

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 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, 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 Ledermann 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 JUNE 16, 2020 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES AND THE JUNE 16, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

City Council member Ledermann moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to approve the June 16, 2020 City Council workshop meeting minutes and the June 16, 2020 City Council meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote: Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4a. Dan Starry, Washington County Sheriff**

Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry provided an update of the policing services the City receives through our contract with Washington County.

Chief Deputy Brian Mueller reviewed the annual contract costs. Mahtomedi has a joint contract with Dellwood, Birchwood and Willernie. Mahtomedi's share of the contract is approximately 75%.

Sheriff Starry asked residents to please call them if they see something that may be illegal. He said Mahtomedi is seeing an uptick in auto theft, mostly due to unlocked vehicles and mailbox damages. He said there have been increases in welfare and elderly fraud. He indicated that Opioid use is once again increasing.

The City Council thanked the Sheriff for taking part in the meeting tonight and their continued service to the City of Mahtomedi.

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Schneeweis 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 – Audit Proposal for 2020-2022.

The 2020-2022 Audit Proposal from CliftonLarsonAllen was approved. The fees will increase 3.65% for 2020 or \$1,350.00 and then increase by 1.36% or \$525.00 for 2021 and 2022.

6b. APPOINTMENT – Resolution 2020-40 Appointing Election Judges for the August 11, 2020 Primary Election and the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Resolution 2020-40 Appointing Election Judges for the August 11, 2020 Primary Election and the November 3, 2020 General Election was approved.

6c. APPROVAL – Reschedule Council Meeting for Monday, August 3, 2020 to Tuesday, August 4, 2020 and Reschedule Council Meeting for October 6, 2020 to October 5, 2020 due to National Night Out.

Due to the COVID-19, pandemic National Night Out has been rescheduled from Tuesday, August 4, 2020 to Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The City Council approved rescheduling their Council meetings to accommodate this change.

6d. APPROVAL – Request for One-Year Extension of Conditional Use Permit for 124 Juniper Street.

The request from Dan and Katie Campbell to extend their conditional use permit for 124 Juniper Street was approved. The CUP was granted to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed on their property.

6e. APPROVAL — Hiring of Paid On-Call Firefighter/EMT's.

Fire Chief Terry Fischer requested and received permission to hire Gordon Steinmetz, John Yapello, Noah Sylvander, and Evan Young. The hiring is contingent upon successful completion of the required psychological and physical assessments and background checks

6. **CONSENT AGENDA – Continued**

6f. **APPROVAL — Resolution 2020-41 Declaring Sufficiency of Petition and Setting a Public Hearing on the Proposed Vacation of a Street Easement and a Drainage and Utility Easement.**

Resolution 2020-41 Declaring Sufficiency of Petition and Setting a Public Hearing for July 21, 2020 on the Proposed Vacation of a Street Easement and a Drainage and Utility Easement was approved. The properties located at 170 and 175 Bevins have requested the vacation.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

8a. **DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION – Septic System at 240 Dwinnell Avenue**

City Administrator Scott Neilson said Jason Burak, 240 Dwinnell Avenue has a non-compliant septic system and does not have the room on his lot to construct a new system. Mr. Burak is approaching the City to acquire adjacent City property to build a new septic system.

Mr. Burak said due to the contour and makeup of his property that he does not have a reasonable site on the property to construct a new septic system. He said they have decided to knock out a wall to decrease the number of bedrooms from six to five, therefore possibly decreasing the size of the septic system. He said he will have to haul in rock bed and sand for the mound system since the house sits low on the water table. He said trees will have to be removed as well. He said this project will be a significant cost and he has contracted the Washington County CDA for assistance.

City Engineer John Sachi said according to the information that Mr. Burak provided, he would need to purchase a 50 X 100 foot parcel of property from the City to accommodate his new septic system. Based on the 2017 appraisal the cost of this parcel would be \$17,350. The City parcel would need to be subdivided and planning actions would need to happen. There would be costs associated for the subdivision. He said Mr. Burak asked the City to consider granting an easement for the septic system; however, the City Attorney has discouraged this action.

City Council member Ledermann suggested finding out where the County is on this before moving forward.

City Council member Wolgamot said we can show a willingness to sell the property to Mr. Burak, and then work out the details later.

**8. STAFF REPORTS - Continued**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Brainerd seconded the motion to instruct staff to work towards the sale of the property as Mr. Burak has subscribed on his drawing and to do so with the intent of accomplishing the eventual sale of the property to Mr. Burak when the septic system drawings are approved by Washington County and Mr. Burak wishes to proceed. The motion passed by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None

**8b. DISCUSSION – Mahtomedi Beaches.**

City Administrator Neilson said many facilities and programs were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the City closed City Hall and Public Works to outside visitors for a period of time as well as Katherine Abbott Shelter through August 31, in addition to the park restrooms, which are currently closed. The City has developed a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, which addresses ways to try to protect visitors and employees at city facilities. He said the City is committed to doing all we can to protect residents and employees and slow the spread of the virus. He said the CDC offers some considerations relating to beaches and principles that should be kept in mind. Beach visitors should stay at least 6 feet away (both in and out of the water) from people they do not live with. In addition, cloth face coverings should also be worn as well as hand hygiene etiquette.

City Administrator Neilson said he made the decision to temporarily close the beaches because the large number of people at the beach and CDC guidelines not being followed. He said the City should have a plan in place before re-opening the beaches. He said the lifeguards are not there to monitor handwashing, use of face coverings or social distancing. He said we need to have clear signage indicating the CDC guidelines; the restrooms have to be opened and cleaned throughout the day. In addition, we need to have somebody there to monitor the number of people using the beach. He suggested extending the lifeguard services through Labor Day. He said the City will be receiving funds from the Federal Government for use specifically related to COVID-19 measures.

City Council member Brainerd said we want to open the beaches, but the safety of our citizens is important. We need to make some modifications to the beach to allow it to be used.

Public Works Director Goebel said the big question is how fast we can hire attendants. He is hoping the YMCA can appoint a couple people to the beach. He said public works can take care of the rest of the items right away. Including the signs, fencing-with a gate, and cleaning the restrooms throughout the day. He suggested leaving the temporary no parking signs along one side of Park Avenue to allow enough space for emergency vehicles.

**8. STAFF REPORTS - Continued**

City Council member Wolgamot moved and City Council member Ledermann seconded the motion to authorize the City Administrator to re-open the beach with a limited number of users, the City Administrator and Public Works Director will compute this number. The City Administrator may also hire attendant(s) to staff the beach that will have the authority to turn people away if the beach is at capacity. The Public Works Director will put signage up indicating the dock is for lifeguard use only and there will be signage indicating the social distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC. The signage will state if the guidelines are not maintained the beach will be closed. The Public Works Director has permission to purchase disposal facemasks, hand sanitizer and any other items necessary to ensure the safety of the lifeguards and those using the beach. The Public Works Director is instructed to make sure the bathrooms are open and cleaned throughout the day. The temporary fencing will remain in place and a gate will allow entry onto the beach. The temporary no parking signs along one side of Park Avenue will remain in place and the parking lot will remain open. The motion passed by roll call vote. Yea: Brainerd, Ledermann, Marshall, Schneeweis, Wolgamot. Nay: None.

**8c. 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 reminded the City Council about the Joint meeting with the Planning Commission for Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. He explained that the City will receive CARES funds in the amount of \$605,000 that has to be used exclusively for COVID-19 measures. He said it can be used for medical supplies, payroll, and economic support as grants to local businesses. He said this item would be on the next agenda for discussion.

City Engineer Nick Guilliams gave an update of the current construction projects. He said pavement will be placed within the next couple of weeks on Oak Street, Tip Top Lane, Pine and Neptune Street. Work will begin soon north of Quail St. He said the Birchwood Road project is still delayed. Xcel Energy continues to have work to complete in this area before our contractor can move back in. The Dahlia project is paved, curb and gutters are in and most driveways are taken care of. The final layer of asphalt will be put down soon. The Bevins, Bichner and Talahi Drive project will begin Thursday.

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Public Works Director Goebel said there have been some water issues at Hallam Park. The playground equipment should be in soon. He said there is a pre-construction meeting Wednesday for Aaron's Playground and that the Pheasant Run Park project has been completed.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL – None**

**11. CLOSED SESSION - None**


**12. ADJOURNMENT**

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 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