

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

## REGULAR SESSION

August 25, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The North Branch City Council met in regular session and Mayor Hagen-Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present were Kathy Blomquist, Theresa Furman, Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy, Joyce Borchardt, and Robert Canada. Staff members present were City Administrator Konrad, Public Works Director Williams, City Engineer Wilson, Finance Director Hill and City Attorney Helmers.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barb Burington asked the Council to forget about the round-about and think about the two roads to nowhere that the City already has.

Rod Lofquist of Elm Street said that he echoes the comments on the roads to nowhere. He then said that before putting a roundabout on Grand Ave and 95 he would like to look at a few other things. Mr. Lofquist suggested further study of the traffic to look at other ways to keep traffic flowing.

Doylene Voligny said that she is not in favor of the roundabout because it is too close to residential streets, pedestrian traffic, school walking traffic, etc. Ms. Voligny said that the roundabout will be the focus of drivers and they will not be paying attention to pedestrian traffic. Ms. Voligny indicated that this is not a high accident area and a roundabout does not fit in this location.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- Claims
- Resolution No. 053-08-25-15 – 2015 Massage Licenses
- Resolution No. 052-08-25-15 – Street Dance, Extension of Premises & Special Event Permits – Olde Brick Inn
- ~~Minutes – July 16, 2015 Work Session~~
- Minutes – July 28, 2015 Regular Session

Furman asked that Item D be removed for discussion.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Canada, to approve Consent Agenda as amended to remove Item D. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

### Consent Agenda Item D - July 16, 2015 Work Session

Motion by Blomquist, seconded by Canada, to approve the July 16, 2015 Work Session Minutes. Members voted: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1 (Furman). Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**6A TIF Budget Amendment**

- i. Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.
- ii. Staff Review  
Hill reviewed the proposed TIF budget amendment. This amendment would allow for TIF pooling in the future if Council so chooses.
- iii. Public Comments - None
- iv. Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.
- v. Resolution Amending TIF Budget  
Motion by Canada, seconded by Borchardt, to approve Resolution No. 051-08-25-15, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MODIFICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT 1 AND APPROVING THE MODIFICATION TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NO. 2005-A." All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS:**

**7A PLANNING COMMISSION**

- i. Meeting Update  
Furman provided a meeting update.
- ii. Wildridge Plat 8 – Construction Traffic Sign Requirement  
Konrad reviewed the proposal for no construction traffic signs required in the final plat approval. Konrad noted that the Homeowners Association has asked to waive the requirement because they do not want that sign at the entrance of their development. Furman commented that citizens have a right to speak even if they disagree with the Association and their concern was with the private road so it seems a sign would be appropriate but two four by eight foot signs seem too much. Furman said that she received a suggestion of an 18x24 sign.

Motion by Canada, seconded by Hagen-Kennedy, to amend the requirement for no construction traffic signage to 18" X 24" for Wildridge Plat 8. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**7B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**7C PARK COMMISSION**

**7D WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION**

STAFF REPORTS:

**8A ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS**

**i. Funding Commitment – Roundabout Project**

Hagen-Kennedy said she has had a lot of people contact her and she does not feel like North Branch is ready for a roundabout. There is a lot more to look at. Borchardt explained her prior mention of Hemingway was for the bypass to take traffic up to 400<sup>th</sup> Street to the ESSBY industrial park.

Konrad noted this is a Mn/DOT initiated project but there is a City funding component. Konrad noted if there are some questions and concerns that Mn/DOT could come out and discuss and clarify with residents and Council so she suggested Council consider tabling the matter to allow for that. Konrad noted that if the City does not take advantage of this opportunity now when Mn/DOT is ready and has funding allocated then it will be years before the opportunity comes up again. She urged the Council to look to the future and consider development that will come not only from the City but neighboring communities.

Furman said she got a lot of calls on this. Furman said that no one wants this. There have been other discussions including a stoplight or maybe a solar powered flashing stoplight with blinking red lights. Furman said she does not believe North Branch needs this roundabout at this time.

Canada thanked staff for the efforts but he cannot support the project. Canada said that safety of children is his number one priority and this roundabout in this location concerns him. Canada said he is not convinced that this is best for the safety of our children. Canada indicated this roundabout is too small for this location. Canada said that there may be another location for this roundabout. Canada said he is not saying roundabouts are bad but in this location, he cannot support it.

Blomquist said that folks are saying this should not be done because of bikes and kids but she feels that Mn/DOT took all that into consideration before recommending this. Blomquist commented that roundabouts are something that everyone is going to have to get used to. Blomquist said her concern is that some of the questions have not been fully answered. Blomquist said that she would like to hear a response from Mn/DOT on the opinion that this roundabout will be detrimental to the safety of children. Blomquist would like to hear a response from the school as well as Mn/DOT on this.

Borchardt indicated that County 14 may be routed to the North to get around the churches and the schools at some point. Borchardt said that there may be an opportunity for a roundabout when that is done. Borchardt said that the size of the proposed roundabout concerns her. Borchardt

Motion by Furman, seconded by Canada, to deny City funding the roundabout.

Blomquist asked to amend the motion to include pressuring the County to move Hemingway up in priority and Council is willing to look at other options. She will not vote for this unless the Council is willing to look at other options.

Furman would be open to asking if Mn/DOT would pursue flashing stoplights.

After discussion members voted: Ayes – 4, Nays – 1 (Blomquist). Motion carried.

**ii. 2015 Maintenance Project – Award Bid**

City Engineer outlined bids received. Low bidder is Knife River Corporation.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Canada, to approve Resolution No. 054-08-25-15, "A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID SUBMITTED BY KNIFE RIVER CORPORATION FOR THE 2015 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND AWARDED A CONTRACT THEREOF." All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**8B ADMINISTRATION**

**i. Public Sector Conflict Resolution Training**

Motion by Canada, seconded by Hagen-Kennedy, to approve funding public sector conflict resolution training for Administrator Konrad. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**8C BUILDING**

**8D FINANCE**

**8E LEGAL**

**8F PUBLIC SAFETY**

**8G OTHER**

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: **NONE**

NEW BUSINESS: **NONE**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL:  
**a. Upcoming Agendas** **INFO**

**b. Blomquist – MHFA Information**

Blomquist indicated that two years ago the City approached MHFA for a workforce housing project and she has since learned that the target areas have changed. Blomquist said that she is bringing this up because there is job growth but they are jobs that need housing that is affordable in this community. Blomquist said that she would like to meet and discuss workforce housing. Hagen-Kennedy said there is money available for workforce housing but the City would need to have a current housing study. Hagen-Kennedy said she would like to look into this.

Borchardt said she would like to see this discussed by the EDA. Konrad noted there was an opportunity about a year and a half ago and noted it was about \$5,000 to update the housing study.

Canada asked for an overview presentation to help understand the information better.

Council agreed to send this to the EDA.

**c. Blomquist – 20 Year Growth Area**

Blomquist said she is concerned with the track that the Planning Commission is taking on the 20 year growth area and she thinks the City should be focusing away from people commuting to people being able to live and work in the community. Blomquist said if this direction is implemented then she could say to businesses that the City is working on workforce housing.

Canada asked what the timeframe is for this change in direction. Blomquist said that the City has been concentrating so hard on housing for folks that work in the cities and she does not see that as sustainable. Blomquist would love to see this as a City that has people who live and work here.

Canada said that the Planning Commission is leading this charge. Hagen-Kennedy clarified that the Commissions are advisory only and serve at the direction of Council.

Borchardt said that she has heard the Planning Commission say that the smaller lots are closer in where services are and she has heard nothing that concerns her. Borchardt said that this is contrary to what she has heard and watched for the last couple of months. Blomquist said that the City looks at

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residential growth but has not made a substantial effort to bring in commercial growth. Blomquist said that the City can still work on residential growth but the City needs to focus on growing businesses. Hagen-Kennedy suggested adding this matter to the work session. Furman noted the Planning Commission is charged with reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and bringing it to Council to review.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Canada to adjourn. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED: at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator  
jrl/TOSS