

Owatonna City Council Minutes

The Owatonna City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Council President Schultz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Attending were Council Members Raney, Voss, Okerberg, Svenby, Burbank, Dotson and Schultz; Mayor Kuntz; City Attorney Walbran; Community Development Director/Interim Park Director Klecker; Public Works Director Skov; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Clawson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Member Okerberg made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Council President Schultz explained council members review the Consent Agenda Items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Consent Agenda Items for approval include:

Minutes - City Council Meeting – June 18, 2019.

Minutes - OPU Commission Meeting – May 28, 2019.

Event Permit – Ride for Hope – Wenger Corporation - July 13, 2019.

Exempt Permit – Raffle at SCFF - NWFT Steele Spurs Chapter – August 13-18, 2019.

Exempt Permit – Raffle at SCFF – Minnesota Pheasants – August 18, 2019.

Exempt Permit – Raffle – Owatonna Soccer Association – September 24, 2019.

2019 Pay Equity Compliance Notification – Minnesota Department of Management and Budget.

Change Order #3 – Downtown Alley & Parking Lot Project – R.A.W. Construction.

Change Order #3 – Kohlmier Dr & Trail Project – JJD Companies.

Stormwater Agreement - 551 Hazeltine Place NE - Paul & Karin Wandersee.

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve these Consent Agenda Items; Council Member Burbank seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Vice-President Raney recapped expenses for the period; bills presented for payment total \$913,340.11. Council Member Voss made a motion to approve payment of these bills; Council Member Dotson seconded the motion. All members voted aye for approval.

Community Development Director Klecker presented the second reading of Proposed Ordinance 19-3, a request to vacate a portion of a utility easement currently on parcel at 1205 Park Drive. Council approved the first reading of this proposed ordinance during their last meeting on June 18th and there have been no changes made since. Bob Seykora requested the easement be vacated on behalf of property owners, RFS Partners. Two parcels have been combined and the easement is no longer needed. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve this second/final reading of Proposed Ordinance 19-3 and Council Member Dotson seconded the motion. With a roll call vote voting aye were Burbank, Raney, Svenby, Voss, Okerberg, Dotson and Schultz; voting nay were none, the motion was approved. This will be known as Ordinance 1591.

Public Works Director Skov requested approval of Resolution 45-19, to reject all bids received for the 2019 Cardinal Drive SE Storm Sewer Project. Bids were received from four companies; the lowest bid was 35% more than the Engineer's Estimate. Other communities have also received low number of bids with higher than expected prices on projects. Staff will contact the bidding companies to ask what can be done to cut costs with plans to rebid the project in February or March 2020 which may result in lower costs. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve Resolution 45-19, Council Member Okerberg seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Public Works Director Skov requested approval of Resolution 46-19 to approve the bids and award contract for the Buexler Park Stormwater Project. Five companies were invited to submit quotes for this small project. Bids were received from four companies, the lowest responsible bidder was JJD Companies, LLC with bid of \$94,457.00. The quote form omitted 234 tons of 1 ½ inch rock and 586

square yards of geotextile fabric so none of the quotes included these items. The additional cost was negotiated with JJD companies for an additional \$6,71.50, for project cost total \$101,28.50. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve Resolution 46-19, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Public Works Director Skov presented Resolution 47-19 for approval. This is concurrence with Steele County to accept the bids and award contracts for the Rose Street and Oak Avenue Improvements, City Project N. 16006. Two bids were received, the lowest responsible bidder was Interstate Improvements, Inc. with combined bid of \$2,583,182.51: \$2,143,012.43 for the Rose Street Project and \$440,170.08 for the Oak Avenue Improvements; the City will be pay 25% of project costs. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve Resolution 47-19, council Member Okerberg seconded the motion. Council Member Voss asked when these projects would be completed, Skov responded the Oak Avenue Project is planned within the next few weeks and unsure when the Rose Street Project is currently projected due because of construction delays due to rainy weather. Council Member Svenby asked if the project on Rose Street could be done when school was not in session, Skov commented he would check into that. With no additional comments, all members vote aye to approve Resolution 47-19.

Interim Park Director Klecker presented the 2019 Deer Management Proposal. This was tabled during the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting with request to add Mineral Springs Park and increase the participation fee to compensate non-employee staff. Mineral Springs Parks was included several years ago and not during the last two years. Staff recommends adding this site during the 2019 second season; current DNR reports show Owatonna at high density deer population with estimate of 7-11 deer per square mile and the DNR goal is to have 6 deer per square mile. Mayor Kuntz commented Barbara Judd has contacted him opposed to adding this site. Klecker advised staff has received calls supporting this park be added and have also received calls asking this site not be added. Council Member Schutz commented he has received several calls supporting addition of Mineral Springs Park. Council Member Raney said he has also received calls in support of this and request to add another type of weapon. Council Member Dotson commented he has also been asked to add crossbows. City Administrator Busse stated staff can review this request further. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve the 2019 Deer Management Proposal, Council Member Okerberg seconded the motion. Council Member Svenby requested clarification that the amended plan will include Mineral Springs Park for only the second season and the participation fee will increase to \$20. Klecker confirmed these changes and advised staff will contact the DNR to review number counts after the hunt. With no additional comments, all members voted aye for approval.

During Staff Comments, Public Works Director Skov staff is needing dry pavement to complete their painting project. Interim Park Director Klecker said attendance at the water park, golf course and beach area have been low because of damp/cool weather, hoping for some hot sunny days to see a lot of activity. Construction to develop the soccer complex on Rice Lake Street has begun.

During Public Comments, Roger Wacek, 646 E Vine Street, read passage from the “Uninhabitable Earth: by David Wallace-Wells, an article giving a worst-case scenario of what might happen in the near-future due to global warming. Wacek believes two things are guaranteed: global warming and an annual increase in property taxes to cover costs. Wacek has asked the city to not use herbicides for several years as way to reduce costs. Mr. Wacek requested detail of all costs incurred during 2018 for fertilizers and herbicides and a detailed report showing costs to operate the city owned water park. Council Member

Dotson asked these reports to be prepared prior to the next council meeting. John Havelka, 1580 Woodcrest, President of the Early Edition Rotary Club thanked the City, Steele County and other organization for their donations supporting the annual 4th of July Fireworks display.

During Council Comments, Council Member Raney said he wasn't sure how the first-year pollinator plants at Lake Kohlmier would look but they are very impressive. During the LMC Summer Conference, Council Member Raney met with Shane Zahrt, CGMC Lobbyist regarding possibility of a federal grant to finish the final segment of Hwy 14 to New Ulm. Raney also thanked everyone who contacted the railroads about repairs needed at the railroad crossings, the repairs should be completed within the next few weeks. Council Member Svenby said Steele County just sent a News Release advising traffic on 26th Street will change to the north lanes at the intersection of 26th Street and N Cedar, this joint county/city improvement project is on track to be completed by August 16th. Council Member Okerberg commented he has received calls about excessive speed on streets serving as detours for improvement projects; he asked everyone to slow down along alternative routes in residential areas where kids are playing. Okerberg also thanked Sandra Rickerl for 43+ years of service to the City, Sandy will be retiring at the end of the month. Council Member Dotson wished everyone a "Happy Fourth of July". Council Member Burbank also wished everyone a safe Fourth of July with a reminder to display the United State Flag. Mayor Kuntz thanked Sky Warn for helping to keep everyone informed during the severe storm season; during the LMC Summer Conference, Mayor Kuntz realized the importance of signage and he would like to see new signs for the City Administration Building and Council Chambers; and then asked "Coffee with the Council" meetings be scheduled in each City Ward prior to next year's election. City Administrator Busse announced the City will receive a Pollinator Community Award during the Polli-Nation Festival in Minneapolis on August 25th. Council Member Raney asked staff organize a study session to review the City's assessment process. Council Member Schultz wished everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July Holiday!

At 7:31 p.m., Council Member Raney made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Dated: July 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist