

**City of Columbus**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**08.14.19**

The 08.14.19 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:02 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: Ron Hanegraaf, John Freed, Lloyd Rehbein, Debra Rehbein, Bobbi Siemonsma, Cecel Blomkek, Doug Hansen, Cindy Hansen, Dan Mike, Paul Zahradka, Shawn Kupchu, John Young, Ellen Wojciechowski, Wayne Nelson, Ceil Neihart, Maxine Merrigan, Pat Boesch, Richard Haw, Brian Sjerve, Gary Callies, David Guzzo, Joe McPherson, and Arlen Logren.

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:05 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

- ~~**3. Motion – Approval of the 04.24.19 & 05.08.19 City Council Meeting Minutes**~~
- 4. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 5. Motion – 2020 Anoka County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Contract**
- 6. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko noted that the John Arnt applications have been removed from the agenda. Discussion on this topic will be continued to the 08.28.19 meeting.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the Consent Agenda items 4-6. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**7. Public Hearing & Motion – Columbus Lions Liquor License 09.14.19**

Mursko explained that there are two (2) documents to approve, the Lease Agreement and the Liquor License. The Lease Agreement must be approved prior to the Liquor License, because it allows the Columbus Lions to rent the space.

At this time Mayor Preiner opened the Public Hearing.

Representatives from the Columbus Lions Club came forward to discuss their application. City Attorney Bill Griffith presented a memo to the Council for consideration. The licensed premise is a 32’ x 42’ fenced area for a beer garden. The area is fenced to control underage drinking and overconsumption. The City performed a background check on Lion’s Representative Ryan Schurbon, who passed. There will be security and staff in the beer garden. The insurance certificate covers liquor liability for the day.

Seeing no one interested in speaking, Mayor Preiner closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion by Duraine to approve the Columbus Fall Fest Lions Club Lease for the Premises during the 2019 Columbus Fall Fest event. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Peterson to approve the Columbus Lions' 1 Day Temporary Liquor License, subject to all applicable additional liquor license conditions set forth in City Code Chapter 4. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### 2018 Columbus Audit Presentation

Peggy Moeller, from Redpath Inc., came forward to present reports issued by the City's auditors.

The first report is the Opinion on Financial Statements. This is an opinion on the fair presentation of financial statements. The City received a clean opinion in this report.

The second report contains statements on the General Fund. The General Fund increased by \$370,209 during 2018.

The third report is on internal control. Internal control is not audited, but it is considered. The major concern for auditors is whether controls are being followed and how well they are working. The report contained two comments; a lack of segregation of duties, and financial statement misstatements. Moeller explained that financial statement misstatement findings are common because government accounting is complex, and it is easy to make an error. All errors have been corrected by journal entries. Moeller added that Columbus has received the lack of segregation of duties comment in the past.

The fourth report is a Report on Legal Compliance. Auditors perform seven (7) categories of testing in this report, and the City of Columbus received a clean report.

A final report the auditors presented is Communication with Those Charged with Governance. The auditors reported no difficulties and no disagreement when dealing with management.

Moeller continued to point out items that were not discussed in the auditor's reports. The first was that the City's most significant estimates are land held for resale and net pension liability. In addition, 55% of assessments are made of Green Acre and/or Senior Citizen deferral. Lastly, interfund transfers from the General Fund to other funds decreased the loan balances from \$1.6 million to just over \$877,000.

Duraine asked why the City has a liability on pensions? Moeller explained that if you are part of a multi-employer pension plan, you are required to book your share of pension liability. This is not something that the City would ever pay, it is only necessary for financial reporting.

Hegland asked Moeller to provide a brief overview of the lease change. Moeller explained that if you have an operating lease (month to month), you can report monthly. If it is a term over a year, you are required to set up a liability and advertise it.

Mayor Preiner asked Mursko to address the auditor's finding of financial misstatements. Mursko said that the City's accounting department has had a lot of turnover in the past two (2) years. There have been a number of consultants working for the City, and the City has a new Deputy Treasurer. She explained that when a lot of people are working with the accounts there is a greater chance of inconsistency. With less employee turnover, this should no longer be a problem.

**Motion by Hegland to accept the 2018 Audit as presented. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Preiner asked when work on the 2019 audit will begin? Mursko replied that it will begin in roughly three (3) months, as they meet quarterly.

### Planning Commission Report

Kris King came forward to give the Planning Commission report. The Planning Commission met on 08.07.19 and held two (2) public hearings.

### Rehbein Estates Preliminary Plat and Conditional Use Permit for Rural Residential Planned Unit Development

The first Public Hearing was for Rehbein Estates, creating two (2) new lots at 9257 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The existing lot is 15.27 acres. The three (3) lots created through subdivision will be 3.48 acres, 3.76 acres, and 7.45 acres. The two (2) new lots will take access from Kettle River Blvd.

King noted that the Planning Commission discussed driveways. Because two (2) of the lots will take access from a County road (Kettle River Blvd), Anoka County will regulate their placement. The County requires that the two (2) driveways share a single access off Kettle River Blvd, which can be split to serve the separate lots 30 feet from the road.

Griffith noted that the driveway for the existing lot is located on unimproved public right-of-way, coming off a cul-de-sac. Because of this, a driveway maintenance agreement will be required to ensure safe access year-round.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the CUP for PUD.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the Rehbein Estates CUP for PUD application subject to Findings of Fact and Conditions of Approval 1-9 as outlined in the City Planner's report (dated 08.02.19), and the additional condition requiring a driveway maintenance agreement (condition #10). Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Rehbein Estates CUP for PUD application Findings of Fact:

1. The City received Preliminary Plat and PUD (CUP procedure) applications for Rehbein Estates from Lloyd and Debra Rehbein on June 21, 2019, which were found

complete.

2. The 60-day PUD CUP review deadline is August 20, 2019. The 120-day preliminary plat review deadline or extended PUD CUP review deadline is October 19, 2019.
3. Rehbein Estates is a total of 15.06 acres and is located along Kettle River Boulevard NE, Parcel Identification #12-32-22-31-0011.
4. The Preliminary Plat application for Rehbein Estates includes the minimum information necessary to review the proposed lots for meeting the requirements to be buildable parcels. The current plans do not provide detailed grading, building elevations, exact septic location or other information that will be required when plans for single-family construction are proposed.
5. There are three (3) lots proposed for the Rehbein Estates:
  - Lot 1 –3.48 acres; 200 foot lot width; access to Kettle River Boulevard. This lot will be a new residential parcel and has no existing buildings.
  - Lot 2 - 3.76 acres, 200 foot lot width; access to Kettle River Boulevard. This lot will be a new residential parcel and has no existing buildings.
  - Lot 3 - 7.45 acres, 66 foot lot width; access to 168th Avenue Northeast. This lot has an existing residence, a well and independent septic system.
6. The CUP procedure is required to consider granting approval of a Rural Residential District PUD on the Property through the Planned Unit Development provisions of the City Code.
7. The applicant requests a variation in minimum lot size standards under a Conditional Use Permit to allow two lots of less than 5.0 acres. The proposed minimum lot size within Rehbein Estates is 3.48 acres. The proposed average lot size for all three lots, including right of way, is 5.0 acres. This uses the Lot Averaging provision allowed under a PUD to meet the lot density average and minimum lot size standards.
8. The applicant requests a variation in lot dimensional standards under a Conditional use Permit to allow Lots 1 and 2 to have a minimum width of 200 feet, which is less than the standard minimum width of 220 feet.
9. The proposed plat is consistent with minimum lot area, lot averaging, minimum lot dimensions, and maximum density standards allowed by PUD.
10. Appropriate Drainage and Utility Easements are provided on the plat to account for perimeter easements for the three proposed lots (2 new houses and existing house), and for existing wetlands. Additionally, 60' of right-of-way is being dedicated to Anoka County for Kettle River Boulevard (CSAH 62).

11. The proposed plat falls within the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) boundaries. A Notice of Decision for Wetland Delineations from RCWD was provided. A permit from RCWD is not required, as proposed improvements do not exceed their thresholds.
12. Anoka County Highway Department review and approval needs to be provided for the two proposed driveway accesses to Kettle River Blvd.
13. Six soils borings were taken and sufficient area exists for the proposed septic systems and alternate sites for both proposed lots.
14. Lowest house floor elevations should be shown on the Preliminary Plat maintaining three (3) feet of separation above mottled soil, the depths of which are shown in the soils borings.
15. There are no new stormwater management facilities required within the plat.

Rehbein Estates CUP for PUD application Conditions of Approval:

1. The PUD CUP amendment is contingent upon preliminary plat approval of Rehbein Estates.
2. The PUD CUP amendment is contingent upon detailed recommendations of the City Attorney.
3. The PUD CUP amendment is contingent upon detailed recommendations of the City Engineer.
4. The PUD CUP amendment is contingent upon permit approval from the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD).
5. The PUD CUP amendment allows a variation in lot size, such that the minimum lot size allowed is 3.48 acres and the average lot size for all phases of Rehbein Estates is 5.0 acres, less dedicated right of way. [Section 7A-819 Planning Unit Development, B.2.a. Lot Averaging]
6. Development of the Property must be consistent with all local, federal, and state laws that apply to the use of the Property.
7. No further subdivision of any lot for development purposes is allowed.
8. In the event the City Council determines, in its sole discretion, that the development of the Property is not being operated in accordance with any term or condition contained herein, the amended PUD CUP may be revoked by the City upon proper notice and a hearing. The City shall notify regulatory authorities that have issued licenses or permits in connection with the amended PUD CUP of any such

revocation.

9. Lloyd and Debra Rehbein shall be responsible to reimburse the City for its out of pocket expenses incurred in the review and approval of the amended PUD CUP, including any subsequent inspection and enforcement actions.
10. The new property owners will be required to enter into a driveway maintenance agreement if any portion of the driveways for lots 1 and 2 are shared.

**Motion by Duraine to approve the Rehbein Estates Preliminary Plat, subject to Findings of Fact and Conditions of Approval 1-9 as outlined in the City Planner's report (dated 08.02.19). Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Rehbein Estates Preliminary Plat application Findings of Fact:

1. The City received Preliminary Plat and PUD (CUP procedure) applications for Rehbein Estates from Lloyd and Debra Rehbein on June 21, 2019, which were found complete.
2. The 60-day PUD CUP review deadline is August 20, 2019. The 120-day preliminary plat review deadline or extended PUD CUP review deadline is October 19, 2019.
3. Rehbein Estates is a total of 15.06 acres and is located along Kettle River Boulevard NE, Parcel Identification #12-32-22-31-0011.
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5. There are three (3) lots proposed for the Rehbein Estates:
  - Lot 1 –3.48 acres; 200 foot lot width; access to Kettle River Boulevard. This lot will be a new residential parcel and has no existing buildings.
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7. The applicant requests a variation in minimum lot size standards under a Conditional

Use Permit to allow two lots of less than 5.0 acres. The proposed minimum lot size within Rehbein Estates is 3.48 acres. The proposed average lot size for all three lots, including right of way, is 5.0 acres. This uses the Lot Averaging provision allowed under a PUD to meet the lot density average and minimum lot size standards.

8. The applicant requests a variation in lot dimensional standards under a Conditional use Permit to allow Lots 1 and 2 to have a minimum width of 200 feet, which is less than the standard minimum width of 220 feet.
9. The proposed plat is consistent with minimum lot area, lot averaging, minimum lot dimensions, and maximum density standards allowed by PUD.
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14. Lowest house floor elevations should be shown on the Preliminary Plat maintaining three (3) feet of separation above mottled soil, the depths of which are shown in the soils borings.
15. There are no new stormwater management facilities required within the plat.

Rehbein Estates Preliminary Plat application Conditions of Approval:

1. Title review and recommendations of the City Attorney.
2. Requirements of the Anoka County Surveyor.
3. Anoka County Highway Department review and approval needs to be provided for the two proposed driveway accesses to Kettle River Blvd.
4. Approval of the PUD CUP.
5. No further subdivision of any lot for development purposes is allowed.

6. Permanent wetland buffer plaques shall be placed at intervals determined by the City.
7. Reimbursement of all City expenses associated with preliminary plat approval.
8. Cash in lieu of park land dedication.
9. Future development within the plat is subject to all laws and permitting requirements.

#### Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 7B-310, Sign Regulations

King reported that the Planning Commission held a second Public Hearing to consider an amendment to Chapter 7B-310, Sign Regulations. Representatives from billboard companies Schubert & Hoey and ClearChannel spoke at the Public Hearing, expressing their opposition. They requested a continuance of the public hearing, which the Planning Commission agreed to do until their 08.21.19 meeting.

King continued by posing a question to Griffith. She said that the City received letters from the billboard companies stating they are in violation of State Ordinance 117.184. The Planning Commission is concerned about the City possibly facing litigation, so King asked Griffith for his opinion on the City's compliance with the ordinance. Griffith said that he has not seen the letter, which he would like to do to understand what claims they are making. He continued to explain that there are some billboards in the City which are permitted with a CUP, so they are permanent. Those billboards can stay up indefinitely as long as no more than 50% of it is destroyed. The billboards which are permitted with an Interim Use Permit (IUP) are designed to expire 20 years after issuance. The expiration of such permits is not considered as removing a legal non-conforming use, it is considered as removing a temporary use. Griffith finished by saying he feels comfortable with where the City stands but will prepare an official response for the next Planning Commission meeting.

#### Mixed-Use Design Standards

King noted that the Planning Commission also held a special meeting on 08.05.19 to discuss design standards in the City's new mixed-use districts. She said the Planning Commission agreed they want developers to use durable products which will have a long life. They discussed things like fencing, retaining walls, renewable energy, and signage. Mursko was given enough direction to move forward with a proposed apartment project, but the Planning Commission will continue to smooth out details in the ordinance.

### **8. Public Open Forum**

#### Dan Mike – 15123 Hornsby Street

Mike came forward to discuss the 2040 Comprehensive Plan with the Council, and specifically the land use designation for his property. Mursko explained that the 2040 plan was submitted in December, at which point the Metropolitan Council sent a letter back with a list of issues that needed to be addressed. The Council addressed these issues and resubmitted the Plan in January.

One of the main changes from December's plan was the addition of three (3) areas in the City designated as Mixed Use. A secondary change was an adjustment of boundaries for the Commercial and Light Industrial land uses in the Freeway District. The Council moved the boundary south to 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, so that the land north of that road is commercial, and the land south is industrial.

Mike followed up by asking if his property is still zoned Commercial Retail? Mursko explained that as of today his property has a Commercial land use, in the Commercial Retail zoning district. She continued to say that the City has nine (9) months after the Comprehensive Plan is approved to adjust City Ordinances to be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan's land uses. The Council has discussed adding latitude in the zoning ordinances, since there are only three (3) land uses in the City.

Mike continued by saying himself and Mr. Steinke asked the previous Council for a change in land use, which the previous Council approved. He added that City consultants have noted that the area contains too much land zoned Commercial Retail, and that people interested in Freeway District land primarily want Light Industrial uses.

Griffith clarified that the Council has discretion to retain the area as commercial rather than industrial. He encouraged property owners to stay tuned to discussions to understand how zoning ordinances will change after the Comprehensive Plan is approved. It is possible for the Council to give certain zoning districts more flexibility to be compatible with light industrial uses.

Mike expressed his concern that this change will prevent people in the Freeway District from selling their land. He said it appears as if there are already light industrial uses in the Commercial Retail district off 153<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE.

#### Cindy Hansen – Candidate for Anoka County Commissioner, district 6.

Hansen came forward to introduce herself. She is running for Anoka County Commissioner in District 6. Hansen was previously employed by Independent School District 621 for 19 years, and she now lives in Lino Lakes. Hansen also previously served as the Mayor of Spring Lake Park, where she helped complete \$55 million in redevelopment; including a Hy-Vee grocery store. She finished by saying she hopes to earn the support of Columbus residents and City Council.

#### Ciel Niehart – 18516 Vassar Street NE

Niehart came forward to request that the Council consider developing “no truck hauling” routes in her neighborhood. She specifically mentioned the streets 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Notre Dame Street to Broadway Avenue, Tulane Street, Bender Street, and Vassar Street. Niehart noted that when the City of Wyoming created a no-truck route it helped traffic in the area. She said that her concern is not about local deliveries, but larger dump trucks and side dump trucks that drive through her neighborhood.

Duraine asked Griffith for his view on this issue. Griffith said that the City has experience with

hauling. County roads and City Collector roads are meant to be available for hauling, while it is possible for the City to restrict hauling on Residential streets. He finished by saying that the City has limited hauling on residential streets in the past, and he will look into the possibility of doing the same on the streets that Niehart mentioned.

## **9. Anoka County JPA Hornsby Street Improvement**

Joe McPherson from the Anoka County Highway Department came forward to present a Joint Powers Agreement that allows the City and County to transfer funds for projects occurring in Columbus. The agreement discusses responsibilities for the Hornsby Street realignment project, which will begin this fall and last until spring 2020.

McPherson continued to say that this project is unique because Anoka County is the sponsor; they will be advertising, opening, and receiving bids. Anoka County is also holding the contract with the contractor on behalf of the City because Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) dollars were awarded to Anoka County on the City's behalf.

The bid opening is scheduled for 09.10.19. Once bids are opened, Anoka County will be requesting money from the City. Funds will be allocated to the City first and then paid to Anoka County. McPherson noted that the project will continue forward while finance transfers occur in the background.

The second requirement before bids are opened is a Cooperative Agreement with MnDOT, Anoka County, and Columbus. It will detail maintenance and contractual obligations. McPherson noted that it is anticipated the Agreement will come before the Anoka County Board at their 08.27.19 meeting, and the Columbus City Council at their 08.28.19 meeting.

**Motion by Duraine to approve the Joint Powers Agreement (Contract #0007377) with Anoka County for the Hornsby Street (north of TH 97) improvement. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

McPherson added that TKDA will be the contract administrator for the project, and will be in the field on behalf of the City. Any technical questions will be worked out closely with City Engineer Dennis Postler and his staff, to ensure City requirements are met.

## **D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS**

### **10. Engineer Report**

#### Pay Request No. 1 for 2019 Street Improvements

Postler presented Pay Request No. 1 for the 2019 Street Improvements from Knife River Corporation. Most of the project is complete. The bid was in the amount of \$413,000, and the pay request is for \$380,933.36.

**Motion by Peterson to approve Pay Request No. 1 to Knife River Corporation in the amount of \$380,933.36. Seconded by Logren. Motion carried unanimously.**

Duraine asked if the contractor is redoing any saw cutting? Postler replied that they are, and most of it will be done on 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE.

#### Resolution for MnDOT Limited Use Permit

Postler continued this item to a future meeting.

#### Resolution for No Parking on Notre Dame Street

Based on direction from a previous meeting, Postler presented a resolution for the placement of “No Parking” signs on the east side of Notre Dame Street between 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE and Broadway Avenue NE.

**Motion by Peterson to approve Resolution 19-18, a resolution to establish a no-parking zone on a portion of Notre Dame Street. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Information on Design Build Project

Postler continued to report on the TH 97 over I-35 bridge project. The northbound ramps from I-35 to TH 97 and from TH 97 to I-35 will be closed for up to 40 days starting this Friday, 08.16.19.

Duraine asked if the contractor is behind schedule? Postler said that this particular portion of the project is delayed, but work is continuing elsewhere. They are still on track to complete the project on time.

#### Hornsby Street Realignment Update

Postler finished by saying the Hornsby Street project is out for bid, and bids will be received on 08.27.19. Bids will be awarded the second week of September, and construction will begin the following week.

### **11. Attorney Report**

#### HyVee Development Agreement

Griffith reported that the City is prepared to close on the purchase of City-owned land with Hy-Vee. A tentative closing date is set for next Tuesday, 08.20.19. The City will receive roughly \$660,000 for the land sale.

**Motion by Duraine to approve Resolution 19-19, a resolution approving the sale of real property to Hy-Vee. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Griffith continued by presenting a Development Agreement with HyVee. He began by discussing some details from the agreement. The agreement contains typical conditions of

approval as well as previously approved deviations that run with the property as a part of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process.

In terms of roadway access, Shafer Contracting was approached regarding their temporary concrete batch plant that is currently located on the NE I-35 quadrant. Shafer has cooperated by relocating their driveway so that it is not on Hy-Vee property. As a result, Hy-Vee will be able to access their property while the new Hornsby Street is built. Shafer also indicated that they have no interest in the property going forward.

In addition, Hy-Vee is expected to pay the Water Availability Charge (WAC) of roughly \$33,000, the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) of roughly \$3,000, and Special Assessments of roughly \$163,000.

Griffith finished by discussing a change that was made to the agreement. The original amount communicated for parkland dedication fees was \$69,000, which was incorrect. The correct amount was \$762.50, which is a standard rate for both residential and commercial properties. The rate is based on the number of dwelling units.

As of the date of this meeting, work is being completed on the design standards. Griffith said that he will provide that information to the Council at a later date. Because the NE I-35 quadrant is under a master development plan, the developer must agree to uniform design standards for all improvements on it. These standards will be incorporated into a design framework document.

**Motion by Duraine to approve the Development Agreement with Hy-Vee. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Access Easement Agreement

Griffith continued by presenting an Access Easement Agreement between the City and Hy-Vee, granting easements for vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress. The access agreement both benefits and burdens each entity, as it is granting two-way access to the parcel. It is necessary to allow Public Works access a fire hydrant on TH 97 multiple times per year.

**Motion by Duraine to approve the Access Easement Agreement between the City and Hy-Vee, Inc. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

To follow up, Griffith raised the topic of walkability, as it was mentioned during the most recent EDA meeting. Phil Hoey from Hy-Vee came forward to discuss. Griffith said that as plans unfold for new lots the Planning Commission and City Council will be looking to developers to address the issue of walkability in the quadrant. Hoey said that the developers have the same goal in mind, to create a development that is friendly to pedestrians. He said there will be some limitations on where sidewalks can be placed, but reassured the Council that he and the other developers have the same walkability goal in mind. Duraine asked Hoey if they plan on paved sidewalks or walking trails? Hoey replied that he envisions more sidewalks than trails. Walking trails could be used if there is a larger system of paths to connect to.

## **12. Mayor and Council Members Report**

Council Member Logren

No report.

Council Member Hegland

Hegland reported that the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization held a Public Hearing on 08.01.19 on their water management plan, where no one from the public spoke. The Plan was submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for a 60-day review period.

Hegland added that a number of City representatives attended the Minnesota Tech Corridor grand opening at Running Aces Harness Park on 08.01.19.

Hegland continued to say that she attended three (3) National Night Out parties in Columbus on 08.06.19. She followed up by asking how much promotion the City does for parties? Mursko explained that National Night Out is organized by the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. The City is notified of who is holding parties the week prior. Hegland asked if the City could do more promotion of the parties, and Mursko noted that City Staff will make an effort to do more promotion next year.

Hegland also reported that she met with Senior Center representatives to discuss an agreement for their use of the space. She said discussions are going well.

Lastly, Hegland reported that she visited the Fastenal/Viking Safety site in Vadnais Heights and found the trip to be informative.

Mayor Preiner

No report.

Council Member Duraine

No report.

Council Member Peterson

Peterson reported on a phone call that he received from a resident on Jodrell Street NE with concerns about the speed limit on the road. He drove on the road and noticed it is windy with many houses.

Mursko noted that not all streets in Columbus meet the statutory requirement which authorizes the City Council to decrease the speed limit. She recommended directing Postler, Public Works, and Mursko to research whether the road meets the requirement.

Mursko continued by saying that the Council could consider adding discretionary signs with

suggested speeds for the curves. A final option would be to direct MnDOT to perform a formal speed study, but the Council would be obligated to post the speed limit at the recommended speed from the results.

**Motion by Peterson to direct the City Engineer, Public Works, and City Administrator to research whether the City Council has discretion to lower the speed limit on Jodrell Street NE. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

Peterson continued by addressing the speed limit on Howard Lake Drive. He is concerned that a speed trap was created when the speed limit was decreased to 35 m.p.h. and would like the Council to consider increasing the speed limit to 40 m.p.h. to correspond with the road's speed limit in Forest Lake.

Duraine said that he thought the City did not have the option to change the speed limit now. Postler said that he will look at the rural residential designation that was established there to determine if the speed limit can be changed.

### **13. Public Works Report**

No report.

### **14. Public Communications Coordinator Report**

No report.

### **15. City Administrator's Report**

#### Thurnbeck Preserve Phase II Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation

Mursko reported that a Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation is necessary for the Thurnbeck Preserve Phase II development. Staff is recommending approval of a resolution setting a Public Hearing on the vacation for the 09.11.19 City Council meeting.

**Motion by Duraine to approve Resolution 19-20, a resolution setting a Public Hearing for a Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation in the Thurnbeck Preserve Phase II development for the City Council meeting on 09.11.19. Seconded by Hegland. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Human Resources Memo

Mursko explained recent history of the City Planner position. Dean Johnson was the City Planner for many years prior to his retirement in 2018. Since then the City has been utilizing services from Interim City Planners, and hired City Planning Technician Ben Gutknecht to handle the work load. When Gutknecht was hired, it was understood that the City would be hiring a more senior planner as his mentor. Since then, Johnson has expressed interest in coming back to the City in a limited capacity as a senior planner and mentor for one (1) year.

Based on Johnson’s interest, Mursko is recommending increasing the hours of the City Planning Technician position to 32 hours per week, as well as reentering into a contract with Johnson as the Senior Planner/mentor.

Duraine asked why it is necessary for a small City like Columbus to hire a City Planner and increase Gutknecht’s hours? Mursko explained that it takes time for a senior person to teach a junior person about a profession. In most professional service firms, there are junior and senior people who work together. She added that Gutknecht has a larger workload than is manageable for the number of hours he is currently working. Mursko finished by saying that since Jeff St. Martin left the Administrative Technician position at the City, she has had to pick up additional work and, as a result, delegate additional responsibilities to Gutknecht.

Logren asked if there is an assumption that after Johnson has worked in this position for one (1) year that Gutknecht would be qualified for the Senior Planner position? Mursko replied that Johnson’s plan is to evaluate Gutknecht’s skills after six (6) months, and again after one (1) year. The type of applications the City receives over the counter will determine what area Gutknecht is able to gain experience with. She noted that in professional fields it typically takes three (3) years of experience to reach a senior position.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to change the City Planning Technician’s hours from 28 to 32 hours per week, effective immediately. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Hegland to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to appoint Dean Johnson as the City Planner, effective immediately. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report

Receipts:	\$ 73,988.16
Disbursements:	\$ 554,079.57
Balance:	\$ 8,996,317.87

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

**16. Calendar of Meetings.**

The next Planning Commission meeting is on 08.21.19 at 7:00 p.m.

The next City Council Workshop is on 08.28.19 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The next City Council Meeting is on 08.28.19 at 7:00 p.m.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator