CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Spring Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Schroeder at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday October 20, 2015 at 168 W Main Street, Spring Grove, MN.

Present: Sarah Schroeder, Mayor

Rachel Olerud, Council Member

Nancy Nelson, Council Member

Scott Solberg, Council Member

Todd Bornholdt, Council Member

Also Present: Erin Konkel, City Clerk/Treasurer

Joe Hammell, City Attorney

ADOPT AGENDA

Council Member Nelson moved to approve the agenda with the addition to Old Business, 6. Fest Building Bathroom Remodel. Seconded by Council Member Solberg. All approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Nelson moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member Olerud. All approved. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Resident Don Vesterse commented on the variance process. He stated that the process could be improved. He also requested that council schedule his Public Hearing a week before the regular meeting so he could get started on his garage. Council agreed that a Special Meeting could be held on November 9th at 7pm at City Hall.

Resident Dean Johnson complimented the city on installing low impact lighting making it easier to view the eclipse at night.

PUBLIC HEARING HIGHWAY 44/MAIN STREET SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

*Presentation*

A presentation was made by Tim Hruska, City Engineer. He stated that the final cost of the project was $3,880,000. Of that, $140,000 was assessed to property owners on Main Street. The special assessments will be assessed at a rate of 4.47% over 20 years. Property owners have until November 20th to pay the assessment in full at City Hall with no interest.

*Statements from Public*

Resident Tom Solberg requested the water leaking into his basement be fixed before he paid his assessment amount. Tim Hruska stated that he would assist in resolving the issue.

Resident Lorilyn Dehning asked when the scrolls for the light poles would be installed.

Resident Kathy Roverud commented on the trees on Main Street that have since died. It was stated that those trees could be covered by the Landscape Partnership Grant.

*Conclusion of Public Hearing*

Council Member Nelson moved to conclude the public hearing in regards to the Highway 44/Main Street Special Assessments. Seconded by Council Member Bornholdt. All approved. Motion carried.

*Council Discussion and Action*

Council Member Nelson moved to approve Resolution 15-41 Adopting Final Assessments. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. All approved. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTION OF BUSINESS SUBSIDY CRITERIA

*Presentation*

It was stated that the primary reason the Business Subsidy Criteria was re-written was because the previous criteria was based on Job Z which will soon no longer be.

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

*Conclusion of Public Hearing*

Council Member Solberg moved to conclude the Public Hearing on the Adoption of Business Subsidy Criteria. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. All approved. Motion carried.

*Council Discussion and Action*

Council Member Nelson shared her concerns with the new Business Subsidy Criteria policy. Council Member Solberg moved to approved Resolution 15-40 Adopting Business Subsidy. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. Council Members Solberg, Olerud, Bornholdt and Mayor Schroeder aye. Council Member Nelson nay. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

*2015 Audit - Abdo, Eick & Meyer*

Tom Olinger with Abdo, Eick & Meyer presented an audit proposal to the council. Discussion was had but no decisions made. A decision will be made at the November 17, 2015 council meeting.

*Veterans Memorial*

Mayor Schroeder stated that since the last meeting she had received numerous comments on the location of the proposed Veteran Memorial. She too believed the memorial to be too large and too close to the gazebo. Mayor Schroeder opened the floor to those who wanted to speak in regards to the memorial’s location:

Charlie Sylling stated that 13 sites had been looked at for the Veterans Memorial and Viking Park was the best option. He provided the council with a new, smaller design for the NE corner of Viking Park.

Renee Eiken stated that the park needed to be kept as a green space and that there was a moratorium placed on statues/cement in Viking Park. She believed that other sites would be a better fit for the memorial.

Anne Doering believed the NE corner of the park to be the best location for the memorial. It is currently empty.

Don Vesterse thought that an alternate site would be preferable for the memorial like the cemetery, Fest Building grounds, Trollskogen or private property.

Mayor Schroeder would like to see the memorial with not so much concrete and more green. Believed the memorial to have too much of a heavy feeling.

Council Member Nelson stated that enough was enough. No more concrete should be put in the park

Dean Johnson believed it should go in the NE corner of the park. The World War I monument currently resides there, and the American Legion group marches to the park every Memorial Day, which makes the location ideal. He stated that the design could change but those names needed to be displayed.

Kathy Roverud stated that we can’t keep making exceptions to putting more concrete in the park.

Council Member Nelson stated that all the deceased were listed on a memorial at the Houston County Courthouse.

Darlene Oakes, board member for the group, stated that not much space would be taken up. Accessibility for the disabled was crucial, making the NE corner a good location. She also stated that other places away from Main Street had a higher risk of vandalism. She also believed it to be disrespectful to place the memorial in a location where people could not see it.

Charlie Sylling said that the amount of concrete was necessary for the stability of the stones and the ability for the disabled to get around.

Mayor Schroder recommended having an open discussion at the Legion that the public could attend and let their opinions be heard. She also recommended that people send comments to City Hall or the Veterans Memorial Committee over the next three weeks.

Council Member Nelson moved to rescind the motion previously made on September 15, 2015 to place a Veterans Memorial in the NE corner of Viking Park pending further information being obtained for design and location. Seconded by Council Member Olerud. All approved. Motion carried.

*No Parking Signs*

Council Member Solberg and Chief Folz met in regards to the No Parking signs on Main Street. He moved to place No Parking signs from Roble Funeral Home to the Fire Hall approximately every 4-5 parking spots on light poles. Seconded by Council Member Nelson. All approved. Motion carried.

*Proposed Landscape Partnership Agreement and Resolution Authorizing Mayor and City Clerk/Treasurer to Execute Agreement*

Council Member Solberg moved to approve the agreement and resolution allowing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. All approved. Motion carried.

*Swim Center Repair Update*

Lorilyn Dehning provided the council with an update to the repairs at the Swim Center. She also provided an updated version of the 2015 Actual Expenses for the Swim Center to date.

*Fest Building Bathroom Remodel*

Council Member Nelson stated that she had spoken with the City Engineer and he had recommended an architect out of Winona, but it would cost approximately $18,000.

Council Member Solberg recommended a draftsmen that he had recently utilized that would cost much less. He would provide the City Clerk/Treasurer with the information.

Discussion was had but no decisions made.

NEW BUSINESS

*Refunding of TIF 2005A and TIF 2007A/Resolution 15-39 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of $414,000 General Obligation Tax Increment Financing Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A, and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof*

Financial Advisor, Mike Bubany, recommended the refunding of the TIF 2005A and TIF 2007A Bonds into a Midi Loan through Minnesota Rural Water Association. The interest savings would total $20,769. The new loan would have an interest rate of 2.3%. The term would remain the same with the final payment date of February 2023. Council Member Solberg moved to approve the refunding of the TIF 2005A and 2007A Bonds into a Midi Loan as presented by Mike Bubany along with Resolution 15-39 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of $414,000 General Obligation Tax Increment Financing Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A, and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. Council Members Solberg, Olerud, Bornholdt and Mayor Schroeder aye. Council Member Nelson nay. Motion carried.

*Baseball Field*

Phil Griffin requested permission from the council to reshape and expand the infield, add new rock to the surface, and tear down the 3rd base dugout and rebuild. All the work and materials would be donated, so no money was currently being requested. Council Member Solberg moved to approve the request to improve the baseball field as described above. Seconded by Council Member Olerud. All approved. Motion carried.

*Temporary Liquor License Request*

Ye Olde Opera House requested a temporary liquor license for November 7 and November 14, 2015. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the request. Seconded by Council Member Solberg. All approved. Motion carried.

*Repairs to City Hall*

Public Works Director Morken recommended some repairs to the exterior of City Hall totaling $2,900. Council Member Solberg moved to approve the repairs in the amount of $2,900. Seconded by Mayor Schroeder. Council Members Solberg, Bornholdt, Olerud and Mayor Schroeder aye. Council Member Nelson nay. Motion carried.

*Replacement of 1985 Snow Hauling Truck*

Public Works Director Morken requested the purchase of a 1999 Freightliner Truck which would replace the 1985 International truck used for hauling snow at the price of $12,000 plus tax, title and licensing fees. Council Member Solberg moved to approve the request for the purchase of the 1999 Freightliner truck as requested. Seconded by Council Member Bornholdt. All approved. Motion carried.

*City Special Assessments*

City Clerk/Treasurer Konkel reported that the city had five parcels on Main Street in which a special assessment was due. Two parcels belonged to the Fire Department, one to the Corner Bar and Liquor Store, one to the EDA and one to the City Park. She requested permission to pay these before November 20th to avoid interest. Council Member Solberg moved to allow the special assessments to be paid before November 20, 2015. Seconded by Council Member Bornholdt. All approved. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

*Call for Public Hearing for Variance Application*

Council Member Nelson called for a Public Hearing on November 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in regards to a variance application for Don Vesterse, 413 South Division Ave, to build a garage. Seconded by Council Member Solberg. All approved. Motion carried.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

Council Member Nelson mentioned making a list of capital improvements and prioritizing them.

Council Member Solberg thanked those who helped with UffDa Fest. He also mentioned that the Parks Committee was recommending Trick or Treating hours from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the 31st.

Mayor Schroeder reported that the Lions Club would be heading up Syttende Mai in 2016.

MEETING REPORTS

A meeting synopsis was provided by Mayor Schroeder for the EDA and Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Solberg reported on the Parks Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Solberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Olerud. All approved. Motion carried. The Regular Meeting concluded at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted and

Approved on November 17, 2015

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Erin Konkel City Clerk/Treasurer