

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2020**

Mayor Jud Marshall convened the regular City Council meeting telephonically at 7:00 p.m. with Council members: Richard Brainerd, Jeff Ledermann, Jane Schneeweis, and Steve Wolgamot in attendance. City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Attorney Bridget Nason, City Engineers John Sachi and Nick Guilliams, City Planner Hannah Rybak, Public Works Director Bob Goebel, Finance Director Scott Schaefer, and City Clerk Jerene Rogers were also in attendance.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Brainerd seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MAY 19, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to approve the May 19, 2020 City Council meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote: Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**5. DISCUSSION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Thushanthi Kozlak, 512 Salem Court, explained that the High School Senior parents would like the opportunity for the graduating seniors to be recognized for their achievements by having a car parade through the City. She indicated that they have several routes in mind keeping the parade to City streets. They will be taking all the necessary precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The parade is proposed for Sunday, June 7 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. A fire truck will lead the parade as well as be at the back of the parade.

Mayor Jud Marshall described a route that would work that would avoid County and State roadways.

City Council member Brainerd indicated that he supports the concept. He said he trusts that City Administrator Neilson and City Attorney Nason will ensure it happens appropriately.

City Administrator Neilson said he will ask Patrol Commander Marquardt to work with Ms. Kozlak.

**5. DISCUSSION FROM THE AUDIENCE - Continued**

City Attorney Nason said the City needs to know the route (starting and ending points), and the ground rules to minimize the risks.

Nikki Wuori & Hannah Johnson, Girl Scout Troop 5580 asked if they could build a garden with a small statue in a City space to acknowledge those that battled the COVID-19 virus. They plan to fund raise to get the money needed for this project.

City Council member Wolgamot suggested the girls send their plans to Public Works Director Goebel. He said this should be discussed at a Park Commission meeting.

Public Works Director Goebel said he will talk with the girls and possibly meet them at a location to discuss their idea.

City Council member Ledermann suggested a pollinator garden at City Hall.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Wolgamot seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**6a. APPROVAL – Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gifts for miscellaneous purchases for the Mahtomedi Fire Department.**

Resolution No. 2020-30 Approving the Acceptance of Gifts for miscellaneous purchases of fire equipment for the Mahtomedi Fire Department was approved. The Mulcahy Family Fund of the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation donated \$7,500.00 towards the fire department.

**6b. APPROVAL – Resolution Awarding the Contract for the 2020 Storm Sewer Improvement Project to Miller Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$112,960.63.**

Resolution No. 2020-33 Awarding a Contract for the 2020 Storm Sewer Improvement Project to Miller Excavating, Inc. with a total quote of \$112,960.63 and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator/City Clerk to sign said contract was approved.

**6c. APPROVAL – Resolution 2020-31 Extending the Term of Previously Declared Local Local Emergency.**

6. CONSENT AGENDA - Continued

Resolution No. 2020-31 Extending the Term of the Previously Declared Local Emergency was approved. The Declaration will exist until such a time the City Council takes formal action to declare that the local emergency due to the COVID-19 health pandemic has ended.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

8. STAFF REPORTS

8a. **CONSIDER APPROVAL – Resolution Awarding Contract for the Bevins, Bichner and Talahi Drive Utility Extension Project to Park Construction Company with a Net Total Base Bid in the amount of \$1,205,951.75.**

City Engineer John Sachi said the City received four bids for this project. The low bid came in under the Engineer's estimate by approximately \$360,000. He said the contractors bidding on the project were given the opportunity to complete the project in 2021. However, the contractor that is the low bidder is planning to begin right away.

City Engineer Sachi addressed the Council regarding the letters of opposition to the proposed infiltration basin within the project received from Pine Springs residents Jim and Nancy Malkowski and Pine Springs Mayor Frank Bastyr. He explained that the proposed infiltration basin that is included in the City's utility project will provide water quality treatment and storm water volume reduction as part of the requirements of the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD). He said this is a VBWD requirement, not a City requirement. The City chose this location because the City owns the property and it is a logical place to infiltrate water prior to discharge downstream. He said the basin is not intended to address any existing drainage issues, and rather is providing volume control and water quality treatment per the watershed rules. He said he does not believe this will negatively affect the Malkowski's property. He said this basin will be 100 feet away surrounded by trees and will not be seen from their property.

Jim Malkowski, 6550 Warner Ave S., Pine Springs, said they would like the infiltration basin elements removed or for the City to find an alternative area for the basin within the project. He said the pond will be dry 9 months out of the year.

City Council member Brainerd asked if we do not move ahead with the pond, can we move ahead with the project.

City Engineer Sachi stated the pond is a requirement of the VBWD and must be created. He said using our property is the most financially feasible location, otherwise we would have to purchase property for the basin.

**8. STAFF REPORTS – Continued**

City Council member Brainerd supports moving along with this project. He said we have talked about this project numerous times over the years.

City Council member Ledermann said it is very disappointing that the VBWD will not reconsider their requirement. He asked if there is an appeal process.

City Engineer Sachi stated he had a conversation with the president of the VBWD and he does not see any reason why this should be exempted from the project. We do not have a choice.

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Wolgamot seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-32 a Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Bevins, Bichner and Talahi Drive Utility Extension Project to Park Construction Company with a Net Total Bid Base in the amount of \$1,205,951.75. City Council member Ledermann stated he has opposed this project from the beginning. He is disappointed with the tree removal, the elimination of open space and the costs to the ecosystem. The motion passed by roll call vote 4-1. Yea: Brainerd, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: Ledermann.

**8b. DISCUSSION – Community Gardens**

City Administrator Neilson said this is a follow-up to the discussion from the last City Council meeting regarding Community Gardens.

Public Works Director Goebel said the Parks Commission discussed this topic at their last meeting. He said they discussed different locations, the soil types, irrigation in the Parks and they could not come up with a solution to this issue. He stated the Parks Commission would not want a garden near any of the play areas, the soil in Wedgewood Park is sandy and many of the other parks do not have irrigation. He said they decided to continue to work with the District Education to possibly increase the number of garden plots at their location.

City Council member Ledermann said material can be added to sandy soil to make it work. He indicated that he is not ready to set this aside. He stated that maybe the residents could figure out how to get water to a location themselves.

City Council member Brainerd is satisfied with the Park Commissions recommendation.

**8c. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Resolution Approving Temporary Expansion of Business Premises.**

**8. STAFF REPORTS - Continued**

City Attorney Nason said the resolution before the City Council is similar to what other cities are passing. The resolution will provide flexibility from existing City code requirements and regulations; the City does not have the authority to waive applicable federal or state regulations. She said the Governor called on cities to work with restaurants as they seek to reopen for outdoor seating only. In order to assist businesses during this difficult time, and to allow existing restaurants that may have very limited or no existing outdoor seating capacity to reopen in compliance with existing executive orders and reopening guidance. This will temporarily allow alcoholic beverages in certain areas of Veteran's Memorial Park. She said the restaurant will sell off-sale beverages, and then the customer could take their food and beverage over to the park to eat. This will also address constraints to expand outdoor seating.

City Council member Schneeweis said the purpose is to help the businesses function and get back on their feet.

Todd Rogers, Forster's Dugout Bar indicated that the Mahtomedi and Willernie businesses would like to put tables and chairs in front of their buildings for their customers to use. He said he spoke with Washington County regarding this and they are fine with this as long as it does not impede pedestrian or bike traffic. He said they would like to secure an area in Veteran's Memorial Park to allow customers a place to eat and have an alcoholic beverage with their meal. He said they are considering barricades of some sort to keep minors out and that they would possibly like to put up a tent.

City Council member Schneeweis spoke with Kevin Donovan today. The White Bear Lake Chamber and Rotary would like to build and donate 6-8 picnic tables for use in the park. She would like to see this work.

City Council member Wolgamot said he supports this resolution. He said it gives the City Administrator leeway to accomplish these goals.

Public Works Director Goebel said he supports this idea. He said public works has a couple tables they can install. He also has garbage and recycling containers they can put out at the park. He said they will maintain the park daily.

City Council member Ledermann asked if there will be concerns with parking and how that will be dealt with.

City Council member Schneeweis said parking should not be an issue, since the businesses are not at capacity.

**8. STAFF REPORTS - Continued**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Brainerd seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-34 a Resolution Authorizing Temporary Expansion of Business Premises and Additional Regulatory Flexibility in Response to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**8d. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Request from Friends of Long Lake for a Financial Contribution for Weed Treatment at Long Lake.**

City Administrator Neilson said we have a request from the Friends of Long Lake Group for a contribution towards their weed treatment fund. He explained that we have contributed to this fund twice in the past. The last time was in 2015. He said that since the City cannot donate money, we paid an invoice for a treatment in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Public Works Director Goebel indicated that we have not been treating our pond and we may want to look at this. He thinks this may contribute to the problem with Long Lake.

City Council member Ledermann asked if we have a public access site for this lake.

Public Works Director Goebel said we have a canoe access area.

City Council member Ledermann he would like to see clear signage indicating an access and he would like the overgrown vegetation taken care of.

City Council member Brainerd moved to authorize a \$1,500.00 contribution to the Friends of Long Lake to be used for a lake treatment understanding that prior to the invoice being paid we receive notification that all of the residents have contributed \$500.00.

City Council member Wolgamot moved to approve committing \$1,500.00 to the Friends of Long Lake for milfoil treatment with no conditions attached. City Council member Brainerd withdrew his previous motion and seconded the motion made by City Council member Wolgamot. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**8e. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Bill list.**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to approve the bills as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**9. REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

City Administrator Neilson said the Council members should have received an email Zoom meeting invitation for a Joint meeting between the City Council and the Planning Commission. This meeting is taking place on Wednesday, June 10 at 5:00. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan Zoning Changes will be discussed at the work session

City Engineer Sachi gave an update regarding the construction projects currently taking place within the City. He said Lost Lake Court is paved; curb and driveway restoration will begin soon. He said the water main line is in and they are reconnecting services. He explained that the Dahlia Street water main is complete and they are back on City water. The curbing and asphalt will be in within the next couple of weeks. He said that in the Historic District Phase 4 West project the gas company should be finished with their work in two weeks. He said a closure to Mahtomedi Avenue will happen soon to replace the remaining gates valves.

Public Works Director Goebel said the Hallam Park construction is starting this week.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Jud Marshall asked if new trash receptacles will be going in Hallam Park.

Public Works Director Goebel said yes, there will be new trash and recycling receptacles in the park.

City Council member Ledermann said he has been struggling with the events that have been happening around the region and the country recently. He said we should think about what we can do to deal with racism. He would like to know what type of diversity training our staff and council have had.

City Council member Schneeweis supports this. She said the school district put something on their website.

City Council member Brainerd said this is a topic for a community conversation and that it is a huge issue.

City Council member Wolgamot said he supports what has been said. He said there is relatively few minorities here and we may be able to make a real difference. He said we are well equipped to lead.

City Council member Ledermann thanked everybody for his or her thoughts.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL – Continued**

City Council member Brainerd thanked the Mayor for issuing the Declaration of Local Emergency and Establishing a Temporary Curfew. He feels this was the right thing to do.

City Council member Schneeweis appreciated this as well.

City Council member Brainerd asked what is the status of a meeting with Washington County.

City Administrator Neilson said they are looking at July 7 for a meeting. He will get back to the council with a confirmed date.

**11. CLOSED SESSION - None**

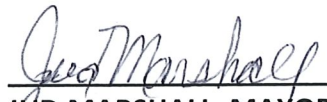
**12. ADJOURNMENT**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Brainerd seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**ATTESTED:**

**APPROVED:**

  
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JERENE ROGERS,  
CITY CLERK

  
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JUD MARSHALL, MAYOR