

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW

December 5, 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 remotely).

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - November 21, 2022

B. 2023 Business Licenses

Resolution 2022-62 Adopting the license renewals for 2023

C. Language Line Interpretation Services

D. Outfitting Crane Truck

E. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE CONSENT

AGENDA

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Feldman asked City Clerk Wida if they had anyone wanting to speak. She said that Brandon Guimont wanted to speak on parking issues and City ordinance.

Brandon Guimont 22787 Eldorado Street Northwest, came forward to discuss the winter parking Ordinance 7-4-3. He stated he received a parking warning from the police department notifying him that it is an issue for him to park his vehicle on Cree Street. He stated there have been ongoing issues with parking since he moved in a year and a half again. He shared that the townhome association has always instructed homeowners to use Cree Street for overflow parking. He stated he has talked to the police department concerning this matter.

Police Chief Todd Schwieger stated this has been talked about at a Staff meeting. He acknowledged the difficulty of winter parking and stated it should not be an issue during the day but this issue is overnight parking from 1 a.m. to 11 a.m. He stated that parking on the street on the weekends when it is not snowing then it should not be an issue.

Mayor Feldman stated that this resident does not have any access to any other parking and asked where he is supposed to go. Police Chief Schwieger stated he is sure he and Staff can work together on this. He encouraged residents to abide by parking rules, especially if it is snowing and plows need to get through the City streets.

Mayor Feldman asked if the City or the association plows the streets within the association. Mr. Guimont stated the streets are private and the association has the street plowed and it is oftentimes plowed at night which means they are required to move their cars out of the driveway and if not, they are charged a fee for them to come back and do it again.

Mayor Feldman asked Public Works Director Paul Carpenter for his suggestions. Carpenter stated that until a more feasible option, he agrees with Schwieger that it is not an issue during the day but the City also plows at night.

Mr. Guimont added that there is not a single overflow parking spot. He stated his

only thought of a solution is to allow the association residents to park on Cree Street, and mainly just on the west side of the street. Mayor Feldman said he likes the idea of the cars only parking on one side of the street. He added that these residents cannot be tagged for following the rules.

Robinson said this needs to be looked at as this is going to continue to happen every time it snows. He suggested reaching out to the association ahead of time to allow for some space. Mr. Guimont added that there is an area on the north side of the development that dead ends that could potentially hold a few vehicles. Robinson suggested that Carpenter talk to the association.

Mayor Feldman asked how many cars are usually parked on Cree Street. Mr. Guimont stated there are 3-7 cars on average. Mayor Feldman asked if it were possible that these cars could park in front of the Police Public Works building during the overnight hours.

Muehlbauer stated the only issue he can see with parking at the Police Public Works building is that the residents would have to cross Highway 47 on foot. He thanked Mr. Guimont for bringing this to the Council's attention so that they can request more overflow parking for the development when they expand. He said this will need to be looked into.

Udvig hopes that a temporary fix can be put in place until there is a permanent fix from the association.

Bauer stated that Minneapolis does west side parking on snow plow days and the cars need to be moved to the other side on the next night. He was curious as to what the east side apartments do on Kerry Street which also has limited parking, but he has never seen cars parked on the street. He suggested having the association plow during the day as this is what the east side apartments do. He noted that the association needs a better plowing plan for its residents. Mr. Guimont shared that the association is rather unresponsive when it comes to issues.

Mayor Feldman stated that some options need to be given. He suggested that only warnings be given for cars parked on Cree Street, unless it is a third or fourth warning. He asked Carpenter to see what can be done about parking on one side on Cree Street and come back and plow the other side the next day. He also suggested allowing the residents to park in front of the Police Public Works building. The Council agreed to these recommendations. Bauer asked for legal opinions on the matter.

Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps shared that the Council can direct Staff to issue a letter to the association on this concern.

Mayor Feldman thanked Mr. Guimont for bringing this to the Council's attention.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS****A. 2023 Proposed Budget Presentation****Resolution 2022-63 Certifying taxes payable in 2023****Resolution 2022-64 Adopting Budget for 2023**

Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill reviewed the proposed 2023 tax levy and budget. She explained the budget goals and process, and the property taxes and tax rate calculations. She stated that residents should have received their proposed tax notice from the County in recent weeks. She added that the supplemental budget information is new for the tax statements of 2023 to give the residents more information about the levies and budgets. She reviewed the City's general fund revenues. She was happy to answer any questions from the Council.

Mayor Feldman stated it was a nice report but he assumed that residents will be questioning why their taxes have gone up. He shared that his home value has increased \$77,826 since last year. He stated that he is not happy about this as it will increase his property tax amount by \$512.26. He said that this is just how the market that they are living in is. He explained the need for the City Hall Fire Station; however, if it becomes too cost ineffective, he said the project will wait until the timing is better. He shared that, before he was Mayor, he listened to a Council put the burden of a new wastewater facility on the residents. He stated that the Council will not jeopardize the City with this project. He added that there will be public hearings and tours in regard to the City Hall Fire Station so that the residents can understand the need. He reiterated that if the project is bid out for more than the City can afford the project will wait until the City can afford to do it. He stated there is nothing that can be done about the market and over time it will correct itself.

Muehlbauer stated this is similar to what happened with the economy in 2008. He added that things can be discussed revolving the new buildings.

Udvig thanked Mulvihill for her presentation and echoed Muehlbauer and Mayor Feldman's points. She reiterated Mayor Feldman's point of not moving forward with the City Hall Fire Station is the City cannot afford it; however, if they just continue to put money into the buildings that are falling apart it will just be a waste. She shared that the Council has talked about this long and hard and have had many work sessions.

Bauer asked Mulvihill about the market value versus tax capacity and stated he would like to see the median house income be centered in the presentation. He echoed what Mayor Feldman shared about inflation driving up these rates. He reiterated Udvig's point concerning the amount of work sessions held on this. He added that by prolonging the City Hall Fire Station it will cost the City more in the long run.

Robinson shared that his home value also went up over \$100,000 and his taxes went up over \$850 so he understands how the residents feel. He stated that the Council has been very prudent with what they have done. He stated that parks and building improvements are the big expenses that are very important. He said the Council takes this very seriously and want to please the public. He noted that the citizens have put the Council in these positions to make the tough decisions. He mentioned that new people are moving into St. Francis and these items are helping prepare for the future.

Mayor Feldman explained that in years past, there was no maintenance of City buildings and when this Council came in they established a maintenance program to help these buildings survive. He stated that this has been done to the best extent and the age and condition of these buildings is what is driving this decision. He added that the longer they wait on these projects, major projects will come into play which will cost the City lots of money that would be better spent towards a new building. He reiterated that the Council is looking at this in a prudent way and are doing their due diligence. He stated that if the project is over budget they will put the project on pause until the City can afford it. He stated that regardless of tonight's discussion, the rates are not going to change.

Mayor Feldman opened the public hearing at 6:55 p.m.

Mark Vogel, 2540 243rd Avenue Northwest, came forward and shared that he recognizes that the primary driver of this is the inflated value of the homes; however, the City is the beneficiary of this and is making more money by the inflated value from homeowners. He stated that the proposed revenue is higher than the proposed expenditures. He noted that is not for nor against the City Hall Fire Station but he is upset that the first time he heard of this was at the last meeting he attended. He asked why there was no communication concerning the City Hall Fire Station. He shared his frustration that the survey was given at the pancake breakfast that the residents did not know about. Mayor Feldman asked if he had received the December newsletter. Mr. Vogel said he had not.

Mayor Feldman stated that the City needs to get things under control and tightened up before it is presented to the public. He discussed this process isn't overnight it has been in progress for two years. We started looking at architects and the plans and the maintenance of the buildings which started six years ago. The architect recently died this summer that was helping us maintain the buildings. He decided what need to be done at City Hall and the Fire Station to maintain those buildings. We researched every building and what needed to be done and to see what was the proper way to go. We got to a point where we had to decide what type of building do we want. Just a fire station and a separate City Hall or combine them. Then, we looked at the site we had and purchased some property next to that site so we could have site large enough to build. We went out and did our due diligence, we got quotes from architectural firms and we went out and did tours and new City

Hall Fire Stations on our own time. He stated the residents do not get to see what is done in the background. Mr. Vogel shared that he recognizes the work that Council has done, he is just frustrated that there was no communication on this and there has already been a Capital Improvement Plan approved at \$13,000,000 at a public hearing that no one heard about. Mayor Feldman asked if the City would have put more information out earlier that would have been better. Mr. Vogel said yes, it would have been better to inform the residents about the general concept. Mayor Feldman shared that there will be many public hearings and open meetings concerning the City Hall Fire Station.

Mr. Vogel asked how a public hearing could be held for the voting on the bonding and there was no notice about the public hearing to the public. City Administrator Kate Thunstrom explained that when a public hearing is held the notices are put into the paper of record in the Anoka Union and there is a website dedicated to this. Mayor Feldman asked if there was a timeframe that the bonding needed to be approved by to move forward. Thunstrom stated that was moved as part of the general timeline to get to bonding done and get through the 30 days prior to moving forward.

Mayor Feldman stated the City will also be looking into the USDA Loan program for cities with low populations. He said there is a lot left to do on this project. He acknowledges that they could have informed the public earlier. He said this has all been discussed in length in work sessions and see that there is nothing but problems from the current fire station building. He stated that residents will be able to take tours of the City Hall Fire Station. He added the Council will be as open as they can be with this, but again if the bid comes in higher than budgeted, this project will not be done. He stated they will not jeopardize the City. He apologized for not informing the residents earlier.

Mr. Vogel started to discuss the tax increase over the last 5 years. He expressed his frustration at the average of 12% increase in taxes per year stating that average household incomes are not increasing at that high of a rate. He reiterated his frustration with the City's revenue being higher than the expenses. Mayor Feldman stated this benefits the City at large for things such as the City Hall Fire Station and parks. Mr. Vogel stated that his issue is that his income is only increasing 3%-5% every year and his City expenses are going up 9%-12% which does not allow him to put money into his savings account while it allows the City to put into their savings account. He reiterated that he is not against the City Hall Fire Station, he is saying that it may be better to put a pause on the project now that the economy is in the face of a depression. Mayor Feldman again stated that they will not move forward with this project if it bids out too high. Mr. Vogel said the Council has a vote on the tax levy and the ability to reduce it.

Joe Buhn , 22130 Cedar Drive NW, Oak Grove, a business owner in St. Francis, came forward and shared that the first time he heard about the City Hall Fire Station was this week. He stated he is not opposed to it; however, he thinks the public

needs more information and ask for the public's opinion. Mayor Feldman stated this will be done. Mr. Buhn asked if it will be put on a ballot. Udvig stated that the election is going to come at a cost to add this to a ballot. Mayor Feldman explained that this project is still very much in the planning stage. Mr. Buhn asked how he is supposed to trust the Council. Mayor Feldman said that this Council is a different Council than the one of the past and sat in the audience in the same position when the water treatment plan was being discussed by a previous Council. Mr. Buhn stated that he is not against the new building. He has not been in the fire station but he has been in City Hall and said it seems nice. Mayor Feldman asked that he please take a tour of the buildings. He stated he is lucky to not live in St. Francis but he has seen his taxes increase 441% on land that he owns that cannot be sold or developed. Mulvihill explained that the market value is set by the City Assessor but there is an exemption for golf courses and that is set by the County. Mr. Buhn stated that it is ridiculous to have the City assessor come in and double the value of vacant land that is good for nothing. Mulvihill stated he would have to talk to this City assessor. Mr. Buhn asked the Council what businesses will want to come to town based on these tax rates. Mayor Feldman stated that every Council in the area is hearing that same thing. He stated that governments need to make money to provide services for the residents and the key is spending his money wisely. He gave an example of poor money spending from the previous Council concerning a snow plow that was purchased from Florida and how the current Council corrected this to make this snow plow useable for Minnesota and not Florida. He stated that they are doing what they can to maintain the City while it grows. He said the Council has many plans for the future that will have the opportunity for public input. He shared that the Council is trying to listen to the residents and acknowledged that they have made mistakes and are looking at moving forward. Mr. Buhn asked the Council to listen to the public when it comes time for these public hearing.

Julie Allen, 855 229th Avenue, came forward and shared that she called the assessors when she received her tax statement to ask why her property value had increased so much. She added that the assessor told her that just because the property value is going up by that much, it does not mean that the property taxes will go up that much and that the City just needed to define what they need for budgeting amounts to work with and that is spread out over the population. She stated she is not so concerned that her property value has gone up as much as it has, but the Council does have control over the budget. She shared her statement showing a 19% increase which is extreme. She acknowledged that Mayor Feldman said that they will not move forward with the City Hall Fire Station if the bid price is too high, but she asked when the determination of this will be made and if it will change the property tax rate. Muehlbauer addressed this by explaining that the Council has been planning this and have been trying to avoid the mistakes that happened surrounding the wastewater facility. He stated that they had already been planning and saving for this project when the economy was doing well. He acknowledged that the Council can learn from their mistakes of not communicating about this to the public earlier. He stated that the taxes would not go down this year if they set the levy now. He shared they will have a work session next week to talk

about the possibilities and the options that the City has. He said there is a slow increase in the property tax to save money for this project. Ms. Allen said this does not seem to be a slow increase. She shared that it feels like the Council is trying to rush to get this into this tax cycle and the project is not ready yet. She thinks more due diligence needs to be done to determine costs before the taxes are decided. She shared she is also concerned that the price right now is already not affordable.

Barb Hanks, 3570 232nd Court, came forward and shared that her market value on her home went up \$73,000 which is a 30% increase and the taxable market value went up \$79,788 which is a 35% increase. She shared that her City of St. Francis taxes increase \$357.50 which is a 30% increase. She shared that she and her husband are on a fixed income and asked the Council if there was anything they could do to consider the taxes.

David Watkins, 24455 Crocus Street NW, came forward and shared that his taxes have gone up 22% just from the City. He asked that the Council let the residents know what is going on in general. He asked about the bonding that was voted on in October. Muvihill stated that the first step was the CIP hearing to set the top level which was \$13,000,000 for the bond. She stated there was then a 30 day waiting period before they could move forward. She said the bonds have not been issued yet. Mr. Watkins asked if the bonds plan to be issued. Muvihill explained that the bonds could be issued once they receive bids. Mr. Watkins shared he is not against the City Hall Fire Station but recommends a slowdown. He explained that he had the assessor out to his property and was given money back from the County because his assessment was not correct. He asked what can be done now to slow the outflow of money from residents in terms of taxes.

Mayor Feldman asked if this can be moved to the second meeting of December. Muvihill said yes. Mayor Feldman suggested having a work session on this to look at it from a different perspective now that the Council has heard the public's input. Udvig noted that work sessions are open to the public.

Mayor Feldman stated that he would rather have residents come to the Council than take their concerns to social media. He shared that he received a call from someone concerning raising taxes for Highway 47. He said they are looking for grant dollars for this road but they are not raising taxes for Highway 47. He stated he thinks this needs to be moved to a work session to figure out the best way forward with that. Mr. Watkins stated he would appreciate that. He asked if there is any wiggle room to reduce the levy. Mayor Feldman stated that this project cannot be bid out until likely February which is a problem. Thunstrom stated that bids would likely not be in until the end of August. Mr. Watkins mentioned that the public hearing does not help the concerned residents if a decision has already been made.

Mayor Feldman discussed that he and Councilmembers are citizens too and all of this affects them and their taxes. He stated it would be prudent to delay this to the

next City Council meeting and have a work session before then. He stated that more things can be made clear to the public at a work session.

Dave Schulstad, 971 935th Avenue Northwest, came forward and echoed everything that other residents had said previously. He wanted to discuss the 41% increase on the streets and highways. Mayor Feldman asked who sets these amounts. Mulvihill explained that this included the streets portion of the general fund and the street fund, which contains the street maintenance programs. Mayor Feldman explained the street maintenance program is a program that was put in place and it removes the assessment from residents. Mr. Schulstad suggested putting this off in hopes that road materials and construction costs could come down. Mayor Feldman stated that if the program is taken away then the assessments would come back. He added that it costs money to do all of these things in the City. He stated this is why the Council will be taking this to a work session after hearing the public's input which is different from the previous Council. Mr. Schulstad suggested putting off some of these items for a year or two.

Mayor Feldman closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Robinson said he was fine with moving this to another work session. He reiterated Mayor Feldman's point that it would have been difficult to let the public know about the project before the Council themselves had an idea or base numbers to work with. He added that the last four years with this Council have been nothing but true and honest. He shared his focus was on the fire department for the new City Hall Fire Station. He stated the open house is next week and he encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to tour both buildings to see the need for this new City Hall Fire Station.

Bauer stated he would be willing to share his tax statement and is also upset with the numbers. He shared he used to be a firefighter and knows what the current Fire Station looks like. He stated he started talking about needing a new Fire Station six years ago when he was elected. He added that a packet for what will be talked about in work sessions and City Council meetings are available on the website.

Mayor Feldman added that parks can be put on the back burner if necessary to focus on the new building. He stated the Council will look at the numbers and will decide the best way to go for the City.

Udvig agreed that this should go to a work session and acknowledged that the Council has heard the concerns of the public. She said the Council will listen to the residents. She mentioned that there are still going to be large expenses to cover these buildings if they decide not to move forward with the new building. She thanked the residents for coming and sharing their thoughts.

Muehlbauer agreed with one of the residents that more information should have

been included in the newsletter. He explained his frustration in hearing some of what the residents shared as the City does a lot of different events to spread awareness of certain things that had very low turnout. He stressed the importance of residents being involved. He is happy to move this to a work session to continue discussion.

Mayor Feldman stated that a new City Hall Fire Station is needed and will be built. He said he is glad the residents came out to voice their opinions but encouraged them to do so more and get involved. He again stated that the Council did not put more information out about the City Hall Fire Station because they themselves did not have the numbers or information to talk about. He reiterated that the City needs new buildings. He gave examples of other things that the City could have done in the past but did not, which is why there is a need for the new buildings. He said he cannot go back in time and change these things but the current Council is working to change these things moving forward. He noted this will go to a work session and the time of the meeting will be shared with residents and they are welcome to attend.

Thunstrom stated that a date will be needed for the work session and suggested Monday, December 12, 2022 and she and Wida will find space for this meeting and add it to the agenda.

Mayor Feldman suggested setting the meeting for 6 p.m. for the public's sake. The Council agreed that they can make 6 p.m. on December 12. Thunstrom stated they will find a space to hold the meeting that will accommodate Staff and the general public.

Udvig encouraged the public to be watching for the agenda for the meeting.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: BAUER TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM TO THE DECEMBER 19 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DIRECT STAFF TO SET UP A COUNCIL WORKSHOP FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, AT 6 P.M.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Feldman encouraged everyone to get their questions asked. Muehlbauer added that work sessions are not interactive with the public, so residents are welcome to attend but they do not get involved with back and forth with residents at the work session. He encouraged residents to get in contact with Council prior

to the meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fee Schedule Amendments - 2nd Reading

Ordinance 302 - Amending section 2-9-1 of the city code regarding the fee schedule

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report and provided updates on the changes discussed at the last City Council meeting. She stated that if Council does not wish to move forward with this tonight she suggests moving the fee schedule to a work session to discuss park dedication. She was happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Feldman shared he has discussed this with Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner and he thinks it would be prudent to move this to a work session to discuss further. He shared his concerns with this kind of increase turning away development. He said Baumgardner put together a comparison of what other cities charge.

Thunstrom said this work session can be set at a future Council meeting as it will not go on the December 12th meeting because that meeting will be dedicated to discussing the levy. She suggested moving forward with the fee schedule with the park dedication as is and at a future work session this will be an agenda item.

Mayor Feldman asked about the non-profit organization annual fee of \$150 and asked if that was correct. Thunstrom said that was correct. Mayor Feldman asked why the language around the Council being able to waive the fee was crossed out. Thunstrom explained that these statements have been on the fee schedule but have not been in practice or in process in the last six years.

Mayor Feldman wanted to clarify the water meter deposit equipment amounts is \$465.15.

Udvig agrees that everything on the fee schedule looks good other than the park dedication information.

Bauer agreed and discussed the comparison of park dedication fees from other cities and thinks St. Francis falls pretty closely in line with the other cities.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: ROBINSON TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #302 AMENDING SECTION 2-9-1 REGARDING THE FEE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PARK FEES

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Feldman	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye

Councilmember Udvig	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Bauer	aye

Motion carried 5-0

B. Rivers Edge Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements and Release of Financial Security
Resolution 2022-65 Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements and Release of Financial Security

City Engineer Craig Jochum reviewed the staff report and recommendation to accept the improvements and release the financial security for the plat at Rivers Edge.

Mayor Feldman stated that the utilities for this phase were constructed in 2018 and the final work course of pavements for the street were constructed in 2019. He stated the City has received the as built as required obligation.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: ROBINSON TO ADOPT RIVERS EDGE ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND RELEASE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY, RESOLUTION 2022-65 ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND RELEASE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

C. Rivers Edge 2nd Addition Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements and Release of Financial Security
Resolution 2022-66 Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements and Release of Financial Security

Jochum stated this is the same item as the previous just for the second phase of the plat. He stated Staff recommends acceptance of the improvements and release the financial security for the plat at Rivers Edge.

Mayor Feldman stated that the utilities for this phase were constructed in 2020 and the final work course of pavements for the street were constructed in 2021. He stated the City has received the as built as required obligation.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: MUEHLBAUER RIVERS EDGE 2ND

ADDITION ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS AND RELEASE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY, RESOLUTION
2022-66 ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
AND RELEASE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Joseph Morell, 24360 Yukon Street Northwest, came forward and shared he thinks it is very foolish to go after a new Fire Station and a new City Hall. He understands needing a new Fire Station but thinks this needs to be prepared for. He said it seems like this Council is on a path to make the same foolish financial decisions that the previous Council did with the wastewater facility. He noted it seems like the Council is choking out the parks and recreation department to push a new building through. He shared that he called Mayor Feldman in regard to the Highway 47 project and finances and he heard from Liz Fairbanks who heard from Udvig that taxes would be going up due to the Highway 47 project. Mayor Feldman stated that Highway 47 is a State road. Mr. Morell said the residents of St. Francis are going to end up bearing some of these costs. He added that saying it is a grant and State money is a lie. Mayor Feldman stated the Council never said this would be grant money, they are researching grant money. Mr. Morell stated the City is going down the wrong path for a building that does need to be replaced, but in the future. He shared he has a background in the construction industry and understands how the bonding works. He added the Council should be more transparent and truthful about these matters. He mentioned that if the City wants to increase public engagement, he recommends going around and asking the residents their feelings on this matter. He said there have been buildings that were supposed to go up over the last six years that have never gone up. He explained that it feels pointless and frivolous to be exploring the option of the new City Hall Fire Station until it is financially viable.

Mayor Feldman explained that this has already been moved to a work session, which is more than the past Council did. Mr. Morell stated this Council is heading down the same path as the last Council.

Udvig stated she did not tell Liz that taxes were going up due to the Highway 47 project, but what she did say was that people said that they wanted stop lights and if Highway 47 is to have stop lights it is going to cost people money. Mr. Morell stated that the only option to cost the residents money is to raise the taxes. Udvig

said unless they do not do it. She told Mr. Morell to not misquote her in a conversation with Liz and not him. Mr. Morell stated he was told that the money would probably end up raising taxes.

Mayor Feldman said that they have been working on this since 2019 when the accidents occurred and they are finally getting MnDOT to come across with two roundabouts and two traffic lights. He noted that these things take time and government does not move quickly.

11. REPORTS

A. Liquor Store Quarterly Report - Quarter 3

Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt reviewed the 3rd quarter sales report. He noted a numerical mistake on the second to last page of the report. He highlighted gross profits and shared that through November they are sitting at a 27% gross profit.

Mayor Feldman pointed out that the first quarter total was \$568,842.53, the second quarter total was \$767,127.90, and the third quarter was \$828,029.11. He said this shows him that the store is trending in the right direction with the increase in customer base and sales. He suggested not just using the in store advertising for promotions, but to also use social media to promote the store. He added that the farther away from the monitoring, the more established the store becomes. Schmidt shared that there are still customers who will come in and say that they have not been in the store since the remodeling.

Udvig said it was a good report and she has heard from residents that they like the events at the liquor store. She asked if they are looking at any promotions for wine cards. She mentioned she was in the store the other day and it was very busy and the staff was very knowledgeable and helpful. She thanked the staff for their hard work.

Muehlbauer said it was a great report and hopes that the store continues to approve.

Robinson shared he was happy that the City has a revenue stream like this. He asked if Schmidt had been able to recognize the buying volume and utilize the extra storage. Schmidt said yes because of where their numbers are. He said the buying power has helped out. Robinson asked if participation has increased after the improvements were made. Schmidt said the sellers offer what they offer and he has built a relationship with these vendors. Robinson asked how he would judge the response to the events that have been held. Schmidt said that all of the events have gone better, especially the fire fundraiser with the bean bag toss. Robinson commended him on the variety. Mayor Feldman added that the store was so small before that they could not even sell Coca-Cola, and now they can.

Bauer said it was a great report and sees things trending in the right direction. He

noted that he was confused about September's numbers and asked Schmidt to explain. Schmidt explained that he tried to order up enough to make it through the end of the year. He said it is also possible it is because they ran out of a lot of products.

Mayor Feldman added that Schmidt will be able to determine which items move quickly and can be bought in bulk.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Udvig shared that she attended the Community Tree Lighting and thanked the Fire Department for bringing Santa and Mrs. Claus. She thanked the residents who came out to the meeting tonight and encouraged those who are not in attendance to get in contact with the Council if they have questions or concerns.

Bauer mentioned that Santa will be at the Police Station on December 8th and the City Hall and Fire Station open house will be December 14th. He asked Fire Chief Dave Schmidt if there will be anything with Santa and the Firetruck food drive at the event or if it should be kept specific to the open house. Schmidt said these two items will be separate so that the resources can be fully dedicated to each event independently and shared that Santa and the Firetruck will be on December 15th. Bauer said this is a great event and is well received by the firefighters and the food donations go to the food shelf. He thanked the Fire and Police Departments for all of their organizational events for the season.

Robinson thanked Wida for the off week reports and all those that contribute to them. He states that the Police Chief reports are also intriguing. He stated he also looked at the EDA packet and said that there will be thinking coming in the future. He encouraged residents to find these packets on the website. He encouraged residents to take the time to attend the City Hall and Fire Station open house.

Muehlbauer states that he attended the EDA meeting. He said he looks forward to being back in town in person for the next meeting.

Mayor Feldman stated that the public came out tonight to discuss the City Hall Fire Station and reiterated that they did not put the information out right away because they were doing their research and due diligence. He hoped that the Council has shown that this Council listens and is willing to put in the extra work for the benefit of the residents. He stated that the Council and Staff are doing the best job that they can, and in order to do the best job, the public needs to get involved. He said it takes the resident's input on issues and concerns to get things done. He hopes that the residents see this Council's willingness to listen and take steps back to look at this project from a different perspective. He noted that the City Hall Fire Station is still very much in the planning stage and nowhere near where the wastewater facility was when it was brought forward. He said the residents need to get involved to reach the goals of the City. He said this will be looked at fully in the work session and the Council will make the decision that they think is best for

the majority of residents.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8 - Santa at the Police Station 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

December 14 - Open House at City Hall and Fire Station 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

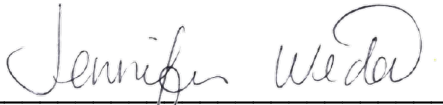
December 19 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

December 21 - Planning Commission Meeting -7:00 pm

December 26 - Christmas Observed - City Offices Closed

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Feldman adjourned the regular City Council at 8:39 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer Wida", written in dark ink.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk