

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 26, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Saint Peter was conducted by virtual software on May 26, 2020. 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 City Council meetings will be conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software until further notice.

A quorum present, Mayor Zieman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present through the virtual platform: Councilmembers Ed Johnson, Keri Johnson, Shanon Nowell, Brad DeVos, Stephan Grams, Emily Bruflat and Mayor Zieman. The following officials were present: City Administrator Todd Prafke, City Attorney James Brandt and City Engineer Jeff Domras.

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

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Johnson (K), seconded by Bruflat, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 regular City Council meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried and the minutes were approved. A complete copy of the minutes of the May 11, 2020 regular City Council meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

With all in favor, the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting were approved with a correction to the date of the meeting that had already been corrected by staff. A complete copy of the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

Visitors – Scott Lager, 560 North Welco Drive, addressed the Council to request Council action similar to that adopted by the City of Ham Lake to decline enforcing Governor Walz's Executive Orders related to business closings and reopening restrictions which he felt was in opposition to the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. Lager asked for the City Council to allow all local businesses to reopen without restrictions. Mayor Zieman thanked Mr. Lager for his comment's and indicated the Council would discuss the issue at a workshop.

Consent Agenda – In motion by Grams, seconded by Johnson (E), Resolution No. 2020-55 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. 2020-55 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Class of 2020 Parade Request – City Administrator Prafke recommended approval of a request submitted by a St. Peter High School Class of 2020 parent who wished to conduct a "reverse" parade to celebrate the seniors on their graduation on May 29th. Prafke noted the parade route would be on Nicollet Avenue (County Road 20) from Traverse Road north to County Road 15; the seniors would be in parked vehicles along with a parent and those wishing to congratulate them would drive past the parked vehicles to honk and wave. No one would be allowed to get out of the vehicles or to pass gifts or other items between vehicles and all student

participants along the parade route would have to have checked in with the organizers and display an identifying sign in their vehicle window. Prafke stated that like every parade, the organizers were required to have a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Saint Peter as an additional insured in an amount of not less than \$1,500,000 per occurrence and Police Officers would be at the beginning and end of the parade route with barricades provided by the City.

Councilmembers had extensive discussion on the request including why the request was submitted so late; the low number of students registered for the event (50 out of a graduating class of over 180); whether the event was really necessary; the problems caused by the parade route blocking the only access to the Pheasant Ridge Subdivision; who will be responsible for enforcing social distancing regulations; and who will be responsible for cleaning the roadway after the parade.

In motion by Johnson (K), seconded by Grams, Resolution No. 2020-56 entitled "Resolution Authorizing Class Of 2020 Parade" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-56 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Snow/Ice Removal Policy/Fee Establishment – Public Works Director Moulton presented an updated snow/ice removal policy which included a new provision that would allow owners of private parking lots in the Central Business District to contract with the City to haul snow away from their plowed lots. Moulton indicated some of the property owners were plowing lots and illegally storing the snow on the City's boulevard. Councilmember Bruflat asked for an explanation of why the City rarely calls snow emergencies. City Administrator Prafke reviewed the reasoning behind why snow emergencies are rarely declared.

In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2020-57 entitled "Resolution Approving Updated Snow Removal And Ice Control Policy" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-57 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

City Administrator Prafke and Public Works Director Moulton also recommended the municipal fee schedule be modified by the addition of a fee for City hauling of snow from private parking lots in the Central Business District. In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2020-58 entitled "Resolution Modifying 2020 Municipal Fee Schedule By The Inclusion Of A Fee For Hauling Snow Removed From Private Lots In The Central Business District" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-58 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Used Bucket Truck Purchase– Public Works Director Moulton requested authorization to purchase a used bucket truck with a 60' boom to replace a truck with a 50' boom that was experiencing frequent and expensive mechanical problems. Moulton noted \$74,000 was budgeted in Environmental Services for two pieces of equipment that would be better served by purchasing the truck at a cost of \$59,500. Moulton also noted the old truck, with a value of \$8,000-\$10,000, would be offered for public sale. In motion by Grams, seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2020-59 entitled "Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of A Used 2010 Ford F750 Bucket Truck" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2020-59 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Reports

Mayor's Report – Mayor Zieman talked about sacrifices made during graduation time during the period of World War II when many graduates had already received draft notices.

COVID-19 Update – City Administrator Prafke reported on plans to allow local businesses to apply to use a portion of the City-owned right-of-way that is contiguous to their property to serve customers and that those serving liquor would also be required to delineate the outdoor use space leaving at least four feet of the sidewalk open for the public. Prafke noted the City already had a process in place for such applications and under the authority granted to him with the City's emergency declaration he would waive the fees for the permits that would be valid through August. Prafke also noted that should a business wish to continue use of the City owned property after that time, they could apply for the regular five year permit at a cost of \$100.

2020 Elections – Vote by Mail – City Administrator Prafke encouraged St. Peter residents to utilize absentee voting for the upcoming August primary and November general elections. Prafke noted longer lines are expected at polling places due to COVID-19 safety measures and stated the absentee ballot process is secure as voters must submit an application for a ballot, provide identifying information as to the voter's identify and residence and that information is verified by County election staff before any ballot is mailed to the voter.

Veteran's Memorial Requests – City Administrator Prafke announced that those wishing to have a name included on the Veteran's Memorial may now complete and submit a request through the City's website.

In response to Mayor Zieman's request for any further comments or questions by Councilmembers, the following topics were discussed:

- Councilmember Johnson (K) commented on the curbside barbeque event held by the American Legion to raise funds. Johnson expressed her belief that the process was handled well and the Legion did a good job.
- Councilmember Grams questioned whether the President has the authority to override a decision by the Minnesota Secretary of State regarding mail voting. City Attorney Brandt opined that certain election activities are at the discretion of the individual state.
- Councilmember Bruflat indicated she has voted by absentee in the past and it was a very easy process.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Nowell, to adjourn. With all in favor, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Charles Zieman
Mayor

ATTEST:

Todd Prafke

City Administrator