

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
March 18, 2015**

The March 18, 2015 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Denny Peterson, Jeff Duraine, Bill Krebs & Mark Daly; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Attorney Bill Griffith, Jr., Engineer Larry Bohrer and Public Information Coordinator Bronwyn Pope.

Absent: none

Also in attendance were: Jody Krebs, Jim Watson, Paul Peskar, Kris King, Ron Barnes, Jesse Preiner, Paul Ringell (Forest Lake Times), and Terri Hodges (Forest Lake Cable Commission).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call To Order - Regular Meeting – 7:13 p.m.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Approval of North Metro Harness – Liquor License PH Minutes 02/25/15**
- 4. Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 02/25/15**
- 5. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 6. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Peterson to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Daly. Motion approved unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

7. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Jim Watson reported on the March 4, 2015 Planning Commission (PC) meeting regarding progress on 2015 goals.

- The first goal is to meet with the City’s Met Council representative and get feedback on zoning possibilities. The PC recommended a joint meeting with the City Council for Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. to discuss changing the City’s zoning options, determine why the City is included in the Regional Water District, increasing density requirements, what are the Met Council’s expectations for the Comprehensive Plan, and finally, what assistance can the Met Council provide with the bridge project. The meeting date was accepted by the City Council.
- The second goal is for members to look at the zoning map to consider potential uses based on the current development climate. The PC recommends looking at this after the McCombs study is complete.
- The third goal is to consider allowing private roads in residential developments. The PC asked for clarity regarding whether the word “private” means ownership or access? Griffith explained that “private” generally refers to ownership, when a road is

privately owned and maintained. For all intents and purposes a private road functions like a public road, in that visitors, guests, delivery services would still have access. It could be provided in the City Code that a road could be owned and maintained privately but open to the public the same way as a public road.

- The fourth is consideration of an ordinance related to ambient lighting for both residential and commercial properties. The PC Chair is researching the regulations and language regarding commercial properties to bring back to the next meeting. There have been no reports of residential lighting issues, and there is not existing ordinance regarding the residential district. Povolny stated that there are residences with bright bulbs that are a nuisance as you drive by and recommended all lights should be shielded.

8. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There was no topic raised for discussion for Open Forum.

9. Motion – Sell 1987 Morbark Chipper

The Public Works Advisory Board passed a motion in favor of the sale of the 1987 Morbark wood chipper for a minimum selling price of \$3,000.00.

Motion FIN00400 by Krebs to approve the Public Works Advisory Board recommendation to sell the 1987 Morbark wood chipper for a minimum selling price of \$3,000.00. Seconded by Peterson. Motion approved unanimously.

10. SUGGESTIONS – FOREST LAKE YMCA BOARD

The Forest Lake YMCA is looking for recommendations for potential local board members. Suggestions can be sent to Sharna Braucks with the YMCA.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

11. ENGINEER REPORT

On Wednesday, March 18, 2015 sealed bids were opened for the 2015 Bituminous Sealcoating and Crack Sealing. City Engineer Bohrer presented for discussion the consideration of the award of bids for the project. Bids were received at 10 a.m., with only one bid was received from the three anticipated. The project includes seal coating, preparation work of crack sealing and the paint striping on streets that have it. Allied Blacktop Company offered a bid of \$322,253.22, compared to Bohrer's estimate of \$327,290.05. Bohrer said Allied's bid was competitive, below the estimate and below the budget established in Dec. 2014 for the project. Bohrer recommended awarding the contract for the 2015 Sealcoating and Crack Sealing to Allied Blacktop Company. Povolny asked if the City had done work with Allied before and Bohrer confirmed the City had.

Motion PEW01200 by Denny Peterson to award the 2015 Bituminous Sealcoating and Crack Sealing contract to Allied Blacktop Company in the amount of \$322,253.22. Seconded by Bill Krebs. Motion approved unanimously.

12. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Bill Griffith reviewed the certified letter received by the City from Anoka County regarding access to the right away for the roundabout. Anoka County will use a "quick take process" to gain possession of the necessary right away for the project, and work out the final value with land owner Richard Zaccardi. Columbus is an

“interested party” in the project and received the letter to keep the City apprised of condemnation action within the jurisdiction.

13. MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

Council Member Peterson

Peterson provided an update regarding the Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting which took place immediately prior to the City Council meeting. The EDA met in the Holiday parking lot to view potential sites for placement of signs to advertise the Quad 35 parcels available for sale. Public Works will need a brush hog to clear some of the parcels. Council discussed whether to rent or purchase a brush hog. Public Works Supervisor Jim Windingstad will look into acquiring a brush hog attachment.

Motion by Peterson to direct Public Works to try to buy a used brush hog attachment for the skid steer for not over \$4,000.00. Seconded by Krebs. Motion approved unanimously.

Council Member Daly

Daly provided an update regarding installing a public postal box at City Hall. The Post Master denied the request as population density does not allow for installation of an additional public mailbox at City Hall as one is available at Holiday.

Council Member Duraine

Nothing to present.

Council Member Krebs

Nothing to present.

Mayor Dave Povolny

Nothing to present.

14. City Administrator's Report

Capra Land Combination

Mr. Capra, a local land owner, would like to combine two parcels for tax purposes. The Council discussed the request and had no issue with the parcels being combined for tax purposes.

Directional Sign Hornsby Street

Tim McKenzie, owner of Exercise Guys, has asked about lighting the Hornsby Street road sign in order to identify the turn. When Hornsby Street was closer to the intersection of Trunk Highway 97 and 35 the lights from the intersection highlighted the right-hand turn. If that area were to be considered for a street light staff recommended it would be done by petition. There is not currently a policy about adding street lights in commercial or residential areas. In the past when residents asked about a light at the Kettle River and Broadway intersection one was not added because there is no other place in the residential district that is lit. There are four street lights on Zurich Street which Running Aces dedicated to the City. Griffith recommended the

City would need a uniform assessment policy for any new lights to assess those costs back within a district affected. Mursko offered the City could put up a directional sign identifying the Hornsby business district, but the City does not allow specific business signs on public property so a directional sign would not include the names of the businesses. Council asked if a solution was to light the sign or put up a bigger reflective sign. There are currently Hornsby directional signs posted facing traffic coming from each direction. Povolny recommended staff look at a potential off-premise sign identifying the business district and alternately find out the cost of lighting or highlighting the current sign. Adding a street light there would be more expensive than usual because there is not a nearby overhead power line to connect to. Staff will look into options for a directional or larger sign directing to the Hornsby business district.

Senior Center questions

Mursko reported the copier which the City donated to the Senior Center no longer works and the air exchanger is not working and may need a new belt. The air exchanger was used when it was installed 30 years ago. It is \$60 for someone to come look at copier but the Senior Center does not think they have the money to pay for that visit and subsequent parts. Povolny thought the Senior Center should be able to find a donated copier and would keep his eyes out for one, as well as work with Windingstad to address the air exchanger issue.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts: \$50,918.86

Disburse: \$163,754.40

Balance: \$1,984,491.32

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- **Planning Commission Meeting 04/01/2015**
- **Calendar of meetings**

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Krebs to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Duraine.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bronwyn Pope, Public Information Coordinator