

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW
MARCH 7, 2022
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Steve Feldman, Councilmembers Robert Bauer, Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, and Joe Muehlbauer (attending via Zoom),

Also present: Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Clerk Jenni Wida, City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.), Streets and Parks Supervisor Jeremy Shook, Interim City Administrator/Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Finance Director Darcy Muvihill, Police Chief Todd Schwieger and Water and Sewer Supervisor Parish Barten.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUCIL AGENDA.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Feldman	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye

Motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes – February 7, 2022
- B. Rental License Approvals
- C. Water Treatment Plant, Spectrophotometer Replacement
- D. Police Officer Resignation, Police Officer Opening
- E. Conditional Offer of Employment- Matthew Chamberlain
- F. Siwek Park Playground Equipment Purchase

- G. Accept Resignation of Liquor Store Clerk Shannon Denny
- H. Interim City Administrator
- I. Planning Commission Appointments for 2022
- J. Personnel
- ~~K. Squad Replacement~~
- L. Payment of Claims- February 8- February 22, 2022
- M. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Mayor Feldman	aye

Motion carried 5-0.

K. Squad Replacement

Mayor Feldman asked Police Chief Todd Schwieger about Item K regarding the squad car replacement. He referenced the staff report with the cancelled order for a vehicle priced at \$34,199 which was the total for the vehicle with options. Since that vehicle can't be purchased he asked if it is correct that they are are looking at a V6.

Schwieger confirmed this and stated Burnsville Dodge, where they usually get vehicles through, cancelled 118 vehicle orders throughout the State. They can't get any Durango Pursuit vehicles from them, either V6 or V8.

Mayor Feldman replied he understood that. He asked if it is correct that they are looking at a V6 vehicle with a price of \$36,791. He stated the difference between the two is \$2,592 more than the V8 which surprised him because the V8 had all the options, which of course they can't get.

Schwieger replied that is the State contract price that they would normally have gotten the V8, they purchased theirs outside of the State contract.

Mayor Feldman replied now they have a base model with a suggested retail price of \$39,670, so you are playing \$2,079 less but it is a V6 versus a V8. He asked Schwieger if a V6 Pursuit will work with the rest of the squad. Schwieger replied he thought it could be utilized.

Mayor Feldman stated his wife drives a V6 and sometimes the acceleration speed of the V6 isn't as good. He continued that he wasn't saying it's different between a regular car and police squad car but he had concerns between a V8 and a V6.

Schwieger replied he didn't have hesitation putting it into the fleet because the days of having to go 150 miles an hour a pretty much over and they shouldn't be going that fast anyway. He stated the V8 vehicles are governed so they can't go over a certain speed anyway. He felt it was more about turning around and catching up to a speeder if needed, that is where they would lose a little in going from a stop. He didn't have concerns about that.

Mayor Feldman asked how many miles were on the car being traded in. Schweiger replied about 80,000.

Mayor Feldman asked how many miles are put on in a year. Schweiger replied it is a 2018 squad car that is being replaced and they get four years out of them so it is about 20,000 a year.

Mayor Feldman asked how many cars they have. Schwieger replied seven marked cars.

Mayor Feldman asked if it was seven Pursuits. Schwieger confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked if they have six V8 and then they will have one V6. Schwieger replied they have a couple Chargers and four Durango's.

Mayor Feldman asked if he had asked the department about it being a V6 and if they feel it is adequate. Schwieger replied the Sherriff's office uses a lot of them, they are Ford Explorers and he hasn't heard an issues with engine performance.

Mayor Feldman replied he understood the dilemma in getting cars here because there are no chips. Schwieger replied he knew there are some departments around the State that are using various dealerships, even as far as Georgia looking for squads that sell the Pursuit package on the lots, outside of that this is the only option to get a vehicle back in the fleet.

Mayor Feldman asked if it was worth looking outside. Schwieger replied the prices he has seen, even with the dealership he knew of in Georgia, they are charging around \$40,000 which would outside of the capital budget allotment for this year.

Mayor Feldman commented it is like they are settling for less because they can't get what is wanted and that is how the market is projecting itself today. He understood that but had concerns that it is a V6 that is going to be kept for four years and if during that time because it is a V6 that it is inadequate or can't be used on a wide range of issues because the size of the engine is limited. He stated they would be spending more than they would have for the V8 but spending less than

what the retail value is. The difference between the V8 and V6 is \$2,592, they are paying more but at the same time the suggested price from the manufacturer is \$2,879 less so it almost a wash but they are not getting what is wanted. He commented they had to bow to the market this time around unless they find the V6 is good. Schwieger replied there are some large agencies in Anoka County that utilize the V6. The complaints he has heard weren't due to not being able to catch up with other vehicles.

Mayor Feldman asked for examples. Schwieger replied they had some exhaust issues and recalls on the Ford Explorers.

Mayor Feldman asked if in his time Schwieger has only had V8's. Schwieger confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman commented he wanted to bring this to the attention of the Council and asked for comment.

Robinson commented there is a stigmatism and asked if the car would be utilized as any other being put into the fleet. Schwieger replied he expected it to, that it would be assigned to a shift.

Robinson asked if there were any benefits such as getting better mileage. Schwieger replied in theory it may get a little better gas mileage but otherwise no.

Robinson asked about resale down the road, noting that if Anoka has other similar vehicles the concern could be marginal. Schwieger confirmed this.

Bauer and Udvig commented they didn't have any concerns.

Mayor Feldman commented the V6 may be the way they go in the future because of supply chains but he would hate to find out this car can't do what they want it to and just because it is labeled "Pursuit" it is still a V6. He recognized that the frame and the structure of the car make it different to be a Pursuit but it is still a V6. He stated they can't wait another year because at 20,000 miles a year the car will be at 100,000. Schwieger replied not getting a marked squad this year for the fleet will push the other cars out from four to five years. Trading in at four years keeps the cars under 100,000 miles keeps them in better shape and allows for better trade in value.

Mayor Feldman asked if Schwieger thought going out of state they would end up paying more than this. Schwieger replied from what he has seen with a couple of dealerships that it is substantially more.

Muehlbauer commented he had nothing to add.

Mayor Feldman commented they will find out in the four-year period what is thought

about this. Schwieger repeated he is not concerned and thinks the vehicle will serve its purpose even if it is used for a CRO position it will be fine.

Mayor Feldman asked if a Community Resource Officer could use that one and then his V8 could go to someone else. Schwieger replied they could if they were concerned about it but from the agencies that have been using the V6's he hasn't heard any concerns. Mayor Feldman replied that made him feel better.

Robinson suggested not holding it back but put it in the fleet and let it be used so it can be evaluated because it may be the way of the future. Schwieger replied it will get used.

Mayor Feldman commented the fact that they can't get chips for vehicles is ridiculous but that is the time we're in.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM K.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Mayor Feldman	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye

Motion carried 5-0.

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Feldman asked if anyone wanted to speak. No one came forward.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS –

A. Recognition of the City of St. Francis' Assistance to the City of Nowthen

Mayor Jeff Pilon of the City of Nowthen, along with Interim City Administrator Frank Boyles, stated he doubted the City could have survived as well as they did without the professional help former City Administrator Joe Kohlmann and Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill. He expressed thanks the City for their efforts. He added the Nowthen Fire Department had their first badge pinning at the last City Council meeting, he attributed that to the help from the Fire Chief Schmidt and Assistant Chief Lawrence from the City of St. Francis who have helped to build a tremendous Fire Department in Nowthen. He thanked the Mayor and Council of St. Francis for their support.

Mayor Feldman thanked Nowthen Mayor Pilon for bringing it to their attention and for the compliments for the work Kohlmann and Mulvihill did. He stated that cities

in close proximity should always work as sister cities because that benefits the residents we serve. He commented he was glad they were able to help the City of Nowthen.

Nowthen Mayor Pilon stated that the Fire Department is going to be a special relationship going forward. He stated that even though Kohlmann was gone he offered a special thanks to Mulvihill who did extremely hard work for them to get them on the right path.

7. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Green Valley Preserve 2nd Addition- Findings for Denial

1. Resolution 2022-10 denying the preliminary plat for Green Valley Preserve 2nd Addition with findings of fact as presented by Staff
2. Resolution 2022-11 denying the subdivision variances for a temporary dead-end street narrower than 32 feet wide and longer than 1,500 feet with findings of fact as presented by Staff

Interim City Administrator Kate Thunstrom stated this is the next step from the denial of the Green Valley subdivision as stated Council in the findings of fact, which are found in a letter to HKGi and followed by resolutions.

Mayor Feldman stated he will turn it over to Udvig to ask questions.

Udvig commented that a lot of time was put in on this and she didn't think this was the right thing for what the plan was. She lives on a road that is smaller and didn't think it was a good idea to make roads smaller and shorter, that it doesn't do a service to the residents and agencies that have to respond to emergencies because it makes it difficult. She thought the focus should be on the best thing for St. Francis even if it takes time to get there.

Bauer commented that this went a few times to Planning and Zoning and although it didn't fail, it also didn't pass. He stated he looked at the reasons for Planning to not pass it as some of the findings of fact for why this doesn't fit in that area. He stated it didn't take long for the developer to pull the snowmobile trail. He thought he did a good job in the finding of facts and what a developer should be looking to do in the City of St. Francis to benefit the residents and provide a public service. He felt this developer didn't do that. He would accept something else from this developer which would be vetted. He stated he respected the Council for denial of this and their finding of facts because it makes sense to him.

Robinson commented the developer met the legal requirements. He stated this cluster was going to be farther way from town and didn't feel it fit there. He took into account phone calls from both parties but felt the bottom line was that there would be parties that wouldn't have been happy with this. He stated as to the

public benefit for the 60 some acres that were going to be set aside, felt it was visual so there wasn't a public benefit and it was too far from town. He was very confident with this decision. He felt that the votes for the Planning were tied. He stated he felt remorse that it was allowed to go past the Preliminary Plat stage and as Councilmembers, they need to be more studious in looking at things closely earlier on.

Muehlbauer commented that he deferred to the Staff reports throughout the process.

Mayor Feldman commented that Council should have never let this go past concept. When we suggest certain items like "XYZ" and they comply to "XYZ" and spend the money and opened up their checkbooks to do the things like the site surveys were asked for by the Council and the developers went ahead and paid to have it done, it should never have gone past concept. If we would have told them that we weren't going to approve a cluster development and that we would only approve a 14 ten-acre lot development, that would have helped them out. He stated they risked developers not knowing what they are going to do as a Council which doesn't help the City grow. He stated what he liked about it was the green space which other cities have given up to development. He added there is a public use there because of the snowmobile route open on private land for public perpetuity. Now that has been taken away. He has gotten calls that people have been spiteful but it is private land which is their choice to allow the snowmobile trail or not. It is private land to do as they so please with. The owners have taken away the snowmobile trail which has been considered spiteful but he emphasized it is their land. The public benefit would have been a snowmobile trail on private land open to the public that would have been in writing. He emphasized the Council needs to be more careful in getting in the concept because if you're not going to approve it, you can waffle and let something go through, when you've asked them to open their check books to do what Council has asked, which is what happened in this case. He stated the fault lies with the Council in letting this go as far as they did because the developers would have come to us with 14 ten-acre lots and not a cluster development and they wouldn't be in the situation they are in. He liked the public input but had a difficult time with public input with people who own land in St. Francis but don't live there. He stated he was still unclear on reasonable reasons to deny this but they will vote and that will end this segment of it.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND BY: ROBINSON TO ADOPT THE WRITTEN FINDINGS OF DENAIL OF THE PROPOSED REZONING REQUEST FROM A-2 TO PUD A-2 FOR ROUGHLY 146 ACRES SOUTH OF AMBASSADOR BLVD AND EAST OF NACRE STREET.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Muehlbauer	nay
Councilmember Robinson	aye

Mayor Feldman	nay
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye

Motion carried 3-2.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND BY: UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-10 DENYING THE PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR GREEN VALLEY PRESERVE 2ND ADDITION WITH FINDINGS OF FACT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Robinson	aye
Mayor Feldman	nay
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	nay

Motion carried 3-2.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND BY: BAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-11 DENYING THE SUBDIVISION VARIANCES FOR A TEMPORARY DEAD-END STREET NARROWER THAN 32 FEET WIDE AND LONGER THAN 1,500 FEET WITH FINDINGS OF FACT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Feldman	nay
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	nay

Motion carried 3-2.

Mayor Feldman emphasized for the public that they will see how this comes back, that the developers still have a right to come back in a period of time, which he thought was a year, but they could come back in a shorter period of time with a different proposal. But as far as the same proposal, they need to wait at least a year, per our policies.

Thunstrom confirmed this, that they could come back with a new proposal as a new application.

Mayor Feldman repeated that what they have done with the snowmobile trail is their right because it is their land.

B. Ordinance 295- Amending Chapter 5 Section 3 Beer Licensing of City Code, Second Reading

Interim City Administrator/Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom stated this is to update the beer licensing regarding support for community events and vendors that would make a request, this would update in line with current trends.

Mayor Feldman clarified that this is only for a four-day event and they can only do 12 in a whole year by one entity. There can be different entities but only four days total from one vendor or entity. Thunstrom confirmed this.

Udvig, Bauer, Muehlbauer, and Robinson all commented they didn't have any comments or anything to add.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND BY: ROBINSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 295-AMENDING CHAPTER 5 SECTION 3 BEER LICENSING OF CITY CODE, SECOND READING.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Mayor Feldman	aye

Motion carried 5-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oak Grove Development

Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom gave a presentation on the request from the City of Oak Grove. She stated they have a developer coming in for eleven additional lots that connect to the City sewer system. She stated there are three issues to address tonight. 1. is whether to allow them to connect to these services. 2. is the rate that St. Francis resident would pay. 3. The flat rate of \$100,000 for trunk fees in two payments. She is looking for direction for those three items.

Mayor Feldman stated he didn't have a problem with the eleven lots being extended off the ponds. He stated the problem he has is that rates have changed for non-residents and with the history St. Francis has had with Oak Grove over many years, he is not forgiving of any break for them. He stated it would be eleven times \$8,568 for SAC, \$6,120 for WAC for a total of \$161,568 for both and the \$100,000 will not be divided into two payments but will be one payment. He stated

he is standing firm on this because, as he stated for the public and Staff, they have bent over backwards for the City of Oak Grove many, many times and it always seems that no matter what is done that Oak Grove likes the benefit of it but they don't want to pay for it so they can claim less taxes in their city on the backs of every city that deals with them. He stated he has had it. He stated he will stand firm on this and there will be no more breaks for Oak Grove unless they learn to work with St. Francis as a sister city as Nowthen has. He stated in his opinion, it is time to draw a line in the sand and say no more. It is a St. Francis utility, they have never gouged them for anything like this, but it is the City's utility and he is not going to negotiate the utility and give it away because that isn't fair to the residents. He stated \$8,568 is the new SAC charge for non-residents and \$6,120 is the new WAC charge for non-residents and they won't accept two payments for the \$100,000. He stated that St. Francis is a city, not a bank, and they have tried to work with them many times over the years and, as he has said in meetings before, how Oak Grove has dealt with St. Francis on Poppy Street is how they will deal with them in the future. That took two years to get where they are now. He stated he is in favor leaving it as it stands. He stated he hoped they would come to their senses and start to learn to work with the cities in a mutually beneficial way that can benefit residents on both sides but he has hoped that for six years and is at the end of his rope.

Muehlbauer suggested sticking to code that was adopted as a counterproposal to bring back to them. He felt they lacked good faith effort in past conversations which he would like to see improved. He was disappointed with Poppy Street as well.

Mayor Feldman stated that the costs are paid for by the developer, not the City of Oak Grove. They are paid for by the developer and passed on to the people buying the lots. He didn't understand why Oak Grove came forward to negotiate for the developer when the developer could have negotiated with St. Francis themselves, but that is what Oak Grove decided. He stated that joint powers agreements on police and fire would benefit residents on both sides with more effective services at a lesser price. He stated it is the same with regionalization of utilities where residents on both sides would benefit with more effective services at a lesser cost. He stated it is a win-win all the way around where Oak Grove expands their property tax base and St. Francis expands their rate users. But Oak Grove can't be convinced if they have to pay anything, which can't be accepted anymore at St. Francis.

Udvig agreed with Mayor Feldman and stated she was one of the first ones to say no more. She said she didn't want to waste a lot of Staff time going back and forth with Oak Grove but suggested giving the counter offer and if it isn't accepted, that is on them.

Bauer agreed adding that the WAC and SAC charges were set to facilitate the sewer and water system and pay the bills which is where some of the money is used for. He didn't think they should bring rates down for users who are trying to

use that system. He asked where the eleven homes would go. Robinson said on Zion on the right hand side there is a vacant space across from existing home homes.

Mayor Feldman commented Oak Grove is trying to say it is an extension of The Ponds and would they consider that, which of course St. Francis would. He stated if they came to the table, there could be negotiation but in the last eight months with the last project, they only came to the table once.

Robinson stated that he considers this a protection of resources and the state-of-the art system that there are only so many slots available and St. Francis is growing much faster than Oak Grove at this time. He stated he has reached out to their council members but was treated with disdain and disrespect over Poppy Street. We put our money where our mouth is and they apparently still have their hands in their pockets. He agreed with Muehlbauer in sticking to the ordinance that was just passed.

Mayor Feldman repeated Oak Grove likes the benefit of stuff that we present at the cost of zero, anything above that they question it and it always comes back that they get the benefit. They can preach lower taxes and less government on the backs of other cities.

Thunstrom stated she has direction and will reach out to Oak Grove and take care of this.

The consensus of the Council was: 1. To allow the City of Oak Grove to connect the eleven townhomes to St. Francis city sewer and water; 2. To stick to the ordinance passed regarding SAC and WAC charges for non-residents which is \$8,568 for SAC charge and \$6,120 for the WAC charge; and, 3. To take a single payment of \$100,000 for trunk fees not a double payment of \$50,000.00.

B. Parking Discussion for the Poppy Street and 229th Lane Reconstruction and Watermain Improvement Project

City Engineer Craig Jochum stated he is finishing the design for Poppy Street he would like Council feedback on what is allowed for parking on Poppy Street and 229th. He reviewed the staff report including background and details of the project.

Mayor Feldman commented that he lives on the street and was at the neighborhood meeting so was Councilmember Bauer. He suggested that parking be on the Oak Grove side because St. Francis has the sidewalk on their side. He stated that this whole reconstruction of Poppy was a plan that was drafted ten years ago by Oak Grove to continue what was 227th going south to Lake George Blvd and continue that to Bridge Street. He stated it was a plan they put in to effect and it should be done but now it comes to money. He felt that the best way to go, as the neighbors mentioned, there has to be parking for the holidays with the

shortness of the driveways, and the best way is parking on the Oak Grove side.

Robinson commented that he would be concerned with parking on the Oak Grove side because people would have to cross, noting there is more frontage and homes on the St. Francis side.

Mayor Feldman replied all the neighbors who were at the meeting wanted it on the Oak Grove side.

Robinson replied whatever is deemed safe and proper.

Mayor Feldman replied that walking across 28 feet isn't that big of a deal on a street like that, but the fact is that with the sidewalk there St. Francis, picked up the expense for that so Oak Grove should have to pick up parking on their side.

Bauer commented that he also went to the neighborhood meeting to answer resident questions and represent the Council since the Mayor lives on the street.

Mayor Feldman asked if Bauer was saying he wasn't objective. Bauer replied, no, but there are some heated neighbors. Regarding the parking, putting it on the Oak Grove side is the best because there are mailboxes and fire hydrants on the St. Francis side. On 229th it would depend where the mailboxes and fire hydrants are.

Jochum replied they will have to check with the Postmaster because the mailboxes may have to be moved to the Oak Grove side. He stated the sidewalk hugs the curb now so there may not be room for mailboxes.

Mayor Feldman commented it is a group mailbox.

Jochum replied they could maybe put it in a yard. Mayor Feldman replied that is the way to do it then. Jochum noted that Oak Grove has a standard mailbox.

Bauer commented as for direction, the Council would need to know where the Postmaster wants the mailboxes and if it is beneficial to put parking on the St. Francis side.

Mayor Feldman commented that the fire hydrants are more important than the mailboxes because if there is parking all along there and there is a fire those should be left accessible. He asked if it was correct that there was a rule that cars have to be parked ten feet away from fire hydrants.

Bauer suggested keeping them on the Oak Grove side and facilitate getting mailboxes on the St. Francis side.

Udvig commented that she doesn't live on that road but if that seemed the best, it makes sense to not have parking on the side of the fire hydrants and to see what

could be done about the mailboxes.

Muehlbauer asked if Oak Grove says they don't want parking on their side, St. Francis would have to adhere to that but he agreed with not having parking on the St. Francis side because of the fire hydrants and mailboxes. He wanted to find out what Oak Grove thought.

Mayor Feldman commented that it made more sense to have the mailboxes on the St. Francis side.

Jochum asked if the mail carrier drives through or walks.

Mayor Feldman replied when he comes from north to south he comes to the community box. Richard, the older gentleman, has a bad back and talked to the postman so he delivers mail to his house. From there, they come down and do the community box and then they go down and back up and do the individual boxes on the Oak Grove side.

Jochum asked if the mail carrier gets out.

Mayor Feldman confirmed this. He added that it is dangerous getting mail on that street but if there is a sidewalk, because people don't look for people when they are driving. He stated the concern on the street is getting to the mailbox and that is the key to everything they do, safety first. He stated they would need to talk to Oak Grove and wished Jochum good luck. He continued that it has only taken two years to get this solved, eleven hundred feet of road on the only road they share. He thanked the Staff and Council for their patience.

C. Resolution 2022-12 Reestablishing Polling Locations and Precinct Boundaries

City Clerk Jenni Wida stated according to State statue, the City is required to reestablish polling places after there has been a redistricting. She stated the City didn't have any changes but still has to reestablish polling places and precinct boundaries.

Mayor Feldman stated it seemed pretty simple. He referenced the map and asked if things haven't changed since the last time. Wida confirmed this.

Muehlbauer, Udvig, Bauer and Robinson all commented that it seemed pretty straight forward and had nothing to add.

MOTION BY: UDVIG, SECOND BY: ROBINSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-12 REESTABLISHING POLLING LOCATIONS AND RECINCT BOUNDARIES.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Feldman

aye

Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye

Motion carried 5-0.

D. City Administrator Search Update

Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps reviewed the staff report on the City Administrator search. He stated 14 applications were received and scored. Six candidates are being recommended to have an interview with a subcommittee of the City Council. He asked for Council direction on the number of semi-finalists for scheduling interviews. He stated in the past, the Mayor and one other Councilmember have conducted the initial interviews and provided feedback to the full Council on the selection of finalists. He stated interviews could be conducted next week via Zoom. He also asked for feedback on a date when the full Council would be available to do finalist interviews.

Mayor Feldman referenced the staff report and asked if the six highlighted names are those that are being considered for first round interviews.

Schaps confirmed this and added these are the candidates that have both the education and experience in local government which are Staff recommendation but is open to suggestion by the Council.

Mayor Feldman again referenced the staff report and asked if it is March 15, 16, and 17, 2022 for semifinal interviews on Zoom.

Schaps confirmed this and added it would be scheduling these six and any others the Council would like considered. He stated it usually takes two days of availability to ensure everyone has a time.

Mayor Feldman stated, of course he will be a part of the interviews, and asked if it would be possible for Muehlbauer to be a part of it.

Muehlbauer replied if it were later in the day he may be able to make it work. He asked about the timing.

Mayor Feldman asked if it is correct that Schaps mentioned 45 minutes to an hour per individual so it could be six hours. Schaps confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked Muehlhauser if he could sacrifice a day for this because it is important and his input is important. Muehlbauer replied he wasn't sure if he could get two days in a row off to listen to interviews.

Mayor Feldman commented that Robinson is always the one who joins him but he is trying to get others involved in the process. He stated Bauer is going to be gone and asked if Udvig would be available. Udvig replied she could request days off.

Mayor Feldman asked Udvig if she is interested in doing it. He stated that Robinson has always done it but he is trying to get feedback from other members of Council, not just the same people all the time.

Muehlbauer commented he wished he could but it would be difficult to get days off.

Mayor Feldman replied he is talking about the semifinals so it's not the same people so if it doesn't work out, they can't be blamed. He asked if Muehlbauer could do one day.

Muehlbauer asked what time of day and how many hours for one day. Mayor Feldman did the math and came up with four plus hours maybe starting at 9:00 a.m.

Muehlbauer stated if a commitment was needed right now he wasn't able to give that.

Mayor Feldman asked if Muehlbauer couldn't be involved in the semifinals he should be involved in the final interviews. Mayor Feldman stated he wasn't trying to pick out anyone but he is the one that always has to do it and he is trying to get others involved.

Udvig stated she could make it work.

Mayor Feldman summarized that he and Udvig will do it and a special work session will be needed.

Thunstrom suggested that a second work session wouldn't be needed because of conversations about the Public Works Director position being put on hold until there is a new City Administrator.

Mayor Feldman agreed with that. He looked at dates and asked what days would be good for Udvig. Udvig and Schaps both replied any of the dates are fine.

Mayor Feldman stated March 15, 2022 would work.

Schaps asked if anyone couldn't make March 15, 2022, could March 16, 2022 be a partial day and would they be available. Mayor Feldman and Udvig agreed and added starting at 9 a.m. on Zoom.

Schaps suggested being in the same zoom. Mayor Feldman replied it would be easier for Udvig to join on Zoom.

Schaps asked if Council was okay with the six candidates or if there were any others they would like to add.

Mayor Feldman asked if Thunstrom was one of the six. Thunstrom replied she didn't know.

Schaps commented that they are at the applicant stage so identifying information isn't provided but will be once they determine how many applicants they want considered.

Mayor Feldman replied he didn't know how to make a decision and who he can add on. He stated it seems like they are going by scores. Schaps confirmed this and added the information also lists if they have had prior city experience and what those positions have been.

Mayor Feldman asked that the information be shared with Muehlbauer. There was an issue with technology. Muehlbauer stated he could get it tomorrow.

Mayor Feldman commented that six seems to be adequate. Schaps replied now that the number has been determined a packet of information will be provided along with interview questions.

Mayor Feldman stated that March 28-April 1, 2022 for the final interviews with the last two-four candidates. He asked Muehlbauer to make arrangements to participate in the final interviews.

Muehlbauer asked if it would be in the afternoon since it would be the whole Council and if he could participate via Zoom. Schaps confirmed this.

Schaps stated that meeting will be publicly noticed and open. Once the candidates become finalists, their names will become public.

Muehlbauer asked how many would be finalists. Schaps stated at this point we have six semifinalists, it will be up to the subcommittee to determine how many finalists there will be, between two and four.

Mayor Feldman commented that he liked that it is the full Council on the final interviews.

Schaps asked about the date for the final interviews. Mayor Feldman suggested Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Mayor Feldman asked if that would work for Muehlbauer. Muehlbauer thought he could make it work.

Bauer replied he will be traveling until March 30, 2022, so March 31, 2022 in the afternoon would work better for him.

Bauer asked if the whole Council will get the full packet of information on the six applicants. Schaps replied he could do that but that information couldn't be shared.

Mayor Feldman agreed because it is an important decision.

The consensus of the Council was to do semi-final interviews on March 15, 2022 starting at 9 a.m. on Zoom with an additional date of March 16, 2022, if needed, with Mayor Feldman and Udvig being on the subcommittee. Final interviews were scheduled for March 31, 2022 in the afternoon.

E. Request a Work Session

Thunstrom requested a Work Session on Monday, March 28, 2022. She stated there were a handful of agenda items for that night.

Mayor Feldman replied Monday, March 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Muehlbauer will be on Zoom and the rest can meet at City Hall. He asked the Council if they could make that meeting.

Bauer replied he would be travelling. The others said they could make it work.

10. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NONE**

11. **REPORTS**

A. Public Works Monthly Report

Streets and Parks Supervisor Jeremy Shook presented the Street and Parks Monthly Report for January from the staff report.

Mayor Feldman commented that he looked it over and it is a very good report. He stated that the amount of cul-du-sacs, parking lots, miles of trails, gravel chips, and granite chips were amazing. As far as he could see, he was very glad about the equipment they have, that the upgrade to the grader and the front end loader and the plow blade for the front of the pickup truck as well as the toolcats because he felt it was important to have the right equipment for the workers to do their job safely. He emphasized for the public that when there is a snow event, the Council leaves it to Public Works to determine when it is safe to start plowing the roads even though it may not be as soon as the public would work. Public Works gets out as soon as they feel it is safe for the workers and the public. He stated he has gotten calls about when the plows are going to get out and has replied it depends on safety.

Udvig commented it was a good report and she hoped there wouldn't be much plowing left to do this spring. She thought Public Works did a good job of plowing

and getting the streets cleared as soon as they could. She thanked the Staff.

Muehlbauer thanked the Public Works employees of doing a great job during the heavy snowfall.

Bauer commented it was a great report. He asked on behalf of the residents, how many Streets and Parks employees there are to do the long list of the things listed in the report. Shook replied there are four total.

Bauer repeated four total for snowplowing. Shook corrected for snowplowing there are eight.

Bauer replied there are four for Streets and Parks. Shook confirmed this and added for snowplowing, Sewer and Water employees join so it becomes eight workers total.

Bauer stated that is what he wanted the residents to know, that the list of things in the packet, that if residents want to see what the Staff do, it is a lot for just a handful of people. He stated he appreciated it.

Mayor Feldman added that the decisions made on the equipment make their life safer and better, better services, and better plowing for the roads. There was a plow truck that got stuck a lot, had mechanical problems, and had to go over the roads twice which made it more difficult for the workers. It takes the right tools, right knowledge, right materials for any job and they have done that as a Council.

Robinson commended Bauer for highlighting how many workers there are doing the plowing. He stated he has been out at 2 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. and seen the plow trucks out. He commented it was a good report and asked if the granite chips that are put out in the summer have any impact on the equipment. Shook replied no, but there would be if they didn't run carbide edges.

Robinson asked if that shortens the life as far as sealants. Shook replied no.

Robinson thanked the staff for their work and stated he hasn't heard any complaints from the residents.

Mayor Feldman asked Shook to explain to the Council what the chips are. Shook replied they are left over streets sweepings from the chip sealing in the summer. They are used on the gravel in the winter instead of sand. He stated they will make a salt/chip mix if the temperatures are too cold for just the salt to work, which is very rare. He stated he doesn't like to use them because they can make a mess if they are tracked in a house.

Mayor Feldman asked whose idea it was. Shook replied it was a team idea, that he has noticed other cities using them, and they work great on the gravel.

Mayor Feldman asked what happens if they didn't get reused. Shook replied they would get hauled away by the contractor in the summer.

Mayor Feldman replied they are getting multiple use out of them, which is smart. He likes the innovative thinking in the department to have effective services and thanked Shook for the report.

B. Public Works Water and Sewer Annual Report- 2021

Water and Sewer Supervisor Parish Barten gave the January Monthly report from the staff report. There were no questions so he continued onto the annual report.

C. Public Works Water and Sewer Annual Report- 2021

Water and Sewer Supervisor Parish Barten gave the 2021 Public Works Water and Wastewater Report.

Mayor Feldman asked Barten to explain to Council the 381 gallons of orthophosphate used as an inhibitor because he didn't want them to think that in putting something in to protect the pipes that it will hurt themselves.

Barten explained that orthophosphate is essentially a corrosion inhibitor that coats the inside of copper pipes, which are prone to corrosion.

Mayor Feldman asked how that is done. Barten replied that before it goes into the ground it is injected and it is blended within the water.

Mayor Feldman asked if there is harm to people and if it works to inhibit corrosion. Barten confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman referenced the staff report and read where it says "another plan expenditure this year was replacing the 22-year-old roof at the well house, which was showing its age and was starting to shrink." He asked if that was an adhered roof. Barten replied no, it was a ballasted roof.

Mayor Feldman explained an adhered roof is attached to the building, where a ballast is a balloon held down by rock, so it is basically a floating membrane. He asked how tight that had to be to create a crack on the east side. Barten replied there was a ten foot crack that had started to form at the first mortar line. He stated there was no settling of the building.

Mayor Feldman asked if it was because the membrane pulled together. Barten replied that was the consensus of the roofing contractor.

Mayor Feldman asked if it would be better to go to an adhered roof instead of a

ballasted. Barten replied the consensus was no because of the size of the building and because there was a ballasted roof before.

Mayor Feldman asked to repair the crack, if it will be sealed with caulk. Barten replied new mortar was applied throughout.

Mayor Feldman commented that one of the smartest things the Council did was to start putting these buildings on maintenance programs on a monthly and annual basis to be preemptive and proactive versus being reactive. He noted that being reactive costs more money and time waiting until there is a problem instead of addressing smaller issues such as a crack in a roof instead of waiting until the roof falls in. He asked if that roof was quite old. Barten replied it was 22 years old.

Mayor Feldman asked if it was a ballasted roof and if there was a 20-year warrantee done by the roofing company. Barten confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman referenced the staff report and asked whose idea it was to close off the wells, if it was Barten and his team's idea. Barten confirmed this and explained why. Mayor Feldman stated he wanted to give credit where credit is due.

Mayor Feldman referenced page 159 and 160 in the packet and stated it seemed like DL-6 Lift Station, Turtle Run Lift Station and the Deer Creek Lift Station, are the most problematic because they seem to keep coming up. He asked if that was correct out of the eight. Barten confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked if education letters were sent. Barten replied that it could be included in a newsletter. He stated for DL-6 they were there twice a week for almost three months. A letter was sent to the residents that the lift station would have been effected by and it seemed to work.

Mayor Feldman commented that education is the key that the only thing that should go down the toilet is the three p's. Barten confirmed this and added that it is amazing that they have found golf balls, rocks, hockey pucks, and Swiffer wipes that clog the pipes.

Mayor Feldman replied Swiffer wipes advertise it can be flushed but they can't. Barten confirmed this and added it isn't only St. Francis but virtually every city and that is essentially what causes the plugging.

Mayor Feldman suggested before a season starts that a letter be sent, on the water bill or website, that the more education the better. Barten agreed and highlighted damage because of debris.

Barten explained that the UV system was being completely cleaned including replacing bulbs.

Mayor Feldman commented the bulbs are expensive and asked how long they last. Barten replied they should get close to five years.

Mayor Feldman commented it was a very nice report and thanked Barten.

Muehlbauer commented it was a very nice report and he had no questions.

Robinson commented it was a nice report, neat, and tidy. He appreciated the hard work they do and suggested the public look at the information so they understand it.

Udvig commented it was a nice report and she hoped people will stop putting stuff that does not belong down the toilets to plug the system.

Bauer agreed it is a great report. He commented if water could be reused, he would be in support. He understood that it isn't changing any time soon but felt it was cleaner than the water in the river it was being pumped into. He referenced the staff report and asked about the waste water limit. Barten replied that is the limit and if it is exceeded they would be in violation.

Bauer asked if they are at the max but the table was a little misleading.

Mayor Feldman asked if the numbers were put there for reference.

Barten confirmed this. He responded to Bauer's comments on the reuse water and explained that the reuse water is used for maintenance at the wastewater plant and is also used for irrigation at Public Works. There are rules and regulations where it can be used as far as public exposure.

Bauer asked if water was needed for the dirt road solution and if that water could be used. Barten replied it could be used as long as it doesn't run off but is absorbed.

Mayor referenced the staff report and asked about the limit for ammonia nitrates. Barten replied the limit listed is seasonal, that he believed it could go as high as 8.2.

Mayor Feldman asked if St. Francis was at 1.2. Barten replied they don't have any. Mayor Feldman stated it is set at 1.4 for three years but that isn't being reached. Barten confirmed this, and added those limits won't change at all.

Mayor Feldman thanked Barten and Shook and their staffs for everything they do in keeping the water safe, the wastewater facility working, for plowing the roads, and mowing the grass.

Shook added the recycling is over a hundred more tons this year, which exceeded the goal set by Anoka County. Mayor Feldman thanked him for pointing that out because recycling is important.

12. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Muehlbauer reported he is still out of town. He wished former City Administrator Joe Kohlmann well and thanked the Staff for stepping up during staff vacancies.

Udvig reported she attended the Pioneer Days planning meeting. She asked residents to be kind because Pioneer Days will look a little different this year. She stated they could only get the carnival the weekend of graduation so that is the reason they are having Pioneer Days the same weekend as graduation, which has happened before. She stated they aren't planning to have a full parade but one within the park. She stated it is a new carnival than what has been used before and is a family-owned carnival with food trucks. She asked for patience for the volunteer committee in charge of planning.

Bauer reported he went to the Poppy Street open meeting to answer questions and learn more about the plan. He stated it was well received and informative and thanked City Engineer Craig Jochum.

Robinson apologized that he wasn't able to attend the officer swearing-in as he was out of town. He commented it is nice to see another position filled. He also commented that he noticed in the newsletter that the citizen's academy is coming up and he plans to attend this time around.

Mayor Feldman asked Jochum, on behalf of the residents, if they would have the option on Poppy Street to use sod instead of hydroseed and water it themselves where the hydroseed would be watered 60 days by the contractor. He asked if they could opt to use sod because many have sprinkler systems. Jochum replied that is definitely possible.

Bauer added that he had the same question and residents said they would sign a nondisclosure saying they had the option for hydroseeding where the construction company pays for it but if they sign a waiver and use sod it up to the homeowner to maintain. Jochum replied if sod isn't watered it will die and it takes about three years to establish sod versus seed. He thought it was a good idea, noting it may cost a little more to sod but not that much more. He stated that the apartment irrigates.

Mayor Feldman stated five out of seven residents on his side all have irrigation systems and the others may want to do seed. Jochum replied residents will be asked so he knows which ones want seed ahead of the bid.

Mayor Feldman commented Jochum handled it really well. He wanted residents

to know that they can always agree to disagree but they need to communicate. Any issue can be worked out by talking. He commented that agreeing to disagree is healthy governing in his opinion. He apologized for not being able to attend the officer swearing-in because of a full schedule.

Mayor Feldman commented that being mayor for six years is an honor and privilege to be in a city with department heads and Staff that are here today that are exemplary in the work they do for the City. He stated their professionalism is something that is appreciated a lot and, in his opinion, can't be rated highly enough. Knowing what Mayor Pilon has gone through in Nowthen, he appreciates and values every one of the Staff every day that he is Mayor in St. Francis. He stated that it is a privilege working with professionals on a day-to-day basis and the care and the giving that are given to the City is exemplary. He was amazed how they have been able to form a team in six years and holding to it and he hoped it continues. He stated he will be running for reelection on May 17, 2022 and he will be there with bells on. He stated this is a good situation and he hoped continues because the City is going in a really good direction. He repeated it has been a privilege to work with everyone a daily basis. He thanked them and encouraged them to keep up the good work. He hoped to get through the post pandemic and get into having a Pioneer Days that will be relished by everyone in the City. He stated the City is growing and it is time to bring activities to the people so they can enjoy activities in their city and not go to other cities. It is time to discuss the City Hall/Fire Station that has been talked about and that we have been saving money for and is now being brought to the citizens. He stated they are at a point in their growth period to start talking about bringing activities. He stated they are still shy of the magic number of 10,000 but are on the way to develop which is important. He stated responsible, reasonable growth is important but growth is needed to get businesses to come and give services to the residents that they want. He encouraged the Staff to keep up the good work. He stated he is happy with replacing Bolton and Menk with Hakanson, HKGi moving in from the Planning position, and Ehlers now with the finance. He stated the right companies are in the right place at the right time and the quality of the Staff and department heads couldn't be asked for better.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, 2022 – City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

April 4, 2022 – City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 8:00 p.m.



Jennifer Wida, City Clerk