

Mayor Dains called the City Council meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Councillors present: Mary Gaasch, Lara Mac Lean, and Mayor Jeff Dains.
Councillors absent: Roxanne Grove and Denise Hawkinson.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator; and Kevin Kelly, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Dains asked for changes to the meeting agenda. The Council offered no changes to the agenda. Councillor Mac Lean moved to approve the agenda. Councillor Gaasch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councillor Gaasch moved to approve the June 12, 2012, City Council meeting minutes. Councillor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councillor Mac Lean moved approval of the claims totaling \$23,794.55. Councillor Gaasch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councillor Gaasch moved to approve the consent agenda acknowledging the May finances and approving the Contractor Safety Policy. Councillor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jenny Winkelman, Education and Outreach Manager of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), invited the Council to their annual training on the Mississippi River. The Council would learn about the work of the MWMO, discuss the impact of land use practices on the River, and meet elected officials from the cities of Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop who have become members of the MWMO recently. This training opportunity will be held aboard the Minneapolis Queen Paddleboat on Tuesday, July 31.

Discussion Items:

Butkowski researched how other cities approached issuing proclamations. She prepared a draft policy based on the City of Eagan's policy. The Council discussed issuing proclamations only if they are focused on a city service. The example included references to resolutions. Butkowski will remove those and bring the revised policy to the next meeting for Council approval.

August 14 is primary election day and the date of a regularly scheduled council meeting. The Council discussed changing the meeting date as staff will be overseeing the election.

Councilor Gaasch moved to change the August 14 council meeting to August 15 at 7:30 p.m. Councilor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The City purchases insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT). Currently, they only pay out sewer back up claims if the City is at fault for the backup. The City may also purchase a no-fault policy which would provide guaranteed coverage even if the City was not at fault. No fault coverage pays out to homeowners who don't have individual insurance policies which cover sewer backups.

The cost to the City for the no-fault insurance would be around \$650.00 to \$700.00 a year for \$10,000 worth of coverage. The costs could be budgeted for out of the Sanitary Sewer Enterprise Fund. All claims are subject to a \$500 deductible paid by the City.

The Council tabled a vote on no-fault sewer backup insurance until the full Council could be present.

The City's insurance policies run from August to August. Historically, the City has chosen a \$2,500 deductible for workers compensation claims to lower the cost. Butkowski asked the Council to consider what they would like to do this year based on the information presented. Each year the Council must also decide whether they want to waive the tort liability limits established by state law. The Council has never waived them.

Councilor Gaasch moved not to waive the limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota State 466.04 and purchase worker's compensation from LMCIT based on the \$2,500 deductible. Councilor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At the last meeting, the Council discussed charging for the use of city tables and chairs by Lauderdale residents in order to begin replacing damaged tables and chairs. Butkowski presented different cost scenarios for rentals. The Council decided to charge \$0.75 per chair and \$4.00 per table. Those rental amounts were below market rate rental costs.

Councilor Mac Lean moved to charge Lauderdale residents and businesses \$0.75 per chair and \$4.00 per table for rental of city property. Councilor Gaasch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kallie Nelson, Lauderdale resident and Girl Scout, addressed the Council. She explained her work on environmental projects that earned her the Gold Award, Girl Scouts' highest honor. Councilor Mac Lean read the certificate of recognition presented by the Council to Kallie. The Council thanked Kallie for her hard work.

Agenda items for the July 10 Council meeting include a discussion on a city logo and boulevard trees.

Mayor Dains explained the Council was moving into the work session. Work sessions are a continuation of the meeting but not aired on community television.

The Mayor asked if anyone present wished to address the Council. No one came forward to address the Council.

Chief John Ohl of the City of Saint Anthony Police Department (SAPD) addressed the Council regarding the future police contract with the City of Saint Anthony. Ohl stated the contract with the SAPD has been in place for 18 years. Since 2007, the City has contracted with the SAPD for 24 hour policing. The Council and Ohl discussed the financial constraints which the City and residents have been under with state aid cuts and the economic downturn. Butkowski, Ohl, and the Council discussed how one year contracts do not lend to a stable situation for the City or SAPD. It was suggested that multi-year contracts with opt-out clauses may give the cities the flexibility to respond to cuts in aid while making smart planning decisions. The Chief, Council, and staff will continue to work toward a contract solution that works for both parties.

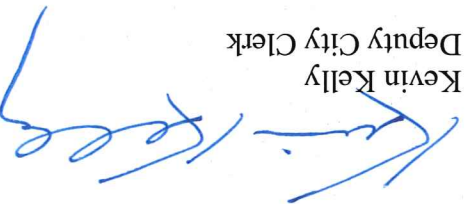
Ralph Mikel, 1843 Malvern Street, had previously asked the Council to consider paying him \$1,620 to pave the area between his garage and the alley. He believes the garage has suffered damage due to the alley improvement project in 2003. The city engineer inspected the area and felt the slope was within typical road/alley side limits and didn't require concrete to hold the earth in place. He felt the asphalt deterioration was due to other issues. The Council tabled the discussion until the next meeting when all council members could be present.

The city engineer also looked at the alley by 1786 Walnut Street. He said the storm sewer drain could not be extended further north to help with drainage as it is already very shallow. He felt the Mikel's could make other improvements to help with the drainage issues. First, they could build a berm to redirect rain. The neighbors are at higher elevations so it would not impact them. He also recommended repositioning rain gutters and building a swale along the southern property line. The city engineer will also meet with the Mikel's to discuss options. Butkowski will relay this information back to the owners and report back to the Council as needed.

The City looked into re-siting some of the playground equipment at Community Park. The equipment was designed to create separate space for toddlers. Changing the layout would bring the young children into conflict with the older children. The equipment was also laid out to meet safe use zone requirements. Changes to the placement of the playground equipment might result in use zone intrusions. The Council did not take action on a redesign of the park equipment.

There being no further business on the council agenda, Councilor Mac Lean moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Gasch seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin Kelly
Deputy City Clerk