

City Council Proceedings

1185

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

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City Council Meeting
Monday, July 1, 2019

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

Staff Present: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Bruce Reimers, Jim Gareis, and Barb Ulschmid.

Others Present: Police Officer John Madigan and NPAS Superintendent Tim Dittberner

It was moved by Wolf seconded by Ryan to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried. (4-0)

Mayor Nickolay presented a plaque to John B. Madigan recognizing him for serving the City of New Prague as Police Officer in the New Prague Police Department. John's honesty, integrity, dependability, compassion, and ability to communicate has enabled him to provide outstanding service to all members of the community and with the Police Department. John's work experience over the past 21+ years will be tremendously missed. John will be retiring on June 28, 2019. Superintendent Dittberner read a letter of appreciation to Mr. Madigan from the New Prague Times.

It was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Seiler to approve *RESOLUTION #19-07-01-01 RECOGNIZING JOHN B. MADIGAN*. All voted in favor, motion carried. (4-0)

Police Chief Jim Gareis asked the Council for their approval on the appointment of Ms. Jessica S. Thorp as a Police Clerk-Typist. Ms. Thorp will replace Sue Roushar after working 25+ years for the City of New Prague, leaving a vacant position. Due to this retirement, City Staff advertised for a Police Clerk-Typist position. Chief Gareis provided background information on Ms. Thorp with the recommendation to hire Jessica Thorp for the position at Step 1 of the structured pay schedule on grade 3 at \$21.74 per hour. She would also receive 120 hours of vacation (Step 5) in the New Prague Employee Handbook with a start date of July 16, 2019. It was moved by Seiler, seconded by Nickolay to appoint Jessica S. Thorp to the Police Clerk-Typist position as recommended. All voted in favor, motion carried. (4-0)

Planning/Community Development Director Ondich introduced a rezoning ordinance of a property that was recently annexed into the City Limits (initiated by City Staff) that contains the Belzer Addition and the Mahowald Addition. Per the City's Zoning Ordinance, all properties that are annexed are automatically zoned RL-90 Single Family Residential until permanent zoning is adopted.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended (4-0) that the City Council rezone the property described in the staff report which makes up the Belzer dealership properties from RL-90 Single Family Residential to B-2 Community Commercial which will match the City's Comprehensive Plan. Any time property is rezoned, it must be completed by ordinance. The Ordinance rezoning the property also required posting at the City Hall and on the website prior to final consideration by the Council.

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After discussion, it was moved by Seiler, seconded by Ryan to approve the first reading of **Ordinance #306 Rezoning Certain Properties from an Interim RL-90 Single Family Residential Zoning District to the B-2 Community Commercial Zoning District** located in the Plats of Belzer Addition and Mahowald Addition. All voted in favor, motion carried.

(4-0)

Councilmember Ryan raised a question about updating the population numbers on the City of New Prague entrance signs to the community. Public Works Director Sticha responded that MNDOT typically changes the population number when the census number changes (about every ten years), but generally not every year! MNDOT historically hasn't wanted the city to change the numbers themselves. City staff said that they could look into the matter with MNDOT to see if they would allow city staff to change the population numbers. After discussion, motion by Councilmember Ryan, second by Councilmember Seiler to add the population change number to the MNDOT entrance signs to the city. All voted in favor except Councilmember Wolf who abstained. Motion carried (3-0-1)

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

- A. June 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Claims for Payment
- C. Authorization to Attend 2019 ICMA Conference
- D. Payment of Severance Benefit to John B. Madigan
- E. Approve Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Temporary On-Sale 1-Day Liquor License for Ribfest on August 2, 2019.

All voted in favor, motion carried. (4-0)

Miscellaneous Items:

Bruce Reimers - Talked in greater detail regarding the 40-minute power outage on Saturday, June 29th and again this morning while doing some testing. Determined to be some oil monitoring sensors on the new transformer that are either wired improperly or are defective. Engineering staff coming out tomorrow to do more research on this issue. Also, with extended power outages, the City Hall's phone system gets overloaded with calls. City Hall is the common hub for all the city-owned fiber (Utilities, Waste Water, etc.). As a result of this, realize the backup power supply is not where it should be anymore, need to investigate this issue and resolve. Reimers has a meeting set up with the local phone company tomorrow (Tuesday). Ryan asked about a backup power supply, who would pay? Currently the City Hall does not have one. Did communicate the outage through Facebook.

Ken Ondich - 1. Revisited a question Shawn Ryan had brought up at the Planning Commission meeting last week regarding the Hope House moving temporarily to Holy Trinity and the requirements for that facility. Ondich stated from the legal stand point with the State of MN, being it's a religious institution to house in a temporary fashion they can house these types of programs with the plan. Plan to use former classrooms for the overnight stays. The City's, Fire Marshall and Building Inspector did a walk through, some updates/changes were recommended (nothing major).

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Will need to do a final walk through once the updates are complete. Limit of 23 people per visit and shared other State rules. Conditions similar to those used for the Hope House. CUP not required. 2. Shared updates being done with the Coborn's expansion that include: 8,100 sf liquor store addition on the east side; the addition of a Caribou Coffee; full renovation on the interior; expanded produce and bakery areas. Estimated completion date for liquor store is later fall and the remaining by the end of the year. 3. Electromed Project - structural beams are up. 4. Braith Auto - structure is up and out of the ground. 5. Belzer's rezoning well under way, they have a final wetland permitting process that's for the City Utilities getting installed out there. 6. Roundabout at Alton - Still waiting for I&S Engineers from Witt Development to finish up their design. Final plans to be completed by July, so should receive soon and get wrapped up.

Mike Johnson - 1. 2019 Street Project is moving forward. Trying to get all the underground piping for storm, sewer, manhole replacement completed. One small section of water line that needs to go in. Glen Sticha mentioned previously that they are going to start paving on July 8th on CR37. All of this is pending weather which has been a challenge. 2. Tomorrow Staff has a Rating Call with Standard & Pooors to go through information on Bond Rating. The last issued bonds were in 2014. 3. June 26th closed on the Staber vacant lot located next to Pioneer Saloon. Central Plaza Committee have one of their first meetings next week where they will begin brainstorming on what will go into that lot. 4. Attended League of MN Cities Conference in Duluth. 5. July 18th - July 28th Mike will be out of the office.


Shawn Ryan - 1. Do food trucks have to carry any licensing, any fee to pay the City to serve? Johnson stated the City does not regulate food trucks if they are on private property. Ryan asked the Council if the City should have some sort of permit fee? Council would like more background on this topic. Ondich indicated he already has information on this topic and will put into a report for the Council. 2. What is the ordinance for residents that leave their furniture along the street? Ondich indicted the City gives them two weeks and if the items aren't picked up by then, the City sends that home owner a letter.

Following discussion, it was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Seiler to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:38 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. (4-0)

ATTEST:



Michael J. Johnson
City Administrator


Charles L. Nickolay
Mayor

