

KASSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

6:00 PM

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular City Council meeting was held at City Hall on the 12th day of May, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Burton, Egger, Ferris, McKern and Zelinske

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE ABSENT: None

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Tim Ibsch, City Engineer Brandon Theobald, Police Chief Josh Hanson, Fire Chief Joe Fitch, City Attorney Melanie Leth, Finance Director Nancy Zaworski, Dave Dubbels, Karen DuCharme (SEMMCHRA), Jennifer Mittlestadt, Natalie Lushinsky, Tim O'Morro, Nathan Smith, Randy Acker, Kurt Schlotthauer and Patrick Gordon (ZED)

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

Remove K.1 – Hiring of Fire Fighters

Motion to Approve the Agenda as amended made by Councilperson Zelinske, second by Councilperson Egger with All Voting Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from April 28, 2021

Claims processed after the April 28, 2021 regular meeting, as audited for payment in the amount of \$278,434.03

Committee/Commission/Board Minutes:

Fire Department Minutes – May / Thank you notes

Evaluations:

Kyle Wheeler	Apprentice Lineworker	not able to move until completion of coursework
Eric Henderson	Lead Lineworker	remove from probation

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Ferris with All Voting Aye.

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL

Karen DuCharme – SEMMCHRA – HRA – There is \$250,000 left to spend and have received 9 applications for rehab projects and 7 flood loans. Ms. DuCharme gave updates on the programs they offer.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mental Health Initiative Update – Mayor McKern gave an update on the Initiative that was started last August and \$25,000 of CARES money was put aside for this. There are on line programs that Fernbrooke put together and we prepaid for services that people could go and use with no questions asked. Thirteen people have taken advantage of this. The Fire Department put together some PSA's. These are on the City's and Fire Department's Facebook pages. The Library has put together backpacks for grief and grieving and for surviving suicides.

PUBLIC FORUM

2021 Street Maintenance Project - Citizen's request to speak regarding constructing 22nd ST NE and trail – Engineer Theobald gave a short presentation regarding the project and the open houses that were held on Thursday, May 6.

Mayor Mckern stated that this has been in the plans since 2000 and should have been done many years ago.

Randy Acker – 2002 11th Ave NE – He does not believe that this is not thought out for the future and is a bandaid.

Jennifer Mittlestadt – 1003 22nd St. NE – stated that this is not just about the road but about the bike path that has to cross this street and children are on this path without people and they will not look for cross traffic. She believes in eminent domain and the City should take the land from the school or other landowners to go to the west to highway 57. She agrees with Mr. Acker.

Natalie Lushinsky – 903 22nd St NE – she stated that there is research she read stating that kids 14 yrs and younger do not have developed depth perception and lowering the bike path will be issues and a stop sign won't work and she believes that connecting to the west would be best.

Shelly St. John – 511 21st PI NE – She agrees with a lot of the concerns regarding the trail and that there are no sidewalks in Littles to get to the trail and people walk on the road and now there will be more traffic on the road. At what point do we look at something else and not place a bandaid and go to the west across school property. We are already above the house limit and what is the next step.

Kurt Schlotthauer – 903 22nd St NE – He purposely bought his house on a deadend street and with opening it he will have safety concerns. He is also concerned with the safety of people on the bike path. He suggested negotiating with the school.

Mayor McKern stated that we have talked to the school and they are not interested in putting a road across their property and eminent domain would take years and the Council is not interested in taking people's land. This bike path crosses roads 17 times.

Jim Rase – 2102 22nd Ave NE – wanted to know if a pedestrian bridge to go over the road was considered. Mayor McKern stated that would be cost prohibitive.

There were people in attendance that did not voice their opinion.

Councilperson Ferris stated that the school does not want to sell their land. It sets a bad precedent to other people who want to come to Kasson if we start taking land.

Councilperson Burton stated that he believes we do need to force the access to the west and the connection to the north to Spring Creek and this would take years to take place. This is a balancing act for the Council based on development and budget and right now this is the best they can do.

Mayor McKern stated that eminent domain will cost \$2 to \$3 million dollars on that and we are spending the citizen's money. The 22nd St. NE access is only one access and we will continue to work on more accesses.

Councilperson Zelinske stated that we can only do so much and we are trying and went to the Township board meeting asking to connect to one of their roads and they denied it.

Mayor McKern stated that this has been discussed for quite a while and appreciates the comments. This is an approved project in the budget from last fall but the plans are not finalized.

Councilperson Egglar stated that he pushed for safe routes to school and safety but when he had smaller kids he was always with them on the trail and parents need to work with it.

Councilperson Ferris stated that all agendas and packets are on the City's website on the Friday before the meetings and she puts the agenda on her facebook page before every meeting. Ms. Mittlestadt stated the citizens in attendance believe that they don't have time to read agendas and should be notified personally for

anything happening in their neighborhood. The Council encouraged the citizens to be proactive and advocate on their own behalf.

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

ZED Development Agreement - Draft

Final Approved Plans and Maintenance Agreement – City Attorney Leth stated that there was one change adding indemnity language that the City indemnify the developer. She objects to that since the City is not doing any of the construction. **Motion to Approve the Development Agreement and Maintenance Declaration made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Ferris with All Voting Aye.**

NEW BUSINESS

Food Truck Policy – The Council discussed the policy and what they feel the fee should be. This will be brought to a future meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator’s Report – Administrator Ibisch highlighted parts of his report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Fair Grounds Water Tower Replacement – Engineer Theobald stated that the current water tower needs replacing due to age and increasing water demand. This will be paid for from the water fund.

Request for Council Action

Engineering Agreement – **Motion to Approve the Engineering Agreement made by Mayor McKern, second by Councilperson Egler with All Voting Aye.**

PERSONNEL

ATTORNEY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed

ADJOURN 7:49PM Motion to Adjourn made by Councilperson Burton, second by Councilperson Zelinske with all Voting Aye to Adjourn.

ATTEST:

Linda Rappe, City Clerk

Chris McKern, Mayor