

**City of Columbus  
Regular City Council Meeting  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Jeff Duraine and Mark Daly; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Kris King, Paul Peskar, Mary Preiner, Pat Preiner, Jesse Preiner, Sherry Organ, Myron Organ, Mike Meyer, Jeff Joyer, Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad, Julie Parent (Forest Lake Times) and Joe Scharenbroch (LATV).

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3. Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 04.26.17**
- 4. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 5. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**
- 6. Motion – Approve of the Accountant Job Description**

**Motion by Daly to approve the consent agenda items 3-6. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**7. Planning Commission Report**

The Planning Commission did not hold a meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so there was no Planning Commission report.

**8. Public Open Forum**

Brian Behm – 7615 Camp Three Road

Mr. Behm is concerned about the speed that people travel down Camp Three Road, the portion from Kettle River Blvd to Potomac Street NE. He is wondering if it would be possible to install speed limit signs on the street, as he claimed there are not any on the road. Mayor Povolny clarified that the speed limit is 55 mph on City roads that do not have speed limit signs posted. He also said that it was possible to do some traffic counts and look into posting a few speed limit signs on that stretch of road. Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad said that it would be possible for Public Works to do the traffic counts. Mayor Povolny offered to talk to the Anoka County Sheriff's Office about putting up a temporary speed limit sign, one which can read the speed of cars traveling down the road. The Council agreed this was a good idea, and Behm thanked them for making efforts to address his concern.

**9. Discussion – Senior Center Renovations**

The City is in the process of completing some renovations to the Senior Center. At the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting the Council agreed to get a second quote for the renovations. The City is still waiting to receive a second quote, so the discussion will be postponed to the next City Council meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**10. C/I Use Question (Boat Service & Storage)**

City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko was looking for direction from the Council regarding a business hoping to rent space in the Commercial/Industrial (C/I) District. The business is a boat service and storage company, that foresees storing and servicing up to 100 boats at a time on the property. Currently the only sales and service that the City Ordinance allows for is “implement and recreational”. City Attorney Bill Griffith said that if the Council agrees that this businesses use is similar enough to what is listed in the Ordinance then they can be allowed to operate without amending the code. Mayor Povolny said that he believes this business is very similar to the existing businesses in the C/I district as other businesses store product and/or vehicles associated with their business. The Council agreed that the addition of this boat storage and service company would be similar to other uses in the C/I district.

**Motion by Duraine to allow the boat service and storage company as a use in the Commercial/Industrial Zoning District in Columbus, based on the discussion and findings preceding the motion. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

**D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**11. Engineer Report**

City Engineer Dennis Postler presented the Engineer’s report, which contained four main topics.

141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and Furman Street NE Improvement Project

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the City opened bids for the improvement of 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and Furman Street NE. Technically these are two separate projects, but to save money they have been combined for bids. Four bids were received, with the lowest by Knife River Corporation. Listed below is a summary of the bids received.

Knife River Corporation	\$222,446.50
North Valley, Inc.	\$232,667.10
T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc.	\$260,335.00
Valley Paving, Inc.	\$245,480.00
Engineer’s Estimate	\$306,250.00

**Motion by Daly to accept bids for the 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and Furman Street NE improvement projects, and award the contract to Knife River Corporation for their bid amount of \$222,446.50. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

## County Road 54 Trail Discussion

During the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 City Council meeting, the Council gave direction to Anoka County regarding the placement of a pedestrian trail along the new W Freeway Drive. Postler asked to revisit the question before everything is finalized. At the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting the final decision was for the trail to extend south down W Freeway Drive, from the second roundabout, on the west side of the road. Mursko asked the Council if perhaps the trail should be located on the east side of the road instead of the west. Originally the idea was to have the trail connect to a driveway that went into the Running Aces Harness Park (RAHP). However, since that time, RAHP has said they don't want any access coming from that driveway. With that in mind, Mursko suggested that perhaps the trail should be located on the east side of W Freeway Drive, where additional businesses are located and commercial land is for sale. The Council agreed that it would be a good idea to move the trail to the east side of W Freeway Drive and have it connect to the south cul-de-sac on Evers Street NE.

Postler also wanted to discuss another topic relating to the relocation of W Freeway Drive, which is one pond near the road. This pond is located near the north roundabout. After some work on managing groundwater, Anoka County realized that it's not possible to get a storm sewer to that location, so this pond will be smaller and a second pond will be added in the area.

Lastly, Mayor Povolny had asked the County about the possibility of keeping the temporary single lane along CSAH 23 and use it as a paved road in the City. Postler relayed the message that it would not be possible to do this, because the paperwork and permits are written as if that temporary lane would be temporary, and the type of asphalt being used is only meant for temporary use.

## NE Metro Groundwater Area Technical Advisory Team Meeting Update

Postler also gave an update on a meeting he attended regarding the NE Metro Groundwater Area. The general message from the meeting is that efforts to reduce groundwater usage in this area have been effective, as groundwater use has been steadily declining in recent years. Also, the estimated cost of the proposed plan to augment White Bear Lake with water from Vadnais Lake is \$44 to \$48 million, with an additional \$400,000 per year for maintenance. As a note, these estimates also did not address the cost for guaranteeing acceptable water quality.

## Update on Columbus Improvement and Developer Projects

Lastly, Postler gave an update on the projects going on in Columbus. The first portion of the paving of 159<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Xingu Street NE happened earlier today, and the second portion will be done next week. Thurnbeck Farms paved roads in the development a few weeks ago, and Preiner's Preserve is currently doing a decent amount of earth work at their location. Crack sealing in the City will be done this Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2017, and seal coating will be done May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The final project to report on was the Ziegler water tank conversion, of which there was a pre-construction meeting held the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Work is anticipated to begin on that project in mid-June.

## 12. Attorney Report

### Zodiac Street Blake Well Drilling Plat

Griffith reported on a dispute between Blake Well Drilling and Magellan Midstream Partners. Mike Meyer and Jeff Joyer from Blake Well Drilling came forward to discuss. Blake Well Drilling is currently building a facility off Lake Drive in Columbus. Magellan claimed that they have a blanket easement over the majority of the property, which is complicating Blake Well Drilling's final plat – as it is designed with only a 50 foot easement for Magellan's pipeline on the west side of the property. Magellan has stated that in exchange for releasing their blanket easement, they would like the City to agree not to extend Zodiac Street NE any further north, and for Blake Well Drilling to increase the size of their easement by 20 feet (giving Magellan a 70 foot easement). Griffith explained that the current Council cannot make any decisions that would bind a future Council, so there is no way that they can decide to never extend Zodiac Street NE. Meyer and Joyer said they would be willing to provide the additional 20-foot easement to them. The Council agreed that right now they don't have plans to extend Zodiac Street NE. Meyer and Joyer also agreed to relay the message to Magellan that the City cannot legally guarantee that Zodiac Street NE won't be extended to the north in the future.

**Motion by Duraine to give Blake Well Drilling direction that there are no plans to extend Zodiac Street NE at this time, however it cannot be ruled out in the future, and accepting the additional 20 feet to Magellan's easement, subject to a revised title and revised plat. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

## 13. Mayor and City Council Member's Report

### Mayor Dave Povolny

No report.

### Council Member Duraine

Council Member Duraine reported on a Cable Commission meeting that he attended. He said they are finished with their audit, and at the meeting they approved a new pay scale and job titles. They are also in the process of setting up meetings with MidCo.

### Council Member Daly

No report.

## 14. Public Works Report

Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad came forward to give a brief update. He reported that Public Works has been working on several ditch and culvert projects throughout the City. To complete these projects, he has enlisted the help from Jim Fraley for the past couple weeks. Mayor Povolny asked when the "Land for Sale" signs will be put up. Windingstad replied that they are rather busy right now, and probably would not be getting to the signs for 6-7 weeks.

## 15. City Administrator's Report

### Treasurer's Report

No report.

### July Calendar Questions

Mursko pointed out to the Council that July 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Tuesday this year, and asked if they would consider closing the City Offices on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mursko clarified that City employees would either take no pay or use vacation time for that day. The Council agreed they would like to close the offices on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The second question about the July calendar is regarding the July 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Mursko noted that historically it has been difficult to get a lot of things done in the first couple weeks of July because so many people are out of town or busy. Because of this the Planning Commission decided to cancel the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, and she is wondering if the City Council would like to cancel their following July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council agreed they would like to cancel that meeting.

**Motion by Duraine to close the City Offices on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Duraine to cancel the July 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Digital Scanning Software

Mursko presented a contract for digital document management software from Oracle. The City has been researching options for software that would facilitate the transition from paper-based files to electronic files. City Staff had previously considered Laserfische software, however it did not address all the facets of digitalization that Staff would have liked. The software that Oracle presented is digital scanning as well as a content and experience cloud, enterprise web center, and database. The quote that Mursko received for this software was \$16,837.50, and the quote for the Laserfische software was roughly \$17,000.00. The above quote is a one time set up cost, while the yearly fee for 10 users and support would be roughly \$7,400.00. Mursko is recommending that the City purchase and implement Oracle's digital document management software.

Mayor Povolny said he sat in on the demonstration that Oracle gave to City Staff, and he also recommends the City purchase the software. Duraine said that he is against the idea because he does not like technology. Daly asked if the City has enough money to make this purchase, and which funds the money would be coming out of? Mursko replied that yes the City does have the money for it, and that because the software would be used by all City Departments, the money would come from several different funds.

Mursko then asked the Council if they would like to purchase a 1-year or a 2-year contract. By purchasing a 2-year contract, the City can lock in the \$7,400 price for two years. If the City goes with a 1-year contract, Oracle could raise the price on services and software for the second year. Mursko noted that Oracle representatives said the price increase would be about 3%, but that is not a guarantee. Daly commented that he would prefer a 1-year contract and Mayor Povolny agreed.

**Motion by Povolny to purchase the Oracle Content and Experience Cloud, WebCenter Enterprise Capture, and Oracle Database for the quote of \$16,837.50 with a 1-year contract. Votes as follows; Daly – aye; Duraine – nay; Povolny – aye. Motion Carried.**

#### Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area Update

The last topic Mursko presented was information passed on from the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. Carlos Avery is adding a new trail and parking lot to their property located off 191<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE. They are also considering selling a 20-acre parcel located off 189<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE that is not currently being utilized. Duraine asked what type of trail it would be? Mursko replied that it would be intended for hunters, to help keep them within the Management Area's property. Mayor Povolny asked if the parcel for sale is high ground? Windingstad replied that he believes it to be a rather wet, swampy, piece of land. Mursko noted that the parcel would be sold at auction to private bidders. The Council agreed that they didn't see any issue with Carlos Avery's plans.

#### **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

**The next Planning Commission meeting is 05.17.17 at 7:00 p.m.  
Calendar of Meetings.**

#### **F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Daly to adjourn. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator