

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 6:30 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Dave Heinen, and Council Members Jayme Knapp, Shannon Miller, Doug Schmitz and Gary Theisen. Absent: none. Others present: Brigid Murphy, Jason Blum, Brian Lintgen, Jon Stueve, Tammy Paczkowski, Jeff Reitmeier, Jean Sauer, Arthur Bueckers, John DeLozier, Jen Laudenbach, Nick Laudenbach, Mike Hansen, Steve Weber, Josh Hagg, Sara Hagg, Kevin Stueve, Susan Richards, Trent Dilks, Rita Hennen, Josh Kern, Heidi Stalboerger, Jason Torborg, Lawrence Theis, Jane Dukowitz, Wayne Fink, Cynthia Fink, Paul Fink, Damian Hennen, Sue Feldhege, Marv Soldner, Mark Backes, Ann Krueger, Ted Krueger, Joann Thelen, Judy Gertken, Bill Molitor, Jeff Miller, Susan Svihel, Bob Svihel, Jessica Fuchs, Brett Anderson, Daniel Nathan, Kate Bechtold and Angie Mueller.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Rita Hennen informed the Council about the Cold Spring Area Historical Society's annual meeting on October 22, 2019 at 6 pm at the Cold Spring American Legion.

Bruce Hall expressed his disappointment that there was no landowner support for the removal of the Cold Spring Dam. He invited the Council to participate in a fish survey that his class would be doing with the DNR in November.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes – September 5, 2019 Budget Meeting and September 24, 2019 Regular Meeting
- B. St. Peter & Paul Parish – LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling November 2, 2019 at The Great Blue Heron

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

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE OLD GLORY RUN

Trent Dilks presented a request to hold the Old Glory Run in the City of Cold Spring in 2020. He explained that the event had been held in Cold Spring for the first eight years and then for the last three years in St. Joseph. He explained that the event raises funds for Disabled American Veterans to provide free transportation for veterans to the VA in St. Cloud. He stated they hope to revitalize the event by bringing it back to Cold Spring.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY THEISEN, TO APPROVE THE OLD GLORY RUN ON JUNE 13, 2020 PROVIDED THAT THE ROUTE IS APPROVED BY THE COLD SPRING POLICE CHIEF AND THAT ORGANIZERS OBTAIN A LARGE GATHERING PERMIT. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

COUNTY ROAD 158 RECONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENT HEARING

Mayor Heinen opened the improvement hearing at 6:40 p.m. City Engineer Brian Lintgen gave a presentation on the proposed project. The following audience members spoke at the hearing: Art Bueckers, 1106 1st St S – stated concerns about the narrowed roadway and the heavy trucks that travel on it. He asked if it could be posted as no truck traffic. It was explained that it is a county road and anyone can travel on it.

Mike Hansen, 1002 1st St S – stated concerns about the heavy truck traffic, it was explained that the new roadway would be a ten-ton road and that it would be designed to handle that type of traffic.

Mark Backes, commented on the road weight compared to Co Rd 2 and if there would be weight restrictions in the spring. Jeff from Stearns County Highway Department stated that all county roads are built for ten tons.

Brett Anderson, 717 1st St S – stated concerns about the costs for the project and the income levels of property owners on the project. He stated with the state of the economy now it is not a good time to do the project.

Bill Molitor, 805 1st St S – asked questions about the bonding process for the City and the 1.5% bonding rate.

Marv Soldner, 1109 1st St S – asked about the life expectancy of the road and about installing a stop sign on 1st Street South at the intersection with 14th Avenue.

Damian Hennen, 524 1st St S – asked about the boulevard trees and if they would be replaced, Lintgen explained the tree replacement procedure.

Josh Hagg, 913 1st St S – asked about running the sidewalk all the way to the curb so there is no space between the two. Lintgen explained that the boulevard serves a purpose of providing a buffer for safety and a space to store snow. He also asked about assessment deferment for those with a limited income.

Susan Richards, 905 1st St S – asked if the homeowners got to chose between grass or gravel for their boulevard replacement as she felt grass looked way better. Lintgen explained all boulevards would be seeded in grass.

Mark Backes, asked how the interest rate for the assessments are determined. Murphy explained that it is determined during the bonding process.

Wayne Fink, 24 10th Ave S – stated that he felt there should be a vote taken with the homeowners to gauge interest in the sidewalks being tight against the curbing instead of having a boulevard in between. Paul Fink agreed.

Damian Hennen, 524 1st St S – asked if there was an estimate for the cost to replace the private lines from the right of way to the house. Lintgen explained that once the project gets started information would be shared on contractors who could be contacted to do that replacement piece privately.

Daniel Nathan, 721 1st St S – commented about having to pay extra for a ten-ton road. Lintgen explained how the center 24 feet of roadway is being paid for by Stearns County.

Kevin Stueve, 711 1st St S – asked if Stearns County would be paying for any of the utilities, Lintgen explained that the County will be contributing to the costs of the road and a portion of the stormwater.

Art Bueckers, 1106 1st St S – asked about bringing sewer services up the hill on 1st St S and about annexing other properties outside of the City limits on Co Rd 158. Lintgen explained that the stubbing in the services to the Backes property is a cost that will be paid entirely by Backes. Murphy stated that the landowners would need to petition the City to request to be annexed and that only properties abutting the city could be annexed.

Kate Bechtold, 612 1st St S – commented about sewer line problems she has had in the past which her contractor said was due to the depth between her sewer line and the road surface, and that heavy truck traffic was impacting it. Lintgen explained that the truck traffic on the new surface will not impact her sewer line.

Jason Torborg, 1221 1st St S – inquired about the 429 Statute and if there is a cap to the assessment amount. Lintgen stated that if the project goes out to bid, and the bid results are too high the Council can decide to not move forward with the project. He stated the assessment policy is in place to make the assessment percentages fair for the property owners.

Brett Anderson, 717 1st St S – commented that the County Road is used by more than just the residents that live on it, he felt the assessment amounts were too high and that the amount should be spread more to others.

Bill Molitor, 805 1st St S – inquired about the assessment policy and was in favor of buyers being able to assume the assessment at time of the property sale, instead of it needing to be paid in full at the time of sale.

Kevin Ward, 418 Main St – commented about the width of the boulevard not being wide enough to store snow, if he will be getting a bigger pipe size since his property is commercial and if there is a maximum number of times a property can receive an assessment.

Susan Richards, 905 1st St S – stated that she had bought her property in June and was not informed by her realtor that this project would be upcoming.

Steve Weber, 1233 1st St S – also inquired about the number of times a property can be assessed as he received as his property is on a corner lot and received an assessment for a different project in the last few years. Murphy stated she would look into the matter and get back to those property owners who are in this situation.

Mike Dukowitz, 1013 1st St S – asked about having access to his driveway during the construction project as he has only one way in and out. Staff explained that the contractors will make sure that property owners have access to their property at the end of each day.

John DeLozier, 1217 1st St S – commented that there are sections of the road that are still good and to let it go.

Lawrence Theis, 1225 1st St S – also commented that the road is in good condition from 12th to 14th Avenue.

Marv Soldner, 1109 1st St S – commented about hardships and deferments for those age 65+, Murphy stated that the assessment policy is available to review at City Hall and could be put on the website.

Mayor Heinen called three times for additional public comment, after seeing and hearing no more, he closed the public hearing at 8:09 p.m. Councilor Schmitz stated he was in favor of the 10-foot parking lanes and the 11-foot driving lanes as presented on the project, even though it feels tighter he didn't want for the parking lanes it to be any narrower. Councilor Knapp added that by narrowing the road, hopefully it will encourage truck traffic to take a different route and use Highway 23 instead of Co Rd 158.

ORDER PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF CSAH 158 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24, A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE IMPROVEMENTS AND PREPARATIONS OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE “COUNTY ROAD 158 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT”. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Monthly Reports

Chief Blum presented a monthly report for August 2019.

B. AED Save Stations

Chief Blum stated a committee is being formed to oversee the fundraising for the installation costs for the Save Station Project. He stated the committee would be comprised of one council member from each Richmond and Cold Spring, the Chamber of Commerce and Advocates for Health. He stated that the installation costs for a stand-alone unit are \$5,000 and \$2,700 for the installation of a wall mount unit. He also stated that there are yearly maintenance costs that will need to be paid after the first two years, which is approximately \$360 per year, per unit.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KNAPP, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPOINT COUNCILOR GARY THEISEN TO THE SAVE STATION COMMITTEE. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Resolution No. 2019-25, A Resolution Accepting a Gift from Mayo Clinic and Cash Donations

Murphy explained that Mayo Clinic has donated an ambulance to Cold Spring Fire and Rescue Department. She stated that the Grass Rig will be moved to the garage, and the Suburban will be given back to the DNR.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MILLER, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-25, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Dates for the Fire Department Budget Meetings with Each Township

Murphy stated that the Council will meet with Luxemburg Township on October 17, 2019 at 7 pm in the Cold Spring Fire Hall, with Collegeville Township on October 23, 2019 at 6 pm in the Council Chambers, and with Wakefield Township on October 24, 2019 at 8 pm.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

Councilor Theisen inquired about the bill for Waste Management, he suggested that staff check the service rates for other garbage disposal companies to see if there is a cost savings that might be available for the City account.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THEISEN, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$143,339.89 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$14,130.30 PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Knapp stated that he checked with Murphy and Brad from Channel 10 and stated that the three meetings with the township will be taped for broadcasting on Channel 10.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY KNAPP, TO ADJOURN AT 8:28 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Dave Heinen, Mayor

Brigid Murphy, City Administrator