

Mayor Edwards called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m, stating the purpose of the Hearing was to hear comments on proposed Ordinance No. 216 amending 7 topic areas of City Code, as reviewed previously by the Council. Present were: Mayor Connie Edwards, Matt Schutte, Kevin Knutson, and Cheryl Sanden. Also present were: Larry Jerviss, Chris Peterson, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, RG Steinfeldt, Audrey Hegland, Chief David Breault, Audrey Alfson, Liz Gibson Gasset, Marlene Schultz, Carol Meeks, Sheryl Sherry, Charles Benson, Dennis Eich, Shelby Martin, Terry White, Marilyn Erickson, Ellyn Baumann, Karla and Hein Bloem, and Angie Rodenburg of the Fillmore County Journal.

Ordinances to Amend the City Code: Ordinance 216: Trees, Fences, Weeds, Firearms/Weapons, Zoning Definitions, R-1 District Lot Regulations, and Non-Conforming Use. Ordinances are available for review at City Hall. Discussion took place on each proposed amendment and questions or comments voiced from those in attendance were: Firearms: Questioned if loaded firearm could be transported across town; Suggestion was made that the City create an archery range for public use. Garages: Comment was made that a property owner should be able to build a garage larger than the house if it was needed for storage or collection purposes. Another comment was that whatever the size, garages must be of acceptable materials and style, not a pole shed type of structure. Recommendation was made to not include garages in this amendment motion until further discussion. The public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

The Council meeting was then called to order at 7:46 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Addition to the Agenda: Approval of ordinances. Therefore, MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 216 TO AMEND CITY CODE SECTIONS §174.01 TREE BOARD, §151.47 FENCES, WALLS OR HEDGES, §92.40-§92.42 OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRIMMING, REMOVAL, AND THE LIKE (WEEDS), §130.02 DISCHARGING FIREARMS, §151.04 ZONING DEFINITIONS, §151.21 R-1 DISTRICT LOT REQUIREMENTS, §151.58 NONCONFORMING USES; AND TO ADD CITY CODE SECTION §174.02 TREE PROTECTION FOR THE CITY OF HOUSTON, COUNTY OF HOUSTON, STATE OF MINNESOTA; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A summary of the ordinances will be published in the Banner and all ordinances are available for review at City Hall.

Public Comment: Marlene Schultz stated the Trail Towns group has developed a large 4x8 ft. sign for each of the nine trail towns, paid for by Tri-County. The sign should be displayed near the Trail. Where the sign will be located will be the discussed by Park and Rec, who will bring their recommendation to the Council for approval.

Conditional Use Permit – Crossroads Café: Owner wishes to create a patio with tables/chairs, etc. for customer seating outdoors. Important to create a barrier so no vehicles can enter the area; suggestion was made to have weighted posts with ropes that can be removed for the winter, keeping in mind affordability. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, TO APPROVE THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT OF THE CROSSROADS CAFÉ; MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lions Club – Access to Band Shell: Lions Club members were present to propose an ADA compliant 10' wide concrete roadway down to the band shell on the east side for transporting band equipment, grills, or other larger items, and for those in wheelchairs or on crutches. The Lions have budgeted \$6,000 for this project, and suggested any dollars needed beyond this should come from the City. Sanden and Schutte volunteered to help with this project.

Concern was expressed that if the road is used for vehicles, they will turn around and damage the grass. Lions' representatives stated that a gate will be in place when not in use; when in use, the road will be supervised by the Lions and not left open afterwards. Another option voiced was to check with the DNR if it would be possible for the road to come off the Trail and if so, would the Lions support this alternative. Peterson will check with the DNR. She will then coordinate a time where Schutte, Sanden and she can meet with the Lions after the DNR information is available. The matter was tabled at this time.

Lions Club Signs at City Entrances: The Lions Club signs have been ordered; they would like them posted at each entrance to the City. MnDot regulations state no more than two signs can be posted on the population sign; any more would be an extra \$200 charge. The signs are quite large and may be too big for the population sign. Suggestions were to either remove an existing sign (Fit City or Tree City) so it can be put it on the population sign, or have it stand alone on a separate pole. This will be brought to the Park and Rec Board for their consideration and recommendation to the Council.

Community Garden-Proposed Well: Currently, water for the garden is brought out by the Fire Department and put into large gravity-flow tanks. Audrey Alfson approached the Council to consider other options, one being a well, approximately 40' deep, possibly solar powered. The well would not be potable and used only for watering the garden. Cost would be approximately \$5,000. It would be dismantled during cold weather. Alfson requested permission to continue with this project, stating it could be located so it would not interfere with Hoedown staging areas. The project is contingent upon grants that have been submitted being funded, and also the permission of the City.

She mentioned the need for camping areas in town, especially during Hoedown, and that this area has room for a small campsite/RV site that would be a source of extra income for the City, and that the well, if drilled deep enough, could serve as water source for the campers.

Thesing said that if the water is to be used for human consumption, it will be considered a city well and subject to the controls the City must adhere to. Another alternative for a drinking water supply would be to connect to City lines but would be more expensive and have chemicals in the water that may not be suitable for the garden. MOTION MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ, TO GIVE THE COMMUNITY GARDEN THE APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH THE 40' WELL OPTION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ball Field Update: Hegland provided an update of the Bluffview Community Park, including a financial statement. The ball playing season is beginning, with league play Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings plus Summer Rec on the other days, and weekend tournaments scheduled. Hoedown is expected to use the field as well for their three-day ball games. The concession stand is available as is the new announcer's booth, which was made by Thesing. Outfield sign renewal notices were sent, and renewals are being received; proceeds go to field operation expenses. Donated trees by garden clubs and Standish Trees of Caledonia and a few purchased, survived the winter well and will be a real asset to the Park. Field II is roughed out and Van Gundy has volunteered to do the final excavating necessary. Future needs and plans were also included in the report, including the donated playground unit and where it should be located. The Council referred this matter to the Park & Rec Board for their consideration and recommendation. Hegland thanked Thesing and Steinfeldt for their help in getting the Park to where it is today.

Ethan Scheck, Summer Rec Director, is seeking adult volunteers from the City to take one, two or three evenings in a week to serve in the concession stand; any time would be appreciated. Summer Rec workers are manning the stand as well. Ethan asked that those who can help please call or email him.

Pedestrian Ramp – NE Corner of Plum/Ellsworth: Request has been received for a handicapped pedestrian ramp to be built on the NE corner of Plum/Ellsworth; cost will be approximately \$500. Another ramp needs to be built on the corner of Plum/Sheridan; approximate cost is \$700. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE BUILDING A HANDICAPPED PEDESTRIAN RAMP ON THE NE CORNER OF PLUM/ELLSWORTH AND ON THE CORNER OF PLUM/SHERIDAN STREETS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Tables – Policy for Renting/Borrowing: After discussion, considering the wear and tear on the various tables/chairs owned by the City and ensuring they are available to those who rent the facilities, that it would be best if they were not allowed to be used by an outside person or organization. MOTION WAS MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTZ TO NOT ALLOW ANY TABLES OR CHAIRS FROM THE CITY PARKS OR THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO LEAVE THE PREMISES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Seasonal Maintenance Position: The Personnel Committee recommends the hiring of two seasonal employees, and increasing the dollars allocated for seasonal maintenance from \$5000 to \$7,000. This will provide more flexibility in getting work accomplished as well as being a back-up if one of the two cannot work on a particular day. This is strictly a year-by-year position that must be reapplied for every year. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THE SEASONAL MAINTENANCE POSITION TO \$7,000, NOT TO EXCEED 10 MORE HOURS PER WEEK; MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The amount will be taken from the Maintenance Department budget. MOTION MADE BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO EMPLOY RICHARD GAUSTAD AND LEONARD OLSON FOR THE TWO SEASONAL MAINTENANCE POSITIONS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14 MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report: Jerviss noted that funds with lower balances will be restored when state and local taxes are received. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Police: New squad car getting detailed at a much more reasonable cost.

Library: Monthly report distributed; Friends' Book sale netted \$578. Gibson-Gasset described the activities planned for the summer: Summer Reading theme "Paws to Read" with "Mammal Mondays", art show featuring artists from southeastern MN funded by a Legacy grant. Received a Community Collaboration Grant with HARC to sponsor owl sculptures which will be placed in various secure sites. Circulation statistics were attached.

Nature Center: April report was included in Council packet; income/cash donations totaled \$7,893.78 and other in-kind gifts such as stamps were also donated. Matching funds paperwork for Thrivent was sent in for Owl Festival. The International Owl Center project received \$515 in donations and \$720 in memberships; discussed bonding process with Representative Jeanne Poppe. Among other things, the education and salvage permits for the Center have been received. Camping fee in Trailhead Park has been increased to \$20 per night.

Maintenance: Well #1 is worn out; to rebuild will cost \$29,000 but there is no other option; has not been done for eight years and pumping capacity has decreased 30%. New 15 mph speed limit signs have been ordered. A price for street repair was obtained. Thesing thanked the Council for hiring the extra seasonal help.

Administrator: Peterson reminded the Council of the Community Clean-Up Days on May 31 and June 1. Volunteers are needed to take one- or two-hour shifts. Two dumpsters will be available each day.

MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:45 P.M; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.