

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JULY 21, 2020**  
**5:30 PM**

The July 21, 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 include Bill Helget, Linda Roiger, Nick Seidl, Austin Watkins, Valerie Hauser, John Nicholson, and Wendy Krier. Present over Zoom were Brian Grogan with Moss and Barnett, Tom Ryan and Paula Thomas.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the agenda with the addition of the oath of office for Austin Watkins and the St Raphael gambling permit. All ayes.

Helget opened the public hearing for the nuisances. There were 3 properties who received a final notice for this hearing of which 216 W Sanborn was the only property with an outstanding nuisance, which is wood pallets outside. The other properties were in compliance at this time. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to declare the nuisance at 216 W Sanborn and order the immediate abatement within 7 days or hire Matt Ibberson to take care of the abatement with the charges going to the property owner. All ayes.

Grogan reviewed the proposed franchise ordinance with Mediacom. The new term would be 10 years which is shorter due to the rapidly changing environment. Gross revenues would have a stronger definition to include cable, broadband and telephone. There would be 2 public, educational and governmental channels with one being reserved for HD. There would be free service to public buildings with one converter at each location. Mediacom may offset this service from the franchise fees but they would have to change all MN cities at the same time. Mediacom will issue a letter of credit for \$10,000.

No agreement has been reached with Nuvera yet as they have requested many changes. Grogan recommended full review and approval of the Mediacom Franchise Ordinance. It is the hope that Nuvera will follow suit with passing the franchise ordinance. This is considered the first reading of the ordinance.

Watkins conducted the oath for his PT police officer position.

Seidl explained that with the state baseball tournament coming up they need to have a strong beer permit. Stremcha stated that a 501(c)3 can be issued a liquor license as the primary sponsor when there is a city festival. However, the Springfield Baseball Assn is not a non-profit. There may be a chance that the New Ulm Baseball Assn could be the primary sponsor but an answer has not been received yet. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to adopt Res #20-072101 designating the MN State Amateur Baseball Tournament as a city festival for 2020. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve a 501(c)3 organization for a liquor license for the State Tournament contingent on completion of all necessary paperwork. All ayes.

Bill Helget explained that a group walked the Wild Ridge site to find a resolution to the stormwater permit requirements. The group consisted of himself, Ryan, Stremcha, Lowell Helget, Randy Haseleu, Randy Baier and Dale Knutson. Option 1 includes a 5-ft retention area with a 3-ft water quality depth in the north/northeast corner of Wild Ridge with a 24-inch outlet to Burns Ave. The estimated cost would be \$40-50,000

Option 2 would have 2 retention areas with both being about 3-ft in depth and a 2-ft water quality depth with a 24-inch outlet to Burns Ave. One retention area would be a 2-ft high berm near Hoyt Ave and the other retention area would be in the north/northeast corner of Wild Ridge. This option would cost more than #1. Reducing the size of the outlet to Burns to 15-18 inches would reduce the price of the project. The most economical and natural option is #1.

Ryan is concerned that there is still an issue with runoff from Paffrath Ave. If the city moves forward with this project, he would deed Outlot A to the city and the city could sell property to each property owner that is encroaching on the property already with those revenues reducing the overall impact to the city. Muske stated that an easement would have to be acquired from the Schmidt family for the outlet. Ryan said that he would work with Potter's because a portion of the retention pond would be located on their property. Motion by Hesse, second by Mueller to approve pursuing option 1 by getting a quote from Randy Baier with a 15" outlet. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the Kern bridge from Blue Earth Co and the Hale bridge from Brown Co will be relocated. Rehab and relocation costs would be eligible for 80% federal funding with the other 20% being paid locally or by the county or state or a combination. The trails committee agreed that a bridge could be placed east of the community center as an expansion of the city trails from the current trail on the levee. This would allow for additional parking at the community center with pedestrians crossing the bridge to get to Riverside Park and trails. The Kern bridge is about 30 ft longer and would be the most cost effective because there is no center pylon. It is about 198 ft long and is within 20 ft of the width of the river. It will be rehabbed to bring it up to the current safety standards while preserving the historical value of the bridge. Other communities are interested in the bridges so a letter of interest is required. The DNR requires a no-rise certification meaning that dirt materials need to be swapped out as to not obstruct the flow.

Costs are not known yet but are expected to be \$1.5-2.5 million. The city can expect a share of \$300,000 or more. Possible funding scenarios include the Roiger, Schenk and Schneider funds. There may be interested individuals in contributing to the cause. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve submitting a letter of interest for the Kern bridge. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to approve the consent agenda. All ayes. It was clarified that the EMS course contract was changed from the required 8 people to 5. The down-payment of \$5,000 is due now and the balance after the August 10 class. The first class will be Aug 5.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to approve payment of \$33,096.90 to Salonek Concrete for the concession stand. All ayes. There are some punchlist items that need to be completed before final payment will be issued.

Stremcha stated that the Rec Complex board approved the security system for \$5,213.20 with no monthly costs thereafter. This is to protect the investment that has been recently completed. They also approved the Hall of Fame Plate for recognition of Roland Boettger's contribution to the project at a cost of about \$850. There will be a separate donor wall for the other donations to be put up later. One thing that was not presented to Rec Complex was the grandstand wood steps. They do not have an even rise between steps. It would cost \$2,275 for Salonek's to install the cement steps and could be done before the state tournament. Motion by Hesse, second by Mueller to approve replacing the wood steps with concrete as long as the Rec Complex approves of them. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve the security system and Boettger memorial. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that to expand the trail around the community center, the shrubs along the north edge of the property would have to be removed. MR Paving could dig them out for \$3,200 and Schneider funds could be used for this rather than trail funds. They did ask Greg Ryan for a quote but he didn't feel comfortable doing it. The actual trail would be \$20,800 and be paid out of the Roiger funds.

Some trail improvements were approved at the June council meeting including a portion on O'Connell. Two options were identified since its approval. The original included bike lane across the railroad tracks. Going with either of the options would save about \$4,000 from the quote that was approved in June. The first option would be to tar this area instead of just striping a bike lane with an extra cost of \$5,304. Pedestrians would be closer to the road with this option. A speed sign valued at \$2,700 could be installed to make drivers aware of the speed. The second option would be to go around the railroad flashing lights with extra fill and a larger asphalt patch at a cost of \$10,851. People may only go straight and not around the railroad crossarms. Motion by Hesse, second by Mueller to approve the first option with a cost of \$5,304. All ayes.

Stremcha explained the rest of the proposed trail improvement on O'Connell. To continue this new trail segment north on O'Connell, 60-ft of new sidewalk would have to be installed for \$2,020.00 and 67-ft of old sidewalk would have to be removed and replaced for \$2,370.00. Scott Johnson has agreed to pay for half (\$1,185) of the 67-ft portion. The sidewalk replacement annual allocation would contribute \$804 with the \$381 balance and the \$2,020 coming from the Roiger Fund trails allocation. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the sidewalk portion of the trails with the funds used as noted. All ayes.

Council further discussed the proposed trail by the community center. The new trail around the softball field and tennis courts and on O'Connell was approved in June for about \$55,000. Shrub removal would cost \$3,200 and the trail is \$20,800. The proposed trails would use about \$75,000 of the \$100,000 allocated by the Roiger Fund, leaving an unallocated balance in there of about \$120,000. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to approve removing the shrubs at a cost of \$3,200 with funding out of the Schneider funds. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the trail around the community center parking lot for \$20,800. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the Fleischmann fund has \$50,152 to be used for campground improvements and proposed cementing out the rest of the sites. For those 25 sites, the cost was estimated at \$1,975/each for a total of \$46,000. It was noted that only the sites in the north loop could be cemented out as the other lots were acquired through FEMA. This was discovered when the other sites were cemented out. Council decided to hold these funds for other future improvements.

The second reading of the rental ordinance was conducted. The council could adopt it or abandon it if they don't want to regulate it. The building inspector would enforce the ordinance. The belief is that this will keep the slumlords out of the community. Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to adopt Ordinance 432 regulating rental properties. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve publishing Ordinance 432 in summary form. All ayes. Notices should be sent to all property owners it involves. They will all be licensed for Jan 1, 2021 but inspections will be phased in over a period of 3 years.

Council conducted a second reading of a revision to the purchasing authority for the city. It follows state statute for the most part. The city manager's authority for budgeted items was proposed at \$25,000 and non-budgeted at \$5,000. It was originally \$1,000 which delays many decisions until the next council meeting. Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to adopt Ordinance 433 regarding the spending authority with the city manager having authority up to \$15,000 on budgeted items and \$5,000 on non-budgeted items. All ayes.

The 2015 Ford Explorer was damaged a while back and now the windshield is cracked. There were 2 quotes for the windshield repair – Jeff's Body Shop \$680.13 and Andy's Body Shop \$1,058.06. Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to approve the quote from Jeff's Body Shop for the windshield repair. All ayes.

There were also 2 quotes for the other damage – Jeff's Body Shop \$2,117.03 and Andy's Body Shop \$2,814.50. The council agreed not to fix this damage now.

SMIF is offering an entrepreneurial venture grant. They will select 3 communities to offer this venture. Stremcha started a similar program earlier this year with the Bittler building but is hoping that Springfield will rank high on the list. The only cost is staff time and is a 3-yr commitment. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve proceeding with the SMIF grant application. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve the sidewalk replacement at 303 S Paffrath with the city contributing \$2.00/sq ft for a total of \$840. All ayes.

Stremcha asked the council to consider a CARES Act workshop to discuss how to spend the funds. Possible items include personal protective equipment (PPE), non-budgeted items that related to COVID-19, payroll for employees sent home that couldn't work remotely and

employees who were doing COVID-19 related work detail that they wouldn't otherwise do, etc. Major technology items would be to get the whole city on one network to create a more virtual environment and to be able to have residents do more remotely without having to enter city hall. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to set this workshop for Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5 PM at the community center. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to set the budget workshop for Thursday, Sept 3, 2020 at 5 PM at the community center. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to approve the date change for the St. Raphael Church gambling permit. All ayes.

It was noted that there have been motorized vehicles on the trails. An email alert will be sent out regarding this as there are to be no motorized vehicles on the trails.

Mueller and Hesse announced that they would not be seeking re-election this next term.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to adjourn at 8:16 PM. All ayes.

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Lowell Helget, Mayor

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Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk