

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2022**

City Council President Richard Brainerd convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Council members Lilly Melander, Luke Schlegel, and Jane Schneeweis in attendance. Mayor Jud Marshall was absent with prior notice. City Administrator Scott Neilson, Assistant City Attorney Amanda Johnson, City Engineer John Sachi, and City Clerk Jerene Rogers were also in attendance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Council member Schlegel moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to approve the July 19, 2022 City Council meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **PRESENTATIONS – None**
5. **DISCUSSION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA - None**
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS – None**
8. **STAFF REPORTS**
- 8a. **CONSIDER APPROVAL – Resolution Restricting Parking on Grove Street West of Warner Avenue.**

City Administrator Scott Neilson said this item was continued from the June 21, 2022 meeting.

City Engineer John Sachi said St. Jude's Church asked for assistance with a traffic safety issue at their campus. He said one action they suggested would be to restrict parking on both sides of Grove Street, between their parking lot and Warner Avenue, year-round during school and day-care hours, including drop-off and pick-up from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He stated they would also like to have the speed limit reduced to 15 mph on Grove Street. He said one of the issues is sight visibility when leaving their campus and traveling east on Grove Street. He said this is a school zone and we can easily lower the speed limit to 15 mph. He explained the right-of-way on this street is 30'. He said this means there are only 3' behind the curb and the street is fairly narrow at 24', leaving no room for a sidewalk.

City Council President Brainerd said we heard a lot of testimony at the June 21st meeting from a few residents in the area, however St. Jude's did not have a representative at that meeting. He said we received a document as part of their request for this meeting. He asked if there are other school areas where we restrict parking during specific times of the day.

8. Staff reports- Continued

City Engineer Sachi said we restrict parking on 72nd Street during specific times of the day so parents are required to wait in the line to pick-up their children and not park on 72nd Street.

City Council member Schneeweis said for her this is purely a safety issue. She stated the Council has a profound responsibility to protect everybody. She is disappointed that there are no school zone signs in this area.

City Council member Schlegel asked if we could request school zones signs be installed along Highway 244 from the State.

City Engineer Sachi said we have to designate the area as a school zone and then request permission from MNDot to install the signage.

City Council member Schlegel agrees that safety is an issue. He said he is worried about the proposal in front of him. He said the last thing he wants to do is take rights away from the residents. He would like to know what changes the school has made to mitigate this issue. He feels it is the school's responsibility to discuss this with the Council. He said it's troublesome that all the parties are not here and does not want to make a decision that could make this worse. He wants the school to make some changes before residents give up their rights.

City Council member Schneeweis said she spoke to the principle of the school and she was advised not to attend the meeting tonight.

City Council member Melander asked if moving the no parking from the north side of the street to the south side of the street would be beneficial.

City Engineer Sachi said yes, we could try that.

City Council member Melander stated this area should be designated as a school zone and the speed limit should be lowered to 15 mph. She said we should work with the school to come up with a traffic plan before we take rights away from residents.

City Council President Brainerd said we aren't going to be able to make everybody happy.

City Council member Melander asked to take two votes on the resolution. She moved to approve the City of Mahtomedi establishing a School Zone speed limit on Grove Street from Warner Avenue to 250 feet west of Warner Avenue of 15 mph. City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion.

After further discussion, City Council member Melander amended her previous motion by asking to lower the speed limit from 15 mph to 10 mph. City Council member Schlegel seconded the amended motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Staff reports- Continued

City Council President Brainerd said he would like to ask the council to consider shifting the no parking from the north side of Grove Street to the south side of Grove Street.

City Council member Schlegel said he can support this idea. He said this should improve the flow of traffic since the fence will no longer impede site visibility. He would prefer to try this first, it's less inconvenient.

City Council member Melander agrees with Council member Schlegel.

City Council President Brainerd said we can try this and if it doesn't work we will hear about it from the neighborhood and the school.

City Council member Melander moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to approve a resolution shifting the no parking from the north side of Grove Street, from Warner Avenue to 250 feet west of Warner Avenue to the south side of Grove Street from Warner Avenue to 250 west of Warner Avenue. The motion was unanimously approved.

8b. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Appointment of Advisory Commission Member.

City Administrator Neilson said the City Council met prior to this meeting to discuss and interview a candidate for a vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Commission.

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to appoint Jonathan Smieja to the Environmental Commission with a term ending March 31, 2025

8c. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Bill List.

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to approve the bill list as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator Neilson reminded the City Council that National Nite Out is tomorrow. He stated that he emailed the details of 6 or 7 local events to each of them. He said there will be a Joint City Council/Finance Commission meeting before the August 16 council meeting to discuss Fire Department staffing issues. This meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. City Administrator Neilson said he attended the Century Avenue meeting. He said this roadway will eventually be turned back to Ramsey and Washington Counties. He stated MNDot has hired WSB to study this corridor and that the study will take 12 -18 months to complete. He indicated that a few of the items they will be considering in the study is the cost, the needs and what the area will look like. He said they would like to have one elected official and one alternate elected official from each municipality on this committee. The plan is to meet 4 times a year. He will update the council as he receives information.

9. REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR - Continued

City Engineer John Sachi said the CSAH 12 project is moving ahead nicely. He said they have completed the curbing and paving on the north side of the road and have started on the south side. He said 2 of the 4 traffic lights have been installed at Wedgewood Drive and they have finished the re-alignment of the street. He indicated the large culvert has been delivered and the contractor will begin piling soon. He said they are on target date for this fall. He said the curb and trail have been completed as part of the 2022 Street Improvement Project. He said the contractor is finishing up the Maple and Locust Street improvements and will soon put the first lift of asphalt on these roads. He explained after the first lift is done the contractor will mill the remainder of Warner Avenue and then they will pave Warner and place the second lift of pavement on Maple and Locust Streets. City Engineer Sachi said the fog sealing and sewer lining projects have been completed for 2022. He said the Greenwood ditch project is scheduled for late September or early October depending on how the bids come in.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

City Council member Schneeweis asked the residents of Mahtomedi and Willernie to please support the downtown businesses as they are all struggling.

City Council President Brainerd asked if the City has heard anything regarding the Metro Transit Purple Line.

City Administrator Neilson said he is waiting for a follow up from Metro Transit.

11. CLOSED SESSION - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTESTED:



JERENE ROGERS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:



RICHARD BRAINERD, CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT