



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 20, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Donny Chillstrom; Council: Jahn Dyvik, and Marty Schneider

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Planning Consultant: Addison Lewis; City Engineer: Chris LaBounty; City Attorney: Jeff Carson; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Kurt Kaminski, Liz Olson (both with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LONG LAKE NEWS UPDATE AND WORK SESSION REVIEW

Mayor Chillstrom offered the following updates:

- Mayor Chillstrom encouraged shopping local as often as possible.
- Thanks to the efforts of Bob Erickson and the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, signage directing traffic to the "business district" will be installed at County Road 6 / CSAH 112, Brown Road / County Road 6, and Willow Drive / County Road 6.
- In an EDA meeting prior to the regular Council meeting, the EDA took action approving the purchase of a parcel of MnDOT owned land behind the Public Works property adjacent to the bypass. The EDA also discussed ideas for drafting templates for potential developers looking to approach the EDA with an application.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Schneider, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of October 6, 2015 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of October 6, 2015 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve Payment to Pearson Bros. Inc. for the Work Completed on the 2015 Seal Coat Project
- E. Approve Proposed 2016 Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission Budget
- F. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of October 13, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Schneider, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bob Hardin, 2040 W Wayzata Boulevard – Mr. Hardin expressed his appreciation to Susanne Caswell, who undertook the planting and maintenance of the flower garden in Hardin Park this past growing season. He also thanked a crew of volunteers from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum who recently conducted a buckthorn cut and seal program at Hardin Park, and further thanked Public Works staff members for promptly removing the mountain of buckthorn that had been cut and piled.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning Case #2015-07 / Application for a Minor Subdivision of Property Located at 292 Heather Lane, Theodore and Jacquelyn Olson

Planning consultant Lewis stated that the property at 292 Heather Lane is zoned R-1 Single Family Residential and contains a single family home. The property is also located within the Shoreland district, as it is within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of Long Lake. The property owner wishes to split the existing lot into two residential lots. The subject property was originally platted as two lots; however the property owner had them combined years ago for tax purposes. The property is one tax parcel however two certificates of title exist at the Hennepin County Registrar of Titles office. The request is to uncombine the lots according to the original plat.

The lots as originally platted conform to the current lot standards for the R-1 district with regard to lot area and lot width. Lot 3 contains an existing single family home. With the proposed uncombination of the lots, the existing home would meet the required side yard setback from the new lot line. Lot 4 has never been developed and contains natural vegetation and numerous mature trees. The property owner wishes to uncombined the lots with the intent of selling Lot 4 as a developable lot for a new single family home.

The Public Works Director has noted that utility maps indicate there is a sewer stub to Lot 4 however the water curb box could not be detected. The property owner would be charged for hookup fees for water and sewer and the Metro SAC charge at the time of the building permit. Staff does not believe that a park dedication fee is required due to Section 18, Subd. 7, B, 2 of the Zoning Ordinance which states that "property that is resubdivided with the same number of lots shall be exempt from all park dedication requirements".

Because the request is to uncombined two existing lots which have already been platted and does not involve the construction of any new roadways, the request is being processed consistent with a minor subdivision as outlined in Section 18 of the Zoning Ordinance as opposed to requiring the applicant to go through a preliminary and final plat process. A grading plan and tree preservation plan would be reviewed by staff at the time of building permit. The request appears to be consistent with all other requirements of City Code.

At the October 13, 2015 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission held the public hearing and voted 4-0 to approve the request. Residents from two neighboring properties spoke during the public hearing and raised concerns about stormwater runoff and drainage with the eventual development of Lot 4. Plans for future development on the lot will be required to comply with all stormwater regulations and drainage patterns may not be altered so as to result in a net increase in runoff to neighboring properties from what exists today. Grading and drainage will be reviewed at the time of building permit and will require a CUP for grading as the property is within the Shoreland area.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2015-47 approving a minor subdivision of property located at 292 Heather Lane as shown on the survey dated 8-13-2015 and with the findings of fact noted in the staff report and expressed at the October 13, 2015 Planning Commission meeting and October 20, 2015 City Council meeting, with the condition that a ten foot drainage and utility easement be dedicated along the new lot line dividing Lot 3 and Lot 4 (five feet on each side).

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Schneider, to adopt Resolution No. 2015-47 approving a minor subdivision of property located at 292 Heather Lane as shown on the survey dated 8-13-2015 subject to the findings and conditions contained therein. Ayes: all.

Reschedule November 3, 2015 City Council Meeting Date

Due to School Board elections taking place on Tuesday, November 3, the regularly scheduled City Council meeting does need to be rescheduled per Minn. Stat. 204C.03, subd. 1.

Council members present discussed their availability for an alternate date during the week of the regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Schneider, seconded by Dyvik, to reschedule the November 3, 2015 City Council meeting, to be held instead on Monday, November 2, 2015 beginning at 6:30 pm. Ayes: all.

Planning Case #2015-08 / Conditional Use Permit to Allow for Grading and Filling in a Shoreland Area at 1790 Martha Lane, Renee Axelson

Lewis indicated that review and action on this agenda item would require the presence of at least four Council members in attendance at the meeting. With only three Council members present, this agenda item will need to be tabled for review until the Council's next meeting.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Schneider, to table consideration of Planning Case #2015-08 until the November 2, 2015 City Council meeting. Ayes: all.

Public Hearing: Consider Approval of a Resolution Ordering the Watertown Road Improvement Project and Preparation of Plans / Specifications

City Engineer LaBounty provided a presentation detailing proposed street, stormwater and utility improvements to Watertown Road between the western municipal boundary with the City of Orono and Brown Road. Recommended improvements to Watertown Road and Harrington Drive include: removal of the existing pavement, limited utility improvements, subgrade corrections as necessary, installation of concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer improvements, and a new roadway surface.

At the September 15, 2015 regular City Council meeting the feasibility report was presented and received by the City Council. Following that meeting staff looked at alternative roadway sections for Watertown Road which included a rural roadway section and implementing stormwater management into the project. The reconstruction of Watertown Road as a rural section, either in part or in full, would be a departure from past projects the City has completed, but is feasible from an engineering standpoint. In addition, implementing stormwater management (such as rain gardens) in the project area would be feasible with either a rural or urban section. A variety of traffic calming measures are continuing to be explored for their potential effectiveness if installed along the roadway.

LaBounty reviewed potential project costs, including special assessments, and discussed the City's special assessment policy for calculating and allocating assessments. He also presented an overall project timeline.

Mayor Chillstrom opened the public hearing at 7:15 pm, and reminded the audience that the Council is not considering the design as final at this time; rather, the matter for the Council to consider is whether to move forward with a project to improve Watertown Road.

Neil Weber, 2280 Watertown Road – Mr. Weber commented that he has spoken to a number of his neighbors and they collectively prefer the project not include curb and gutter, and that the road be kept to a narrower street width of 24'. He stated that a narrower roadway by itself serves as a traffic calming device, discouraging speeding traffic, and expressed concern that widening the roadway will enhance the current disregard for speed limits. He indicated he'd like to see the visibility of speed limit and stop sign signage be improved, as well as children playing signage installed along the roadway. He commented favorably on a visual example of a roadway section shown by Engineer LaBounty which depicted a 24' wide road with a one-foot gravel shoulder. He also noted that perhaps Watertown Road may be a candidate for different road design in different sections; reflecting that the area he lives is more rural in appearance, however the area closer to Brown Road is more densely populated with more of a need for on-street parking.

Chuck Moburg, 58 Inglewood Street – Mr. Moburg stated he was initially not in favor of curb and gutter proposed for the roadway; however, after further consideration and viewing the uniformity of streets as they're reconstructed in town, he believes implementing the current city street design standards ultimately will improve property values in town. While speeding traffic is an issue, more and improved signage could be installed. He is in favor of adhering to the city street design standards and supports staff's current design proposal.

Lori Goodsell, 2206 Watertown Road – Ms. Goodsell emphasized the need for better traffic control and improved speed limiting measures on Watertown Road. She prefers the roadway section near hers and neighboring properties be kept more rural in appearance and character, and remain narrower in width. She questioned why the section of Watertown Road in Long Lake would need curb and gutter, when the section in Orono does not include the same.

Tom Henjum, 2050 Watertown Road – Mr. Henjum reflected that after listening to what others have suggested, he believes there may be something to the idea of designing the roadway to reflect two different types of street sections. He is in favor of a wider roadway if it will allow on-street parking, and anything that can be done to help reduce the speed of traffic traveling the road would be appreciated. He requested consideration of more visible and frequent speed limit and other signs.

Council members present offered direction to staff to look into options for improving signage immediately on Watertown Road, and also taking signage along Grand Avenue into consideration.

Council and staff continued to discuss traffic calming options; Orono's financial contribution to the project cost and how it would be impacted by the deletion of curb and gutter from a portion of the project design area; the feasibility of rain garden installation and continued maintenance of any installations considered; and how alternative designs and narrower street widths would or would not allow for on-street parking and rescue vehicle access. Engineer LaBounty noted that accumulating topographical data for review will assist staff in preparing alternative design options.

Adam Albrecht, 2167 Watertown Road – Mr. Albrecht commented favorably on the street design examples prepared including curb and gutter along the road. He expressed concern about accommodating or encouraging on-street parking, as vehicles parked on the side of the road obstruct views of people and objects at the end of their driveways or between vehicles. He also echoed concerns about the speed of traffic.

LaBounty indicated that the next step in the 429 Special Assessment Process would be for the Council to adopt a resolution ordering the project improvements and to order the preparation of plans and specifications for the project. As a 4/5 majority vote is necessary in order to approve the resolution, LaBounty referred to City Attorney Carson to comment on the Council's options given that only three Council members were in attendance.

City Attorney Carson stated that the Council could either close the public hearing and motion to table action on a project resolution until the next meeting; or could motion to continue the public hearing and consideration of a resolution both to the next meeting agenda in November.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Schneider, to continue the public hearing regarding the proposed Watertown Road Improvement Project until the November 2, 2015 City Council meeting, and to table action on the resolution ordering the project until that meeting. Ayes: all.

Council members authorized Engineer LaBounty to move forward with conducting topographical surveys of the project area at this time, recognizing the need to complete that work prior to winter weather.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leaf Pickup Dates – City Clerk Moeller reported that licensed refuse haulers will be picking up bagged leaves on Tuesday, October 27 and Tuesday, November 3. Leaves do need to be bagged in compostable bags only for pickup.

Comprehensive Plan Training – Lewis asked the Council whether they would be interested in scheduling a joint City Council, Planning Commission and EDA meeting intended to offer a training regarding the Comprehensive Plan and plan update process. Council members were in favor of the training and joint session proposed.

Parking Concerns at Birch's – Council member Dyvik noted that he had observed issues with overflow parking at the new Birch's on the Lake and wondered whether the City will need to address a parking problem at the site. Mayor Chillstrom stated that the Union Cemetery board is looking at some options to prevent excessive overflow parking on the access road and in the cemetery lot. Staff noted vehicles could park on street on neighboring residential streets during regular business hours.

Highway 12 Safety Initiative – Council member Schneider had struck up a conversation with a few State Troopers while in St Paul the previous week and learned that there is going to be a safety initiative focusing on the roadway designed to reduce incidents underway soon. Council member Schneider indicated he could have a representative come to a future meeting to discuss the initiative being proposed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Chillstrom adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk