be money going to the States and possibly to the Counties and Cities called the American Rescue Plan Recovery Funds. Mike will be finding more about this and will be sure to share with the Council when available.

There being no additional business, motion by Ryan, seconded by Jirik to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

ATTEST:



Michael J. Johnson
City Administrator



Duane J. Jirik
Mayor