

**CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JUNE 27, 2022**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Saint Peter was conducted in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

A quorum present, Mayor Nowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shanon Nowell, Keri Johnson, Darrell Pettis, Ben Ranft, Emily Bruflat, Brad DeVos and Dustin Sharstrom. The following officials were also present: City Administrator Todd Prafke, City Attorney James Brandt and City Engineer Jeff Domras.

**Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Sharstrom, to approve the agenda. With all in favor, the agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ranft, seconded by Pettis, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 regular City Council meeting. With all in favor, the minutes were approved. A complete copy of the minutes of the June 13, 2022 regular City Council meeting is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Proceedings 20.

**Visitors** – Nick Gansen, 40909 County Road 20, addressed the City Council on behalf of a group of local all terrain vehicle (side by side) owners who want permission to ride their machines within the City limits. Gansen reported several other cities in Minnesota allow use of this equipment in town and he encouraged St. Peter to do so in part due to the potential revenue that would be derived by use in town. Gansen indicated there was "no way" for owners of these machines to put 10-15 gallons of gas in their machines without putting it on a trailer and the equipment could be retrofitted to have blinkers, brake lights and horns.

Councilmember DeVos asked Gansen to provide the City Administrator with a list of cities that allow the machines.

Shawn Kennedy, 1922 Boulder Street, also addressed the Council to indicate he has \$40,000 invested in his machines which are no good if he can't drive them in and out of town like snowmobiles are allowed to do. Kennedy suggested that the use be phased in on "probation" terms and if the limited use goes well, the use be expanded with another probationary period until full use is authorized.

City Administrator Prafke reported on the numerous times he had already discussed this request with various owners of the machines and on each he had informed the individuals the process to be followed for a request to modify the City Code to allow for such use. Prafke noted that at this time no formal request had been submitted.

**Consent Agenda** – In motion by Ranft, seconded by Johnson, Resolution No. 2022-98 entitled "Resolution Approving Consent Agenda" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-98 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 24.

**Fire Station Bid Package #2 Award** – City Administrator Prafke recommended the City's Construction Manager at Risk, R.W. Carlstrom, be directed to enter into contracts with the low bidders for Bid Package #2 for the 2022 Fire Station Project. R.W. Carlstrom Program Manager Jeremy Hatlevig addressed the Council to provide additional information on the bids which would result in approximately \$15-16,000 in savings over the bids received in the first package. Hatlevig stated the doors on the west side of the building would be the traditional roll-up overhead doors, but the east side of the building which was considered the front of the station would have more decorative (red) four-fold doors that would open quicker and provide full visibility for the trucks when they were leaving in any emergency situation.

Councilmember Johnson asked if supply chain issues would be a concern. Hatlevig indicated the doors were being manufactured by Door Engineering in Mankato and because the doors are not needed until next spring, there was plenty of lead time to avoid supply chain issues.

In motion by Pettis, seconded by Bruflat, Resolution No. 2022-99 entitled "Resolution Directing Construction Manager At Risk To Enter Into Contracts With Low Bidders For Bid Package #2 For The 2022 Fire Station Project" was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-99 is contained in the City Administrator's book entitled Council Resolutions 24.

**Community Development Director Appointment** – City Administrator Prafke recommended the appointment of Benjamin Baker as the next Community Development Director at an annual starting salary of \$90,000. Prafke noted that while he and the Council had some questions about each of the candidates interviewed, his background check on Mr. Baker showed he was more than capable of filling the position. Prafke reported Mr. Baker would begin work on August 8<sup>th</sup>. In motion by DeVos, seconded by Johnson, Resolution No. 2022-100 entitled “Resolution Appointing Benjamin Baker As Community Development Director “ was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-100 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 24.

**Cambria Lease Assignment Request** – City Attorney Brandt recommended approval of a request submitted by Cambria to assign the land lease for the property at 101 North Front Street from Mark E. Davis to Cambria Real Estate Holdings, LLC and further extend the lease to October 1, 2050.

Councilmember Johnson asked for the pros and cons of extending the lease. Brandt noted that Cambria has a major investment in the building that is constructed on the land and extension of the lease would keep the business in St. Peter. Brandt also noted the con that the land, situated adjacent to the Minnesota River, could alternatively be used for a levy or a public park.

In motion by Ranft, seconded by Sharstrom, Resolution No. 2022-101 entitled “Resolution Accepting The Assignment Of A Lease By And Between The City Of Saint Peter And Cambria“ was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-101 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 24.

**Community Education Memorandum Of Understanding** – City Administrator Prafke recommended execution of a renewal Memorandum of Understanding with School District #508 (Community Education) for the City to provide youth programming with \$10,200 in reimbursement from the District to the City. Prafke reminded the Council past financial restrictions had led to the District’s request for the City to provide the programming they previously had provided as the City was able to do so at less cost. In motion by Bruflat, seconded by Sharstrom, Resolution No. 2022-102 entitled “Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Youth Development Memorandum Of Understanding“ was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-102 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 24. Councilmember Bruflat expressed her belief that the youth programs were well rounded and a great example of the City’s partnerships with other entities.

**Lease Amendment – New Cingular Wireless** – Public Works Director Moulton recommended approval of a request by New Cingular Wireless to provide for a third amendment to the lease with the City for placement of equipment on the City’s Broadway Water Tower. Moulton indicated that in exchange for allowing placement of a generator on a 4’ x 10’ concrete pad at the base of the water tower, an additional \$200 month would be paid in rent by New Cingular. In motion by Sharstrom, seconded by Ranft, Resolution No. 2022-103 entitled “Resolution Authorizing Execution Of the Third Lease Amendment With New Cingular On The Broadway Water Tower Site“ was introduced. Upon roll call, with all in favor, the Resolution was declared passed and adopted. A complete copy of Resolution No. 2022-103 is contained in the City Administrator’s book entitled Council Resolutions 24.

## **Reports**

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Nowell and Councilmembers reported on their attendance at the annual League of Minnesota Cities conference in Duluth which offered great training opportunities and sessions on topics such as housing, green projects, and sustainability.

**MnDOT Open House Event** – City Administrator Prafke reminded Councilmembers of the open house event being sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center to provide public information on the roadway projects in and around Saint Peter in the next several years.

**Fourth of July Closures** – City Administrator Prafke reported all non-emergency City offices would be closed on the Fourth of July and urged those seeking to reserve spots along the parade route to not put down tarps or plastic which would kill the grass and to practice “good parade etiquette”.

**Holocaust Exhibit** - City Administrator Prafke reminded the Council and public that the prestigious Holocaust exhibit at the Library would be leaving after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Prafke encouraged anyone who had not yet seen the exhibit to do so.

**Absentee Voting** – City Administrator Prafke reported absentee ballots for the August 9<sup>th</sup> primary election are now available at the Nicollet County Courthouse.

In response to a Council question, City Administrator Prafke reported the discussion items planned for the next workshop session (July 5<sup>th</sup>) were being pushed back and unless the Council objected, the workshop would be cancelled.

Councilmember DeVos reported on a Region 9 bus tour to an organic farm and a campground near Springfield. DeVos reported that housing was a topic of discussion for participants and he felt St. Peter was fortunate to have a lot of housing projects.

DeVos also passed along compliments he heard about the community outreach being done by Police Chief Grochow.

Councilmember Bruflat read a prepared statement about the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade to state on record she mourned the overturning of “Roe” and indicated she stood by those who are concerned about the Court ruling and fight for equal rights for all human beings.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Sharstrom, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn. With all in favor, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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Keri Johnson  
Mayor pro tem

ATTEST:

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Todd Prafke  
City Administrator