

MINUTES

1. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Zerby called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Zerby; Councilmembers Johnson, and Labadie; City Attorney Keane; City Administrator Lerud; City Clerk Thone; Finance Director Rigdon; Planning Director Darling; Director of Public Works Brown; and, City Engineer Fauske

Absent: Councilmembers Siakel and Sundberg

B. Review Agenda

Labadie moved, Johnson seconded, approving the agenda as presented. Motion passed 3/0.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Zerby reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Johnson asked how people could suggest future sites for the Deer Management Program. City Administrator Lerud stated that if residents would like to offer their property for the program, they just need to contact him.

Johnson moved, Labadie seconded, Approving the Motions Contained on the Consent Agenda and Adopting the Resolutions Therein.

A. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019

B. Approval of the Verified Claims List

C. 2019 Deer Management Program

Motion passed 3/0.

3. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Greg Miller, 335 College Lake, Excelsior, noted that he is a member of the Excelsior City Council. He thanked the Council for their assistance in past projects. He stated that there has been discussion about making both Excelsior and Shorewood more pedestrian friendly. He distributed maps of some of the City of Excelsior's proposed street projects with the possible inclusion of sidewalks. He asked if Excelsior completes sidewalks in this area whether the City would consider completing sidewalks in this area to create a pedestrian loop connecting the cities.

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Mayor Zerby confirmed that he was talking about sidewalks in the area of Grant Street and Academy Avenue. Councilmember Labadie asked where Mr. Miller had gotten the traffic count information he shared. Mr. Miller stated that WSB provided the traffic count information.

Councilmember Labadie asked if Mr. Miller was here as an official representative of the Excelsior City Council or if this was his individual opinion. Mr. Miller stated that he is here as an individual and did not ask the Excelsior Council for authorization to go and ask the City for their support.

Mayor Zerby stated that he supports creating a walkable community. He noted that the City is not prepared to discuss this or move forward with it this year, but can add it to the list to discuss for future years projects.

4. PUBLIC HEARING - None

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Jan Callison, Hennepin County Commissioner

Jan Callison, Hennepin County Commissioner, gave an overview of what has been happening in the County. She reviewed the assessments and market values and noted that this is the sixth straight year of growth in property values. She reviewed the planned discussions regarding future road projects and bridge construction projects. She stated the County is hoping to get some more money for transportation and County program aid.

Councilmember Johnson asked about tax reform and the changes to the amount of State tax that can be deducted. He asked if there were any plans at the County level to try to address those issues. Ms. Callison stated that property tax can no longer be deducted and only the federal government has the authority to change that and the state has the authority over state income tax. She stated that the only thing the County can do is to try to slow the growth in property taxes.

B. 2018 Audit

Finance Director Rigdon introduced Auditor, Justin Neilson of Abdo, Eick and Meyers.

Mr. Neilson gave an overview of the 2018 Audit results and noted that the City had received a clean, unmodified audit and noted that there are no audit findings for 2018. He reviewed the findings from 2017 that have both been addressed. He gave a brief overview of the fund balances.

Councilmember Labadie asked why there has been a steady increase in the recycling fund. Mr. Neilson stated that the simple answer is that the charges and fees that are coming in exceed the actual costs for the services. Finance Director Rigdon explained that the fund itself is actually very flat and the charges and the costs that the City is paying out are almost flat and is a highly predictable operational result of the fund.

City Administrator Lerud noted that the recycling contract will be up for negotiating so the City will anticipate a higher cost associated with recycling moving forward. Mr. Neilson briefly reviewed the tax rates and overall debt per capita for the City.

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Mayor Zerby thanked staff and especially City Administrator Lerud and Finance Director Rigdon for helping achieve one of his personal goals, which was to have no findings during the audit. He explained that the accounting word “findings” simply means red flags, so he is happy that there are no red flags in the City’s finances.

6. PARKS

A. Report by Commissioner Vassar on April 9, 2019 Park Commission Meeting

Planning Director Darling explained that Commissioner Vassar had an unexpected conflict arise and asked her to give a summary of the April 9, 2019 Park Commission meeting on her behalf. She gave a brief overview of the April 9, 2019 minutes as reflected in the minutes. She explained that the Park Commission is very interested in moving forward on the tennis courts at Badger Park, but staff asked the Commission for more time to review the budget for future projects until the bids are received for the Badger Park/Freeman Park project.

7. PLANNING

A. Report by Commissioner Riedel on April 2, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Riedel gave a brief overview of discussion and recommendations from the April 2, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting, as reflected in the minutes.

B. Bosworth P.U.D. Amendment to Allow Tattoo Services

Applicant: Jonathan Higgins

Location: 6140 Lake Linden Drive

Planning Director Darling explained that the applicant would like to lease 300 square feet in the building. She explained that this would require a P.U.D. amendment and noted that both staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval subject to the conditions listed in the resolution.

Johnson moved, Labadie seconded, Approving Ordinance 564, an Amendment to the Bosworth P.U.D. and Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 19-040, “A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Bosworth P.U.D. for 6140 Lake Linden Drive.” Motion passed 3/0.

C. Special Home Occupation Permit (woodworking)

Applicant: Thomas Ramy

Location: 5825 Country Club Road

Planning Director Darling explained that this application is to allow a home occupation permit for a woodworking business in the attached garage. She noted that there is no record of complaint against the request. She reviewed the recommended conditions and indicated that the Planning Commission recommended approval unanimously.

Labadie moved, Johnson seconded, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 19-041, “A Resolution Approving a Special Home Occupation Permit for a Woodworking Business to be Conducted out of the Attached Garage at 5825 Country Club Road.” Motion passed 3/0.

D. C.U.P. for Public Recreation Buildings

Applicant: City of Shorewood

Location: 5745 Country Club Road (Badger Park)

Planning Director Darling gave an overview of the proposed locations of the picnic shelter, restroom facilities and the new playground equipment. She noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval with the added condition that the light fixtures be full cut-off and not cast any light on adjacent properties.

Johnson moved, Labadie seconded, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 19-042, “A Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Public Recreation Buildings in Badger Park at 5745 Country Club Road.” Motion passed 3/0.

E. Front Setback Variance

Applicant: Ayman Abdelsamie

Location: 5960 Grant Street

Planning Director Darling gave an overview of the variance request and plans to improve the home’s functionality and appearance and stated that Planning Commission recommended approval.

Labadie moved, Johnson seconded, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 19-043, “A Resolution Approving a Front Setback Variance for Ayman Abdelsamie for Property Located at 5960 Grant Street.” Motion passed 3/0.

8. ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS

A. Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for 2019 Street Overlay Project, City Project 19-02

Public Works Brown explained that Council had discussed this item in greater detail at the work session held earlier this evening. He gave a brief overview of the proposed revisions and additions to the street projects for the year. He explained that the revisions are due to the fact that the islands projects are being held up by the presence of Native American sacred artifacts. He noted that in addition to the streets listed in the staff report, Cardinal will also be added to the project.

Zerby moved, Labadie seconded, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 19-044, “A Resolution to Authorize Preparation of Plans, Specifications and Engineer’s Estimate for the 2019 Mill and Bituminous Overlay Improvements, City Project 19-02. Motion passed 3/0.

9. GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS - None

10. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Administrator and Staff

1. Monthly Budget Report

Finance Director Rigdon stated that building permits are up again this year. He noted that overall, general fund revenues are at five point seven percent of the budget and expenditures are on schedule at about twenty-seven percent of the budget.

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Mayor Zerby noted that the City has already used up about eighty percent of its budget for snow and ice removal for the year and hopes that there will be a quiet November and December. Public Works Director Brown stated that the City has a full salt shed so he is hoping to spread the costs out a bit over the next season.

Other

Public Works Director Brown stated one of the largest focus factors in Public Works right now is monitoring the Boulder Bridge Pond and Mary Lake because of the high lake levels. He stated that Public Works is well aware of the culvert at Academy and Park, but noted that it is continuing to flow. He noted that Public Works has finished the street sweeping on the east side of town and will now move to the west side of town and also continue patching roads. He noted that Councilmember Johnson had raised the question about sanitary sewer issues at Sweetwater Curve. He explained that this is the City's responsibility because it is in the public right-of-way and will likely be taken care of once weight restrictions are lifted.

Mayor Zerby asked about the pink dots on the sidewalk along Smithtown Road that appear to be marking cracks. City Engineer Fauske stated that those dots are marking needed repair work along the sidewalk. She noted that because of the road restrictions, they still have not been able to get the contractors in to finish up last year's street projects but are working on a schedule moving forward.

Planning Director Darling noted that she had heard from the Comprehensive Plan consultant that the Met Council has asked for specific information on which housing programs the City is most likely to be using to create affordable housing and staff will incorporate some additional language into the draft Comprehensive Plan to avoid a situation where the plan is deemed incomplete for this issue.

City Administrator Lerud stated that the light pole at the entrance to the mall on County Road 19 that was knocked over has been reinstalled and was paid for by the private insurance company of the driver.

B. Mayor and City Council

Councilmember Johnson suggested that the City may want to take a look at the signage that is allowed for home occupations. He stated that it appears as though some home occupations have installed signage and others have signage placed on their trucks to advertise the business.

ADJOURN

Johnson moved, Labadie seconded, Adjourning the City Council Regular Meeting of April 22, 2019, at 8:15 P.M. Motion passed 3/0.

ATTEST:

Scott Zerby, Mayor

Sandie Thone, City Clerk