

- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to adopt Ordinance 2021-01. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to authorize the publishing of a summary of Ordinance 2021-01. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Julie Blackburn and Goeff Kramer with ISG: Owl Lane Pond Assessment Presentation

- Mr. Kramer presented the results of the pond study.
- This study stemmed from resident concerns with two ponds appearance and odor along Owl Lane.
- Pond design and as constructed elevations were reviewed along with 2021 survey data to assess any changes in relevant invert elevations over time. No substantial changes were noted.
- Pond volume comparisons used 2005 and 2021 topographic survey data. Sediment in the pond is low with 2.4 percent of the pond's storage being lost.
- MPCA pond design criteria were reviewed with these ponds being compliant with MPCA's requirements with the exception of woody vegetation which should not be allowed to grow within 15 feet of the toe of the pond embankment or 25 feet from the inlet and outlet structures. Mature trees are present around the entirety of pond 16 and within 25 feet of pond 15 outlet structures.
- Based on findings of volume, hydrologic, and hydraulic analyses, there are no obvious issues related to pond volume or outlet elevations causing of the nuisance algal conditions. The likely cause of the nuisance conditions in the pond are lack of inflow due to lower-than-normal precipitation and driven by hypoxia.
- Recommendations included: water quality sampling to evaluate phosphorus loading and discharge throughout the growing season and sampling to confirm presence and types of algae.
- Several treatment options, varying in cost, were presented which included: mechanical removal of algae, suppressing algal growth, period pond treatment, install aerators and retrofitting ponds with iron-enhanced sand filters.
- Council asked Mr. Kramer to provide the city with an updated quote for sampling ponds.
- Mr. Kramer updated the City Council on the MS4 process stating the public comment period will end September 24 and that responses need to be submitted within seven days. The city will have one year to meet requirements.

2. Scott McMahon, Senior Lobbyist with Flaherty and Hood, PA: Annual Coalition of Greater MN Cities Visit

- Mr. McMahon presented an overview of the Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC) and what they have been working on.
- They have actively worked on bonding and the dispersal of federal funds. The 2020 election did not impact majority control of the legislature.
- Top CGMC goals for 20210 were: no cuts to local government aid (LGA), infrastructure-focused bonding bill, childcare funding, and city streets.
- The state's budget forecast during the pandemic changed significantly going from a surplus to a deficit, and then back to a surplus. This indicates the economy is coming back strong.
- Accomplishments included funding for six Minnesota initiatives to assist families and children, Border-to-Boarder Broadband Grant Program, addressing potential legislation regarding PFAS and small city street funding.
- Upcoming CGMC events include the Fall Conference in Willmar, November 18-19, 2021, and a Legislative Action Day March 2, 2022.

3. Rick and Angela DeMartini with Bella's House of Doodles: Request to Allow LP Tank for Heating Building

- Rick DeMartini stated that he has spoken with the gas company, and they have stated the gas line could be run at a cost lower than initially quoted, but that it will not be done this year.
- Bella's House of Doodles will require heat and therefore requested consideration for allowing a LP Tank to heat the building.
- Other businesses in this area use water heat, LP heat or other heating sources unique to their business.
- Council discussion included the desire for businesses to connect to natural gas as soon as it is available to them. The size and location of tank was discussed.
- Administrator Bromeland stated the draft agreement has been modeled after the agreement with Scott Borgmeier.

- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve a conditional use permit for 107 598th Avenue, allowing the use of an LP tank. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
- Mr. DeMartini asked if it would be permissible to park a vehicle on top of a dirt pile for marketing purposes. Staff will research if this is allowable.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Offer Received for 301 and 305 Parkway Avenue

- Administrator Bromeland explained that an offer of \$50,000 was received from Mike Bales with Freedom Security to purchase 301 and 305 Parkway Avenue. The EDA and buyer have reached an agreement on site plan and layout and is recommending Council's approval on the offer. Construction would need to begin within two years of the closing date. If approved a closing date will be scheduled.
- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member White, to accept the EDA's recommendation on the sale of 301 and 305 Parkway Avenue for \$50,000. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

2. Proposal for Edging at Frazee Park and Purchase of Memorial Balance Beams

- A quote from St. Croix Recreation in the amount of \$4,477.08 has been received for the edging needed in Frazee Park.
- To save freight cost it was recommended that the memorial beams be purchased for Lake Eagle Park at the same time. The cost of the beams will be paid for by the city and the city will be reimbursed.
- The public works department will install both the edging and the beams.
- Council Member Whittington moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to authorize the purchase of edging and memorial balance beams. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

3. Leaf Vac Request from Public Works Department

- Public Works Director Brian Goettl submitted a request to purchase 2019 ODB Truck Mount Debris Collector (also referred to as a leaf vac) off the MN State Bid from MacQueen Equipment totaling \$225,685.
- At the August 30th budget work session, included in the Public Works Department budget request, was a request to spend \$200,000 in 2022 to purchase a leaf vac.
- There is \$455,936.83 available in capital outlay for streets. Since this expenditure was not planned for in 2021 the auditors were contacted and they indicated that a budget amendment is not needed, but the city will need to be able to explain the purchase at the time of the annual audit.
- Administrator Bromeland presented the pro's and con's of this purchase in 2021. The pro's include the cost of the equipment will most likely increase in 2022, this equipment will result in a reduction of labor cost as the new leaf collector will only require 1 operator versus three with the current leaf vac. This should free up the other two full-time staff and 1 part-time staff to assist with other public works tasks. New equipment would result in a more efficient experience for residents. Con's included this is not a planned expenditure in 2021 and that the capital outlay funds will be drawn down. The 2022 preliminary budget will need to be adjusted.
- Public Works Director Goettl stated he would like to still use the old equipment on the outskirts of town this year and re-evaluate after this season's leaf collections if the old equipment should be kept or sold.
- The life expectancy of this new equipment should be similar to that of plow trucks.
- Discussion included the desire to still promote mulching of leaves and if there is still a need to hire seasonal Public Works staff to assist with leaf vac operations if the new equipment is purchased.
- Council discussion included the desire to still hire two seasonal workers for this year's leaf vac process and the need to establish a set work schedule for them. The seasonal employees need to be kept busy with other public works duties if leaf collection does not require as much time.
- Council stated they would like the leaf collection schedule published for residents with a note that the schedule may change.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to purchase the 2019 ODB Truck Mount Debris Collector for \$225,685 from MacQueen as listed on the state bid site and to hire seasonal employees to help with leaf collection and other duties as needed.
- Council Member Rohrich amended her motion to authorize the purchase of the 2019 ODB Truck Mount Debris Collector for \$225,685 from MacQueen as listed on the state bid site. Council Member Whited seconded the amended motion. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

4. Recommendation to Hire Seasonal Employees for Public Works Department

- Administrator Bromeland explained that two applicants were interviewed prior to looking at the leaf vac purchase and that if hired the operations of the public works department needs to be efficient and effective for all full- and part-time employees.
- Director Goettl stated that Mr. Kuster has indicated that he is only interested in assisting with leaf collection as advertised in the job posting. Mr. Ferguson would be interested in helping however is needed.
- Council discussion included the need to make sure all staff are productive and that by the hiring of seasonal staff for leaf collection will help get the work done and that 2021 will be a learning year for staffing needs with the new equipment.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to authorize the hiring of two seasonal employees. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

5. Proposal for Microphones for Council Chambers

- Video Services, Inc. (VSI) has provided an updated proposal to replace nine microphones with used gooseneck microphones for a cost of \$4,857 and second proposal for nine new gooseneck microphones for \$7,326.
- The auditors have confirmed that the microphones can be purchased with America Rescue Plan funds.
- Council discussion included the desire to test different microphone prior to purchasing to ensure they will meet the city's needs. It was also discussed if VSI should look at our current equipment to make sure that is working correctly as related to audio volume.
- Mayor Auringer stated he would like to use the America Rescue funds for a water filtration system for the city only.

6. Proposal for Air Compressor and Cylinders for Fire Department

- Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeyer asked to utilize federal funds to purchase a new air compressor at a cost of \$29,400 to replace the 35-year-old compressor that is failing.
- Council asked that additional quotes be received for all major purchases that are not listed on the state bid site.
- Chief Ruschmeyer clarified that tanks and the fill station would not need to be replaced.
- Administrator Bromeland is waiting to hear back from the auditors as to whether such a purchase is eligible to use American Rescue funds.
- Chief Ruschmeyer asked for permission to lower the asking price for the fire truck listed with Brindle Mountain to \$29,900, which Council approved. Chief Ruschmeyer will also look into listing the fire truck on the state bid site along with the vehicle mileage.
- Chief Ruschmeyer invited Council Members to attend the house burn scheduled for September 27th or October 10, yet to be determined, located at County Roads 12 and 17.

7. Acceptance of SMIF Grant Award for Strategic Economic Development Plan and Initiative

- The City has been awarded \$10,000 from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for the purpose of developing a strategic economic development plan and initiative. The City's match will be \$10,000 and is reflected in the 2022 budget. The grant award and City match would be used to hire a consultant, Region Nine, to research and complete a new strategic economic development plan and initiate.
- Grant activities are to be carried out for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The final grant report is due February 28, 2023. Grant activities will include collaboration and input from advisory committees (EDA, Park Board, Planning Commission), staff City Council, and public meetings in which input is sought from the community.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to accept the \$10,000 grant from SMIF. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

8. Resolution Adopting Preliminary Tax Levy

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the preliminary tax levy must be adopted on or before September 30, 2021 and once adopted it cannot be increased prior to the final levy being adopted. Last year's levy was set at 7.5% or an increase of \$56,632. Property taxes should have remained relatively flat unless a property's valuation increased.
- Since the August 30th budget work session, the Public Works Department has submitted a request to purchase a new leaf vac in 2021. Since this was approved an updated report included the 2022 proposed general fund revenues would remain the same at \$1,758,012 and the proposed 2022 general fund expenditures would change to \$1,802,041, which will result in a (\$44,029) planned deficit spending using capital outlay reserves. The budget would be balanced except for \$109,370 in planned capital outlay

expenditures drawing down previously set aside funding in general fund reserves. Planned deficit spending is intentional drawing down of capital outlay funds previously set aside in the general fund. But for the planned capital outlay expenditures, the budget would be balanced.

- The city will be receiving approximately \$47,000 from the state for street projects.
- Council discussion included Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts and how this will affect the budget. TIF schedules will be sent to Council once received from Shannon Sweeney.
- The proposed preliminary tax levy, as presented, is a 10% increase. A Truth and Taxation (TNT) hearing will be held December 6th and if needed, a continuation hearing will be scheduled for December 13th.
- Council Member Whittington moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 2021-35 A Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year 2022 Preliminary City Budget and Preliminary Property Tax Levy. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

9. Sidewalk Proposal

- Director Brian Goettl explained that he contacted four contractors to request bids for sidewalk repairs and only received one estimate back, that from Clint Adams Concrete LLC in the amount of \$20,887.
- There are funds in capital outlay that have been previously set aside for this work.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to accept the estimate from Clint Adams Concrete, LLC. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
- Director Goettl stated he would like to contact MacQueen asking them if they would take the orange plow truck on trade when purchasing the leaf vac.
- He mentioned that an injured fox has been sited at Lake Eagle Park and asked if there was anyone who could be contacted. Administrator Bromeland will look into this.

OTHER

- None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. MetroNet Update

- Per MetroNet, the underground work is anticipated to be complete by the end of October 2021. MetroNet is still waiting on pole applications from Xcel and expects to have them back in February 2022. It is anticipated that Eagle Lake will be complete in March/April 2022, depending on weather to complete aerial work. MetroNet will be doing a Mankato build and therefore the cabinet in Eagle Lake may not be necessary.

2. CSAH 27 (Agency Street) Project Update

- The Thomas Drive and Agency Street intersection closed Monday, September 13 at 7:00 a.m. There is no end date listed in communication as it is expected that the intersection will have to be closed intermittently during construction and it may not always be possible to provide advance notice. Motorists are encouraged to utilize the posted detour. Bolton and Menk has notified the bus companies of the intersection closure and detour.

3. Recap of Meeting with KJ Walk and Phase II of Eagle Heights Subdivision

- A meeting was recently held with KJ Walk and the City's engineer with Bolton and Menk for the purpose of reviewing final punch list items needed to be completed prior to building permits being issued for new home construction in Phase II. No firm timelines were established.

4. Playground Update Related to Wood Fiber Fungus

- Sightings of what is known as "slime mold" has occurred at the Lake Eagle Park and Eagle Heights Park playgrounds. An email from St. Croix Recreation and manufacturer has stated the slime mold is harmless but should be removed and placed in a plastic bag to avoid spreading of the spores. The Public Works Department has been monitoring the playgrounds at the parks and removing as needed.

5. EAB Grant and Next Steps

- The grant acceptance paperwork was submitted and awaiting the grant contract. When the grant contract is received, a copy will be forwarded to the Council for review.

6. New Community Forestry Member for Upcoming Service Year

- Eagle Lake's new Community Forestry Member through the AmeriCorps will be starting towards the end of September. The City looks forward to welcoming her and thanks Vien for her service this past year.

STAFF UPDATE

- None

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk