

**City of Oronoco
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Regular City Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst, Councilor Trish Shields, Councilor Carl Krause, City Engineer Joe Palen, Councilor Lori Novak, Councilor Nancy Quimby.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst wants to add to Personnel .2 for Check Reconciliation quote proposal, and also move P & Z Item before Personnel.

Councilor Carl Krause motion to move them, Councilor Nancy Quimby seconds. Motion carried. 5-0

IV. PUBLIC FORUM (3-minute time limit per person) "The City Council welcomes and encourages participation from community members. Please keep in mind that your comments must be pertinent to City business and must adhere to Data Privacy Rules, no employee's name may be used. Please do not expect action from the Council this evening regarding your concerns. We also request that your comments be limited to three (3) minutes, speakers will be recognized only once. At this time, we ask that anyone who would like to address the City Council to please step up to the podium and state your name and address and fill out the form provided."

Steve McNamara, President of the Riverwood Hills HOA, has a concern regarding the lot split with Tom Gauthier, he encourages development, but is concerned about safety of the subdivision. They currently have 79 homes. They recently had a fire, and a two-year old had a seizure. Steve is against the lot split and adding one or five homes. He did seek Legal Counsel on this. Steve stated they don't want to approve Tom to connect to their Septic system and could cause problems as discussed by legal counsel. Steve stated we could extend lots on Sunny View Lane which is also his land and a good option to extend.

Tom Gauthier, property owner of Riverwood Hills 5 ,next to Riverwood Hills 4, which he wants the lot split. He wants to state that this is a unique situation and it's out of the question to create more homes in this spot. The 155 acre General Development Plot was done 15 years ago and is outdated. The property is already zoned R1 and 35 acres where the lot split is being requested is annexed into the City. There is no General Development Plan for Phase 5 for this property. The City Attorney stated this property is not affected and not out of line with the Street Ordinance. No argument with the utility easement requirements by the City and City engineer. Tom stated he was on a tight schedule due to the weather coming and ground freezing. He would like to see action tonight
Closed Public Forum at 7:10 PM

V. DEPARTMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. OCSO ~ Sgt. Melinda Hanson

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated Melinda is the new replacement for Sargent Carmack.

B. FIRE DEPARTMENT* ~ Dan Sundt, Fire Chief

1. Runs: 4 (7/31 (child locked in bathroom), 7/19 (lift assist in park), 7/18 (gas line hit), 7/14 (lift assist home))

Dan stated their had a call for a little girl that locked herself in the bathroom, an elderly lady fall in the park and they assisted her back home, a gas line hit, and a lift assist in someone's home.

Dan stated they have a new Employee for First Responder and Fireman, He's going to School to be a Police Officer. His Dad used to be the Mayor here.

Colby Keighly.

Councilor Trish Shields to make a motion to approve Colby Keighly for both, fireman and 1st responder, Councilor Nancy Quimby seconds it. Trish asked if he is over 18 years old. Dan responded that he was. Motion Carried. 5-0. Approved. City Clerk has checked his background and is OK.

2. No bills

C. FIRST RESPONDERS* ~ Chris Inman, 1st Responder Director

1. Runs: No report

D. EOC ~ Pat McGovern, Director

E. PERSONNEL / COMMUNITY CENTER:

1. NNO – Oct 6?

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated we have not made a decision on National Night Out.

Councilor Carl Krause motions to cancel this event, Councilor Nancy Quimby seconds it. Motion Carried. 5-0. Approved.

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated we are considering hiring a CPA for check reconciliation from Smith & Schaefer. They also do our City Audit and if we were to proceed with this it's monthly fee is \$250/month. Currently, city staff takes 10 man hours to complete and time consuming. Several members stated it's very important to do correctly.

Councilor Carl Krause motions to approve Smith & Schaefer through the end of the year, Mayor Ryland Eichhorst seconds it.

Councilor Trish Shields commented that she is concerned about oversight, because they do our Audit and she feels they are too involved. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst would assume this would not be a issue. Councilor Lori Novak said her company has same people doing our Check Reconciliation and Year End. Jerilyn stated that she has reached out to 5 other CPA's for quotes. No one responded except for Smith & Schaffer. Trish is just concerned. Lori stated it's smooth operation once kinks are worked out. Councilor Lori Novak thinks it's a good move and makes for a smooth transition.

Motion Carried. 4-1. Trish was naye Approved

F. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

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G. DOWNTOWN ORONOCO GOLD RUSH DAYS* ~ Chair: Mayor Ryland Eichhorst

1.

H. PARKS & TRAILS* - Katie Dudley, Chair

1. Allis Park – Final pay request \$12,198.69 for SL Contracting

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst making a motion approve this third and final pay request, Councilor Nancy Quimby seconds it. Will need to start the reimbursement process for the \$53,000.00 from the DNR- Outdoor Recreation Grant. Plan to have an ribbon cutting at Allis Park in the future.

Motion approved. 5-0.

2. Recommend \$15,000 for 2021 Parks Budget of ADA access for Memorial Park and renovation to the field. Councilor Trish Shields stated it's just a budget item they want to make improvements at Memorial Park.

I. PUBLIC WORKS

1.

J. STREETS & ROADS*

3. Start of street repairs – Joe

Joe Palen contacted SL Contracting and have not received a schedule yet on this work being done, but he's expecting it soon in September.

K. PLANNING & ZONING*

1. Lot split – Motion to recommend postponing the committee vote till the September meeting. Need additional clarification of Ordinance 151.281, paragraph (11) street ordinance.

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated Mike Flaherty was on Conference Call to discuss this:

Mike Flaherty stated he had reviewed this street Ordinance. You have to have a minimum of 2 to 3 streets serving that singular lot, if that lot is servicing 500 vehicles. He feels this is a very odd written ordinance. He doesn't feel this will apply to a lot split. Mike would strongly advise the City Council not to act on this tonight, he feels this needs more research and we need to have a written resolution. He feels if we do agree to this it could be legally wrong. Mike feels we also have to check into septic and sewer for this lot and he's not even sure it's legal to deny this new connection by the HOA. Mike feels we need an actual signed agreement regarding a sewer connection for the lot split home with the County and MPCA before the City agrees to the lot split. Mike stated we have 120 days from when it's submitted. Mike doesn't feel we can move forward because Planning and Zoning hasn't acted on this. He feels it's hard to blame it on public safety based on one more house, but feels we need more information and clear discussion.

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst wants Mike to elaborate regarding a maximum of 5 homes or fewer with a lot split vs a subdivision, Mike stated we have to start with the Platting process, unless the City allows a minor subdivision. Mike feels when your only splitting one lot, he feels it's small enough to not have to go through platting process for such a small project. Mike stated if there is no legal description we can deny the application right from the start, but that wasn't the case with this lot split application. Most cities only allow 1 to 3 homes in a lot split application.

Councilor Carl Krause asked about ordinance with no more than fifty houses. Currently we have 179 homes in this subdivision, and he feels it's a safety issue going forward. Mike stated we have to follow our code and if the City can prove and show facts that one single lot will not be supported, then we can deny that application.

Mike stated in the ordinance there is conditions we have to meet to split a lot, one has to be zoned correctly or changed in zoning and this is not a issue.

Councilor Carl Krause is stating we should stop at the rules of fifty houses, and he feels sorry for the homeowners and feels we are going against what was promised. Mike feels there was a mistake made in platting that we keep adding houses and that it's not intended. Mike feels the septic system is a real issue.

Mayor Eichhorst says that P&Z needs to complete their work on this application

Mike reemphasized that the resolution has to agree with the Land Use Code and conditions in the resolution to consider. Mike thinks it is hard to believe that adding one house will not cause hardship on the roads.

Carl is concerned about how the lot split and adding other 50 other homes without a road extension could happen if not corrected now. Mike reminded the City Clerk an 60 day extension letter needs to be sent to Mr. Gauthier.

L. WATER & SEWER*

1. Recommend a motion to accept Stantec's Task List for how to use \$545,184.56 of the last PFA appropriation funds for the wastewater design project.

Joe Palen stated there is two things, 1. Is the larger 11 inch x17 inch sheet it looks at how best utilize the sewer grant money that is left. He feels these tasks are important and a good guideline for us to spend the rest of our budget. He stated we are under budget enough that we can shift money around to help with the design project. Joe Palen put together a 19-page letter to proposal on how to spend our money to get to a 70-80% design completion. Councilor Carl Krause feels this money should not be wasted, and we should hold onto it because of Elections and other big things coming. Joe Palen feels the money has been allocated for this project and we should use it. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated that by doing what Joe wants, we will be at 80% completed project for the Legislature awareness. The goal is 100% completion before additional bonding bill is passed by the legislators. Joe said there is funding cycles that also we have to prove and show for this project, he stated it's pertinent to meet the March

deadline. We need to be able to show MPCA that we are shovel ready. Councilor Lori Novak commented that it's important to show MPCA that we are using the money appropriated to us for the project. There is a lot of information in this letter, but there is six major bullet points and Joe reviewed briefly. The design is advanced as we can get it and need to show PFA all the work plan/task that we plan to use the funding for, just like the other requests to PFA

Councilor Carl Krause made a motion to approve the use of the \$545,184.56 for advancing the design of project with PFA, Councilor Lori Novak seconds it. Motion carried. 5-0.

2. Recommend a motion by the Water & Sewer committee to remove the Septage Receiving design from the wastewater treatment plant.

Joe Palen stated that we have discussed this over the years and that we have discussed trucking septic sewage to wastewater plant. There is a small amount of septage that would come into the system. Joe Palen said as we started looking at capital cost to construct this septage receiving station the capital cost is significant to do this and the fees paid coming in is not worth it. Joe doesn't feel it makes sense to provide this service and the cost \$144,000.00 is not worth it both monetarily and good use of the labor. Concern is the small staff to monitor and follow/monitor the receiving station. Joe stated the Water and Sewer committee wanted to forgo this portion of the treatment facility. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated that as we continue to add Phase 2, those larger lots will be connected to the WWTP. Therefore, the use of the septage receiving would be receiving less septage and reduced fees from our residents. We are also duplicating the service with Rochester's septage receiving site which is very close to Oronoco. Councilor Lori Novak stated that from the earlier discussions Dylan was adamant that this be included earlier on. Why are we discussing it again? Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated we got cost figures and that is why we are now reviewing it closer. Joe Palen stated there was a desire to be able to pump this directly into the plant, but the headworks design changed such that we had to come up with another design approach. The design change such that we to pump it and incorporated it into the bio soil loadings and septic receiving. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated if you look into your packet you will see the cost associated with all this. Councilor Lori Novak felt this would be a resident plus, and she feels \$100,000 isn't much with the scope of the project. She feels we should stick with our original vote on this which is keep it. Councilor Carl Krause feels we should continue and keep it as well. Councilor Trish Shields asked if campers who camp here can use this for dumping, Joe Palen stated it would be a bad idea because you do not know what is in the septage. He feels it's going to be a small plant and we don't want to shock the system with just anybody driving up and dumping their septic into the system. Councilor Lori Novak asked if there would need to be security there. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst explained that we had changed the design to this 3rd location with the loading of bio-solids.. Councilor Lori Novak felt it wasn't a lot of extra work for the City to handle our own septic sewage. Mayor Eichhorst indicated that the security and manpower is a question. We would also have to go back to the MPCA to resubmit the WWTP facility design and make the change to remove the septage design statement and plans. Joe Palen mentioned that it would be used for 10 years and then the business would cease. Security and manpower is not a good way for it to be used. Councilor Carl Krause feels it should go back to committee to make a decision. Mayor Eichhorst mentioned that the cost was simple in the earlier options by dumping the septage into a manhole of drain opening. Now that we know the cost is \$144,000.00, that changed the committee decision.

Councilor Trish Shields motions to send it back to the Water & Sewer committee, Councilor Carl Krause seconds it. Motion carried. 4-1. Mayor Eichhorst – naye. Approved.

3. Wastewater: update

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated special session last Wednesday it last four hours, because of a blackout period cause of statewide bonding sale. The September Meeting is mid-September. Good chance of a bonding bill in September or early November or next Spring 2021.

4. Bonding bill update

VI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS, & COMMUNICATIONS*

A.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set budget meeting – tentative date Aug 20?

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated we are looking at new date due to lack of staff, looking at early September 3rd, 6 PM - Budget Meeting.

B. Coronavirus Relief Fund for Local Government (CARES) - \$113,236.00 awarded to the City.

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated this is in our packet and we signed this contract to use this money towards COVID-19 related issues. There are three criteria that the funds have to meet. We can use these funds for sanitizers, cleaners, anything to make us more safe and technical aspects to upgrade their audio equipment. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst feels we should get new audio equipment and stated we got earlier quote that was ~ \$27,000. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst stated he's checked with LMC and other Cities on how to use this money. We have received examples of resolutions. Will consider non-profits in the community – Gold Rush for operating funds. Funds needs to be installed and invoiced by November 15, 2020.

XI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

XII. CONSENT AGENDA*

Councilor Trish Shields wants to see the consent agenda divided. 'A' by itself.

Councilor Trish Shields motions to reject A because it doesn't have city resident address. Mayor Ryland Eichhorst seconds it. Motion carried. Approved.

Councilor Trish Shields motions to approve B, C, and D, Councilor Nancy Quimby seconds it. Motion carried. 5-0. Approved.

Councilor Trish Shields stated in the past council meeting, she requested there be two council meetings monthly and it was dropped. There were several other items that were important and should have been on the agenda. Will put on September Council agenda.

A. APPROVED BUILDING PERMITS

1. All Craft Exteriors – siding and windows
2. Mike Kraus – remodel
3. Dale Jech Construction – Screened Porch
4. Tonna Mech- Mechanical
5. Chris Lien – Re-roof
6. Zhade Stupar - Re-roof

B. TASK LIST; updated

C. MEETING MINUTES

1. Parks 8-10-20
2. 1st Responder's 8-13-20
3. Gold Rush
4. Fire Dept. 8-13-20
5. Water & Sewer 8-13-20
6. Planning & Zoning 8-14-20
7. July 21/Aug 6 City Council Meetings
8. Aug 5 City Council Meeting

D. FINANCIALS

1. Pine Island Account Summaries
2. Budget: available at the office for review.
3. Accounts Payable
4. Account Receipts

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst motioned to adjourn 8:34 PM, Councilor Carl Krause seconds it.
Motion Carried. 5-0. Approved.