

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2020  
5:30 PM**

The Oct 20, 2020 council meeting was called to order by Mayor Lowell Helget at 5:30 PM. Those present include Helget, John Mueller, Sam Hesse, Theresa Beckman, Mike Rothmeier, City Attorney Paul Muske, City Manager Joe Stremcha and City Clerk Amy Vogel. Others present were Steve Helget, Arland Roiger, Joe Micka, Robert Potter, John Nicholson, Tom Goeritz, and Nick Klisch. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Motion by Muller, second by Hesse to adopt the agenda. All ayes.

There were no nuisances to discuss in the public hearing.

Potter explained that the proposed Wild Ridge stormwater drainage project shows that it is in a 100' easement on his property. However, his property deed doesn't show the easement. He is okay with the plan but not how much it encroaches on his property. There was no new information on the project.

Stremcha reached out to Goeritz at St John Lutheran Home about the surplus property at the Medical Center. Goeritz walked through the center and found items that would benefit St John's. It was questioned what the correct and fair manner of disposal is as others may be able to make use of the surplus items too. This will be discussed again at the November council meeting.

Stremcha noted that Allina was approved to use some of the surplus equipment due to COVID-19. He questioned whether the city wanted to sell these items as no value was put on them. They are also putting a list together of other surplus items that may work for them.

The consent agenda was reviewed. The PUC budget numbers were in the workshop presentation except for capital improvement plan which was approved at the last PUC meeting. The domain/wan and Office 365 prices changed \$44,000 to \$48,000 because Thriveon forgot about the PUC. It was noted that since the outdoor dining grant work won't take place until next spring, this would be paid from General fund reserves. This work had to be done and paid for by Nov 15 to be part of the CARES funding. Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve the consent agenda. All ayes.

Stremcha explained that the purchase agreement with the Springfield Creamery on the elevator had the Creamery paying for all costs associated with the demolition including demo, asbestos testing and removal, and bond and interest costs through the lease of the scale. The expected cost is \$130-135,000. The Creamery presented a plan to the EDA to pay \$9,000/yr for 13 years amounting to \$117,000. Steve Helget stated that they have since increased the amount to \$9,500/yr or \$123,500. Rothmeier stated that he didn't think it was in the mission statement of the EDA to take on this project. If the property is developed, 50% of the balance would be forgiven. The Creamery stated that if it was possible to develop, they would give up the scale portion. It was suggested to include in the lease that if it is developed in the future that the city be

repaid for their contribution to the project and to include terms in the lease to change it should there be future development. Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve moving forward with this project. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the PUC approved recommending the proposed health insurance plan to save premium funds amounting to about \$27,000 for the city and \$17,000 for the PUC. The difference is that Mayo and Avera are not in network. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the new High Value Network health insurance with the same deductible as in the past. Ayes – Helget, Mueller, Beckman, and Rothmeier. Abstain – Hesse. Motion passed.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the 2% COLA for the pay increase. Ayes – Helget, Mueller, Beckman, and Rothmeier. Abstain – Hesse. Motion passed.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve the PUC budget information as presented. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that Allina and Paula Thomas are still working on the PT ALS application. They are looking to possibly utilize nurses as EMT's and possibly look at older high school students. They are also working on the cost per run calculation.

Stremcha explained the MN Safe Routes to School grant opportunity as there is no matching requirement. They would like to consider replacing bikes and possibly some speed technology changes. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to approve applying for this grant. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve hiring Adam Seifert at \$15.00 for the PT seasonal snow removal position. All ayes.

The council reviewed a proposed renovation for the old ambulance and police space. The PUC would like to share the space with the police moving to the ambulance space and the PUC using the old police space. The ambulance rigs are at the Medical Center now. The upstairs and old jail cell are available for storage. This was just for discussion purposes right now.

Stremcha asked if there was a way to streamline the nuisance enforcement to shorten the abatement process. For snow and grass issues, they post a notice on the property door with so many days to abate before the city completes the abatement and charges the property. Muske stated that this is different because it involves personal property that can't be taken without notice. He said that notice should be given as soon as the nuisance is recognized. Unregistered vehicles should be issued a citation right away. Mueller stated that older residents who receive services are able to take care of their properties. Muske will review the ordinance to see what changes could be made to streamline it.

Council reviewed a list of current nuisances. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to issue notices to abatement the nuisances and issue citations and set the hearing for Nov 17, 2020 at 5:30 PM. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that back in 2018 the city had looked into FEMA funds to construct a storm shelter in the park in conjunction with the softball concession stand but those funds had run out. There is a new program called Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). Funding is 75/25 with a 3-yr implementation. A capital campaign could be done for the 25%. It is thought that the shelter/concession stand would be about \$500,000. Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to apply for the grant. All ayes.

Three tax-forfeited properties were sold that are to have special assessments on them but the new owners are unknown. Vogel will call the Brown Co Auditor-Treasurer to find names and addresses for these properties. Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to set a hearing for Nov 17, 2020 at 6 PM for these special assessments. All ayes.

There are outstanding accounts for services like grass mowing and snow removal to assess to properties. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to set a hearing for Nov 17, 2020 at 6:15 PM. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to canvass election results on Nov 12, 2020 at 5:30 PM. All ayes.

Rothmeier and Mueller conducted a successful performance review for Stremcha. It was noted that he wishes to be a hockey coach again this winter. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to accept the review and the part-time employment as a hockey coach. All ayes.

Stremcha asked the council wishes on advertising open board seats – all positions or only those that have no interested individuals. They agreed that all positions be advertised and any compensation be noted in the ad. Allina is looking to appoint someone to its board. Council agreed that this person has to be someone who will report back to the council on a regular basis.

Beckman stated that Allina is very happy with their success in Springfield. A new nurse practitioner has started and several new specialists are coming. They are considering a new physician at this time, but likely only PT. Current staff is able to handle urgent care requests during the day. It was noted that Allina has a manager on-site 2 days/week.

Stremcha said that MN West college has toured the building and is interested in renting space for. They had been doing classes at St John Lutheran Home/The Maples but they are not allowed in the building at this time due to COVID-19. Their lease would echo the lease they had with St John's through the end of the year.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to adjourn at 7:20 PM. All ayes.

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Lowell Helget, Mayor

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Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk