

**CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA**

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 10, 2021**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Saint Peter was conducted in the Governor's Room of the Community Center and by virtual software on May 10, 2021. Under M.S. 13D.021, the City is able to conduct meetings by electronic means in the event of a state-wide emergency. Governor Walz has declared a state-wide peacetime emergency and as such the City Council meeting was conducted both in-person and remotely using GoToMeeting software.

A quorum present, Mayor Zieman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present through the virtual platform: Councilmembers Shanon Nowell, Brad DeVos, Stephan Grams, and Emily Bruflat. The following members were present in the meeting room: Councilmembers Ed Johnson and Keri Johnson and Mayor Zieman. The following officials were also present: City Administrator Todd Prafke (in person), City Attorney James Brandt (in person) and City Engineer Jeff Domras (in person).

**Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, to approve the agenda. With all in favor, the agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes** – Councilmember Nowell requested a change in the minutes of the April 26, 2021 meeting to substitute "*Councilmember Nowell stated that having considered both safety and land use concerns related to beekeeping, her primary concern is the impact on native pollinators*" for the sentence "*Councilmember Nowell stated the issue of beekeeping was concerning not only due to safety concerns but also land use issues and the future impact on native pollinators.*" A motion was made by Nowell, seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 regular City Council meeting with the substitution. With all in favor, the minutes were approved as modified. A complete copy of the minutes of the April 26, 2021 regular City Council meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

A motion was made by Johnson (K), seconded by Bruflat, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. With all in favor, the minutes were approved as corrected. A complete copy of the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

**Consent Agenda** – In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Johnson (K), Resolution No. 2021-79 entitled "Resolution Approving Consent Agenda" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-79 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

**License To Use City Owned Right-Of-Way: Pearson Automotive, Inc.** – Public Works Director Moulton presented a request by Pearson Automotive, Inc. to use City owned North Third Street right-of-way adjacent to the business for business parking. Moulton indicated the owner would pay for parking stall construction on the City owned property. Moulton also reported similar request for use of City right-of-way had been previously authorized for the Dairy Queen and Don's Appliance properties. Councilmember Nowell questioned whether the parking spaces, when constructed, would be limited to parking for that business or if area residents could also utilize the spaces. Moulton noted the agreement didn't specify, but since Pearson Automotive was paying for the spaces, residential use would not be allowed. Mayor Zieman asked about similar parking spaces that had been authorized at Parkview Manor and asked if those spaces were public parking. City Administrator Prafke indicated it was public parking at Parkview Manor, but Parkview had put up signs indicating the spaces were reserved for their tenants. In motion by Grams, seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2021-80 entitled "Resolution Authorizing Execution Of License To Install Asphalt And Use For Vehicle Parking In City Right-Of-Way With Pearson Automotive, Inc." was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-80 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

**Hospital Equipment Purchase** – River's Edge Hospital CEO Paula Meskan addressed the Council requesting authorization to purchase two sets of power drill/saws for use during shoulder and smaller bone surgeries at a price of \$56,445.71 from Stryker. Meskan said the existing equipment, which is still in use, is seven years old (four years longer than the normal life) and purchasing two additional sets will allow ease of scheduling for surgeries. In motion by

Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2021-81 entitled "Resolution Approving Purchase Of Stryker Mini Power Set For River's Edge Hospital" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-81 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

**2021 Minnesota Square Park North Plaza Project Bid Award** – Public Works Director Moulton recommended award of the bid for the 2021 Minnesota Square Park North Plaza Improvements Project to Pember Companies in the amount of \$135,549.75 which is \$14,000 lower than the Engineer's estimate. Moulton indicated the work would include installation of a 60' x 140' concrete plaza with two 6' x 30' raised planters starting on the College Avenue/South Third Street intersection side of the park. Moulton also noted the project had been let with two different start dates (one prior to July Fourth and one after the holiday) and the recommendation was to accept the lowest bid from Pember which was for post-July Fourth construction.

Councilmember Johnson (E) questioned how many trees would be cut down for the project and asked if trees would be replaced. Moulton indicated the approximately eight to ten trees slated for removal would be replaced with other tree plantings in the park and for removed trees which had been planted in memory of someone staff would work with the family to relocate the memorial tree to another area of the park.

Councilmembers discussed the north side access to the park and Moulton provided additional information on the keyed barricade system that is in place to prevent access into the park by unauthorized vehicles. In motion by Nowell, seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2021-82 entitled "Resolution Awarding Bid For 2021 Minnesota Square Park North Plaza Improvements Project" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-82 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

**Transfer Of Property To ILI Agave, LLC** – Community Development Director Wille reported that following a turnback of Highway 169 right-of-way to the City from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in 1999, the property at 814 North Minnesota Avenue had become non-conforming as to front yard setback. Wille indicated the City Council had previously directed staff to provide for a transfer of City property to the private property owner to rectify the situation, but due to COVID the action had been set aside. Wille recommended the City execute a Quit Claim deed to provide a thirty-foot (30') strip of City owned land to ILI Agave, Inc. which would rectify the setback issue and allow the property owner to replace a sign that was discovered to be on City property. In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Grams, Resolution No. 2021-83 entitled "Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Quit Claim Deed Transferring Ownership Of A 30 Foot Strip Of Land Abutting North Minnesota Avenue From The City Of Saint Peter To ILI Agave, LLC" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-83 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

## **Reports**

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Zieman proclaimed May 15, 2021 as "Police Officer Memorial Day" and May 9-16, 2021 as "Police Officer Week".

**Chief of Police Recruitment** – City Administrator Prafke provided an update on the Chief of Police recruitment process and identified the five candidates for the position, their current positions and their educational background. Prafke also provided information on the scheduled public meet and greet which would take place in a hybrid manner on May 26, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center.

**Closed Sessions** – City Administrator Prafke requested two closed sessions as authorized in State Statute to discuss an offer to lease the City's former wastewater treatment ponds and an offer to purchase City property located in the North Industrial Park Subdivision. In motion by Grams, seconded by Johnson (K), Resolution No. 2021-84 entitled "Resolution Calling For Closed Sessions" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-84 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Prafke noted no action would be taken on the two land issues and the Council would return to open session only to adjourn.

The Council adjourned to closed session to discuss the offer to lease the former wastewater treatment ponds at 7:39 p.m. The closed session ended at 8:05 p.m.

The Council adjourned to closed session to discuss an offer to purchase City owned land in the North Industrial Park at 8:06 p.m. The closed session ended at 8:22.m.

The Council returned to open session at 8:22 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Grams, to adjourn. With all in favor, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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Charles Zieman  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Todd Prafke  
City Administrator