

A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Fairfax, Minnesota was held on January 12th, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Community Center at 300 Park Street South.

Members: Brad Augustin, John Schaefer, Steve Schmidt, Josh Bunkers, Brad Bastian

Absent: None

Visitors: Nicholas Johnson, City Administrator
Joel Grejtak, Utilities Superintendent
Scott Froehlich, Chief of Police
Aaron Walton, City Attorney
Denise Bonsack, Standard Gazette & Messenger
Jim Cuff Les Minter
Louise Kiecker Tom Palmer
Dave Jerry
Charlie

The meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Oath of Office was administered and Brad Augustin, Mayor; Steve Schmidt, City Council Member; and John Schaefer, City Council Member were sworn in.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Schaefer to approve the agenda. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The consent agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Bastian to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
2. Consider Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 8th, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
 - b. December 8th, 2020 Special Council Meeting Minutes
3. Consider Approval of Claims for Payment
4. Consider Approval of POST Board Police Policy on Eyewitness Identification
5. Consider Approval of POST Board Police Policy on Shooting Ranges
6. Consider Approval of Pay Equity Report
7. Consider Adoption of Resolution Designating Official Depositories

**City of Fairfax
Resolution 2021-1**

Resolution Designating Official Depositories

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes set forth the procedure for the deposit of Public Funds and it is necessary for the City Council to annually designate the banks as the official depositories for the City funds and manage the collateral pledged to such funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax City Council does hereby designate the Frandsen Bank & Trust, First National Bank, and the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund as the City's official depositories for the current calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator of the City of Fairfax is hereby designated as the approval authority for the acceptance and release of all collateral to be held by the City in conjunction with City funds on deposit with authorized institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Administrator of the City of Fairfax is hereby designated as the authority to designate additional depositories for investment purposes.

Adopted by the City Council this 12th day of January, 2021.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

The public hearing on the proposed amendment to City Code 59 regulating rural service districts was opened. Tom Palmer, agricultural land owner within the city limits, voice desire to see the benefit ratio reduced to 35:100 rather than the proposed 21:50. The Council responded the amendment is aimed towards getting the rural and urban service district tax burden to what they were equivalent to in 2015 when the rural service was first introduced.

A motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Bastian to close the public hearing.

Ordinance 429, an ordinance amending City Code 59 regulating rural service districts, was reviewed. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Bastian to adopt Ordinance 429. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

City of Fairfax

Ordinance 429

An Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 59 Regulating Rural Service Districts

WHEREAS, the City previously adopted ordinances regulating rural service districts, which are now codified as City Code Chapter 59;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined an adjustment to the benefit ratio associated with rural service districts is desired;

WHEREAS, The City Council held a public hearing on the amendment of ordinance on the 12th day of January, 2021, duly published and advertised as required by State Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX ORDAINS:

City Code Chapter 59-6, Subd. C – Benefit Ratio; Tax Rate is hereby amended from a 1:2 ratio to a 21:50 ratio.

Adopted by the City Council this 12th day of January, 2021.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

The City Council reviewed the draft agreement between the City of Fairfax and the Fairfax Lions Club for use of a red storage building located in Lions Park. Members of the Fairfax Lions Club were present to discuss the matter with the City Council. The Lions Club asserted the verbal agreement in place was to be for 25 years of use since they are heavily involved in the community and have contributed much. They also utilize the income from the rental storage as a main source of revenue for their community efforts. The loss of the income would represent a large loss to their overall fundraising efforts. The Council expressed concern over insurance claims in the event of damage or loss of property directed at the City as well as the fact no other organization in the community has unilateral control over a City owned building. The consensus of the Council was to allow winter storage only from November 1st to March 31st by the Lions Club with City control the rest of the year. The agreement would end on October 31st, 2022 unless the Lions Club requested an extension from the City Council prior to expiration. The item was tabled until the agreement was updated for additional review.

A motion was made by Schaefer and seconded by Bastian to adopt Resolution 2021-2, a resolution for official designations. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

**City of Fairfax
Resolution 2021-2**

Resolution for Official Designations

Designation:

Acting Mayor/Mayor Pro-Tem
Emergency Management Director

Name:

Josh Bunkers
Scott Froehlich

Official Newspaper
Attorney

Standard-Gazette & Messenger
Aaron Walton – Civil & Criminal

Council Committees:

Infrastructure
City Facilities & Recreation
Law Enforcement
Personnel

Name:

John Schaefer & Steve Schmidt
Josh Bunkers & Steve Schmidt
Brad Augustin & Brad Bastian
Josh Bunkers & John Schaefer

Council Liaison to Boards:

HRA/EDA
RS Fiber Joint Powers Board

Name:

Brad Augustin
Steve Schmidt

Adopted by the City Council on this 12th day of January, 2021.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

Nicholas Johnson presented information on the potential for grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to reconstruct Third Avenue Southeast from First Street Southeast to Highway 4. The transition of the Fairfax Middle School to a mental health support facility represents a significant economic development project. The MNDOT Local Road Improvement Program would potentially fund up to \$1.25 million in street and storm sewer improvements for the Third Avenue Southeast section. Resolution 2021-3, a resolution supporting the pursuit of LRIP grant funding, was reviewed. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schaefer to adopt the resolution. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

City of Fairfax

Resolution 2021-3

Resolution Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program Funding From MNDOT For The Improvement of Third Avenue Southeast Between First Street Southeast and Minnesota Trunk Highway 4

Whereas, the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop (GFW) School District approved the closing of the Fairfax Middle School located at 300 Third Avenue Southeast; and,

Whereas, the GFW School District advertised and solicited bids for the sale of the property and found a successful bidder; and,

Whereas, the new property owner will be renovating the property to be a licensed mental health support facility supplying 75 to 100 beds; and,

Whereas, the renovation and use are a significant economic development project with projected job growth of approximately 1 job per bed, a large new taxable property from a formerly tax-exempt use, and significant user of utility resources; and,

Whereas, Third Avenue Southeast is the main street for traffic to and from the property and needs improvement for the safe and effective flow of traffic; and,

Whereas, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available funding to apply towards projects on local roads; and,

Whereas, the LRIP requires a City that is not a State Aid City to have a county sponsor and support of the county board.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Fairfax as follows:

1. The City Council hereby supports the reconstruction and upgrade of Third Avenue Southeast from First Street Southeast to Minnesota Trunk Highway 4; and
2. The City Council hereby supports the City's pursuit of LRIP funding and authorizes staff to prepare and submit such application for reconstruction of Third Avenue Southeast from First Street Southeast to Minnesota Trunk Highway 4; and
3. The City Council hereby seeks the support by resolution of Renville County to act as Sponsor for the City of Fairfax's Local Road Improvement Program funding application and the associated project development for the reconstruction of Third Avenue Southeast, and furthermore the City Council hereby provides assurance that the City of Fairfax will pay all costs associated with the project and that the City staff will ensure that all aspects of the LRIP funding requirements are met and the project's schedule is adhered to.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Fairfax, Minnesota this 12th day of January, 2021.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator

Nicholas Johnson and Joel Grejtak presented information on the potential purchase of a used snowblower from the City of Fairmont. The unit is a 1997 WK800 SnowGo. The asking price from the City of Fairmont is \$20,000. The City would need to also install a conversion kit to mount the blower to existing equipment. The estimated cost is approximately \$3,000. A motion was made by Bunkers and seconded by Schmidt to approve the purchase of the snowblower from

the City of Fairmont and the necessary conversion kit. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The City Council discussed liquor license fees for 2021. Previously, the City Council approved a pro-rated amount in 2020 due to COVID restrictions placed upon those affected businesses by the State. A motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Bunkers to set the 2021 license fees for annual on-sale, off-sale, and Sunday liquor licenses to \$1.00 per license for each license holder for the duration of their upcoming license period. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

The discussion on detached building square footage requirements under the zoning ordinance was tabled.

Staff reports and financial information was received.

A motion was made by Schaefer and seconded by Bastian to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None voted against. The motion was carried.

Attest:

Mayor

City Administrator