

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 15, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Windschitl at 7:03 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Present: Councilmembers Grau, Hatfield, Hubbard, Huang, and Mayor Windschitl

Absent: None.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Noel Graczyk, Administrative Services Director; Kevin Wright, Communication Director; Nate Kabat, Assistant Administrator; Kevin Ringwald, Community Development Director; Liz Hanson, City Planner; Jake Sofly, City Attorney; and City Engineer Matt Clark.

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. His House Foundation Update – Martha Brannon

Martha Brannon, His House Foundation addressed the Council. She provided an update on the housing and rentals in the community. She stated this past weekend the organization held a fundraiser which was a sleep out at the Curling Center to raise awareness about homelessness. She noted they raised a good amount of funds that will be placed in their discretionary fund.

Ms. Brannon stated since the last time she addressed the Council, the organization has been certified by the State for Housing Stabilization, and they are now contracted with Carver and Scott Counties for street outreach, which focuses on reaching out to those living on the streets, holding signs outside and the homeless hotel programs. The organization also, recently signed up to be the United Way 211 Crisis Line for the region, they take calls from residents in the middle of a housing crisis and try to help them find resources.

Ms. Brannon noted Chaska Moravian Church, Cap Agency, Salvation Army, and the County all have housing resources for people in need. She stated they have seen a different demographic reaching out for help recently. She stated they have received several calls from local school Counselors, four alone in the past week that have a student whose family is experiencing homelessness. She stated most of the people they help are suffering from addiction or mental

health issues; they don't usually see a lot of families reaching out. She noted in most cases these families have income from jobs and due to Covid-19 or another issue, they have suffered a housing crisis. She expressed her concern about the amount of people seeking help, noting their programs are full and they have waitlists right now.

Councilmember Huang asked what the comparison is between the numbers of clients from last year to this year. Ms. Brannon stated last year she felt they could keep up with the clientele and then this year it seemed like they were keeping up but then the weather and eviction moratorium came to an end and those things happening at the same time caused a surge in clients and waitlists had to be started.

Councilmember Hubbard asked how the general public or Council can help with this crisis. Ms. Brannon stated she isn't sure because it is such a large issue but sharing resources and making sure they are known to people who need them always helps.

5.B. Domestic Violence Report – Joseph Schneider

Joseph Schneider addressed the Council. He thanked the Council for all their hard work and what they do for the community. He stated he is speaking on his own behalf tonight and sharing his story on Domestic Violence.

Mr. Schneider read a personal statement regarding the events that transpired over the course of his previous marriage in which he suffered emotional and physical abuse. He noted the affects it had on him as a father and a man. He stated as a man and victim of domestic abuse, it was very difficult to seek and receive the help he needed and he hopes to educate people on the fact that domestic abuse can occur to either gender and no one should be embarrassed or afraid to seek help, he noted the support he received saved his life.

Mayor Windschitl thanked Mr. Schneider for coming forward and sharing his story. He stated it is a tough conversation to have and it is often not something brought forward and it should be.

6. Minutes

6.A. Approve November 1, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the Consent Agenda Item A through E:

- A. Adopt Resolution 2021-71, Approving the Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms and Conditions

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-71, Approving the Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant terms and conditions for replacement of Bridge 10J52.

B. Adopt Resolution 2021-72, Municipal State Aid Street System Revision

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-72 Approving and Amending the Municipal State Aid Streets of the City of Chaska.

C. Adopt Ordinance 1002, Amend Chapter 6, Article 6.12 Noise and Odors, Section 6.12.030 and 6.12.040

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1002, Amending Chapter 6, Article 6.12 Noise and Odors, Section 6.12.030 and 6.12.040.

D. Adopt Resolution 2021-73, 2022 Downtown Reconstruction Project Feasibility Study

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-73 ordering preparation of the feasibility study for the 2022 Downtown Street/Utility Reconstruction Project.

E. Adopt Resolution 2021-76, Eminent Domain Over Certain Property Related to Highway 41 and Highway 61 Improvements

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-76, authorizing Eminent Domain to acquire fee title and various easements for new pavements, raised medians, utilities, landscaping enhancements, wayfinding, enhanced pedestrian system, public parking and new signal systems over certain property described herein.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Adopt Resolution 2021-74, Approving the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Amendment for Total Loss at 525 Creekridge Drive/Total Loss Brokers/PC #2021-07

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced and provided background on this item.

City Planner Hanson presented the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Amendments proposed.

Councilmember Grau asked what events occurred that brought this forward for amendment. Mayor Windschitl echoed Councilmember Grau and stated he would like to know what was previously asked of the Planning Commission, that was not approved, that got them to this point.

City Planner Hanson stated there was no complaint or issues brought forward that caused this request, she stated the property owner is the one who brought this forward asking for a CUP that more accurately shows what they are doing on the site currently. She stated they are asking for the option to have 450 vehicles on their 3 acres of land.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated the intent of the new CUP is to keep the site looking like it does right now but to ensure the business is reflected accurately and compliant within it. He noted the number of vehicles allowed on the property will remain the same and that the Planning Commission isn't opposed to a CUP that reflects what is there now.

Daniel Lysholm, Total Loss Brokers and applicant, addressed the Council and stated the purpose of this is to allow his father to retire and sell his land, he stated after he withdrew his prior application due to the difficulties he experienced through the process, this time he wanted to approach it differently and work with the City to craft a CUP that will cover what the applicant needs allowing them to operate legally and as the City expects.

Mayor Windschitl stated he commends Mr. Lysholm for coming forward to change the CUP. He stated his concern is that they are trying to sell and it opens the door to a new owner who may not upkeep the property as they have.

Mr. Lysholm stated he doesn't want to sell to someone looking to use it as a junk yard or anything like that, he stated his dad spent his whole life building the company into what it is and he wants to see it remain.

Councilmember Huang reviewed the past actions regarding this property from 2018 to the current date. He asked if the CUP is tied to the business or the property.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated the CUP can only be tied to the property, but stated it is very specific and if anyone buys the property, they would need to operate the exact same type of business and run it exactly as the current owner does it and they would need to come in and modify the CUP unless the business is exactly the same type of business.

Councilmember Grau asked if there are any environmental issues that could be harming the ground because there are so many cars stored there. Mr. Lysholm stated mostly when they get the cars the fluids have already drained out due to the accidents they get the cars from. He stated he put together a 29page book on this issue which he wasn't sure they got or not.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution No. 2021-74 approving the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Amendment to allow storage of up to 250 vehicles on 2 acres of land during normal business operations and up to 450 vehicles during non-normal business operations on 2 acres of land for the Total Loss site at 525 Creekridge Drive (PC #2021-07).

Motion carried.

8.B. Adopt Ordinance MC 2021-1003, Repealing Sections 7.24.030 and 13.16.110 and Adopting Chapter 14, Article 14.04, Sections 14.04.010-14.04.060 of the Chaska Code of Ordinances Utility Franchise

City Administrator Podhradsky presented and provided background on this item. He stated this item would usually be a consent agenda item but due to its significant impact within the community and the fact that it is a big revenue stream, it is being presented as an action item tonight on the agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to adopt Ordinance MC 2021-1003, Repealing Sections 7.24.030 and 13.16.110 and Adopting a new Chapter 14, Article 14.04, Sections 14.04.010 through 14.04.060.

Motion carried.

8.C. Adopt Resolution 2021-75, Approving the Concept Plan for Rivertown Heights/DR Horton/PC #2021-18

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced and provided background on this item.

City Planner Hanson provided a presentation and overview of the item and proposed concept plan.

There was discussion regarding ball fields being lighted, the way the Carlson properties tie into the plan and signage requests. City Planner Hanson stated they will have more information from the developer on this item during the preliminary plat process.

Councilmember Grau stated it was nice that they had a neighborhood meeting prior to this meeting. He stated he would like to see the lots align better and for them to add some screening to the property. He noted he is concerned about them filling in the ravine because they do have drainage issues in that area but stated the development could help with that issue.

Councilmember Huang stated his only request would be that they add the proposed lit ball park to the concept plan so people know what they plan to put there.

Councilmember Hubbard stated she feels like they are getting the same value homes in all the concept plans and regarding affordable housing, she is wondering how the City is looking compared to others.

Community Development Director Ringwald stated they are on track for their projected numbers and are comparable to the neighboring cities.

Councilmember Hubbard stated she is advocating for more diversity in the housing types and prices in the future.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution 2021-75, Approving the Rivertown Heights Concept Plan for a 91-lot subdivision on 40 acres of land (PC #2021-18).

Motion carried.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Council Roster 11-15-2021

Council requested further information on pages 1 and 24.

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further information regarding those bills.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the bills as presented. Roll call was taken. Voting aye: Councilmembers Grau, Hatfield, Hubbard, Huang, and Mayor Windschitl. Voting nay: None
Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.B. Bi-Weekly Report November 15, 2021

10.C. Financial Reports September 30, 2021

10.D. Other Meeting Minutes

10.D.i. Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2021

Councilmember Grau:

- Stated the hospitals are at high capacity, and encourages everyone to continue to be vigilant and practice safe health practices

Councilmember Huang:

- Stated the Veterans Day service at Middle School West was really nice and he likes that they are passing along the tradition to the next generation
- Stated the Chaska High School Theatre Program is putting on the Importance of being earnest by Oscar Wilde on November 19, 20 and 21, and noted his daughter is in it and encourages everyone to see it if they are interested in supporting the theatre programs
- Noted the Hometown Holiday is on December 4th and the Tree Lighting at Fireman's Park is on December 5th

Councilmember Hubbard:

- Wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

City Administrator Podhradsky

- Stated there is only a Work Session on November 29th which will start at 6pm

Mayor Windschitl:

- Stated the Mayors Luncheon is this Wednesday and there is mayor pro tem filling in
- Congratulated the Varsity Football and Volleyball teams on a successful season
- Stated kudos go to Middle School West on their great Veteran's Day Service
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and noted if anyone is traveling to be safe
- Noted the next Council meetings are on December 6th and 20th

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm.

Motion carried.