

CITY OF GRANT
MINUTES

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DATE : October 1, 2013
TIME STARTED : 7:03 p.m.
TIME ENDED : 8:36 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT : Councilmember Bohnen, Tronrud, Huber, Lobin and Mayor Carr
MEMBERS ABSENT : None

Staff members present: City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp; City Engineer, Phil Olson; City Treasurer, Sharon Schwarze; and Administrator/Clerk, Kim Points

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carr called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SETTING THE AGENDA

Mayor Carr moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 11, Closed Session. Council Member Huber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

September 3, 2013 City Council Meeting Minutes	Approved
Bill List, \$47,744.98	Approved
Envirotech, Dust Control, \$22,604.22	Approved
City of Mahtomedi, 3 rd Quarter Fire Contract, \$29,601.75	Approved
Denial of Charter Commission Donation	Approved

Council Member Huber moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Bohnen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW, 7373 120TH STREET, SEASONAL BUSINESS, JULIE VARNEY

Mr. Scott Jordan and Ms. Julie Varney came forward and outlined their proposal to have wedding receptions on their property in their barn.

1 Mayor Carr advised the Land Use Chart on the City website is very old and should not have been
2 there. The current Zoning Book states seasonal businesses are not allowed in any zone. Seasonal
3 Business is the only thing this type of proposal would fall under. Per the codified ordinances, this is
4 not an allowed use.

5
6 Council Member Tronrud stated he does like the idea. His concern is setting up a narrow use that
7 would allow for this type of event center.

8
9 Mayor Carr stated if the Council decides this is something that should be allowed in Grant, the
10 applicant would have to go through the process and the issues, as with any use or CUP, would be
11 traffic, noise, screening, etc. A public hearing would have to be held.

12
13 Council Member Huber stated the process is key. It would take time to go through the ordinance
14 thoroughly and noted he does like the use.

15
16 City Planner Haskamp advised the City does have a zoning amendment application. A zoning
17 amendment could be applied for as well as a CUP. The key to the language change is that would then
18 be an allowed use for the entire zoning district. She outlined the process for a zoning amendment
19 application as well as a CUP application.

20
21 Mayor Carr stated he may be in favor of this with a few guidelines and strict requirements regarding
22 screening and noise issues.

23
24 Council Member Bohnen stated it does not seem fair for the applicants to bare all the costs of a text
25 change as it is not equitable. He stated he is in favor of the concept and changing the text.

26
27 **STAFF AGENDA ITEMS**

28
29 **City Engineer, Phil Olson**

30
31 **Jocelyn Lane Culvert Replacement, Accept Bid and Order Work** – City Engineer Olson advised
32 In July, the City Council authorized staff to request quotes from contractors for the Jocelyn Lane
33 Culvert replacement project. This project includes the replacement of a shallow and a deep storm
34 sewer line at a creek crossing on Jocelyn Lane. This project was initiated by a road settlement on the
35 west side of the roadway near 7130 Jocelyn Lane.

36
37 The source of the road settlement appears to be caused by weathering/settlement in the catch basin
38 and shallow storm sewer pipe or damage to the deeper pipe. At a minimum, the bottom of the deeper
39 pipe appears to have rusted out at each end and the pipe is full of sediment.

40
41 A plan and specification were completed for the replacement of both storm sewer lines. Permits are
42 required from the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) and the Department of Natural
43 Resources (DNR). To date, the city has received a permit from the VBWD and it is anticipated that
44 the DNR permit will be received in the next few days.

1 Quotes were requested from Miller Excavating, Inc., T.A. Schifsky and Sons, Inc., Raleigh Trucking,
2 and Bells Trucking. Two submittals were received and the costs are listed below. Quotes are
3 attached along with the project plans and specifications.

4

5	Miller Excavating, Inc.....	\$40,160
6	T.A. Schifsky and Sons, Inc.....	\$61,755

7

8 No quotes were received from Raleigh Trucking and Bell’s Trucking, Inc. Both contractors
9 mentioned that they were too busy at this time to complete the project. He requested Council
10 authorization wto move forward with the project when the permit is issued from the DNR.

11
12 Council Member Bohnen stated the project does need to be completed. He had hoped the project
13 would come in at approximately \$28,000 but it did not. He recommended the City approve the bid
14 from Miller.

15
16 City Treasurer Schwarze advsied the City did budget for special projects and the 2013 budget was
17 revised for this project. The City can use reserves to cover the additional costs.

18
19 City Engineer Olson advised the Justen Trail project that was also budgeted for in the amount of
20 \$10,000 may be pushed off until the spring. In addition, if pumping is not required for the Jocelyn
21 project those costs will not be incurred.

22
23 **Council Member Bohnen moved to approve the bid from Miller Excavating, as presented.**
24 **Council Member Lobin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

25
26 **City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp – No action items.**

27
28 **City Attorney, Nick Vivian – No action items.**

29
30 **NEW BUSINESS**

31
32 **Resolution No. 2013-18, Investment Policy, City Treasurer Schwarze -** City Treasurer Schwarze
33 advised she has been working on an investment policy for quite some time. The intent this evening is
34 to review a draft of an investment policy and take comments. The City’s Investment Advisor will be
35 present at the November meeting to make comments as well as suggestions based on Investment
36 Policies drafted by Wells Fargo. Part of the intent with an Investment Policy is to improve internal
37 controls within the City to prevent fraud, as recommended by the City’s Auditor. She noted it is very
38 important that the City’s investment statement is sent directly to the City office.

39
40 It was the consensus of the Council that the draft will again be reviewed in November and the final
41 document will be on the agenda for action at the December meeting.

42
43 **Resolution No. 2013-23, Jasmine Bond Payoff, City Treasurer Schwarze –** City Treasurer
44 Schwarze advised the remaining payments on the bond are in the amount of approximately \$12,000.

1 It is legal to pay off the bond early and there is no prepayment penalty. The bond can be paid out of
2 the Debt Service Fund.

3
4 Mayor Carr asked if language should be included that the overage will not be paid until the
5 assessments are paid in full. However, people that paid in cash should get a refund.

6
7 City Treasurer Schwarze advsied there was one deferred assessment for Jasmine and one for the
8 Jamaca right of way. Direction will be needed regarding the overage. She stated the City can choose
9 to 1) refund entire amount 2) wait until year end and make the decision and 3) make partial refunds
10 when bond is paid. The bond payoff date is November 15, 2013.

11
12 It was the consensus of the Council to wait until 2014 to look at any potential refunds.

13
14 Council Member Huber requested the City Attorney's legal opinion regarding paying any overages
15 when the assessments are not yet paid.

16
17 **Council Member Bohnen moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-23, as presented. Council**
18 **Member Tronrud seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

19
20 **Stillwater Fire Contract, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised the City received the new contract that
21 included a 14% increase in costs. He stated he has had conversations with the Stillwater
22 Administrator about the increase and the City does not have many options. He is working with
23 Stillwater Township and May Township and there will be more discussion about the contract. The
24 contract does not have to be approved this eveing. There is the option to privatize the fire department
25 but there is the issue of costs and Grant being too small. Other cities would have to participate.

26
27 City Treasurer Schwarze advsied Stillwater Township may not be a viable long-term partner.
28 Privatizing the fire department may have the potential of raising insurance rates to homeowners.

29
30 Mayor Carr advised he is just in discussions at this point. The other option is to bill when the fire
31 department is called.

32
33 City Treasurer Schwarze advised the fire departments budget for 2014 shows an increase of \$300,000
34 in the past two years.

35
36 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

37
38 There was no unfinished business.

39
40 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

41
42 **City Council Reports:**

1 Mayor Carr advised the Gateway Trail access is at the end of someone’s driveway that that will be
2 removed. There was someone off of Highway 36 that was served papers relating to eminent domain.
3 However, it was just a sliver of the property.

4
5 Council Member Bohnen advised there was a bad accident on Lake Elmo Avenue. There is a lot of
6 traffic due to construction as well as a blind intersection at 69th Street. Patrol has been increased there
7 and a speed trailer is coming.

8
9 Deputy Fry advised a speed trail will be put up when the City of Scandia is done with it. The speed
10 trailer does run a traffic survey. Patrol there has found that most motorists are driving very close to
11 the speed limit.

12
13 Council Member Bohnen stated some residents did attend the County Commissioner’s meeting this
14 morning regarding this issue. They indicated they are committed to working with the City and did
15 call the City Engineer today regarding a triggered warning light there.

16
17 Ms. Jenny Rodlund, 7655 Lake Elmo Avenue, came forward and stated that road is a mess. The City
18 needs to look at having a four way stop there. The intersection is very dangerous and the traffic is
19 terrible. The Council did indicate they will work with the residents and the City on this issue. A
20 neighborhood meeting is being set up.

21
22 Ms. Lara Francis, 7020 Lake Elmo, came forward and stated the accident happened right in front of
23 her house and it was a horrific scene. She would appreciate any help the City can offer with this
24 issue.

25
26 Ms. Rodlund came forward and provided a medical update on the kids that were involved in the
27 accident.

28
29 Council Member Huber advised he met with the Sheriff’s Department regarding the contract and
30 potential savings. The Department does not have half time contracts because they can’t hire any part
31 time deputy’s. They are, however, supportive of shared contracts. He stated he will continue to work
32 on this issue and report back. He noted City meetings are now available on the City website.

33
34 Council Member Bohnen stated there is school operating levy for Stillwater and Mahtomedi in
35 November. Residents should be aware of the location for voting. The school was evacuated during
36 the first week of school but the call was cancelled.

37
38 **Staff Reports:**

39
40 There were no updates from Staff.

41
42 **COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2013:**

43
44 **Mahtomedi Public Schools Board Meeting, Thursday, October 10th, 2013, Mahtomedi District**
45 **Education Center, 7:00 p.m.**

1 Stillwater Public Schools Board Meeting, Thursday, October 10th and 24th, 2013, Stillwater
2 City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

3 Washington County Commissioners Meeting, Tuesdays, Government Center, 9:00 a.m.
4

5 **CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERRING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL AS**
6 **PERMITTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE PURSUANT TO**
7 **MINN.STAT.13D.05 SUB.3 (d) ON THE FOLLOWING LEGAL MATTER:**

8

9 Sederstrom v. Carr, Huber and Lobin in their capacity as City Council Members

10

11 **ADJOURN**

12

13 There being no further business, Council Member Bohnen moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.
14 Council Member Lobin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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17 These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting November 4, 2013.

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Kim Points, Administrator/Clerk

Tom Carr, Mayor

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