

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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

October 21, 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 Kevin Robinson, Crystal Kreklow, Sarah Udvig, and Mark Vogel.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator-City Clerk Jenni Wida, Community Development Director Jessica Rieland, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Deputy Administrator-Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes - October 7, 2024

B. City Consent to Assignment of Towing Services

C. Accept Resignation of Captain Zach Goers and Authorization to Post for the Position of Training Captain (Part-time)

D. Stahl Construction – Pay Applications No. 13 – Labor & Material

E. Payment of Claims

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Muehlbauer asked City Clerk Wida if they had anyone wanting to speak. She said they did not.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Interim Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of Cannabis Businesses within the City and Establishing a Study Period - Second Reading
Ordinance 334 - Emergency Interim Ordinance prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses within the City and establishing a study period pursuant to Minnesota statutes section 342.13(e)

City Administrator Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report in regard to an interim ordinance request prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses and establishing a study period.

Mayor Muehlbauer opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

No one came forward to address the Council.

Mayor Muehlbauer closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Robinson asked how the sign change at the smoke shop came about. Thunstrom explained that after these signs were put up, it was found that these signs were outside of the zoning that they had been approved for. She noted they adjusted the signs to fit within the size parameters. She added that the City can regulate the size of these signs, not the content.

Robinson noted that the State law allows people with previous drug and marijuana convictions to have priority to get a cannabis license which he finds crazy. He asked if the City would get any preferential treatment if they wanted to open a cannabis operation. Thunstrom said she believes the City would be applying for the same license as everyone else and it would be an equal playing field. She added that if the City wanted to open a cannabis operation, it would still need to allow at least one other private retailer in the City.

Robinson asked if there was a deadline to apply for these licenses. Thunstrom said the applications that are being submitted currently are to allow cultivation of cannabis and it could be as late as March 2025 when applications for retail would open.

Thunstrom shared that they will be discussing at their upcoming Work Session whether or not the City would be interested in a municipal cannabis operation.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if allowing at least one cannabis retailer only refers to the high-potency products and if the low-potency products will be allowed in more places. Thunstrom said yes.

MOTION BY: VOGEL SECONDED: ROBINSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 334, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY AND ESTABLISHING A STUDY PERIOD PURSUANT TO STATE STATUTES - SECOND READING

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Muehlbauer aye

Councilmember Vogel aye

Councilmember Robinson aye

Councilmember Kreklow aye

Councilmember Udvig aye

Motion carried: 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Code Enforcement Extension Request

Community Development Director Rieland reviewed the Staff report concerning the request for an extension on a code enforcement action.

Paul Cook, the father of the property owner, came forward and shared that there was a garage fire at the property that they are taking care of and they are making progress on cleaning up the property.

Udvig asked if the timeline works for the applicant. Mr. Cook said the timeline is feasible, weather permitting.

Robinson shared that he drove by this property today and he can see that significant progress has been made to cleaning up the property. He added that he wants to have empathy for the property, as well as the neighbors. He noted they have given extensions to people in the past who have taken advantage of the City; however, he sees this request as reasonable.

MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECOND: UDVIG TO APPROVE THE CODE ENFORCEMENT EXTENSION UNTIL JANUARY 10, 2025 WITH AN ALTERNATE DATE OF MAY 1, 2025 FOR WEATHER-RELATED DELAYS.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NONE

11. REPORTS

A. Police Department - 3rd Quarter

Police Chief Schwieger reviewed the Police Department report for the third quarter of 2024. He shared that the third quarter was full of community events with events like Cone with a Cop, Stay Safe at Home for Kids, and National Night Out. He noted that calls for service increased from the second quarter for both reportable and non-reportable events, as well as cases that were referred to the investigator. He shared that officers conducted predatory offender compliance checks during the quarter to ensure the offenders were within statutory compliance. He stated they are continuing to prioritize traffic enforcement and staying proactive. He said officers stopped 979 vehicles over the third quarter, with 198 citations being issued. He gave an update on the Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths initiatives. He noted that vehicle fatalities have increased in comparison to this time last year. He shared upcoming events for the remainder of the year. He thanked all of his officers and Staff for all that they do for law enforcement and education within the City.

Robinson asked about calls for service from the schools. Schwieger said he does not have this data currently but will have it as part of his annual report. He noted that they have been getting called to the schools quite often this year. He added that communication continues to get better between the Police Department and the schools.

Robinson asked about the number of traffic stops versus the number of traffic citations. Schwieger noted that the officers are very discretionary and do not issue a citation with every stop and they focus on education.

Robinson added that the Department's involvement in the community never ceases to amaze him.

The Council thanked Schwieger and his Staff for all of their great work.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

October 24 - EDA Meeting - 6:00 pm

October 28 - City Council Work Session - 5:30 pm

October 29 - Public Works 2nd Annual Open House & Truck or Treat Event - 5:00 pm

October 30 - Parks Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

November 4 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

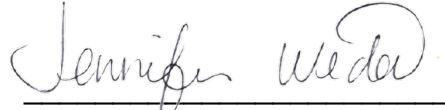
MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECOND: VOGEL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 6:22 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Wida". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk