

LILYDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 13, 2021

Present – Mayor Warren Peterson and Councilmembers John Diehl, Lyle Hanzal, Bill Kleinman and Anita Pampusch; Mary Schultz, City Clerk and Kathy Mutch, administrative assistant

Also Present – Bridget Nason, city attorney; Police Captain Wayne Wegener; and Mike Andrejka, building official

The city council meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Agenda – **Moved by Councilmember Pampusch and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comments - No comments.

August 9, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes – Councilmember Pampusch proposed a grammatical correction to the 1143 Sibley Memorial Highway paragraph by removing a semi-colon and replacing it with parentheses.

Moved by Councilmember Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Hanzal to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 city council meeting, as revised. Motion carried 5-0.

September 7, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes – **Moved by Councilmember Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Pampusch to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 city council special meeting, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Building Office Report – Mike Andrejka reported six permits were issued and three closed in August. Mr. Andrejka shared fire and safety hazard concerns from Fire Marshall Jim Lee and residents regarding the River Bluffs property. He acknowledged the property has been vacant for several years, has had debris dumped on the site and he would consider it blighted. He was hesitant to officially declare it hazardous without an inspection.

Attorney Nason stated State Statute 463 allows the building official to make a determination of a hazardous site on a property and to give the property owner notice of the determination and the opportunity to repair the site. Through a civil action the city could ask the court to demand the property owner fix the condition and authorize the city to repair the site and seek recovery of repair costs from the property owner.

An extensive discussion followed on the building official's concerns. Councilmember Diehl reminded councilmembers that the property is possibly sold and expected to close by the end of the year. The buyer is aware of the condition of the real estate. Mayor Peterson directed the city administrator to send a letter to the property owner identifying the issues that are being raised. The fire chief will be invited to the October council meeting to state his concerns.

Police Report – Captain Wegener responded to an inquiry by Mayor Peterson following an article in the Minneapolis paper about communities in Hennepin County using a “so-called” welfare worker in response to certain crisis calls. The Mendota Heights Police Department is following a co-responder model. This model has a county social worker ride with a specific police officer for crisis calls under the umbrella of mental health issues. It gives the officers latitude to triage “social worker only” calls directly to a social worker. Dakota County is looking at trying other options as it does not have enough staff to pair up each officer with a social worker or fund a co-responder model.

Engineer Report – Jennifer Koehler was not in attendance. Work was being done on the pedestrian trail. Following up on the discussion of “no bike” sign placement, Mayor Peterson identified five spots, all facing west: the

beginning of the trail at the Holiday Station, the entrance outside Stonebridge, west of the apartment building, 1101 Sibley Memorial Hwy. and one at the Colony. Councilmember Hanzal concurred, indicating five was a good start and more could be added, if needed.

Moved by Councilmember Pampusch and seconded by Councilmember Hanzal to add five “No Bike” signs on the Pedestrian Trail. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Report – Attorney Nason confirmed a memo was provided to councilmembers tonight on the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. She reported the use of these funds for the city’s lift station project to improve wastewater treatment is well within the scope of ARPA’s permitted projects. The funds are designated for costs incurred by the city through December 31, 2024. The city received \$44,000 in 2021 and a second payment is expected in 2022.

Resolution 2021-15, 2022 Budget and Proposed Levy – Mayor Peterson led a discussion on the preliminary 2022 budget and proposed levy. Charges for police and fire services had an adjustment included for monies Mendota Heights received from CARES funding. It is a one-time adjustment. The final payment for city hall will be made in February 2022.

The proposed payable 2022 levy to be certified to Dakota County by September 30 is \$565,424 and the 2022 proposed budget is \$651,235.

Moved by Councilmember Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Hanzal to approve Resolution 2021-15 Approving Preliminary 2022 Budget and Proposed Tax Levy Payable in 2022 and Setting Meeting Regarding Final Property Tax Levy and Adoption of Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk’s Report – Clerk Schultz stated deposits included sewer and storm water payments and several permits. The sanitary sewer bond proceeds of \$350,000 are in a newly established fund. Disbursements were routine.

Moved by Councilmember Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve the August financial reports, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Peterson restated the council’s decision to notify the River Bluffs property owner on the concerns.

Councilmember Pampusch questioned if there is surveillance of the property being done by the police. Captain Wegener stated the front side of the property is looked at multiple times throughout the day, at least once a shift. Councilmember Diehl asked Captain if the calls for service could be quantified to understand the problem. The Captain will look back at two years of calls and report back to the council.

Adjournment – **Moved by Councilmember Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.** The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Final copy reviewed by:

Mary Schultz, City Clerk

Warren Peterson, Mayor

Date