

# City Council Proceedings

908

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

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City Council Meeting  
Monday, August 7, 2017

Mayor Nickolay called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Nickolay, Ryan, Bruzek and Jirik. Maggie Bass joined the Council after the Oath of Office.

Staff Present: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Glen Sticha, Bruce Reimers, and Jim Gareis

It was moved by Jirik, seconded by Bruzek to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. (4-0)

Mayor Nickolay introduced Margaret (Maggie) M. Bass as the Council's appointee to fill the "Temporary Council Vacancy" left by former Councilmember Jenna Tuma until a Special Election is held on November 6, 2018. Ms. Tuma's term of office was originally scheduled to cover January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020. City Administrator Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Maggie Bass and she took her seat on the City Council.

With Maggie Bass's appointment to the City Council, she also needed to be appointed to the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for a term that coincides with her respective term of office as a Councilmember (to be addressed at a Special Election on November 6, 2018). Motion by Ryan, seconded by Jirik to approve RESOLUTION NO. 17-08-07-01 APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER TO THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

Following Maggie Bass's appointment to the Council, Mayor Nickolay reconsidered the Council Appointments to the various City Boards and Commissions. After discussion, Mayor Nickolay recommended Maggie Bass be appointed to the Park Board, Amy Jirik to the Planning Commission, and Chuck Nickolay to the Golf's Board. Motion by Ryan, seconded by Bruzek to approve the Mayor's Appointments as recommended. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

Police Chief Gareis introduced two individuals who were appointed as Police Officers for the City. Mr. Zak Ambroz was appointed effective June 1, 2017 and Mr. Neil Flum was appointed June 19, 2017. Both are presently in their Field Training processes. Mayor Nickolay administered the Oath of Office to both Police Officers. The families of both officers were recognized.

Planning Director Ondich provided a brief overview of a proposed new Veteran's Memorial Wall in Memorial Park by Dalelyn Means / New Prague VFW and Legion. Present for the discussion was Ms. Dalelyn Means, George Tupy, Paul Busch, Dan Bisek, and Ms. Andrea Means Lehman.

Mr. Tupy provided an overview to the Council about the reasons that the City should consider a site for this new Memorial just east of

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the Library and adjacent to and south of Main Street due to the visibility for the Memorial.

Mr. Ondich explained the City Staff's prior work with Ms. Means on various possible sites for the Memorial in and around Memorial Park dating back to 2014. On the proposed site currently under discussion are issues relating to existing City utilities - 6" sanitary sewer line; 28" clay storm sewer line; and a 12" clay storm sewer line; and a large electrical feeder line by the sidewalk on Main Street.

There was discussion that a site of 50' by 60' was being requested for the Memorial, but it might only allow a 40' x 50' site due to utilities and needed future construction easements.

Staff concerns regarding utilities, preserving park space for youth activities and a potential land lease to address maintenance of the Memorial, snow removal, insurance, future engravings, vandal repairs, etc. needs to be addressed.

There were various renderings provided by Ms. Means for the Memorial and a projected cost estimate of \$225,000 for the Memorial. Ms. Andrea Means Lehman provided background information on the Memorial with an estimate of 3 to 5 years to get prepared and possibly tie in with the 2020 Main Street Reconstruction Project. Their group is looking to move forward with a possible site and a volunteer committee with local veteran's from the New Prague area.

The Council was generally favorable with the proposed site, but recognized concerns related to locating utility lines and the need for a detailed site survey. After additional discussion, a motion by Nickolay, seconded by Bruzek to direct City Staff to investigate the site on Main Street and obtain a survey of the utilities so that a future decision on the site could be made by the Council. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

Planning Director Ondich introduced Ordinance #299 which Amends Section 711 of the Zoning Ordinance Relating to Accessory Buildings and Structures. The Planning Commission had discussion on May 24, June 28 and July 26, 2017 concerning residential accessory structures specific to allowed accessory building height, construction methods and recent change in the State Building Code concerning structures 200 sq. ft. and under.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 28, 2017 on proposed amendments including exempting structures 200 sq. ft. and under from getting a building permit (in accord with the State Building Code); restricting accessory building height to 15' or under (versus current regulations that allows them as tall as the principal structure on the lot); and to allow all construction methods if they can meet building code requirements. At the July

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26, 2017 Planning Commission meeting, information was provided that the MN Residential Code does have minimum standards for roofing and siding which staff noted would provide the necessary minimums for construction if "pole type buildings" were continued to be allowed. Mr. Ondich reviewed the specific changes in the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes. Significant discussion occurred with the Council on various questions related to the proposed ordinance changes, impacts to neighborhoods, and with the various codes. Following discussion, a motion by Jirik, second by Ryan to introduce ORDINANCE #299 AMENDING SECTION 711 OF THE CITY ZONING ORDINANCE RELATING TO ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0).

City Administrator Johnson provided background information on the proposed Administrative Coordinator position and the application process that was narrowed down from about 40 applications for the position. Staff recommendation was to hire Ms. Barbara Ulschmid from New Prague for the position at Step 4 on the Compensation Plan at \$23.57/hour with a start date of August 28, 2017. Motion by Nickolay, second by Ryan to appoint Barbara Ulschmid to the Administrative Coordinator position as recommended. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

City Administrator Johnson discussed with the Council possible meeting dates in August '2017 to review and discuss projects for the 2018 Budget and in September '2017 to adopt the Preliminary 2018 Property Tax Levy. The Council discussed the August meeting with the idea of reviewing the Goals/Vision/"Big Picture" items for 2018 and beyond. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to select August 28, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. to have this discussion at City Hall.

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

- A. July 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Claims for Payment
- C. Temporary On-Sale 3.2 Liquor License for Rick Tietz Alumni Classic Softball Tournament on September 16 & 17, 2017
- D. New Prague Area Education Foundation 2017 Brain Power Walk/Run for September 9, 2017

All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

Mayor Nickolay asked if there was any updates from Staff and the Council.

Utilities General Manager Reimers gave an update on Water Operator interviews, electric lineman position advertised and Electric Solar Garden Open House by SMMPA in Owatonna.

Public Works Director Sticha provided an overview on the MNDOT white fog line on Main Street on Highway #19. Purpose is to show 11'drive

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lines on highway and range of widths for parking (9' to 12') from MNDOT in the future. The "Czech Out New Prague" event was staffed by MNDOT, SEH Engineers, and City Staff and had about 20 visitors to the booth on the future 2020 Highway Project. Mr. Sticha also discussed that the light towers at 1<sup>st</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> base were taken down at the Memorial Park Baseball Project. He also gave an overview on the irrigation project for the baseball renovation project. Quotations for the project came in at between \$29k - 31K, more than the budget which was at \$20k. Due to the need to stay within budget, revisions to the proposed irrigation project would be needed. He has a quote from Rynda Construction at \$8,300 (labor and materials) to work with City Staff to fix the primary irrigation problems areas. The Council concurred with the recommendations.

Planning Director Ondich indicated that Kelly Holden resigned from the Park Board. There is a youth position open; and Amy Jirik would be off the Park Board after serving for many years.

Councilmember Ryan indicated that the Swim Club was willing to donate a U.S. Flag to be displayed at the new Aquatics Facilities. The Council was ok with the donation. The proposed facility grand opening is being scheduled for the second week in October.

Councilmember Bruzek noted he would not be in attendance at the August 21, 2017 Council meeting.

Councilmember Bass thanked the Council for her welcome to the City Council.

Councilmember Jirik inquired about the outdoor patio furniture at the new Aquatic Facility. Staff indicated that the furniture delivery had been delayed, but was expected soon.

It was moved by Nickolay and seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. (5-0)

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Charles L. Nickolay,  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael J. Johnson  
City Administrator