

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
02.13.19**

The 02.13.19 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Janet Hegland, Jeff Duraine, Denny Peterson, and Shelly Logren; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Barb Bobick, Ron Hanegraaf, Vern Roisum, Myron & Cindy Angel, Kris King & Paul Peskar, Bill Prinsen, John Bautch, Karl Gronquist, Arlen Logren, Anne Haslerud, Julia Parent (Forest Lake Times).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:01 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Approval of the 12.12.18 City Council Closed Meeting Minutes**
- 4. Motion – Approval of the 01.09.19 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 6. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Logren. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

7. Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission member Pam Wolowski gave the Planning Commission report on their 02.06.19 meeting.

Planning Commission Chairperson Appointment – Ron Hanegraaf

Wolowski said that the Planning Commission voted to recommend Ron Hanegraaf for the Planning Commission chair position. Peterson and Duraine both felt that someone more experienced should be chair.

Motion by Hegland to appoint Ron Hanegraaf as the Chairman of the Planning Commission for a one (1) year term. Seconded by Logren. Votes as follows: Peterson – nay; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – nay; Logren – aye. Motion Carried.

Metropolitan Council – Incomplete Letter

Mursko reported that the City received an incomplete letter from the Metropolitan Council regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update. The City's interim Planner Haila Maze indicated what needs to be updated is 80% clerical and 20% policy. She will update the clerical

aspects and asked the Council to look at policy aspects. Mursko suggested the Council choose to hold a workshop or a joint meeting to work through changes.

Mayor Preiner asked if there would be enough time to address these items during the next workshop? Mursko said there are already two presentations on the agenda for the next workshop, but it would be possible to limit the presentations to 30 minutes a piece.

Motion by Duraine to accept the changes to Columbus' 2040 Comprehensive Plan as proposed in the Bolton & Menk memo dated 01.31.19, and direct City staff to draft and submit a letter showing the proposed revisions, reserving the right for the Council to exclusively work on policy questions. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Worksheet – Residential Zone Businesses

Wolowski said that the Planning Commission thought a new worksheet for residential zone business applicants was a good idea. She said the Planning Commission will use the worksheet at their 02.20.19 meeting and the Council can consider the worksheet at their 02.27.19 meeting.

Planning Commission Training Classes

Mursko reported that training classes are being offered which may be helpful for Planning Commission members. The City could pay for the training at the discretion of the City Council.

Motion by Duraine to approve payment for any Planning Commission members to participate in training classes. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Preliminary and Final Plat Combination Process - 9252 Lake Drive NE

The City received a letter from an applicant regarding their subdivision application. They are requesting to combine the preliminary and final plat processes, which requires a waiver from the Council. If the processes are combined there will only be one public hearing and the application will come before the Council just once.

The current application is creating one new lot. Mursko is recommending approval of the waiver because all requirements can still be fulfilled by submitting a single application. The total size of the lot is 10.4 acres, and the subdivision would create one 7.4-acre lot and one 3-acre lot. The smaller lot will have the house and accessory building on it.

Motion by Duraine to waive the separate application requirement for preliminary and final plat (Gronquist Addition) at 9252 Lake Drive NE. Seconded by Hegland. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Open Forum

No report.

9. Coon Creek Watershed District Appointments

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The City received a letter on 01.28.19 from the Anoka County Administrator providing notice that there are two vacancies on the Coon Creek Watershed District Board of Managers due to the conclusion of their terms. Coon Creek requires board members to live within the District.

Each City located in the watershed district is welcome to put forth three nominations for the Board, and if they do the County would be required to pick from that list. Mursko said that the County advertises for these positions, so it has not been difficult to find people interested in them. In addition, both members whose terms expired have applied for reappointment. Mursko added that Columbus has never put forward a list of nominations.

Mayor Preiner asked if it would be an issue if Columbus did not have a representative on the board? Mursko said that it wouldn't be a problem, but it is always beneficial to have someone on the board. The Council agreed they would like the opening advertised on the City's website and social media.

10. Rice Creek Snowmobile Trail Association Request for Permanent Trail Alignment

Based on direction from a previous meeting the Rice Creek Snowmobile Trail Association is back to request approval of their permanent trail alignment. Mursko noted that the Council indicated preliminary approval of the trail with the requirement of laying mats down where the trail will run on the City's sidewalk.

Motion by Peterson to approve the Rice Creek Snowmobile Trail Association request for trail alignment, including City Staff review of the completed Landowner Permit form and subject to future review between snowmobiling seasons for any damage or concerns raised by Public Works, City Staff, or City Council. Seconded by Duraine. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Duraine asked Bill Prinsen what is preventing them from traveling south from Lake Drive on the west side of Zurich Street rather than the east side? Prinsen replied that the area is too prone to flooding and they cannot travel through the conservation area that is west of Zurich Street. Duraine said that he is concerned about snowmobilers not waiting for the light to cross to the east side of Zurich Street, and choosing to travel south on the west side of Zurich instead. Prinsen replied that the trail goes through a similar situation in Circle Pines, and they have never had an issue there.

Griffith said that the agreement is written as a permanent trail alignment, and he would suggest to the Council that the word "permanent" is struck so that review can be completed after the season is over to ensure there has not been any damage. He also added that the Landowner Permit form should be reviewed by City Staff once its completed and the motion should be subject to review between snowmobiling season for any concerns raised by Public Works, City Staff, or City Council. The Council agreed that the word should be stricken.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

11. Engineer Report

City Engineer Dennis Postler reported that bids were opened on Wednesday 02.06.19 for the southwest area sanitary sewer and watermain improvements. The bids ranged roughly from \$700,000 to \$900,000. Postler added that the project should begin as soon as road restrictions are lifted and be completed by June or July of this year.

Motion by Duraine to receive all bids for the southwest area sanitary sewer and watermain improvements – Phase 2 (City Project 2018-1). Seconded by Hegland. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Duraine to award the southwest area sanitary sewer and watermain improvements – Phase 2 (City Project 2018-1) to the lowest responsible bidder, Veit & Company, Inc. in the amount of 699,011.16. Seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2019 Street Improvement Project Plans and Specs – Notre Dame Street and 181st Avenue Pavement Reclamation

Postler is asking for approval of the 2019 Street Improvement Project Plans and Specs. The project includes the reclamation of pavement on Notre Dame Street north of Broadway Avenue, and on 181st Avenue NE from Broadway Avenue to Kettle River Blvd. The project also includes new driveway aprons at all driveways, mailbox replacements, and one new culvert on 181st Avenue NE.

Duraine noted that he does not think Notre Dame Street needs to be improved at this time. Windingstad said that in 2015 the City reclaimed Notre Dame Street from Kettle River Blvd to Broadway Ave, and at that the time project was supposed to extend from Broadway Avenue north to 181st Avenue NE and then west to Kettle River Blvd. However, because John's Black Dirt was doing a hauling operation off 181st Avenue NE the Council decided to postpone the second half of the project.

Duraine followed up by asking how it is determined that a road needs to be improved? Windingstad replied that they generally operate on a 30-year plan for reconstruction. He added that the longer it takes for the road to be reclaimed the more expensive it will be. Hegland asked if a project like this is deferred, how long it would take to get back on schedule? Windingstad replied that the City would have to go through engineering and cost analysis, which could take around 3 – 5 months. Mursko added that the City's approach has been to pair different projects together because historically bids for a combination of projects have been less. Postler added that if the City waits another 5 years to reclaim Notre Dame Street it may have to be fully reconstructed.

Mayor Preiner asked Mursko where the money is coming from to complete the reclaim projects? Mursko said the City has a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for blacktopping roads. The plan works around a 25-year timeframe to schedule dollars by considering age and condition of roads.

She added that the system for road maintenance is based on cash and they do not typically borrow for road projects.

Mayor Preiner said that at this stage of the project he will defer to the opinion of Postler and Windingstad to approve the plan. Peterson agreed that the project should go forward. Logren said that she is willing to go forward with this project but would prefer to consider a less rigid format for scheduling road projects in the future. She has concerns about mitigating the high cost of assessments for residents.

Motion by Peterson to approve plans and specs for the 2019 Street Improvements Project (Notre Dame Street and 181st Avenue NE Pavement Reclamation). Seconded by Hegland. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – nay; Logren – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hegland to authorize advertisement of bids for the 2019 Street Improvement Project (Notre Dame Street and 181st Avenue NE Pavement Reclamation) and to set the bid opening for 3:30 pm on 03.06.19. Seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – nay; Logren – aye. Motion carried.

Update on Sight Distance Issue on Hornsby.

Based on direction from a previous Council meeting, Postler has been working with MnDOT to request adjustment to a barricade located near the intersection of Hornsby Street and TH 97 because of concerns about sight lines. He said that MnDOT is of the belief that the barricade is acceptable as is and will not make any adjustments.

12. Attorney report

Griffith reported that he is available to do a short presentation for the Council regarding compliance issues, conflicts of interest, open meeting rules, and other legal issues. He said that it would not take more than an hour.

14. Mayor and Council Members Report

Council Member Logren

Logren reported that the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization canceled their meeting due to weather.

Secondly, she wanted to continue conversation about the schedule for road improvement projects. After speaking with constituents, she realized many people are concerned about having to pay for newly paved roads and about the City's rule that if 51% of residents on a road are in favor of a project then it will be approved.

Griffith clarified that the 51% rule is simply advisory as guidance and policy. The only statutory requirement is that if no more than 35% of residents approve of the project, the only way the Council can approve it is with at least a 4/5 votes in favor. Logren replied by asking if they

would have to adopt a new policy to require a higher percentage in favor to approve a project? Griffith said that the 35% requirement is a threshold that triggers a supermajority vote (4/5) for approval. If the approval rate is higher than 35% a 3/5th's vote would suffice (simple majority). So any information about approval rates above 35% is purely directional.

Peterson noted that he is in favor of paving all Columbus roads. Hegland said that she thinks readdressing the policy for determining when road projects shall be ordered is a good idea. Logren agreed and suggested asking the Public Works Advisory Board to submit information regarding what they believe is an ideal percentage of resident approval that would trigger paving a gravel road.

Griffith said that staff will research previous actions that the Council took regarding their road paving policy, and Windingstad said that he will approach the Public Works Advisory Board for information regarding what they believe would be an ideal percentage of resident approval that would trigger a road paving project.

Motion by Logren to direct the Public Works Advisory Board to present information on the City's paving policy with what they believe is an ideal percentage of residents that should trigger a new road paving project. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Peterson

No report.

Council Member Hegland

No report.

Mayor Preiner

No report.

Council Member Duraine

No report.

15. Public Works Report

No report.

16. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes reported that she has been receiving complaints related to the City's lighting ordinance. She asked that the Council and Griffith read the ordinance and come back to the next meeting prepared to discuss how they interpret it and how it should be enforced. Mursko added that the biggest point of confusion is whether the code

defines or quantifies “glare”. Griffith and the Council agreed to take a look at the ordinance.

17. City Administrator’s Report

TH 97 Easement Resolution DNR Application

The City’s project realigning Hornsby Street is occurring at the same time as MnDOT’s bridge project. Part of the realignment is the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Hornsby Street and TH 97. The traffic light requires an additional lane on TH 97, and MnDOT’s bridge project stops at the Hornsby Street intersection. Therefore, to be able to fit an extra lane in, it would have to be included in the Hornsby Street realignment plans and additional land for right-of-way will have to be acquired.

The DNR is the property owner whom the City will be purchasing land from. The total amount of land being acquired is approximately one-half acre. In terms of cost, there will be a \$2,000 application fee and a price per square foot for the easement itself.

Griffith said that the potential cost for the easement will be around \$1 or \$1.50 per square foot, which would add up to roughly \$20,000 to \$25,000. The City is hoping to designate the easement acquisition as part of the Hornsby Street project costs so that it will not have to come out of the General Fund.

Motion by Peterson to approve Resolution 19-02 a resolution approving the application for acquisition of easements from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Seconded by Duraine. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Participation in Anoka County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mursko presented a Power Point on Anoka County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. A mitigation plan must be completed every 5 years. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance funding the plan must be in compliance with both Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is also financially beneficial to plan for an emergency before it happens because federal and state aid alone will be insufficient in such a situation.

Anoka County has a team of emergency management specialists to help write the plan. The goals for the plan are to identify, evaluate, and reduce risk through a cooperation between agencies in Anoka County.

There are four phases of emergency management; preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. This plan is focused on mitigation.

A draft of the plan will be completed by March 2019, and the final plan will be approved around November 2019.

Motion by Hegland to approve participation in the Anoka County All-Hazard Mitigation

Disbursements: \$ 214,162.72
Balance: \$ 9,038,649.93

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

18. Calendar of Meetings.

The next Planning Commission meeting is on 02.20.19 at 7:00 pm.

The next City Council Workshop is on 03.06.19 at 4:00pm.

The Local Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting is on 04.23.19 at 7:00 pm.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Peterson to adjourn. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator