

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

## REGULAR SESSION

June 9, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The North Branch City Council met in regular session and Mayor Lindquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present were Kathy Blomquist, Theresa Furman, Ronald Lindquist and Joyce Borchardt. Councilmember Trent Jensen was absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Konrad, Police Chief Meyer, Police Officer Olson, GIS Specialist Sondrol, City Engineer Messner and City Attorney Squires.

### AWARD PRESENTATION

- 5A Youth Service Bureau James Trudeau Award – Officer Tim Olson**  
Jean Walz presented the Youth Service Bureau James Trudeau Award to Officer Tim Olson for outstanding work with the youth in our community. Officer Olson thanked everyone for the award. Lindquist thanked Officer Olson on behalf of the Council and community.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- Claims
- Remove From Probation – LS Cashier Thomas
- Resolution 038-06-09-14 – Certification of Delinquent Utilities
- Transient Merchant License – Red Bull Military Appreciation Day
- Road Closure Request – Fire Dept – Midsummer Activities
- Minutes – May 15, 2014 Work Session

Motion by Furman, seconded by Borchardt, to approve the consent agenda. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 6A Annual SWPPP Hearing**  
The hearing was called to order at 7:10 p.m. City Engineer Messner reviewed the necessary information for the Annual Stormwater Pollution Protect Plan as is required for our permit.

Carolyn Burnowski asked for a copy of brochures. Messner will provide them to her.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

### COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS:

**7A PLANNING COMMISSION** **NONE**

**7B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**B1 Business Update on 2014 Legislative Session**

Konrad noted that there will be a legislative update meeting on Tuesday, June 24 at the library. Our local legislators will be there to discuss legislative updates that impact local businesses. Staff hopes to make this an annual event.

**7C PARK COMMISSION**

**C1 Ball Association – Advertising Sign Request**

Sondrol explained that the ball association is looking to solicit revenue through advertising on the ballfield fences with the revenue coming to the City for ball field improvements. Staff would recommend checking with the City Attorney and the auditor if this is something Council wishes to move forward with. City Attorney Squires indicated that this is possible under the recreational agreement statute that allows cities and non-profits to cooperate in operating recreational programs. Squires suggested a policy that limits what types of things can be advertised. Furman asked if the funds are by field or can the funds be used for any field regardless of which field the signs are located at. That would be up to the Council and Park Commission.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Blomquist to draft an agreement and authorize the ball association to move forward with advertising. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**7D WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION** **NONE**

STAFF REPORTS:

**8A ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS**

**A1 410<sup>th</sup> Street Project – Approve Plans & Specs**

City Engineer Messner overviewed the proposed paving project for a portion of 410<sup>th</sup> Street from County Road 30 to 1000 feet past Hemingway Avenue.

Blomquist asked when Council will get copies of plans and specifications. City Engineer provided a copy for Council.

Motion by Borchardt, seconded by Furman, to approve Resolution 036-06-09-14, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE 410<sup>TH</sup> STREET IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE INTERSECTION WITH FOUREST BOULEVARD (CSAH 30) TO APPROXIMATELY 1000 FEET EAST OF THE INTERSECTION WITH HEMINGWAY AVENUE AND HEMINGWAY AVENUE

FROM THE INTERSECTION OF 410<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO APPROXIMATELY 500 FEET SOUTH.” All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**A2 Sign Retroreflectivity Policy**

City Engineer Messner explained the sign retroreflectivity policy noting this is a federal mandate. Cities have to adopt a policy by the end of June. Furman said there are people that are in town that would like to collect older signs not being used anymore so she would like to make that available instead of just scrapping them. Blomquist said that the funding mechanism is the city’s road maintenance allotment and she is wondering if there is any idea of how much the study will cost. Blomquist asked the cost of the sign inventory that is required. Konrad noted that there will be staff time to do the inventory. She requested information on the approximate cost.

Motion by Borchardt, seconded by Blomquist to approve Resolution 037-06-09-14, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY POLICY.” All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**8B ADMINISTRATION**

**B1 Request to Lift No Parking – Schmidt**

Konrad noted that Darin and Stephanie Schmidt have requested that the no parking be lifted on June 21 from noon-8 p.m. on Hemingway Avenue north of CR 14 for an open house.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Blomquist to approve lifting the no parking regulation on Hemingway Avenue north of CR 14 on June 21 from noon-8 p.m. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

<b>8C</b>	<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>8D</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	
	<b>D1 Financial Report</b>	<b>INFO</b>
<b>8E</b>	<b>LEGAL</b>	<b>INFO</b>

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

**9A Red Bull Military Appreciation Day**

Sunday, June 15, 2014 at Central Park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lindquist reported that he and staff met with the Mayor of Taylor’s Falls and Chisago County EDA Chair to discuss a bypass, trucks travelling through Taylor’s Falls and they have no problem with the operation if there is a bypass put in. Lindquist noted the Superior Silica Sand project is not dead at this time. There is a meeting next Monday

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with Superior Silica Sand. Lindquist said that the net impact is 5.93% increase to the 2015 levy if this project does not come in and an annual impact of 7.48% per year from 2016 to 2022. Lindquist outlined the financial impacts to the City if this project does not come in and the financial benefits if it does come in. The project will contribute \$81,000 to the sewer fund and \$188,000 to the water fund. It will reduce the principal debt for ESSBY \$1,180,000.

Lindquist reported that Moody's downgraded the City's bond rating by three points and that is the first downgrading of this type for the City. Blomquist said that the Council also reads Minutes and all the derogatory comments about Water & Light impact the rating. Lindquist said that the Council has a right to discuss this and should discuss it. Borchardt commented that Moody's also took into account that Water & Light could not bond for projects due to debt load. Konrad noted that the City has made steady improvement and we need to continue to focus on the positive improvements and keep the working toward further improvement. Konrad and Hill noted that they are working with the Water and Light staff to implement a plan to improve the rating at the next review.

Laurie Warner, 40589 Golden Avenue said there were comments at the EDA meeting that emotions played into conversations about this but they call this their civic duty to let their elected officials know how a frack sand facility is going to impact their lives. The City cannot take every development that comes this way without proper scrutiny of the pros and cons of a development. No one likes to see their taxes go up but she would like to pay 5% more next year rather than lose 30% of her home value. She would like open and honest transparent discussions about what this would mean to the community.

Blomquist said she contacted the League of Minnesota Cities and unless there is a financial interest in Superior Silica Sand whether Furman can abstain is decided by legal counsel or council vote. City Attorney Squires said he does not have the ability to rule on whether a councilmember can abstain except when conflicts arise. Council can abstain at any point if they believe the allegiance is torn over perhaps a common law conflict. Furman said she has refrained from discussion on the Council and she has been clear that she cannot be fair because this is right across the street from her home. Lindquist said that he believes you can abstain and there is no way to force a councilmember to vote. Blomquist said her issue with this is that Furman wanted that whole area to be commercial industrial so why did you not abstain at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**NONE**

NEW BUSINESS:

**NONE**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

**13A Upcoming Agendas**

**INFO**

Konrad asked about cancelling the June 19 work session as there are two members absent. The June 19 and July 3 work sessions were cancelled.

Motion by Borchardt, seconded by Furman to adjourn. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED: at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator  
jrl/TOSS