

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14, 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 June 14, 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 7:00 p.m. The following members were present through the virtual platform: Councilmember Shanon Nowell. The following members were present in the meeting room: Councilmembers Ed Johnson, Keri Johnson, Brad DeVos, Emily Bruflat and Mayor Chuck Zieman. Absent was Councilmember Stephan Grams. 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 Johnson (K), to approve the agenda. With all in favor, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Bruflat, seconded by DeVos, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular City Council meeting. With all in favor, the minutes were approved. A complete copy of the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular City Council meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 19.

Consent Agenda – In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Nowell, Resolution No. 2021-93 entitled "Resolution Approving Consent Agenda" was introduced. Councilmember Johnson (K) expressed her appreciation for the public's engagement in the interview process for the Chief of Police position. Mayor Zieman questioned when Chief Grochow would take office. City Administrator Prafke indicated his appointment was contingent upon successfully passing pre-employment physical and psychological examinations, but Mr. Grochow was expected to begin work as Chief the first week in July. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-93 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Building Automation System Upgrades At The Broadway Generation Plant Project Final Acceptance – Public Works Director Moulton requested formal acceptance of the Building Automation System Upgrades Project at the Broadway Generation Plant. Moulton noted the contractor had completed the project as per the plans and specifications and final payment in the amount of \$8,765.55 was due to the contractor. In motion by Johnson (K), seconded by DeVos, Resolution No. 2021-94 entitled "Resolution Accepting Building Automation System Upgrades At The Broadway Generation Plant Project And Authorizing Final Payment" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-94 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

2021 Clark Street Utility And Surface Improvements Project Bid Award – Public Works Director Moulton requested award of the bid for the 2021 Clark Street project which included installation of sanitary sewer from Clark Street to County Road #20 (Nicollet Avenue) and sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water and street improvements from Nicollet Avenue to a point 500' to the west to serve a new multi-family housing development. Moulton noted neither the City Engineer nor City staff had previously worked with low bidder R.A.W. Construction of Faribault, Minnesota and a background/reference check had been done that indicated the bidder was capable of completing the project. Moulton recommended acceptance of R.A.W.'s bid in the amount of \$468,233.65 which was below the Engineer's estimate of \$539,752. In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2021-95 entitled "Resolution Awarding Bid For 2021 Clark Street Utility And Surface Improvements Project" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-95 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

License To Use City Right-Of-Way: Guentzel Holdings – Public Works Director Moulton recommended approval of a request submitted by Guentzel Holdings for use of City right-of-way along North Third Street for customer parking for the Anytime Fitness business. Moulton reminded the Council the City has previously authorized such use under certain conditions and Guentzel Holdings would fund the entire cost of construction. Mayor Zieman expressed concern that the customer parking had already been constructed in the right-of-way even though the Council had not yet acted on the request. Councilmember Bruflat asked that the City consider requiring permeable materials when driveways and parking lots are constructed in the future. In motion by Johnson (K), seconded by Johnson (E), Resolution No. 2021-96 entitled "Resolution Authorizing Execution Of 'License To Install Vehicle Parking In City Right-Of-Way' With Guentzel Holdings" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-96 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

City Assistance Request: Fourth of July – City Administrator Prafke recommended approval of a request submitted by the St. Peter Chamber of Commerce for City assistance for the annual Fourth of July event. Prafke noted the request included a few changes from previous years including using North

Washington Avenue from Broadway Avenue to Traverse Road as the parade staging area and elimination of the Fourth of July fun run. Councilmember Bruflat asked if any specific COVID-19 restrictions were being put in place for the events. Prafke indicated that as all events are being held outdoors, there were no state restrictions in place that would need to be followed. In motion by DeVos seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2021-97 entitled "Resolution Authorizing City Assistance For Fourth Of July Event" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-97 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

New Business License Application – City Administrator Prafke presented a Tobacco license application for a new business, Smolders Cigar Emporium, which will be proposed at 122 West Nassau Street. Prafke indicated a background investigation had been done on all of the business owners and nothing had been found which would prevent issuance of the license.

Councilmember DeVos indicated his intent to vote "nay" on the proposed license based on being a child of smokers and his concerns related to the health of not only smokers, but those who come in contact with second hand smoke. DeVos expressed his belief that approval of the license would send the wrong message in light of the City's support for the Tobacco 21 initiative.

Mayor Zieman expressed his belief that DeVos' statement was akin to a "nanny state/city" and questioned whether the City, to fight obesity, should also shut down McDonald's.

Nick Winings, 604 Tranquility Trail, Mankato, addressed the Council on behalf of the applicants. Winings indicated only those twenty-one or older would be allowed in the building, the business would only sell cigars and only tobacco products purchased on site would be allowed to be smoked in the building.

Councilmember Bruflat stated she had similar feelings to that of Councilmember DeVos and while she supports local businesses, she does not support the McDonald's business model either.

Councilmember Johnson (K) asked Mr. Winings if they had done a market study to see if there was a customer base for the business. Winings indicated that the four owners know a lot of cigar smokers and they felt the business would be successful.

In motion by Johnson (E), seconded by Johnson (K), Resolution No. 2021-98 entitled "Resolution Approving New Business License (Tobacco)" was introduced. Upon roll call, Councilmembers Nowell, Johnson (E), Johnson (K), and Mayor Zieman voting aye, Councilmembers DeVos and Bruflat voting nay, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2021-98 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 23.

Reports

Mayor's Report – Mayor Zieman had no reports.

City Administrator's Report – City Administrator Prafke had no reports.

Councilmember Johnson (E) congratulated the Ambassadors on the return of BluesFest following the pandemic. Johnson said the event had good turnout and the weather was beautiful.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Johnson (E), seconded by Johnson (K), to adjourn. With all in favor, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Charles Zieman
Mayor

ATTEST:

Todd Prafke
City Administrator