

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW

April 1, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Joe Muehlbauer.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Joe Muehlbauer, Councilmembers Robert Bauer, Kevin Robinson, Crystal Kreklow, and Sarah Udvig.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy City Administrator/City Clerk Jenni Wida, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and Police Chief Todd Schwieger.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. City Council Minutes - March 18, 2024

B. Acknowledgement to Conduct a Raffle

C. Acknowledgement to Conduct a Raffle

D. Emergency Management Plan

E. Hiring Part-Time Firefighters- Contingent

F. 2024 Street Consortium Asphalt Maintenance

G. Police Department Retention Incentive – Non Union

H. Pioneer Days Fireworks Contract – Northern Lighter Pyrotechnics, Inc (NLP)

I. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

## **5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Trent Blake, 22816 Poppy Street, came forward and shared that he would like to discuss changing the City ordinance for being able to drive golf carts in town. He said that Ramsey, Oak Grove, and Isanti all allow golf carts in town and St. Francis allows essentially every other recreational vehicle other than golf carts. He noted that golf carts are much safer than ATVs and other similar vehicles. He added that if he were to be able to drive a golf cart to Casey's down the road it would be better for the environment than if he had to drive his diesel pickup truck. He explained that if they have the right amount of safety regulations in place for golf carts then they are just as safe as any other small vehicle. He shared that he spoke to Police Chief Schwieger on this matter. He noted that these golf carts have the same safety concerns as someone walking across the roads and the potential dangers associated with these golf carts being on the roads comes down to ownership of drivers being responsible. He added that he also has automobile insurance on his golf cart. He said the City can set this up with whatever safety features and requirements they want to have. He noted that the City charges a sticker fee for snowmobiles and recommended doing the same for golf carts.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked the Council's thoughts on this. He shared that there are some restrictions on other vehicles, such as ATVs.

Police Chief Schwieger explained that the restrictions depend on the type of road the vehicles are on. He stated that the City has an ordinance that allows them to oversee ATV use on streets that fall under the City's jurisdiction. He added that there are certain times when ATVs can be on the roads per the ordinance. He stated that the operators have to comply with all traffic laws and statues just as if they were operating a car. He noted that County roads are different as they are governed by the DNR.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared his concern with regulating this on County Road 9 and Bridge Street. Mr Blake shared that he does not believe they should be able to drive golf carts or other similar vehicles on a 55 MPH road.

Udvig said this is something they can look into. She noted the trouble that they have in the City is that they do not have jurisdiction over the main roads. She said if they create and pass an ordinance on this, it could still restrict people from going where they want to go as they have no control over what is allowed on County streets and roads.

Mr. Blake suggested allowing the golf carts to be able to drive on the sidewalks. Mayor Muehlbauer stated some of these may also be owned by the County.

Mr. Blake stated that some golf carts are allowed within the City. He asked if golf carts in the neighborhoods near the golf course are only allowed to drive to the golf course and back or if they are also allowed in the neighborhood. Mayor Muehlbauer shared that it is his understanding that these golf carts are only legally allowed to

drive directly to and from the golf course.

Bauer shared his support for this. He noted that he drives ATVs and golf carts a lot in Wisconsin and there they are able to cross county roads. He reiterated that he would be in support of relaxing the regulations on City streets. He said he is not in favor of requiring lights and blinkers. He noted that they need a softer government and to stop telling people what they can and cannot do within their neighborhoods.

Kreklow agreed with Bauer. She shared she does not see a reason that snowmobiles and ATVs would be allowed and not golf carts. She said she would support looking at an ordinance to allow this.

Robinson asked when the last time this was even looked at. He noted that this would be something that could be discussed at a Work Session. He asked if they did require a permit fee where this money would go. Mayor Muehlbauer said this would go to the General Fund.

Robinson said he would like to look at that to see what would be reasonable and unreasonable with Schwieger's input. He asked if anything that the City would put in place for this could supersede anything the County has in place. Schwieger shared that this would come down to the County Board; however, he believes that local jurisdictions could further prohibit or regulate but cannot lessen the regulations.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that he has no concerns with directing Staff to look into this. He shared his biggest concern is having to police the use of golf carts and having to cross major roadways.

Mr. Blake shared that in the city of Anoka, golf carts are allowed on the roads. He shared that the safety of this comes down to individuals. He reiterated that he would like to see these golf carts to be allowed in residential areas or on safe roads.

**6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE**

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Bottle Shop Fiber Optic Project**

Public Works Director Carpenter reviewed the Staff report concerning the fiber optic project at the Bottle Shop. He shared the low quote from Telcom Construction for \$76,245.21.

Robinson asked what was spent to run this line to the current City Hall building to the bottle shop. Carpenter shared that the amount spent in 2020 was around

\$40,000.

Carpenter shared the recommendation that Zayo would be the way to go. He noted they had talked about a VPN or other options; however, when the internet services goes down on a VPN it can take several hours to be repaired whereas Zayo will have it repaired within an hour.

Robinson asked if this was the plan that was originally proposed when they talked about the City Hall Fire Station. Carpenter said yes and explained that they set aside \$50,000 in two years of the CIP for this as they expected it to cost \$100,000.

Kreklow asked if this expense will be split between the Bottle Shop and Public Works and if the Bottle Shop will be able to support this. Carpenter said yes.

Bauer asked if they are tying the water tower with this when they go by it or if there will be another request in 2027 for the water. Carpenter explained that they are not tying this in right now, this request is only to keep the internet in the bottle shop for the time being. He said they have the money to tie in the water set assigned in 2027 and 2028 when they are working on this street.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared his frustration with the timing of this. He noted that they needed to run this line in 2020 and he is disappointed that they have to run this same line for a larger price tag. He acknowledged the need for this project.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: KREKLOW APPROVING THE LOW BID FROM TELCOM CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BOTTLE SHOP FIBER OPTIC PROJECT.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

#### B. Annual Audit Report

City Administrator Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report in regard to the annual audit and how the Council would like to receive the audit report in May. She asked if they would like the auditor to make the presentation in-person or over video. There would be a cost savings of \$500.00 if council were to chose the video option.

Bauer said he is in support of a video.

Kreklow shared she would prefer an in-person presentation as it can be interactive, and they can ask questions during the presentation. Udvig agreed.

Robinson stated that since there have not been any issues with past audits so he would be okay with a video presentation.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that he likes the in-person presentations for the interaction. He noted that the savings associated with a video rather than an in-

person presentation is a drop in the bucket considering the scale that they work at. He added that the in-person presentations are also helpful for the residents who attend this meeting.

Thunstrom said they will stick with an in-person presentation.

**10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NONE**

**11. REPORTS - NONE**

**12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks.

Robinson shared that the deadline for being in the Pioneer Days parade is approaching in May and signups can be made through the Chamber of Commerce website.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that he had discussed some Code issues with Staff. He asked about the turnout for the Citizens Academy. Schwieger said there were a few people.

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 15 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

April 17 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

April 27 - Spring Recycling Event 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Francis Police Department Citizens Academy - 6:00 pm

April 11

April 18

April 25

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

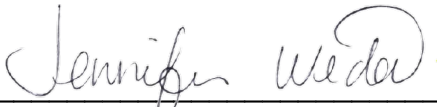
MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: ROBINSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 6:38 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Wida, City Clerk