

**Special City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Scott Keigley called the meeting to order at 6:35PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joy Bertsinger, Jackie Hall, Scott Keigley, Kevin McDermott, Dick Nelson, Clerk Nymann, members of the community.

III. PUBLIC HEARING FOR REQUEST BY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & DARREN FLICEK 6:30PM

Richard Tide was present to discuss their request. There is a 100' road between the Public Square, Church property, and Flicek property. They are asking to reduce 1st Ave. SW between their properties to 66', so a double car garage can be built on the Flicek property. The City needs to determine if it will benefit by adding 17' onto the Public Square (Park) side of the road. The City would gain a minimal amount of taxes back. Nelson stated that there is no benefit to the City for 1st Ave. SW to remain at 100'. Bertsinger asked if there would be a conflict of interest for her if she discussed this because she is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Council determined that there would not be a conflict of interest. Council asked the public if there were any comments. No opposition was presented. **Keigley motioned to reduce 1st Ave. SW from the current 100' to 66' between 3rd Street SW and 4th Street SW, Nelson second; all in favor, motion carried.**

Preliminary budget discussions until the before Public Hearing.

Bertsinger had a letter that informed the City that their hosting agent, LIAA will be going down \$30 per month, because more people are using their hosting services.

IV. TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING 7:00PM

Jeanne Wittlief

Jeanne was present and stated she was upset that her taxes jumped 46%. Council informed her that her value of her house has jumped. Council explained that the City did not increase the tax levy, but home valuations went up. Questions on home values are heard at the April Truth in Taxation Public Hearings. Council referred her to Dan Hall at the County. Jeanne requested to be put on the next regular council meeting because of how her driveway meets up with the new pavement.

Carol Lubahn-Frederichs

Carol was present to state that their address on their property tax information was incorrect. Clerk Nymann took the correct address and will forward information to Dan Hall.

Keigley closed the Public Hearing at 7:30PM.

V. 2005 BUDGET HEARING 7:30PM

Council first discussed the first meeting of the New Year, wanting a meeting on January 3rd to swear in new Council members at 7PM, and one on Jan. 13th for an Open House for the Community to meet the Council and have their input on the direction for the City. **Keigley motioned to have a special meeting on January 3rd for swearing in of new Council @ 6:30PM and for an Open House directly after, McDermott second; all in favor, motion carried.**

Nelson has a concern about the budget. In light of the amount the Fire Department and 1st Responders received from DOGR, their budget should be decreased; because there are more immediate needs at the Community Center, such as repairs. He stated that there will be more funds down the line with the new developments occurring, and that the fire department is already well equipped; and the Community Center needs window, doors, and the maintenance building door needs to be replaced. Nelson stated that the City needs an equipment fund, and that the community center is a daily functioning building unlike the Fire Department. Bertsinger stated that there needs to be a balance between the two, and the DOGR should consider this for next year. **Bertsinger motioned to table the budget until tomorrow nights meeting, Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.**

VI. RIVER OAKS EAW

Steve Voigt was present, and said he toured the site with the group. He stated that the Council needs to make a decision on the EAW, which refers whether all the environmental impacts have been appropriately discussed in the EAW. The rest is a design issue and can be taken care of in the Plat phase. His recommendation is that the worksheet, and subsequent correspondence answered all the questions that needed to be answered (McGhie and Betts' responses were adequate).

Keigley motioned for a negative declaration on the River Oaks Subdivision EAW, indicating that an EIS is not necessary; Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION: The findings of facts will be spelled out in Resolution 04-18, which will identify the responses from McGhie & Betts to the EAW respondents: MnDNR, Charlie Fried, MPCA, Steve Voigt.

Dan Zemke suggested for efficiency (concerning Preliminary Plat), a meeting with a Council rep., a Planning & Zoning rep. the City Engineer, Steve Jech, the developer, and McGhie & Betts should take place before the next meeting to have options ready for the next Council meeting. McDermott will be the rep for the City; Clerk Nymann will contact Charlie Fried to see who he recommends; the meeting will take place at McGhie and Betts at 4:30PM next week. Clerk Nymann will set up the meeting with everyone.

VII. ADJOURNEMENT

McDermott motioned to adjourn at 8:30PM, Keigley second; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Scott Keigley, Acting Mayor


Cheryl Nymann, Clerk/Treasurer