

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW
July 18, 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 (attended remotely).

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator/ City Clerk Jenni Wida, Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner, Finance Director Darcy Muvihill, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), City Planner Beth Richmond (HKGi), Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.), Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, and Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt,

Mayor Feldman welcomed Colette Baumgardner, the new Community Development Director to the City Staff.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUCIL AGENDA

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes - July 5th, 2022
- B. Fire Department Policy Update - Drill Attendance Section 1.7
- C. Siwek Change Order Request

D. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-D.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Feldman asked if anyone wanted to come forward. There was no one.

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. CIP 2023-2027 Hearing and Approval

Finance Director Darcy Muvihill reviewed the staff report on the Capital Improvement (CIP) for the years 2023-2027.

Mayor Feldman opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Feldman asked if it is for the years 2023-2027. Mulvihill confirmed this.

Bauer commented the agenda says 2022-2026. Mayor Feldman replied that is what he was reading.

Mulvihill replied sorry that was a mistake.

There being no public comment, Mayor Feldman closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Feldman commented he was very glad they attached the Plan-it software to the Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that is good because of what he calls the three W's. It tells what is needed, why it is needed and when it is needed and that is a good thing. He stated that is what Plan-it software does, is make a map to tell when, for example a plow truck what it is, when it is needed. He thought those were scheduled out for 2039 that there will be a plan on how to finance that without

going into the taxpayers pocketbooks. He commented he thought it is a good plan and stated he looked over the Capital Improvement himself and thought it was pretty well justified on all ends. He stated they are only approving the plan.

Mulvihill replied no, any improvement or purchase would come back to Council.

Mayor Feldman commented this is just the plan which can be changed.

Mulvihill reminded Council at the last meeting the change was approved in the Enterprise fleet management so that will be adjusted moving forward as they start using that program.

Mayor Feldman replied right, even though they are approving this it can be adjusted over the years because things do change during the given time frame. He asked for Council comment.

Bauer asked for clarification on sentence number two. He read "water and sewer \$20,000 each per year and for 2020 which is two years ago \$280,000 from the general levy." He asked if that is a fair statement or if that is supposed to be a different year.

Mulvihill asked if that was in the agenda report. Bauer replied it was on page 49.

Mulvihill replied she pulled up the old one so that is 2023 instead of 2020.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR 2023-2027.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Plan System- HKGI

Gabrielle Grinde, HKGi gave a presentation on the park plan system including existing conditions, results of a needs assessment, development and recommendations, and implementation.

Mayor Feldman asked if the 40 acres Ms. Grinde had referred to in her presentation was the Roanoke 40. City Administrator Thunstrom replied correct. Mayor Feldman asked if it was correct that they are hoping to get City sewer and water there. City Administrator Thunstrom replied correct.

Mayor Feldman asked if Council had any questions.

Robinson referenced the original survey that was done a year to a year and a half ago and asked how many respondents there were, if it was under 100. Grinde replied she didn't have the number but she thought it was a couple hundred.

Robinson commented that is higher than he had thought. He thought he had seen 85 or 90. Ms. Grinde replied there were in person surveys and online surveys that were over 200 when they were combined. She added not every survey had every question filled out so each question had a different number of responses.

Muehlbauer commented he appreciated the work that went into this and is looking forward to seeing how they are going to implement this through stages.

Robinson commented this is very thorough and looks very nice. He stated they will need to look at prioritizing for implementation. He stated Community Park seems to have a lot of traffic now and be a good gathering spot. The other parks he suggested speaking with neighbors directly to determine usage and get feedback. He also thought volunteer labor could be sought through this as well.

Bauer agreed with Robinson and added implementation and paying for it an issue. He suggested prioritizing the needs versus wants to ensure the benefit now versus the future outlook as far as sporting events. He suggested looking at what they really want to pay for now, looking at the future and prioritizing it.

Udvig commented it looks great and would love to see it come to fruition. She stated she knew that it would take some time. She liked Robinson's idea of pushing volunteerism. She stated she understood the work behind keeping up the parks. She stated the pieces of park equipment is expensive so being mindful of the materials being used for ease of maintenance and that seating is comfortable.

Mayor Feldman explained there are three things that draw people to move to a town or build in it. First is the school district, second is parks and trails, and third is amenities. He stated as a Council they don't have control over the school board but they do over the other items, promoting the City for growth and parks and trails. He stated the plan is a very good plan. It spells out a lot but as they know as Councilmembers and taxpayers everything has to have a priority to it. He stated they are not going to be coming up with a \$5 million bond to do all these things in a year that is not going to happen. He stated what they could do is get the funding process in place and work out a plan to do that as they did with the road program

by putting some seed money into it and then put funding in on a continuous basis through the levy that they get from Anoka County. He stated they will do that as a Council at a Work Session. He stated this plan is a good direction. He asked how much of it will be implemented over the next five years, and answered only time will tell as they get the money to finance it. He stated the key will be to prioritize what is really wanted right now versus later on. He stated there is always a wish list of what is wanted in life, such as Mercedes, but if you can't afford it, you drive a Chevy until you can get the Mercedes and that is what they will do here. He stated they started out with the plan which is a good process for a good direction for 20 to 25 years out but they aren't going to break the bank or the tax payer's backs to pay of this all at once. He stated it will be paid for over time. He stated they all know without maintaining and paying for the parks they have this plan is only a piece of paper. He stated as a Council they have to work together with the Staff to come up with a way to finance and a continuous revenue to give the public what they want in the order they can do that.

Mayor Feldman asked if Staff was looking for a motion to adopt at this time. City Administrator Thunstrom replied since there aren't any changes Council could adopt and then the draft will be finalized. Ms. Grinde agreed.

Mayor Feldman asked if that was agreeable to Council at this time.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT HKGI'S PARK PLAN FOR THE PARKS AND THE SYSTEM ST. FRANCIS HAS.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

B. Meadows of St. Francis 4th Addition - Minor Subdivision
Resolution 2022-37 approving the minor subdivision for the Meadows of St. Francis 4th Addition with conditions and findings of fact as presented by Staff

City Planner Beth Richmond gave a presentation on the subdivision request for the 4th addition of the Meadows of St. Francis. She noted a revision to condition number eleven, an adjustment to the timeline to allow for comments from Mn/DOT.

Mayor Feldman asked if the applicant is the owner of the land or is it Dollar General. Richmond replied no, the applicant that submitted the request is Dollar General, or their representative, and the owner has signed off on the application.

Mayor Feldman asked if Dollar General wants the City to do three more lots on top of the lot they have. He asked what the thinking was behind that and what they want to do with these lots. Richmond replied as far as she is aware after talking to the property owner is that the property owner is working with different entities to try to fill up those lots, not Dollar General. She deferred to the representative.

Stan Delio representative from Dollar General from 13 11th Avenue N, St. Cloud, came to the podium to answer questions.

Mayor Feldman stated he was curious about that. He stated more retail in the area is something they are looking forward to but asked how this is being handled. He asked if Dollar General would be the owners of those three lots. Stan replied no, Dollar General has nothing to do with the three lots, nor will they in the future. The reason they decided to plat the three lots was the current land owner that owns the entire parcel suggested, he believed they have a proposed tenant on the land for another retail store, so he asked the engineering firm to plat the whole thing since they are platting another piece.

Mayor Feldman asked who will own the land until it is sold. Stan replied the current land owner will. Mayor Feldman stated he will own lots two, three and four. Stan replied exactly. Mayor Feldman continued lot one was sold to Dollar General. Stan replied yes. Mayor Feldman asked if the idea came from the owner or Dollar General. Stan replied from the owner of the property.

Mayor Feldman asked how many acres does he have besides these four lots available. Richmond replied the entire site is 10.6 acres, the northern most lot is about two.

Mayor Feldman commented the way it is totaled it is 10.6 acres. Richmond confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked if these four lots equal that land there. Richmond replied correct.

Mayor Feldman asked if Staff and Council recalled when the owner came to them and they wanted to put a corn field on it and they said no. And then the City suggested having a farmer's market on that land, which they thought was better than corn. So now it has come to a point where the owner is actually platting this out to develop in a retail and commercial way. Stan replied yes.

Mayor Feldman replied that is conducive to the City's thinking.

Stan stated the intention was to plat it out and sell the lots for retail development. There is one perspective entity coming in and a second is in discussions. He stated the platting is being done basically for free but it makes sense to do it at the same

time.

Mayor Feldman replied he liked that because they had talked to the owner about it and he was going to rent it out for a while for corn and the City didn't think it fit the desire for along 47. And they had mentioned to the owner about having a farmer's market or some other retail it sounds like because of Dollar General coming in and picking up the cost he is willing to move forward with it. He stated he liked the concept. He asked for Council comment.

Bauer commented he remembered the previous lot and the jog out had something to do with parking or snow removal. He asked how lot one work now.

Richmond replied he was correct, there is a parking lot in the southwest corner and that is why the job is moved to the south to allow room for that parking lot. So now, by moving the eastern part of that line farther south, only provides more space.

Bauer asked if they aren't moving the left side up, they are moving the right side down. He stated he was confused because in looking at the picture the lines match it looks like they are getting rid of the left. He remembered there was some reason why. Richmond replied it wasn't to scale.

Mayor Feldman commented it actually contributes more parking.

Bauer agreed it gives more parking which he liked.

Richmond stated it gives more space, the parking lot isn't proposed to be expanded as a part of this but it gives more space on the site.

Mayor Feldman commented it looks good.

Robinson commented he was excited about the potential of expanding a commercial site. He asked if the town will support two Dollar Generals. Stan replied he didn't know. He stated he has asked but didn't get a response.

Mayor Feldman commented he was very pleased because the land has set idle for many years now and the fact that it can be split up into four commercial lots fits right in with the change for 47 and hopefully what that will do for the City in bringing more revenue to the City.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: BAUER TO ADOPT MEADOWS OF ST. FRANCIS 4TH ADDITION MINOR SUBDIVISION RESOLUTION #2022-37 APPROVING THE MNOR SUBDIVISION FOR THE MEADOWS OF ST. FRANCIS 4TH ADDITION WITH CONDITIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NONE

11. REPORTS

A. Fire Department- June Report

Fire Chief Dave Schmidt gave the Fire Department's June Report and reviewed the staff report highlighting response time goals being met, 74 calls for service during the month including 57 for EMS, and a busy month for fire inspections with 16 for the month.

Mayor Feldman commented it was a good report, very clear, concise and easy to follow. He suggested naming the new City Hall/ Fire Station to EMS and Fire Department Services because it has changed a lot throughout the country and isn't just fire anymore. He cited the staff report with 57 EMS call and 17 for Fire, which he is glad there are less fires. He stated it seems to him that Fire Departments are becoming more Emergency Medical Services than anything else. He commented it was nice to see just a couple of COVID related runs and that the inspections are increasing which is good. He asked if there is any news on the truck.

Schmidt replied it should arrive in Rochester tomorrow where they will do radio and discharges. It will then go up to Ham Lake for smaller maintenance issues. He stated hopefully they will have it in the station in the next two weeks.

Mayor Feldman asked who all went down for the check. Schmidt replied Captain Sturzl, Firefighter Brent Wentworth, Firefighter Zach Goers, himself and Assistant Chief Lawrence.

Mayor Feldman commented the group did a good job. Schmidt agreed adding they couldn't have been happier.

Mayor Feldman stated they timed that out perfectly because if they had bought that truck today they would be spending at least \$300,000 more for that same vehicle. He stated sometimes things work on the City's behalf. He asked for Council feedback.

Robinson commented it was nice to see fire inspections up and asked why they are almost double from last year.

Schmidt replied it took time to get through COVID stuff. He stated this year a lot of the restaurants fell in the summer. He stated a lot of the restaurants weren't open to capacity or still weren't open to full capacity last year so that is why there is a difference this year.

Robinson asked what the reception has been as they are making the rounds. Schmidt replied in other cities he has worked in it can be a point of consternation but that hasn't been an issue here.

Robinson asked if the fire department has found anything that is astonishing to either the owner or themselves. Schmidt replied very minor things, nothing that took them by surprise. He stated the most thing could be corrected in a short amount of time. He stated they have had 100% compliance on corrective actions.

Robinson asked if insurance companies get involved and if the Fire Department is asked to communicate with them. Schmidt replied very little, if any.

Robinson replied that can be good or bad. Schmidt replied correct adding insurance companies like to know what's happening up front and then they relax but when businesses are open they want to see those compliance checks as a part of their insurance policy. He stated there isn't a lot of follow-up from the commercial insurance companies after that.

Robinson asked who does the inspections. Schmidt replied Captain Sturzl does all the initial inspections. The reinspections are done by himself and Captain Sturzl.

Robinson asked if there is anyone that is being mentored so they get exposure. Schmidt replied last year there were three fire fighters who went through the fire inspection program and became State certified. He stated the problem is that most of these happen during day time hours and a lot of the staff work day time hours. He stated Captain Sturzl has a unique availability where this has kind of been his role for that last couple of years.

Bauer commented it was a great report and he appreciated all the hard work that has been done. He stated the numbers are increasing but the run time is still on time. He asked Schmidt to thank the firefighters for their commitment to community because the more it is the tougher it is to get in there.

Mayor Feldman commented they all appreciate all of the public safety people.

Udvig commented it was a great report and the fire crew does a fabulous job whether they are doing an EMS or fire job or just out in the community. She thought people are getting to know the first responders which is important and is good. She stated she has seen kids going up to fire fighters or police officers and are excited to meet them. She asked Schmidt to thank his staff.

Muehlbauer commented it was a good report as usual and asked that his appreciation be passed on to the staff.

Mayor Feldman commented Schmidt has done a great job of turning the Fire Department around and they all appreciate it very much because it makes the town safer. He stated public safety is two thirds of the budget so it is important to have the right people and staff.

B. Community Development Quarter 2 Report

City Administrator Kate Thunstrom presented the second quarter for Community Development reporting. She highlighted economic development, and housing data. She stated there is concern with platted lots and about 30 single family lots in the MUSA and 22 in the rural area, which is only a year's worth of inventory for new housing.

Mayor Feldman asked if it was 30 in the MUSA area. Thunstrom confirmed this.

Thunstrom continued her presentation, highlighting the building department, administration and code enforcement.

Mayor Feldman commented in the last years code enforcement has been taken from an outrageous amount of people being fined to those people having time to address the problem and if they still don't comply they get fined. That is what they did by putting Jodie in her position and Lyle Hearn in his position. He stated it has really worked out well and it is good because it shows government working to benefit the people they serve. Before more people were fined and once they found out by letting them know what the code enforcement issue was and giving them time to remedy it, it sounds like it is working. He stated the cloud or sunshine is the economy as in every city of every state in the whole country. He stated we are in times with prices high and inflation high and some growth here. He stated lumber prices are going down because starts are down yet prices are up because, he has seen from one report in the St. Paul Realtor's Association he saw the average medium house price was \$380,000 and mortgage monthly payments are 50% and that is what is slowing down the market. He stated that will effect St. Francis as it will every other city so that will have to be handled as best they can and live through that storm. At the same time there is a short inventory that needs to get moving so hopefully this development, Platinum, will come forward and add to that and go forward with that. The values here, our prices for medium price homes were around \$286,000 and now it's up to \$349,000 so they can see what the market is doing around them. He stated the times have changed and they have to adjust to the times. He stated he thought a correction was coming, which is due because prices have become so outrageously high and the incomes aren't matching it and going forward. He stated they will have to see how it all effects them in the long run. He stated now that they have the new Community Development Director here they should have full staff again and they can move

forward on getting some real things moving forward. He thanked Thunstrom for the report and asked for Council comment.

Udvig commented it was a great report. She thanked Thunstrom for highlighting issues that they could run into with the few lots that are left so they can be mindful of what they are doing. She stated she hoped they are able to continue to grow and develop these areas and some of the bigger land could be developed to. She stated she knew of a church that is looking for land. She stated the code enforcement seems to be going well which she knows takes a long time. She thanked the Staff for their work.

Mayor Feldman commented for Council that there is one thing they lack and that is two-acre lots. He stated they have City lots and rural lots in ten acre lots. He asked if that was correct. Thunstrom replied the rural lots are scattered. Some are five, ten, and some are less but it is a price point.

Mayor Feldman stated what is being requested now in the market now are two-acre lots.

Thunstrom replied in watching what one of the neighboring cities have done it is the one and a half to two and a half acre lots that they have watched go very quickly.

Mayor Feldman stated he wanted Council to know, adding they have to give what the public is willing to buy and they don't have that in the City's inventory and they should be aware of that.

Muehlbauer commented it was a good report as usual. He thanked Thunstrom and added he was looking forward to hearing from Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner in the future and meeting her in person. He thanked the rest of the Staff in the Community Development Department.

Bauer commented it was a great report. He stated in looking at the inventory numbers he suggested contacting the DNR again and trying to change those restrictions along the wild and scenic route of the Rum River. He stated if the elected officials a little higher than the Council to work with them and see the plan to be outside the City limits which may give more lots during this delicate time of re-election.

Thunstrom replied as something continues to get worse, there is a large portion of the east side of the river that the property owners have now put their land in permanent easement that will never be built on. In property that they were counting for high numbers for development, when they learned that the DNR got cut in half, the property owners as a private choice that these properties will never have a shed or any type of trail on them. She stated they are working on understanding what that is. She stated she has to put in a data request to understand how many

acres were lost which is estimated to be close to 60 acres on the east side, aside from the DNR.

Mayor Feldman commented that in the discussion on that acreage that the City was never solicited developers for that land at all. He stated all they were doing is giving the landowners the ability that if some day they wished to sell that land to a developer they could do that within the City policy. He stated the landowners had developers lined up which wasn't the case. He stated they took it to a different level and hurt themselves in the long term and the City in the short term.

Robinson commented it is the land owner's right to do what they want to do. He stated it didn't hurt them and it must make them feel good to do what they did. He stated it effects the City. Just because the landowners are within the City boundaries doesn't mean anything, it is their land to do what they want for their ancestors or grandkids. At some point the land won't matter to the kids but the money might and that is a part of attrition in families. He stated he respected what the landowners want to do but it is a shame that other people won't get to take advantage of the area. He cited a property to the east that is over 40 acres which was also put in perpetuity and nothing is going to happen there. He stated it is the landowner's right to do what they want and if it doesn't benefit the City then the City has to be more creative. He stated it was a very good report.

Robinson asked about purchase agreement cancellations which is on the rise, which he has heard about on real estate shows on the radio. He thought by the mid-term things will start loosening up and people will feel a little more secure about what is going on in the world and hopefully prices will come down. He stated he is hopeful for the City but things will take time, maybe another two years.

Mayor Feldman clarified that he wasn't saying that people don't have a right to do what they want with their land. He gave the example of dealing with his parents' trust for 19 years. There are two forms of trust revocable and irrevocable. Revocable can be changed, irrevocable can never be, once it is set in stone it is set for life. He stated all he was saying with the land is that no one said, if they had the option, doesn't mean they would sell the land it only means they have the option. What the landowners have done is take the option off for the future generations. That option now is gone

Robinson commented that is their choice.

Mayor Feldman replied he wasn't saying it's not their choice, but it is one generation's choice and not another generation's choice which is their problem. If a generation down the road wanted to make the change, now they can't either. He wasn't saying it's not their right but to him options were good, with no options there is only direction to go and that is what they go and that is what they did. He stated to him it doesn't matter the City is still going to grow in the way it can grow and will max out at maybe 12,500 people in population in the years to come. It is not the

end of St. Francis that they don't have that land, it is just sad when people don't understand the City wasn't doing anything to develop that land, they were just giving the option to do that if they so choose. Whether they did or not, whether the next generation decided not to or if it went on for three generations and nothing gets done but on the fourth generation they would have had that option, now they don't. That is all he was saying. He commented it was a good report and thanked Thunstrom.

C. Police Department Quarter 2 Report

Police Chief Todd Schwieger gave the second quarter Police Department report. He highlighted service call types and levels and stated that along with responding to calls for service and enforcing laws community engagement was a top priority for the department. He reviewed community engagement events. He acknowledged the Staff who participated in these events which is above their normal duties.

Mayor Feldman asked if it is because it is summer that the numbers on some of this stuff have gone up. Schwieger replied it is just people being out and about in general, more people coming through the City.

Mayor Feldman commented Schwieger on the programs, the drug disposal and ammunition disposal, the TZD with the State, the bike rodeos, and police academy. He stated both chiefs and both departments have become so community oriented which is a big key in a small town especially. He stated it is nice for people to feel comfortable to call the police and not be afraid of the police and the same with Fire. It is no different with health care plans in place that people would be afraid to call a doctor because it would cost too much. The most important thing is to call that doctor or police officer and not be afraid that the police officer is going to do something outrageous. He stated he feels confident in the public safety staff. He stated he was glad to see the public reaching out and not being afraid of the services the City provides as a service business. He commented it was a great report and asked for Council comment.

Udvig commented it was a great report. She stated she knows the events are well attended and appreciated. She asked if the neighborhood watch program was still being done. Schwieger replied it is still active but needs some encouragement as it has fizzled out due to lack of involvement.

Udvig thanked Schwieger and asked that he thank his staff and let them know what a great job they are doing. She thanked Schwieger for his leadership which leads the course for the department.

Muehlbauer commented it was a great report as usual. He thanked Schwieger and asked that he pass that on to his staff.

Bauer commented it was a very good report. He referenced Udvig's comments

about the program and the report with 77 suspicious activity calls which were reported. He stated it is like the community is out there watching and asked if there is an assumption what the difference in the numbers looks like as far as if the community is suspicious or if they are giving good information.

Schwieger replied they get a lot of calls about suspicious persons and people. He stated he thought if people were concerned enough to call it is a good call. He stated they look into every call that comes in but not every call is what they thought they were, most probably aren't. He stated they encourage people who see something to say something and they need those reports and that is what people are doing which is a good sign.

Bauer commented he wanted the community to know that they can only be as good as the community can be. If they call in suspicious things and make the City better, the police officers are out there to investigate and it only makes the City safer. He thanked Schwieger for what he does. He stated he appreciated all the officers who go out and investigate and ensure St. Francis is safe.

Robinson commented it was a great report as usual. He commented it was interesting to see domestic assault was down by almost two-thirds which is good. It may be because people are out and about and not pent up in their homes. He commented that it looks like everything is down just a bit which is good. He asked what the current officer status was as far as count.

Schwieger replied they are still down two on the street and they are currently backgrounding one and have one starting on August 1, 2022. If the investigation goes well they could be back to full staff by early fall, at least in training.

Robinson asked if there has been any dialogue with the school. Schwieger replied he hasn't been contacted by anyone at the school.

Robinson asked if it would be proper to reach out to them. Schwieger replied they will reach out regarding events such as football games as they normally do every year to see if police presence would be wanted. He stated they will look into a school resource officer.

Robinson commented it was interesting that the police department did some church safety trainings. He stated it was a shame it has come to that but that is reality. He stated he talked to another law enforcement officer in another community who said some of the officers are leaving to go to smaller towns to deal with a different criminal element such as drugs and alcohol instead.

Schwieger replied he had heard of that and that those he has heard from have said these officers are going to smaller communities to be more proactive instead of reactive in their environments and are looking for better work life balance.

Robinson added and more civil support and community support.

Mayor Feldman commented it sure is a crazy world.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Muehlbauer reported he is excited to be home for the next meeting as well as National Night Out.

Bauer commented he doesn't have much to report as he was gone for the last couple of weeks. He stated he read over the all the work the City Council and Staff did. He wanted to let Staff know he looked things over. A lot of good work was done and Staff is doing a great job. He thanked them.

Udvig stated she will be knocking on resident doors to talk about parks and other things they are concerned about. She stated the Staff is great and she is super appreciative and make the Council's job a lot easier.

Robinson reported they are planning the Night to Unite for the neighborhood and have already reached out to the Fire and Police Department for some help. He stated he has also been a part of the Building Committee which has a meeting tomorrow to talk about details. He stated a new building for the Fire Department is a need and is important work. He stated the community is growing and is poised for some big things. He extended an invitation to attend a meeting or contact any of the Council members with concerns or questions.

Mayor Feldman asked when the new fire truck is coming. Fire Chief Schmidt replied they hope to have it in town within two weeks.

Mayor Feldman asked if it could be ready for National Night Out. Schmidt replied he hoped so but couldn't make any promises.

Mayor Feldman stated he is working with Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Streets and Parks Supervisor Jeremy Shook, Streets and Parks Maintenance Worker Colin McDonagh, and Water and Sewer Supervisor Parish Barten on the gazebo. He stated they are getting bids for a roof and railing system. He stated he will work with Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill on the numbers. He stated the priority is that they have a wedding on August 24, 2022 and another on September 1, 2022. The railing system is the most important because over the years it has deteriorated. The second priority is the roof and the third is the cosmetic brick that could be put off a year down the road. He stated Carpenter is in the process of getting a second bid and they will bring it to the attention of Council. He stressed that time is of the essence because it is July 18, 2022, there are 13 days left in this month, 24 days before the wedding which is 37 days. He stated with the way materials are they could end up with no materials and a sub to do it, or they could end up with materials and no sub to do it. So they need to move on that because it is important to at least get the railing changed out so if someone is leaning on it, they don't fall through it. He stated they wouldn't like that to happen during

a wedding. He stated he was just letting Council know they are working on that.

Mayor Feldman reported he is working with Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps and Barten on the close out of the Municipal Liquor Store. He stated he is having issues with Weber as paperwork doesn't seem to be something they are good at along with other aspects they haven't been good at. He stated he is holding on to the retainage dollar amount and nothing will be paid until this is brought to a close and then they will be paid off as they should. He stated he has been writing emails with times and will get that finished. He addressed Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner as this is her first meeting and he hoped there would be many more to come. He stated they are pretty lax here and make mistakes. He stated he has told every new Staff member that all they ask is that they do the best they can. They will make mistakes, learn from them and don't repeat them. Also she won't be asked to do things Council wouldn't do themselves. He stated that is pretty much what he tells all Staff members. He stated they are a team here and listen to all team members for the benefit of the City and the people they serve.

Mayor Feldman thanked everyone for their hard work adding they actually do the work. He stated some other cities slide. He stated the titles they have aren't used as titles but actually do the work here. He stated he believed respect is given and returned and it is given on both ends, Council doesn't take advantage of Staff more than Staff takes advantage of the Council. He cited the Mayor's Handbook which says residents working with Staff, working with Council for a better city, that is the true formula to make the City progressive and grow in a positive way.

Mayor Feldman stated, with City Engineer Craig Jochum present, so it is on record and people don't have to call Council about it, that the Poppy Street project starts August 8, 2022 is the start date, dependent on weather. He stated letters will be going out today and follow-up letters will be going out in the weeks to come. More description on the driveways and what kind of sod or seed is wanted, that will all be explained. He asked that the public as they are listening in not to go to social media for answers, they are not going to find the truth on social media. If they want to know what the City is thinking, what the policies or codes are, they are encouraged to call the City. Anyone on the City Staff will respond within 24 to 48 hours. He guaranteed that as the Mayor of this City and knows that as a fact. He asked that if residents have a question about police, that they call police, if there is a question about fire, call fire, if they have a question about public works to call public works, finance call finance, community development call community development. If residents have a question they should call the people who will give them the answer because social media is not the place to find the answer, it doesn't work. He quoted Robinson's prior statements that instead of giving 30 minutes on social media, give the City 15 minutes face-to-face and get the answers they need. That will help the Council to serve residents better because they are a customer service business. He stated he can't stress that enough because he gets calls on such ridiculous things that if residents would just call up and ask the right people they will get the answers they need and put an end to their worries. With such things as code issues and such if they want to know about them, call on them. He stated they are not out to

find people with code issues, they don't make money for the City through fining people through codes. What they do is by growth, through property tax, rate users, and building permits. That is how they make revenue for the City, that is all they do, that is how they do it. He stated people think they find people to do it, no they don't. He stated Jodie Steffes and Lyle Hearn. He stated hopefully the police department will be back to full staff by October and Lyle could get back to his job and they can get things up and running. He stated Carpenter has done a good job moving into Public Works Director role. He stated he has had a little situation taking over from the past Public Works Director. He encouraged Carpenter to take his time to put his system in place. He stated he has a great staff that will be a team around him. If he needs help, he has it. He asked Carpenter not take it all on himself but to share it, that is what they are there for. Council working with Staff and Staff working with Council for the betterment of the City and that is how they do it. He stated it isn't a unique concept, but it is unique to St. Francis. When they first started here they had a lot of issues to take over from past Councils that didn't do the work they are doing now. He stated he used to tell Kate Thunstrom and Joe Kohlmann that one day they will go from the back to the front seat of the car and they are in the front seat now but there is still a lot of work to be done. He stated they don't have a perfect system but they have one that works and they can always adjust it to make it better, which is what they do. He asked everyone to be safe in the heat and drink a lot of water.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20, 2022 – Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

August 1, 2022 – City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

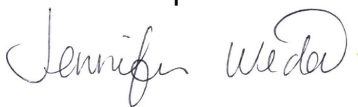
August 2, 2022 – National Night Out – Community Park – 4:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

August 9, 2022 – Primary Elections

August 15, 2022 – City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 7:34 p.m.



Jennifer Wida, City Clerk