CITY OF BAYPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 4, 2014
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice, Mayor St. Ores called the regular City Council meeting of August 4, 2014 to order at 6:00 p.m., and asked Councilmembers, staff and the audience to join in pledging allegiance to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Susan St. Ores, Councilmembers Dan Goldston, Michele Hanson and Patrick McGann

Members Absent: Councilmember Connie Carlson

Staff Present: City Administrator Logan Martin, Police Chief Laura Eastman, Public Works Supervisor Mel Horak, City Engineer John Parotti, City Attorney Andy Pratt, Fire Chief Mark Swenson and Assistant City Administrator/Planner Sara Taylor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Goldston to approve the August 4, 2014 City Council agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/PETITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The July recycling award recipients are Jim and Pam Koller who will receive $30.00 for their recycling efforts, with funding made possible by a grant from Washington County.
2. Mayor St. Ores proclaimed Tuesday, August 5, 2014 as Night to Unite in Bayport and encouraged residents to attend the free event at Lakeside Park from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

1. Diane McGann, representing the Master Gardeners of Washington County, reviewed the first annual "Bayport in Bloom" front entry garden contest and indicated 23 nominations were received. The winners were: Residential – Tammy Jorgenson, 102 State Street North; Commercial – Inspired Chiropractic, 125 3rd Street South; Public – American Legion Post 491, 263 3rd Street North; Planters/Pots – 1st State Bank and Trust, 950 Highway 95. Honorable mention residential awards went to 261 4th Avenue North and 315 Prairie Way South.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor St. Ores read items 1-9 on the consent agenda.

Councilmember McGann introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution 14-14

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-9 FROM THE AUGUST 4, 2014 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

1. July 7, 2014 City Council workshop meeting minutes
2. July 7, 2014 City Council regular meeting minutes
3. July payables and receipts (check numbers 1137360-1137464)

4. July building, plumbing and mechanical permits report
5. Special event application from Mary Ostertag for a 5K memorial walk/run on August 24, 2014
6. Special event application for Nicole Anderson wedding at Lakeside Park on July 8, 2015
7. Renewal of 2:00 a.m. closing liquor license for Woody's Bar and Grill, 109 3rd St. N.
8. Pay application #2 from Fitol Hintz for Phase I Perro Park site improvements
9. Solicitation of quotes to provide services for city sewer cleaning

The motion for adopting the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Hanson and upon roll call being taken, the following voted via voice:

Susan St. Ores – aye	Michele Hanson – aye
Dan Goldston – aye	Patrick McGann – aye

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Mayor St. Ores attended the St. Croix Workshop on the Water, sponsored by the St. Croix River Association. The focus of the workshop was protecting and improving the St. Croix Valley's water resources. She reviewed the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization's July meeting and an exchange meeting with the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce Board and representatives from Chambers of Commerce visiting from Folsom, California and Eldorado County, California.

STAFF/CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Fire Chief Swenson reviewed his written report, adding the department continues its high level rescue and confinement training with the contractor for the St. Croix River Crossing Project. The new fire truck will be on display at Night to Unite.

Police Chief Eastman noted her department assisted with the July 12 Stillwater Run foot race through Bayport, with an estimated 300-400 runners participating. She reviewed the Youth Safety Camp activities underway at Lakeside Park on August 4 and 5, as well as Night to Unite activities August 5.

Public Works Supervisor Horak reviewed his written report, adding the department anticipates completing its portion of the removal/demolition activity for the Perro Park Improvement Project this week. Materials will be recycled, sold, or reused, as appropriate. He stated city crews removed two ash trees in the 5th Avenue North business district that were in severe decline and staff is investigating the best replacement option. The trees were not affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and he is unaware of any documented cases of the disease in Washington County. Mayor St. Ores conveyed the importance of residents trimming overgrown trees and shrubs and new city regulations related to vegetation put in place to ensure public safety.

Assistant City Administrator/Planner Taylor reviewed the Perro Park improvements beginning this week and encouraged people to use caution in the area during the construction project, especially at the Farmer's Market on Mondays, which will continue at the park into October. Residents may vote in the Primary Election for federal and state offices at City Hall on Tuesday, August 12. Local offices will be elected at the General Election on November 4. She provided an update on a project to improve pedestrian and overall safety at Andersen Elementary by adding new stop signs and relocating the bus stop to 2nd Avenue North and student drop off/pickup to 4th Street North. She thanked the Master Gardeners for their efforts in coordinating a very successful "Bayport in Bloom" contest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update related to water concern on 5th Street North: Administrator Martin reported city staff worked with a dewatering contractor and sewer televising crew to investigate residential concerns of water issues in their homes and yards and requested direction from the City Council on next steps. Engineer Parotti provided an engineering update on the problem, including potential causes and opportunities for further investigation, along with long-term possible solutions. Investigation confirmed the problem is mainly caused by groundwater coming up in a variety of places, including basements, through sanitary sewer service connections, and the ground surface. He speculated the heavy spring and summer rains exacerbated the groundwater issue; however a high groundwater table or a pocket of perched groundwater is likely the main cause. Additional conditions, including a sanitary sewer lining project a few years ago, have also been considered. City staff is exploring the city's liability, since this is most likely a groundwater issue, and preliminary indications are that the city has limited liability because it is an issue out of the city's control and not caused by an action the city directly undertook. Administrator Martin said that lining sanitary sewer mains is a recognized best management practice, as the city was paying an annual surcharge to the Metropolitan Council prior to undertaking the lining project because clear groundwater was flowing into the sanitary sewer main, causing excessive inflow/infiltration into the Metropolitan Wastewater Disposal System. Potential next steps include continuing to collect more detailed data via monitoring wells or soil borings, going directly to a solution phase in cooperation with residents, or having the residents mitigate the problem on their own. Discussion followed on the benefits of collecting more data and Engineer Parotti recommended collecting soil borings to identify the types of soil in the immediate area to help identify a potential solution. Peter and Lynda Rask, 538 5th Street North, and Jeff and Judy Johnson, 503 5th Street North, stated they were able to manage the groundwater issue in their basements and yards until the sanitary sewer mains were lined. Administrator Martin said the city may choose to partner with the affected residents on a special assessment project (e.g., adding drain tile to the east side of 5th Street North to direct groundwater to the storm sewer system). Engineer Parotti explained that installing drain tile would help the water issue in the yards, but not completely solve the problem because drain tile is typically installed 2-4 feet below the surface and basements are much lower than that. He estimated it would cost $6,000.00-$10,000.00 for soil borings and an engineering report on the findings and possible solutions. He clarified that soil borings would not identify the source of the groundwater but will help identify a solution. The general consensus of the City Council was to direct staff to proceed with the soil borings investigation and creation of preliminary plans for possible solutions.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider accepting a City of Bayport monument sign donation from Bayport First State Bank and Trust: Peter Clements, President of First State Bank and Trust, explained that as part of the bank's 100th Anniversary, the bank would like to donate a "Welcome to Bayport" identification sign adjacent to the bank within the MnDOT Highway 95 corridor. The bank has been working with Loucks Associates to design a stone sign similar to the sign at Lakeside Park and the new sign proposed for Perro Park. Greg Johnson of Loucks Associates reviewed the sign detail and placement and explained he would coordinate a permit application to MnDOT to allow placement of the sign. Councilmembers congratulated First State Bank and Trust on its anniversary, recognized the generosity of the donation, and thanked the bank for its ongoing civic support.

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Goldston to accept the proposed Bayport identification sign from First State Bank and Trust. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider authorization to proceed with deer culling efforts: Administrator Martin reviewed the city's efforts to control the deer population, noting the Point Road area appears to be the epicenter of the problem. River Valley Deer Management (RVDM) is willing to assist the city in culling a certain

number of deer via a bow hunting event, most likely on the vacant parcels on the north side of the access road, to eliminate exposure to private residences. The nonprofit group of professional hunters provides the service at no cost and offers the harvested meat to Bayport residents, uses it personally, or donates it to locate food shelves. Administrator Martin reviewed the results of a survey of Point Road residents, noting a general consensus that deer pose a problem in the area and cause landscaping damage, safety hazards to vehicles and pedestrians, and health concerns. RVDM anticipates culling approximately 15 deer, based on information provided by city staff; however the exact number will be determined based on their analysis once they are onsite. Staff recommended moving forward with the culling event.

Sean Coffey, a member of RVDM, said the group includes 16-20 hunters that provide their services at no cost and has been managing the deer populations in Hudson and North Hudson, Wisconsin, over the past 4-5 years. They work closely with city administrative and police staff and the hunts have been successful, with very few complaints. He said the group's website offers a secure section for city staff to track the group's progress during a hunt and emphasized their goal is to help manage the deer population, not eradicate it. Bayport residents would have the first opportunity to purchase meat harvested in Bayport through a request section that would be set up on the group's website. Chief Eastman was supportive of working with the group and indicated members of the Bayport Police Department may be interested in participating. Mr. Coffey said the group is fully insured and has not experienced any liability issues. Attorney Pratt cautioned that hunting on private property would require another level of permission and documentation, and Mr. Coffey indicated RVDM has a waiver form that private land owners complete prior to hunting on their property.

It was moved by Councilmember Goldston and seconded by Councilmember McGann to authorize culling of the deer herd in the Point Road neighborhood and as requested by private property owners. Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Pratt said staff would clarify the technicalities of allowing bow hunting on private property.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mayor St. Ores reminded residents to attend Night to Unite tomorrow evening at Lakeside Park and noted that the Mark Ostertag Memorial 5K Walk/Run will be held on Sunday, August 24.
2. Councilmember Goldston showed a new City of Bayport shirt that city staff had the opportunity to purchase.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Goldston to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

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City Administrator/Clerk