

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW  
August 1, 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 Joe Muehlbauer, Kevin Robinson, and Sarah Udvig

Members Absent: Councilmember Robert Bauer

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

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Feldman, Robinson

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes- July 18, 2022

B. Anoka County to Expand Broadband Services

Resolution 2022-38 Offering Support to Anoka County to Expand Broadband Services in the City of St. Francis

~~C. Woodbury Park Gazebo Railing~~

D. Ambassador Float Agreement- Updated

~~E. Demolition RFP, acceptance and award- 23116 Ambassador Blvd~~

F. Water Wastewater Systems Operator Resignation/ Replacement

G. Erkium Street Encroachment Agreement- Baldwin Family

H. Siwek Park Improvements – Pay Estimate No. 1

I. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE CONSENT

## AGENDA ITEMS A, B, D,F, G, H, I.

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0

C. Woodbury Park Gazebo Railing

Mayor Feldman stated Councilmember Robinson had questions on items C and E.

Robinson stated the Woodbury Park gazebo is in need of repairs due to aging. He stated there were two bids, one for over \$8,000 and another for over \$10,000. He asked where the money is coming from to pay for it.

Public Works Director Paul Carpenter replied \$10,000 was set aside last year for the gazebo.

Robinson asked if that was in the Public Works budget. Carpenter confirmed this. Robinson asked if there were more than \$10,000 set aside for x items. Carpenter replied no \$10,000 was for repairs for the gazebo. Robinson asked if the roof repairs are going to be addressed this year or if that will be coming to Council at some time.

Mayor Feldman replied they started thinking about replacing the roof with maintenance-free materials but are reconsidering. He stated he was a contractor for many years and just retired. He stated an asphalt versus cedar-shake for that gazebo is a completely different look. He stated they didn't want to take away the aesthetics of that gazebo. He stated the cedar shakes are not leaking, they are just graying because they are old. The cedar shakes can last 50 years, they just have to be maintained, every three to five years they need to be power-washed and resealed to maintain the good look to it. He stated they are a great shingle but cedar has a maintenance downside to it. He stated they decided to hold off on the cedar because it is more expensive with the way things are in the construction world these days. He stated they plan to budget for it next year but decided to keep the look with cedar on it because they felt if they went to asphalt it would be maintenance free but the aesthetics wouldn't be the same and people may not like that. He stated the railings are rotting out and are dangerous. He stated he didn't want to take the risk of having someone fall from leaning on them. He stated there is a wedding September 1, 2022 and September 24, 2022. They are going with aluminum maintenance-free white railing. They felt that would be more acceptable to the public versus the shingles on the roof. He stated they are doing it in phases until they have the money and will plan accordingly. He stated they have \$10,000 in the budget and are only spending \$8,300 to get the railing system done seemed to be the right way to go, that is why they are doing it.

Robinson asked if there was any other Public Works manpower spent on the railing or is another entity installing it. Mayor Feldman replied the contractor is going to

be removing the railing and installing the new. He stated there will be some point where to connections to the main post will need some painting or touch-up. He stated Carpenter and his staff will do that with white paint.

Robinson asked if the contractor wouldn't want to do that. Mayor Feldman replied he would charge more for that and the City has people that are more than competent to paint some spots on posts.

Robinson asked if there is money set aside for this from last year and when would it be anticipated to be done. Mayor Feldman replied the problem has been that the materials may be available but not the sub, or the sub and not the materials. He stated it turns out the materials will be available in two weeks but the sub won't be available for a month. They were under the assumption that the weddings were going to be August 24, 2022 and September 1, 2022 but they found out that was an error and now it is September 1, 2022 and September 24, 2022 so their goal is to get the railings done for both weddings.

Mayor Feldman commented he didn't mean to take the floor from Carpenter in this but stated he has been spearheading this whole project from the beginning.

#### E. Demolition RFP, acceptance and award- 23116 Ambassador Blvd

Robinson asked City Administrator Kate Thunstrom if the money is laid out, does it come back within the sale price, do they recoup some of that. If they have any purchase agreements pending on that piece of property can it be shared with someone. He stated they probably have to hand over an access ready parcel for someone to use. He stated with \$26,000 if any of that could be shared or worked out with the potential buy if there is one waiting. If not, where does that money come from. He asked if it comes from the general fund and they have to wait to get reimbursed for it through a sale.

Thunstrom replied this will be on a general fund or the streets fund because the property was acquired for the purposes of a street access point. She stated the City won't be selling it. She stated the 3731 property off of Bridge Street was to develop this would be the secondary access to increase the number of units in that development. She stated the cost associated with it are the City's responsibility because it is being used for a street development and not reselling for a residential or commercial purpose.

Muehlbauer asked if makes that land more valuable. Thunstrom replied it makes the center of the property more valuable for the 3731 for the redevelopment purposes but these were funds that had to be accounted for in the budget, not anticipating to get reimbursed.

Mayor Feldman commented in discussing it through the process it makes it more sellable to have two access points.

Robinson replied he understood, he was just worried about the cost. He stated it was a shame it was such a nice structure and research was done as far as getting it moved and it is so tall that it is cost prohibitive but what a waste of good lumber.

Mayor Feldman added, on top of it, he thought the guy had put new siding and a new roof on it and new windows.

Thunstrom replied he took some of the siding and doors with him when he sold it to the City. Right now, it is boarded up and doesn't look very pleasant. She stated inside it is down to the framing and is pretty much gutted. She anticipated less for demolition cost because of how much has been removed. She stated it is a sign of the times as far as how much this project is costing the City. She stated she was expecting \$5,000-\$8,000 cheaper.

Mayor Feldman asked if there was anyone interested in that property today and moving forward with it. He asked if not, could they wait to take it down until some correction in the economy happens in year that could make the price better. Thunstrom replied as it sits as a vacant structure they would be putting themselves at a liability, and it is against City ordinances, so they would be saying the City could do that but residents can't.

Mayor Feldman replied they can't do that, they never do that.

Thunstrom continued she thought it is the City's best interest to get it down, there is no guarantee the price would be cheaper in a year or two but to wait that long would be putting the City at risk.

Mayor Feldman replied what is good for the residents is good for the City.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE  
CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS C, E.

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0

## **5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Michael Preimer, of East Bethel, Minn., explained he was asked to attend the meeting to tell Council about his Eagle Scout project. He stated he is re-purposing *Star Tribune* newspaper boxes into Free Little Libraries to be placed at schools in the school district.

Mayor Feldman asked what it takes to do that. Mr. Preimer explained the process of converting the boxes and that he hosted a book drive where he received 949 books.

Mayor Feldman asked how big the boxes were. Mr. Priner explained the size. Mayor Feldman asked how many boxes he got. Mr. Priner replied three, one for each elementary school. Mayor Feldman asked if it was Mr. Priner's idea. Mr. Priner replied yes. Mayor Feldman asked if they are done and going into place. Mr. Priner replied they are going into place tomorrow.

Mayor Feldman stated that is fantastic. He asked if Mr. Priner has any other things he has done or other projects he has lined up. Mr. Priner replied no.

Mayor Feldman replied that is pretty good. He stated he appreciated the initiative it has taken to get that done and those books will get done. Mayor Feldman thanked Mr. Priner for coming and sharing with Council.

Mayor Feldman asked if there was anyone else. Deputy City Administrator/City Clerk Jenni Wida replied there is a group from Northrup Grumman.

Thunstrom stated they could speak now or wait until the Ordinance is discussed. Mayor Feldman replied that might be better.

Mayor Feldman asked if there was anyone else. Wida replied no.

**6. SPECIAL BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

**8. OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Platinum Land Resolution 2022-39 A resolution approving a comprehensive plan amendment at 23925 St. Francis Blvd NW and authorizing submission of the amendment to the Metropolitan Council for review.

City Planner Beth Richmond gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the Platinum Land Development project. She stated the discussion tonight is about the location of the general land uses themselves. She stated the site layout and design of the area is something that will be reviewed in the future with a future application.

Mayor Feldman stated he sees that some of the concepts that were brought, that this plan follows is changing, accordingly. Richmond replied correct, the entire idea of the amendment to the Comp plan does generally follow off the idea of the

concept Council saw back in January.

Mayor Feldman asked if the 20 acres of commercial that will be reduced to the small site that was talked about in the concept, how does that relate for loss for homes. In other words, if they were talking about 300 homes at one time, what are they talking about for potential, now that it has through medium density instead of high density.

Richmond replied she didn't have those numbers in front of her. She stated the original plan Council saw showed a reduction for only having commercial in the southwest corner. At that time they were proposing about 300 units, which is what it is planned to stay at. She stated the pieces of the concept plan to now haven't changed much but she didn't have the numbers of what that translated into.

Mayor Feldman referenced statements about the public having concerns about the types of housing. Richmond replied it was mainly about the design of the roadways and how those move through the site and the location of where exactly each type of housing would go on the site. She stated those are things that will be decided at a later time. At this time the entire site is residential, they are not discussing the layout.

Mayor Feldman asked for Council feedback.

Robinson commented he attended the Planning and Zoning meeting where this was discussed and he had no comments at this time.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING RESOLUTION 2022-39 APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO REGUIDE A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY AT 23925 ST. FRANCIS BLVD FROM COMMERICAL, HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, AND MEDIUM/HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL WITH CONDITIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF AND TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF THIS AMENDMENT TO METROPOLITIAN COUNCIL FOR FINAL REVIEW.

Ayes: Udvig, Muehlbauer, Robinson, and Feldman

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0

B. Interim Ordinance- THC Products - First Reading Ordinance 298 - Interim Ordinance Prohibiting the Sale, Testing, Manufacturing and Distribution of THC Products, First Reading

City Administrator Thunstrom gave a presentation on request from Staff to adopt an interim emergency ordinance allowing Staff to react and update codes in regard to the new THC products and the laws.

Mayor Feldman stated he read it and thought it was a good idea. He stated he thought a moratorium, taking time to get this right because it is a new law, new rule is a good idea. He asked if Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps had anything to add.

Schaps replied the only thing he would add is that other cities have been looking at this as well. He stated the emergency ordinance is for up to 12 months. He stated if there are new codes or ordinances, or if the State comes up with further guidance that amount of time could be reduced. At this point Council would have 12 months to study this issue and then come back with a regulatory scheme.

Mayor Feldman asked for Council comment.

Udvig asked if it is correct that as it stand now if someone were to come and open a store, the City would not be making any revenue off of those sales. Schaps replied that is correct.

Muehlbauer commented his concern is a missed opportunity as far as revenue. He stated it sounds like the biggest issue is that the ordinance has to be in place to generate the revenue. He agreed with Udvig that the revenue from that wouldn't be the City's. He stated it is coming and there is nothing that can be done about it. He thought it could be somewhat divisive among certain groups of people as far as whether it should be legal or not in the first place. He suggested doing whatever can be done sooner rather than later to not miss an opportunity as far as getting the revenue into the City because it is something that is going to be here. He stated it isn't something that can be stopped and people are going to go elsewhere. He asked if the Liquor Store could maybe be part of it but thought maybe it can't because of the muni part of it.

Mayor Feldman replied it can't. Schaps added per state law currently it can't be sold at the liquor store.

Mayor Feldman commented it sounds like they need to know a lot more before making any decisions.

Muehlbauer commented he wondered if it will take 12 months because he wouldn't want to see it take longer than necessary if it can benefit the City as far as the licensing. He stated that it will be employment if it is prohibited and how that will be handled. He stated it is legal in Arizona where he has been working but he didn't know how it works there.

Robinson asked if the study will take a full 12 months and is this something that Staff already has a full work load and if there is a timeframe for getting starting. Thunstrom replied she didn't think it will take full year. She stated there are a lot of cities enacting this ordinance in the last two weeks. She stated they have all realized there are personnel policies, zoning policies, licensing policies and it is

stepping back internally to look at where this belongs. She stated if tobacco licensing is referenced, there are perimeters in there that she thought this will be reflective of. She stated when it comes to enforcement will the PD be required to do testing, some of the same overlays with licensing, it is going to fall along the same lines but it is a different department that is overseeing it. She stated they are waiting for the State to give more. She thought the surrounding cities will begin to release ordinances and will help guide Staff to see others dealing with some of these shops. She stated they step back and see how some of the pieces unfold so they don't react too prematurely.

Robinson asked if Council could be updated in three or six months on this. Thunstrom confirmed this. She added updates can be included in the off-week memos also as to what is being seen in the industry.

Robinson replied that would be fine. He stated it is disheartening when the Legislature says they didn't know it was in there and seemed surprised they voted for it. He asked if there are any vendors in town currently that this would effect directly. Thunstrom replied she wasn't aware of any.

Robinson asked Police Chief Todd Schwieger what the Minnesota Police Federation have to say about this. He stated he reads the off-week reports regarding other substance use such as meth and cocaine. He stated he wasn't against people engaging in activities as long as it didn't impact the health, safety and wellbeing of others.

Schwieger replied everyone is waiting for further guidance either from the League of Minnesota Cities or the County Attorney's office. He stated the County Attorney's office has jurisdiction and is going to be prosecuting many of these misdemeanor offenses that are in place. He stated there is a lot of gray area right now and everyone is trying to buy time to ensure they in line with the County Attorney and prosecuting office if these regulations are violated. He stated there is no good guidance from anyone at this time. He stated last week he was in a meeting and the Anoka County Attorney's office will be issuing guidance soon so they can start moving forward with that.

Robinson stated there is a detection issue and an issue of whether employers can detect it with their employees. He stated when erratic drivers are pulled over, law enforcement wouldn't know why. He stated people can do what they want in their own home, whether legal or illegal that is their business, until they are caught, but knowing for detection of people who are taking this and is not known for sure.

Schwieger replied if it is a driving offense they will take a look at that and investigate it the same way they would now. He stated there would an issue with testing that is unknown now how that gets done specifically.

Robinson commented he didn't think this is an infringement on anyone's personal

rights or wellbeing to take a year. He agreed with Muehlbauer that people are going to do what they want and this is something that goes on already. He stated he supported it.

Muehlbauer asked about the enforcement and if that has to do with local law enforcement going into these dispensaries and testing the content. Schwieger replied right now with their compliance check, similar to tobacco or alcohol, the department would make sure the business is following the State regulations for the sale of the product. As far as the testing of it he was fairly certain they would need probable cause to start testing products but they haven't gotten guidance from the State or County.

Muehlbauer stated THC stays in the system longer than other things and asked if the situation of DUI if law enforcement had any advances in this kind of thing, or throughout the country because it has been legal in a lot of places for a long time. Schwieger replied he isn't very familiar with that yet but it would be based on showing impairment and determining what is in the system. He stated there are processes in place for testing for THC in Minnesota so he thought it would be a similar process.

Muehlbauer asked how impairment is determined. Schwieger replied there are certain tests they could do that are different than alcohol that would give them indications of what products are impairing the person's ability to drive.

Mayor Feldman commented it sounds like the State is relying on counties and cities to work out the gray areas.

Muehlbauer commented it sounds like a political move.

Mayor Feldman commented he didn't think there was a choice but to go this route. He thanked Staff for checking into this issue and hoped it could be done in less than a year while getting it right.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON, SECOND: MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT INTERIM ORDINANCE THC PRODUCTS-FIRST READING ORDINANCE 298- INTERIM ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE, TESTING, MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THC PRODUCTS, FIRST READING.

A roll call vote was performed:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Mayor Feldman            | aye |
| Councilmember Robinson   | aye |
| Councilmember Udvig      | aye |
| Councilmember Muehlbauer | aye |

Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Feldman commented he really wished the State would work out these bugs before handing it down to the City.

C. Restricted Water Ordinance 299 - Adding section 14 to Chapter 8 of the City Code - Safety Restrictions on Public Access to Water or Wetlands, First Reading

City Administrator Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report regarding an ordinance addition regarding to public access and water. She stated a group from Northrop Grumman is here to answer any questions.

Mayor Feldman commented he and Thunstrom went out and had a tour of Northrop Grumman. He stated he is supportive of this because he has seen the facility himself and they are doing some great work out there.

Todd VanSlyke, 23100 Sugarbush Road, stated he appreciated Council entertaining this. He stated they are very safety conscience on the site and without this ordinance, at times they are protecting their own employees far more than the public who venture onto the site. He stated they could access the pond and then get close to their operations.

Mayor Feldman commented a stray bullet could hit something, a facility, and they are dealing with ammunitions and could lead into a much bigger catastrophe that they don't want to see happen.

Katie Crosby-Lamen, the attorney for Northrop Grumman, stated she was available to answer questions. She thanked Council for considering this tonight.

Steve Rauschendorfer, an employee of Northrop Grumman, 23100 Sugarbush Road, stated they didn't want people wandering into a hazardous or dangerous zone because some of the operations on site could have some sort of safety incident such as a fire or explosion. He stated doing something to keep people out of those zones was important to them. He stated they have worked with the Police and Fire teams to bring them on site through tours so they understand the different hazard zones on the property.

Mayor Feldman commented this isn't to take something away from the public but actually to help the public and the company be safe. He stated there are some areas, this is one of them, that they shouldn't go into. He stated they are doing a great job for our National defense and are dealing with ammunitions. He stated one stray bullet of some sort or someone being at the wrong place at the wrong time could create a catastrophe the City doesn't want to deal with and they don't want anyone getting hurt. He stated the tour was very impressive. He asked for Council comment.

Robinson asked if this has been a problem in the last several years and is that why it has come to light and is that why it is being enhanced with an ordinance. Mr. VanSlyke confirmed this.

Robinson asked if they currently have security and surveillance in the areas they are concerned with.

Mr. VanSlyke replied they have 400 perimeter signs around the site warning people not to trespass and warning of the danger. He stated the most recent case an individual called and said they have access rights to the water and they are going to. He stated that is what started this because where the individual enters the water is right next to the road and probably stays out of the safety zones. He stated he has access to anywhere on the water and could venture very close to the property. He agreed with Thunstrom that it doesn't always end there, the individual could shoot a duck or something and go up on the property and things could get worse.

Robinson asked if there is a security group or entity on the property that responds to something like that.

Mr. VanSlyke replied they could be the first response, they have a contract security group who guards the facility 24/7.

Robinson asked if they work in conjunction with the local police department. Mr. VanSlyke replied yes.

Ms. Crosby-Lehman added, plus the DNR.

Mr. VanSlyke replied in the past they have been the first point of contact but a lot of the times people are reasonable and understood they are putting themselves at risk and the problem worked itself out. He stated there has been a recent individual who has pushed that and is searching for something hard in the rules that says this area is unsafe for him or her to access.

Robinson asked if that is what this ordinance will do for them. Mr. VanSlyke confirmed this.

Robinson asked if it will enhance any activity the City Police Department will have to do now, will there be any changes. Or will they still have people responding from the Northrop Grumman team and will they contact the law enforcement if need be. He asked if there has been anyone protesting against what they are doing. Mr. VanSlyke replied no, it was just hunting requests. He stated they are working with the DNR when there is trespassing.

Robinson thanked them for coming and representing the company.

Mayor Feldman commented they say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of

cure and this ordinance is the ounce of prevention and gives them some guidance through an ordinance to tell that one person who may not follow the rules as well as they should that they can't do that.

Muehlbauer commented he heard about the tour and was a little disappointed he wasn't in town for that. He stated it sounds like something he would like to do at some point. He stated the way the property is set up, there is some fencing, and asked if where the pond is if they are not able to close it off.

Mr. VanSlyke replied they are in the process of updating all the fences. They are going from three wire to five wire. He stated this particular pond is so close to the road they can't put a legal fence there so there are signs along the edges as carefully as they can of the warning.

Muehlbauer commented he supported the ordinance but was curious as far as how they also regulate a property if it is outside of the property line to prohibit the public. He stated it sounds like it is not a huge issue with many people but is with this individual.

Udvig thanked them for coming tonight. She stated her questions were similar to Robinson. She stated she thought this is necessary at this point and if one person is doing it others may come. She stated for the safety of the employees and the public, this needs to be done.

Mayor Feldman commented laws aren't made for the people who obey them, they are for those who don't obey. He stated there is always one individual who drives recklessly on the road or does something stupid while hunting or whatever. He stated there are many hunters out there that are responsible but there is always that one out there that will take the extra yard or extra step they shouldn't. He stated this will give some protection. He stated he understands this has been going on for quite a while. He hoped this will help and give the public guidance on what they can and can't do and help the police.

MOTION BY UDVIG, SECOND MUEHLBAUER TO ADOPT A RESTRICTED WATER ORDINANCE 299- ADDING SECTION 14 TO CHAPTER 8 OF THE CITY CODE- SAFETY RESTRICITONS ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER OR WETLANDS, FIRST READING.

A roll call vote was performed:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Robinson   | aye |
| Councilmember Muehlbauer | aye |
| Councilmember Udvig      | aye |
| Mayor Feldman            | aye |

Motion carried.

Mayor Feldman asked them to keep up the good work. He noted Muehlbauer could sign up to tour and they probably wouldn't mind it at all. He stated it is a good tour.

Ms. Crosby-Lahman stated she could let Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner know when there is a tour if anyone is interested.

Mayor Feldman replied that would be great.

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

## **11. REPORTS**

### **A. Department Reports**

Mayor Feldman asked Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner how her first two weeks were. Baumgardner replied it has been a good experience so far and she has really enjoyed it. She stated the first week was a whirlwind where she met everyone. The second week she got to know the development application projects. She stated she was hopeful that in the next few weeks she would be able to get to know the Councilmembers better and their vision for the community.

Mayor Feldman replied he was sure she had a lot on her plate. He stated she told him she had some folders on her desk that Thunstrom dropped off. Baumgardner replied they moved from the bottom of her desk to a cabinet.

Mayor Feldman commented former City Administrator Joe Kohlmann did the same thing to Thunstrom when she started. He stated he guessed that is how they pass the baton here. He added City Planner Beth Richmond, Staff, and Council are always there to support.

## **11. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Muehlbauer reported he was happy to be in town, tomorrow with Night to Unite, and seeing everyone out. He stated other than that he has been out of town for quite some time.

Udvig reported she will be at Night to Unite as well. She stated she is looking forward to meeting people at the park and getting input from residents. She thanked Michael for coming tonight. She stated she saw his post asking for books so she reached out to him and his mom. She stated Eagle Scout is a big accomplishment and this is his final project before he reaches Eagle Scout so she asked him to come. She also gave a shout out to the Ambassadors who have been busy going to parades, carnivals and festivals. She thanked them for their service to the community.

Robinson reported he attended the Planning and Zoning meeting two weeks ago. He welcomed the new superintendent and asked him to introduce himself to Council. He stated in the past the relationship with City and ISD has been there but wanted it to be more. He stated they share a lot of property lines, building space, roads and highway 47. He stated they are expecting big things but with an open extended hand to say hi and thanked him for coming. He stated he came to the Planning and Zoning meeting and introduced himself there. He stated Council is glad he is there and hope he has an open mind. He stated it is two entities that have never really gelled but there is a lot to be gained from both sides if someone would take the time and follow through which has been a big deficit in the past.

Carsten Anderson thanked Council for what they do for the community. He stated he just started on July 1, 2022 so he understands Baumgardner. He stated he loves living and working in a school district. He stated he comes from Red Wing where there was a focus on helping students become career ready through hands-on experiences in classrooms, relevant coursework, and strong internships within the community. He stated they want to make the school district even better by collaborating with each of the cities in the school district. He invited Council to call or email with questions or suggestions. He stated he was looking forward to getting to know each of them.

Mayor Feldman commented when they first came into administration in 2017 they were told by the chairman of the board at that time that what is good for the City is good for the school district and vice versa. He stated they believe in that and hope that with Mr. Anderson coming on board that will come to fruition.

Mr. Anderson agreed, adding that he gets that strong sense from a lot of different people that the only way to have the strongest community is to work together.

Mayor Feldman commented they have learned over the years that when people are looking for a city to move to, whether moving into an existing home or new residential area, they look at three things: school district, parks and trails, and amenities of that city. He stated Mr. Anderson is right up there with the draw factor to the City as well as what they are doing.

Mr. Anderson replied those are three of the reasons why he chose to live and work in the school district. He stated he wants to be a part of that effort.

Mayor Feldman reported that after two years, Poppy Street is finally going to start on August 8, 2022, next Monday, give or take for weather. He asked about the sprinklers, that people have sprinkler systems on their properties on Poppy Street, they will be relocated through this process by the contractor. City Engineer Craig Jochum confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked they should be marked. Jochum replied it would be helpful but it is a week or two before that. Mayor Feldman replied he has five or six himself.

Jochum stated they will be sending letters later this week about sod and the driveway issues.

Mayor Feldman asked if where the culverts are, they are going to be removed and at leveling out of the land will be to the sidewalk. Jochum replied past the sidewalk.

Mayor Feldman commented he gets a lot of questions about that. He stated that it is going to be closed to through traffic for at least two weeks, maybe three depending on weather. Police Chief Todd Schwieger replied they allowed a month.

Mayor Feldman asked if it is correct that there would be a period of time after the curbs are poured, seven days before sidewalks or anything else can be done. Jochum replied before they can enter their property. Mayor Feldman stated seven days, so they have to find alternative spots to park. Jochum confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman stated the neighbors asked if there could be patrolling a little more frequently from the Police Department in that area as they park outside with their vehicles. Schwieger replied absolutely.

Mayor Feldman stated that was one big concern a couple of the neighbors brought up because they won't be able to access the driveways at all because of the lips of the driveways will be poured cement and need to cure. He asked if letters have been sent out. Jochum confirmed this.

Mayor Feldman asked if a gentleman named Joe Mansick had reached out to anyone about the 229<sup>th</sup> project. He stated he may have spoken to Shane. Jochum replied he may have contacted the inspector.

Mayor Feldman stated they are fully open and transparent on everything they do with the City. He stated if residents have a question they should call the City before they go on social media to find answers to questions. He stated they will not find answers on social media. He stated they will find the right answers by talking to the right people at City Hall. As he said in the newsletter that is coming out, anyone residents contact in any department, if they don't answer and a message is left, they will get back to the resident promptly. That is something they have always said they will do, have always done for six years, and will continue to do. He stated they do nothing behind closed doors. He stated the only time this Council goes into a closed door session is when they are talking about employment issues which is guided by State law. He stated otherwise they are pretty much open and transparent which is the platform they had in 2017 and have stayed true to that all the way until now and into the future. He stated he wished that the public would realize that social media will not give them the answers they need. The City will give the answers they need, that they request for and it is their job as a customer service business to do that. He stated it may not be the answer residents want to hear but it will be a truthful, vetted answer giving them as much knowledge as they

can passed on to them by the guidelines the City has to follow through Mn/DOT, the Mn/DNR and the State regulations the City has. He stated even though they are a charter city versus a statutory city, they still have situations where the State gives guidelines they wish they wouldn't but there is no choice. He wanted on record so the public understands that the City is there to serve them to the best of their ability and they would rather have them communicate directly rather than on social media. He stated over the last six years he has seen the headaches that social media creates for the City. He quoted Robinson for every 30 minutes spent on social media, give the City 15 minutes face to face and they will get a solution or answer they can work with.

Mayor Feldman reported he will be at Night to Unite tomorrow and hoped the weather stays good. He stated it will be warm and hoped people drink a lot of fluids. He stated there will be food trucks and a lot of events. He asked if Robinson will be having is neighborhood event. Robinson replied they will be cancelling theirs this year because people were busy.

Mayor Feldman commented that Night to Unite is a good event to come to and there are a lot of activities besides the food trucks. He stated police and fire have been doing a great job working on that. He stated it has been in planning for months, since February and now it is going to be August 2, 2022 tomorrow. He commented the summer has gone fast. He reported the primary elections are coming up and if there are any questions, talk to City Clerk Jenni Wida and she will give the directions on what to do during that time frame on August 9, 2022. He stated the next Council meetings are on August 15, 2022 and September 6, 2022. He welcomed Baumgardner again and stated Public Works Director Paul Carpenter is getting in to his job and will continue to do that. He stated the building committee met today on the City Hall/ Fire Station that they are in the planning stages for. He stated they have a good committee and are asking a lot of questions and getting a lot of answers. He stated he was proud and happy with that.

### **13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

August 9, 2022 – Primary Elections

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

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

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 6:54 p.m.