



City of Medicine Lake

December 4, 2023

City of Medicine Lake Council Minutes

Present: Mayor Chris Heim; Councilor Connie Shaffer, Councilors Ruth Hovey, Ron Tomczik, Bill McNaughton; Treasurer Gary Englert, City Clerk Therese Polum, BCWMC Commissioner Clint Carlson, Public Works Superintendent Chris Klar, Planning Commissioner Jesse Swanson, BCWMC TAC Susan Wiese, BCWMC Alt TAC Shaun Kennedy, Fire Chief Rich Halvorson

Council and Staff Absent: none

Other attendees: Dave Hutton and Erin Jordan with SEH Consulting, many citizens (24 total attendees).

Mayor Heim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes and Agenda

- **Motion to approve the agenda forwarded by Councilmember Shaffer and seconded by Councilmember Hovey. Councilmembers Heim, Hovey, Tomczik, McNaughton, and Shaffer in favor. Motion passed.**
- **Motion to approve the November 6, 2023 city council minutes forwarded by Councilmember Shaffer and seconded by Councilmember Tomczik. Councilmembers Heim, Hovey, Tomczik, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion passed.**

Hennepin County Sheriff –Sergeant Nelson

- Reported speed indicator still up, will be removed this week
- Reported: October - 4 calls; November - 3 calls
- Reported on city website improvements related to Sheriff's office; photo, link, phone numbers

Open Forum

Speed Humps

- Speed Humps/Bumps: Mayor Heim introduced the topic and presented background. Mayor Heim also shared that the city had a positive bid open today and those will be presented shortly.
- Dave Hutton and Erin Jordan (Traffic Engineer with SEH) presented on speed humps and traffic concerns.
- Erin (SEH) provided a handout and reported on various types of speed humps, benefits, cost, uses and other items.
- Reported speed humps are included in the project bid however specific placement is not determined.
- Citizens asked various questions and discussion continued
 - Typical cost of one: \$2,500 per hump
 - Impact for snow removal: speed humps are more gradual and should not hinder snow operations

- Will this hinder or help storm water management: will not hinder nor help, keep in mind the new road will have a crown which will change the water runoff characteristics
- Long term resident reported he has never seen an accident on Peninsula Road
 - reported he does not like the current entrance configuration
 - reported he does like the speed humps, not sure on the quantity
- Another resident does not like the city entrance design, feels it is very unsafe for pedestrians, is in favor of some speed humps
- Dave Hutton addressed the entrance to the city design
 - Center median with a mountable curb, widening the entrance area, pilons not included in final design
- Several residents stated they are against any entrance median
- Other citizens spoke in support of the speed humps
- Resident shared a real-life example in another community that speed humps did not reduce speeding and increased maintenance costs and asked what data the city is using to address this topic; that community ended up removing the speed humps
 - City did not do a study
 - City installed the temporary bumps to gather input
 - Dave Hutton shared more on this topic: EEE, Enforcement, Education, Engineering, also discussed perception
- Resident presented background on the South Shore Drive speed humps and his views against speed humps
 - 4-way stop sign also installed at that time of the S. Shore Drive humps
 - Speed humps don't control intentional speeders
 - Speed humps will slow unintentional speeders
 - Speed humps don't discriminate
 - We all have to suffer for the small number of speeders
 - Disrupt traffic flow, drivers stop at the humps
 - People have driven around the humps onto people's property
 - Have caused accidents to bicyclists (per internet research), similar to a pot-hole
 - Internet research: shared lawsuits that city has lost due to accidents due to speed humps
 - Extended response time for emergency management
 - Road was built for people (walkers, biking, and driving)
 - We have a feeling that people are speeding, but don't have proof
 - Doesn't teach children to be car-aware
 - Do make pedestrians feel safer because it slows drivers down
 - Discriminate to those that have to drive further down the road
 - Enforce a 6-foot easement from edge of roadway, nothing allowed in the 6-foot zone
 - What about speed radar signs (\$25K per sign in city bid, 2 signs included)
 - MnDOT study on test study on these signs
 - 85% of drivers decreased pre-signage per study
- Resident shared the street near the Wayzata Yacht club as a striping idea, not sure if she believes the speed humps will solve the concern
- Mayor Heim shared that 2 electronic signs are included in the project
- Mayor Heim shared that the city spent considerable time discussing on a one-side walk-way and
- Entrance to city: will there be space for pedestrians to walk at the entrance:
 - This citizen was side swiped twice at this location during this new striping plan while she was walking
- Mayor Heim reiterated there will be room for pedestrians to walk in the final design

- Resident reported against speed humps with biking and walking and stated he has a friend who broke his foot riding over a speed hump
- Citizen spoke against the speed humps as punishing the whole for the speeding of the few
- Citizens reported she is in favor of the speed humps, fine with biking over these slowly, in favor from a public safety perspective
- Citizen reported maybe we can install rumble strips to remind people to slow down to intentional speeders
- Mayor Heim stated we need to clarify the priority of our road and his personal priority is pedestrian safety
- More discussion on un-intentional, distracted, and intentional speeding; suggest less speed humps in more strategic locations
- Citizens reported the striping gives pedestrian a false sense of security and would like to see one wide pedestrian section and not the two that is currently in place
- Several reported the new striping is not favorable and feels very unsafe; would prefer the previous condition
- Several stated they would like just one stripe down the middle
- Traffic has to contend with all the various truck traffic in the narrow area
- Citizen reported, who walks every day, will never walk with traffic coming from behind
 - Do the speed humps have to go in right away? Can we try with zero striping for a while with the new road? Do we have to jump in with everything right away with the new road?
- Citizen shared that he believes that speed humps will not solve the problem
- Mayor Heim stated there is no perfect solution for our road to be complete streets
- Sergeant Nelson reported what he is hearing:
 - Speed is an issue
 - Distracted driving an issue
 - Situational awareness an issue from drivers
 - Feels there is probably truth to the striping does create a false sense of security

Citizen asked how and when will this decision will be made?

Councilmember McNaughton stated we will continue to have conversations with the road committee and develop a final decision. McNaughton stated speed humps are in the design, McNaughton clarified that speed humps are not guaranteed but will continue to be considered. No specific answer was given to when a decision will be made. Mayor Heim stated we have several months before this decision has to be determined.

2024 Street and Utility Improvements Project: Dave Hutton SEH

- Reported on the bid results and handed out the bid results
 - Seven bids received
 - Low bid is Veit & Company at \$5,700,857.26
- Reported on eligible money that will be included in the state and private bonds
- Reported City of Plymouth fees are not eligible for state bonding

Mayor Heim requested a vote to confirm that bids align with our city budget and the city will be awarding the contract in the January 2024 council meeting.

Mayor Heim called a vote of affirmation that the bids are within our targets cost range and scope of work

Motion to approve Resolution 23-32 a resolution approving Construction Services Contract with Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) in the amount of \$483,896 forwarded by councilmember

McNaughton and seconded by councilmember Shaffer. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve resolution 23-33 a resolution approving expenditure for ash tree notification letters forwarded by Councilmember Shaffer and seconded by Councilmember Hovey. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report – Rich Halverson (absent) Report via email

- Reported 3 calls
- Reported live fire training

Public Works Superintendent Report – Chris Klar

- Reported mitigation work in progress, received full approval from the BCWMC
- Reported on Jevne Park progress

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Report – Clint Carlson and Shaun Kennedy and Susan Wiese

- Reported we are in compliance with regards to the BCWMC
- Reported on the planning steering committee work
- Reported Shaun Kennedy has been voted onto a state wide watershed board and will be resigning from the planning commission

Planning Commission Report – Jesse Swanson

- Reported he will report on water and cannabis in the January council meeting

Treasurer's Report – Gary Englert

- Receipts in reporting period: \$31,318
- Receipts year to date: \$604,387
- Disbursements in reporting period: \$61,011
- Disbursements year to date: \$671,731
- Capital Project Reserve Balance: \$923,455
- Debt Service Reserve Balance: \$36,805
- Reported \$194,000 has been raised for the Jevne park project this year

Motion to approve resolution 23-34 a resolution accepting a monetary gift of \$11,080.26 from attached list to benefit the City of Medicine Lake Parks Department for Jevne Park forwarded by councilmember Tomczik and seconded by councilmember Hovey. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the summary spending, receipts and cash balances through November 30, 2023 forwarded by Councilmember Shaffer and seconded by Councilmember McNaughton. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2024 final budget in the amount of \$676,254 forwarded by Councilmember Hovey and seconded by Councilmember Shaffer. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve resolution 23-35 a resolution adopting final tax levy for taxes payable in 2024, total levy in the amount of \$ 631,054.00 forwarded by Councilmember Shaffer and seconded by

Councilmember Hovey. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Officer Reports:

Councilmember Hovey

- Reported on web site proposals

Motion to approve expenditure up to \$4,000 yearly not to exceed for the development and management for a new city website; Councilor Hovey will execute the contract with a website that best meets the city needs forwarded by Councilmember McNaughton and seconded by Councilmember Shaffer. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton, Shaffer in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Tomczik

- Reported on a city smart thermostat
 - Needs more information and a staff on site to complete this task

Councilmember Shaffer (absent)

- Reported 42 total rental units
 - 32 of these units are the cabins
 - 2 rental units did not re-up (one is owner occupies; the other is empty)
 - Empty property and another property will be legally addressed
- Reported working on the 2024 city fee ordinance

Councilmember McNaughton

- Reported on his lack of knowledge regarding the fire department operations and he would like more information with regards to fire department operation

Mayor Heim

- No Report

New Business

Next Meeting: January 8, 2024

Motion to adjourn forwarded by councilmember Hovey and seconded by councilmember Shaffer. Councilmembers Hovey, Tomczik, Heim, McNaughton in favor. Shaffer absent. Motion carried at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Polum
City Clerk

Approved on: January 8, 2024