

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANOKA CITY COUNCIL
ANOKA CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 19, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at roll call: Mayor Pro Tem Weaver, Councilmembers Freeburg and Schmidt.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Lee, Police Chief Phil Johanson, City Assessor Scott Varner.

Absent at roll call: Mayor Rice, Councilmember Anderson.

3. COUNCIL MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of January 4, 2016, Regular Meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to waive the reading and approve the January 4, 2016, Regular Meeting minutes.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. OPEN FORUM

No one appeared.

5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

5.1 Public Improvement Hearing; 2016 SRP.

RES/Ordering Project and Authorizing the Preparation of Final Engineering Plans and Specifications for the 2016 SRP.

RESOLUTION

City Manager Greg Lee shared a staff report with background information to the Council stating a resolution was approved on November 16, 2015 authorizing the preparation of a feasibility report for the proposed 2016 SRP project. The feasibility report was approved on December 21, 2015 and a public improvement hearing is now being held. Mr. Lee explained the project, stating the total project cost is estimated to be \$4,326,000. He noted Walker Plaza will be contributing to

this project as sidewalk and other improvements will be included as part of their project.

Mr. Lee outlined the streets proposed to be included in this 2016 SRP project:

First Avenue Madison Street to Monroe Street
Second Avenue Madison Street to Monroe Street
Eighth Avenue Brisbin Street to Jefferson Street
Adams Street Seventh Avenue to Tenth Avenue
Brisbin Street Seventh Avenue to Ninth Avenue
Madison Street Firth Avenue to Seventh Avenue
“Tyler” Alley Fourth Avenue to Fifth Avenue

Mr. Lee explained the public hearing should be followed by the assessment hearing in order to see if anyone is concerned about their assessment prior to approving the assessment. He outlined the proposed schedule, stating plans will be approved by February 1 with bids awarded by March 21. He said construction should begin by May and the project completed by October 2016.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Curtis Jelmeland 2317 5th Avenue North, said he moved to Anoka in 1953 and shared how the neighboring house had water issues and was eventually torn down. He shared concerns about how he used to have to drive down out of his garage to the alley and now has to drive up out of his garage as the street is in poor condition. He said when it rains or snows his garage is flooded and is rotting because of the drainage. Mr. Jelmeland also said he has concerns with widening the road because while it is posted as no-thru traffic the alley is still used as a cut-through for drives that travel 20 mph and widening will make that problem worse. He said he is concerned for children’s safety and theft in the area as the alley should be access for residents and emergency vehicles only. He said he only has 6-8 feet before he exits his garage and there could be accidents. Mr. Jelmeland said staff had suggested a cul-de-sac as one possible solution, which is not ideal but said he would be fine with it if it addressed these concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver asked staff if this project will address Mr. Jelmeland concerns. Mr. Lee said it will, adding this is why this area was included in the 2016 SRP project. He said they will be creating a low spot in the alley for proper water drainage instead of property owners’ land, which is what is currently happening.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver asked if there are any other traffic calming or applications to discourage people from driving this alley. Mr. Lee said there is not a lot of options, stating 20-foot width is the same as a fire lane design standard so we do not want to introduce hazards like speed bumps. He said discussions

were held at the neighborhood meeting about traffic volumes and staff will see how the issue can be addressed, as drivers should be using the main public streets.

Mr. Jelmeland said only four homeowners have their driveways enter the alley so there should not be much traffic at all and believed most of the traffic comes from the neighboring apartment building residents.

Being no further comments Mayor Pro Tem Weaver closed the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. and asked staff to outline Item 5.2 prior to acting on Item 5.1.

5.2 Assessment Hearing; 2016 SRP.
RES/Adopting Assessment Roll for the 2016 SRP.
RESOLUTION

Mr. Lee shared a staff report with background information stating Council is asked to hold the assessment hearing to hear any objections to a property owner's proposed assessment and to consider the adoption of the assessment roll for the project. For single-family residential property zoned R-1 and R-2, the City Council has set the street unit assessment at \$3,020 and a \$16.00 per lineal foot assessment for 2016. He said property owner assessments represent about 20% of the total cost of these improvements. Mr. Lee explained the assessment costs include water at \$1,090 and sewer at \$980 so a typical 80-foot lot assessment would be \$6,370. He explained the payment options including lump sum, over time, or deferral.

Councilmember Schmidt asked staff to share if the City is keeping up with actual project costs. Mr. Lee said while changes in assessment rates have occurred they are not keeping pace with construction costs and have far exceeded assessment rates. He said the City has recently been increasing assessment rates as construction is typically 20% of a project and assessments are 4.5% and with construction costs increasing, they need to be increased.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver noted he owns a property, which is on this assessment roll.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m. Being no one appeared Mayor Pro Tem Weaver closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

NOTE: By motion from Councilmember Schmidt, which was seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, and by a unanimous vote of the Council, agenda item 9.1 was moved up on the agenda and acted upon at this point.

Councilmember Freeburg said it is nice to see tax dollars at work in this large project and that we need to be as aggressive as we can be with road projects to try to catch up and said these are projects we have to complete.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver asked for a history of the SRP program. Mr. Lee explained the SRP program was created in 2000 and shared of the City's 67.7 total miles of street we have done 28.7 miles or 42% of the system. He said they have completed almost 16.4 miles in the SRP program, including water and sewer infrastructure and that 24% of the streets are almost completely redone. Mr. Lee said complete street renewal will take 15-20 years and noted this project is quite large project as they typically only do 7/10 of a mile and are now doing 1.2 miles of street this year. He said 2017 and 2018 will include larger projects to help catch up in some of these areas downtown core on the south side of Main Street.

Councilmember Schmidt noted the underground utilities around Monroe Street are 90 years old and the projected life of new infrastructure should last approximately 50 years. Mr. Lee agreed, stating the new infrastructure could even last 70-90 years, adding luckily there have been no catastrophic failures in this area as the infrastructure was originally installed in 1914.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to adopt a resolution ordering project and authorizing the preparation of final engineering plans and specifications for the 2016 SRP.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Pro Tem Weaver, Councilmembers Freeburg and Schmidt voted in favor. Motion carried.

NOTE: By motion from Councilmember Schmidt, which was seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, and by a unanimous vote of the Council, agenda item 9.2 was moved up on the agenda and acted upon at this point.

Councilmember Freeburg said improvements have exceeded the value and asked if the City Assessor can justify the fact that these projects increase property values.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver asked if any residents have visited the City Assessor and what concerns have they had. City Assessor Scott Varner said residents contact him if they wish to prepay their assessment and estimated that 30% of property owners prepay their assessment in order to take advantage of the interest free option.

Mayor Pro Weaver asked how many property owners have questions regarding projects. Mr. Varner said most questions are geared towards the Engineering Department and he answers questions regarding methods of payment.

Motion by Councilmember Freeburg, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to adopt a resolution adopting assessment roll for the 2016 SRP.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Pro Tem Weaver, Councilmembers Freeburg and Schmidt voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Schmidt asked staff to report on solutions for Mr. Jelmeland's concerns prior to award of bids. Mr. Lee said these concerns will be discussed during the plans and specifications consideration on February 1.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to approve Consent Agenda 6.1 through 6.4.

- 6.1 Approved Verified Bills.
- 6.2 Revising and Setting Council Calendars.
- 6.3 Recommended Approval of an LG220 Gambling Permit; Struttin's Toms Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- 6.4 Issuance of Temporary On-Sale Liquor License; Church St. Stephen.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None.

8. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATION

None.

9. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 RES/Ordering Project and Authorizing the Preparation of Final Engineering Plans and Specifications for the 2016 SRP.

ACTED UPON AFTER PUBLIC HEARING

- 9.2 RES/Adopting Assessment Roll for the 2016 SRP.

ACTED UPON AFTER PUBLIC HEARING

- 9.3 RES/Recommended Approval of an LG216 Gambling Premise Permit; CRHS Booster Club at QBitez, 3507 Round Lake Boulevard.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Lee shared a staff report with background information to the Council stating a the City has received a request from Coon Rapids High School Spirit Booster Club requesting that they be allowed to obtain a Premise Permit to operate

gambling at Q-Bitez, 3507 Round Lake Boulevard. Mr. Lee noted that local gambling organizations and non-profits are given the first option on operating gambling and after notifying them and receiving no response staff is recommending approval of this permit.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to adopt a resolution recommending the issuance of a State issued LG gambling license & premise permit for Coon Rapids High School Spirit Booster Club, at Q-Bitez, 3507 Round Lake Boulevard, Anoka, Minnesota.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Pro Tem Weaver, Councilmembers Freeburg and Schmidt voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Approval of Special Events License; Alexandra House/Nystrom Counseling Event: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

Mr. Lee shared a staff report with background information to the Council stating Nystrom & Associates and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Committee of Anoka County has submitted an application for a Special Events License. They are planning a one-mile walk in downtown Anoka to raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse. The funds derived from the event will be given to The Alexandra House. Mr. Lee said the event will be held on May 21, 2016 and will be staged at Anoka City Hall Plaza.

Brian Nystrom, 405 149th Avenue NW, Andover, shared background on the event, stating this is an international men's movement to raise awareness of domestic violence. He said it is an opportunity for men to mentor and make statements to their family members and friends that domestic violence is wrong. My Nystrom shared that he and his wife are two of the original founders of Alexandra House in 1978 and are very passionate about this topic. He said they have a community-wide planning committee and are honored to have Councilmember Freeburg, Police Chief Johanson, Sherriff Stuart, Chair Sivarajah, Commissioner Schulte and many others involved. He said this is the first time they are holding the event and hope people will stay afterwards and patron Anoka. He noted all proceeds will go to Alexandra House.

Councilmember Freeburg asked how people can participate. Mr. Nystrom said they can support the event through registration fees, sponsorships, and encouraged the men who are participating to wear high-heeled shoes as a fun part of the event.

Councilmember Schmidt said he fully supports the event and inquired about potential traffic concerns on South Ferry Street and suggested advisory electronic sign from MnDOT sign for the event. Police Chief Phil Johanson agreed this would be a good idea and said they will have a reader board or some type of notification available. He said he has been working with the group since invited by Councilmember Freeburg and is supportive of the event as well but safety is his first concern. He noted the route includes many trails and sidewalks and will ensure a reader board is in place prior to the event. He added the City is very proud of the work done by the river and this event will be a great opportunity to showcase those improvements.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver said he is excited to have this event in town and thanked Mr. Nystrom for selecting Anoka for the event. He asked that staff link and share event information as much as we can. Mr. Lee said the event will be shared on through the City's website, Facebook Twitter, and other avenues.

Mr. Nystrom said they hope to have a lot of media attending the event.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to approve special events license; Alexandra House/Nystrom Counseling Event: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. UPDATES AND REPORTS

12.1 Tentative Agenda(s).

The Council reviewed the tentative agendas of the upcoming Council meetings.

12.2 Staff and Council Input.

Councilmember Freeburg encouraged people to attend Winterfest January 29-31. He said there will be snowboarding, cross-country skiing, a pancake breakfast, beer and wine tasting, crafts, and more.

Mr. Lee said information regarding the event is available on the City's website or people can contact City Hall.

Councilmember Schmidt thanked City staff for their recent repair work on Shaw Street, noting crews worked for two hours to repair a lift station that had failed during the night when it was 16 below zero. He said many staff members are on call 24/7 and thanked staff for being available.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver agreed, stating City staff work all hours of the day and night and the City is very fortunate to have them here.

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver noted the Mayors Trail Ride will be held on February 6, weather permitting. He said the event includes surrounding six cities and encouraged people to attend.

Mr. Lee noted due to scheduling of topics the January 25, 2016 worksession will be canceled.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Freeburg, made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council meeting. Councilmember Schmidt, seconded the motion.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Cathy Sorensen, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Approval Attestation:

Amy T. Oehlers, City Clerk