

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 5:00 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Dave Heinen and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, Fran Ramler, and Doug Schmitz. Absent: None. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jason Blum, Jon Stueve, Sam Butler, Lynn Schurman, Ken Kraemer, Gary Traut, Dan Weber, Eric Boucher, Jessica Green, Derek Hoium, Jason Frank, Gary Heidertken, and Angie Mueller.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE JANUARY 24, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

B. Nicolas P. Koenig HERO Foundation, LG220 Application for Exempt Permit, for a Raffle to be held February 2, 2024 at The Great Blue Heron

C. Stearns County Thunderin' Toms Application to Conduct a Raffle, Form LG220 – March 25, 2024 at 305 5th Ave S at The Great Blue Heron

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mayor Heinen opened the public hearing at 5:02 p.m. Jessica Green from Northland Securities presented the Capital Improvement Plan and explained the process for issuing CIP Bonds. She also discussed leased revenue bonds that could be issued by the EDA but advised that more interest is paid on that type of bond versus general obligation bonds. She also discussed the next steps in the process including the 30 day reverse referendum, an election if necessary, or the issuance of bonds if no objection petitions are filed. Mayor Heinen called three times for those wishing to speak, after hearing and seeing none, the hearing was closed at 5:21 p.m. He then read a proposed resolution adopting the capital improvement plan and providing preliminary approval for the issuance of bonds thereunder. There was no motion to approve the resolution, after which the Council discussed the matter further and indicated that they would like additional time to consider the plan. They briefly discussed gathering more input from the public hosting a workshop that would be more widely publicized. They also stated that they would like to see if there are any ways to trim the building costs and discuss the building with the townships to determine their contribution to the building since the fire department provides services to their residents too.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO RE-OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AT 5:26 P.M. AND CONTINUE THE HEARING TO MARCH 13, 2024. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE HOLDING A WORKSHOP SESSION ON JANUARY 31, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FIRE HALL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

SAFETY CONCERNS WITH INTERSECTION OF RED RIVER AVE & MAIN STREET

Lynn Schurman stated that many members of her staff and herself have experienced issues as pedestrians crossing at the intersection of Red River Avenue and Main Street. She stated that one of her employees was recently hit by a vehicle when crossing at the intersection. She stated she wasn't sure what the solution is, but she wanted to bring her safety concerns to the Council's attention. Chief Blum stated he has been discussing the intersection with the Stearns County Highway Department and they are looking into making changes to the timing of the traffic signal lights, so that they remain red in all directions if the pedestrian crossing button is pushed, and remain red for the duration of the walk indicator light. He also stated that Jodi Teich is also looking at what other capabilities the signal has for programming. The Council was supportive of changing the timing of the lights so that pedestrians can safely cross the intersection and requested that the change be made immediately if possible.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ATTORNEY AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dockendorf explained that new agreements are needed since there was a change to a different firm for the City criminal prosecution at the start of the year.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04, A RESOLUTION APPROVING JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ATTORNEY AND THE COLD SPRING POLICE DEPARTMENT. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

HWY 23 MNDOT TURNBACKS

Dockendorf stated that MNDOT had only recently realized that the turnbacks from after Hwy 23 was widened in 2002 were never recorded. She offered that unresolved water issues along 3rd Avenue South and Cityview Road is likely one of the reasons it was never completed. She presented two maps for discussion of the MNDOT turnbacks. She stated the first map contained the turnbacks that MNDOT was proposing that didn't make sense, specifically in the area of 3rd Avenue SE, which consisted of portions being turned back to Wakefield Township and portions to the City. She stated that Wakefield Township and the City mutually agreed and have drafted a proposed letter requesting that MNDOT revise the turnbacks as proposed in a second map.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO ACCEPT THE HWY 23 MNDOT TURNBACKS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF, AND TO REQUEST MNDOT TO REVISE THEIR TURNBACK MAP AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ENTITLED "PROPOSED TURNBACK". MOTION PASSED 5-0.

3RD AVENUE SE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Stueve explained that it will likely be several months before the City will receive a response from MNDOT about the turnbacks. He suggested that the 3rd Avenue SE project be postponed until the turnbacks are figured out to provide clarity on ownership and splits of property. Stueve also mentioned an upcoming opportunity for a federal grant that pays 100% of the cost for sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO HOLD OFF ON DESIGN AND RECONSTRUCTION OF 3RD AVE SE UNTIL THE MNDOT TURNBACK ISSUE IS RESOLVED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Updates

Stueve explained that the log cabin at Pioneer Park has been demolished. He discussed vandalism at the Pioneer Park warming shelter and damage to the ice at the skating rink. He stated he checked with Safeguard Security and they will be installing the security cameras soon.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A. Proposal for Civil Design of Maintenance Building

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM STANTEC FOR CIVIL DESIGN FOR THE MAINTENANCE BUILDING PROJECT AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$14,500. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Project Updates

Butler stated that the pre-construction meeting for the Lift Station #1 Rehab project is set for February 7th. Butler explained that he had put together rough numbers for the Main Street West Reconstruction project. He and Stueve explained that there are old utilities from the 1960's in the western most two blocks of the project and that instead of a mill and overlay as originally planned, a full reconstruct would be needed for those areas. He gave a rough estimate of \$1.4 million for the cost of the project and that it would be hard to get the project designed, bid and completed yet in 2024. The Council agreed that there would be no sense in rushing into the project now and that they would hold off on it until 2025.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Updates

Chief Blum stated that extra patrols have been going on at the intersection of Red River Avenue and Main Street. He also stated there is a potential for grant funds for a dynamic speed signal on Highway 23. He stated the program is for populations less than 5,000 and that the City would be responsible for maintenance costs after installation. The Council inquired about the potential maintenance costs but indicated they were supportive of the program.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. CSAH 2 Letter of Support for Active Transportation Grant

Dockendorf explained that Jodi Teich from Stearns County Highway Department had contacted her about the traffic calming measures being proposed for Co Rd 2 just east of the Rocori Campus property. She reminded the Council that due to the results of the speed study, traffic calming measures were required to keep the speed limit at 40 mph in this area. She provided a map that showed the proposed changes including additional sidewalks, two push button pedestrian walking signals, and a pedestrian refuge island in the middle of the roadway. Stueve added that Stearns County is willing to increase their plowing area on Co Rd 2 south, to the roundabout intersection so City plows do not have to navigate around the refuge island.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE SUBMITTING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STEARNS COUNTY’S APPLICATION FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR CSAH 2 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

COMMISSION UPDATES

A. Planning Commission

Councilor Hennen stated that the Spartan Fields developers discussed plat possibilities for mixed use, and that Peter Nagel was sworn in as a new member of the Planning Commission.

B. EDA

Councilor Ramler stated that they discussed Main Street grants and the upcoming Builders Breakfast that the EDA consultant Michael Munson will be facilitating on February 23rd, giving the public an opportunity to meet the City’s Building Inspector.

C. Park Board and Rocori Trail Board

Mayor Heinen stated the Park Board did not meet and Councilor Schmitz stated the Rocori Trail Board did not meet either.

D. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee

Councilor Fall stated that at their last meeting the group agreed that it was time to dissolve the committee, that they had no tasks to do, and that attendance has dwindled. Fall reminded the Council of the training, and events that were held by the group and thanked the volunteers, especially Tina Barak for her dedication to the group.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO DISSOLVE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$110,575.07 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$7,446.60 AS PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO ADJOURN AT 6:37 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

David Heinen, Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator