

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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

November 04, 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, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Administrative Fire Captain Tim Kizer, Fire Captain Carl Johnson, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Liquor Store Manager Joe Pfeifer, and City Planner Beth Richmond (HKGi).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: ROBINSON 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 21, 2024

B. Embedded Systems Contract Renewal

C. Rink Management Agreement

D. Oak Grove Water/Wastewater Service and Purchase Agreement Request

E. Anoka County Recycling Agreement

F. Refuse Hauler License Application – Curbside Waste

G. Personnel Policy Updates

H. Residential Dog Kennel License Application

I. Conditional Offer of Employment – Facility Technician

J. Appointment Amendment

Resolution 2024-39 Resolution approving the appointments for 2024

K. Payment of Claims.

Robinson asked if the agreement in item D is a standalone agreement for this

development only and does not have an effect on future developments in Oak Grove. Public Works Director Carpenter said there was a park that was added to this agreement for future planning.

Robinson noted that he did not see anything about SAC and WAC charges in the agreement. Carpenter shared that these charges would be equivalent to what St. Francis residents are paying.

Carpenter noted that they always have St. Francis residents in mind first and this does not impede any ability to provide service to the St. Francis residents.

Vogel asked what kind of extra administrative fees went into coming up with the language for this agreement. He asked if there should be a surcharge on Oak Grove for this kind of work. Carpenter stated this was an old agreement that they updated and no surcharges were rolled in as they have not been in the past. He explained that Oak Grove's legal team reviews all of these agreements first before sending them over to St. Francis so there is minimal time invested in this by legal and administration.

MOTION BY: UDVIG 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

Stephanie Ewalls, 5120 241st Avenue, came forward and advocated for approval for the Rum River Preserve as a potential business owner going into this area. She shared that she attended the Planning Commission meeting as she has bought into the Scooter's Coffee franchise and hopes to bring their location to this area.

Renee Wedan, 23645 Undercliff Street NW, came forward and shared her deep concern for the potential dismissal for Jon Faanes from the St. Francis Fire Department. She explained that she was a part of the Fire Department for 12 years where she witnessed the impact of leadership and support, or lack thereof, on the wellbeing of the firefighters. She shared that she struggled with PTSD which she sustained while serving on the Fire Department and that Mr. Faanes was a beacon of support for her during this time. She stated Mr. Faanes' empathy and dedication stood in stark contrast to the leadership with the Fire Department, particularly with the leadership of Fire Chief Dave Schmidt. She explained that after discussing her situation with Fire Department leadership, she felt unheard and abandoned. She said the news of his potential termination is troubling to her, in light of the invaluable support Mr. Faanes has given to herself, other firefighters, and the community. She stated Mr. Faanes has dedicated a commitment to the department and its members which is essential in fostering a culture of safety and support. She noted that losing someone like Mr. Faanes would not only affect the morale of the other firefighters

but would further perpetuate an environment where mental health struggles continue to go unaddressed. She added that she is questioning the priorities of the department under current leadership. She said decisions like the installation of a new brass fire pole in the new building which serves little to no practical purpose raises concerns about how resources are being allocated. She noted that it seems as though there is a trend of silencing voices that challenge these decisions rather than engaging in meaningful dialogue to improve the fire service. She urged the Council to reconsider the implications of Mr. Faanes' dismissal and to advocate for leadership that prioritizes the mental health and safety of all firefighters.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Miscellaneous Special Assessments

Resolution 2024-38 Authorizing and directing certification of municipal utility services, maintenance of private property, administrative civil notice fees, and repair of leaks as a lien upon premises.

Finance Director Mulvihill reviewed the Staff report in regard to miscellaneous special assessments.

Mayor Muehlbauer opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m.

No one came forward to address the Council.

Mayor Muehlbauer closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

Vogel noted that there were roughly 800 people who were delinquent on the MS4 charges. He asked how this compares to other years. Mulvihill stated that this is less than what they certified last year.

Vogel asked about the process of these notices going out before the amounts are certified. Mulvihill explained that the first notice goes out on March 1 to be due on June 1. She added that they send a late notice when they begin processing the special assessments.

Robinson asked if the total amount to be assessed has changed much from last year. Mulvihill said no.

MOTION BY: VOGEL SECONDED: ROBINSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-38 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CERTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES, MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL NOTICE FEES, AND REPAIR OF LEAKS AS LIEN UPON PREMISES.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE**A. Ambassador Donation Request**

City Administrator Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report concerning the Ambassador's donation request.

Robinson stated this donation will come from the Liquor Store fund and is a way of giving back to the community.

Kreklow shared that she is in favor of this because of all of the work the Ambassadors do for the City.

Vogel said he is not in favor of this because he does not see donating to the Ambassadors as a function of government. He read a section from a newsletter from the League of Minnesota Cities that talked about what cities should know about making donations and stated that cities cannot give away public funds as donations. He said he has no issue with the work of the Ambassadors; however, he does not support using public money as a donation.

Udvig shared she fully supports the Ambassadors as they are a great representation of the City in different areas.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that he agreed with Vogel that this is not the government's responsibility or a function of the government.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECONDED: KREKLOW TO APPROVE A DONATION TO THE ST. FRANCIS AMBASSADORS.

Ayes: Kreklow, Udvig, and Robinson.

Nays: Vogel and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Motion carries: 3-2

B. Compensation Study

Mulvihill reviewed the Staff report in regard to the compensation study which was conducted by Abdo Solutions.

Michael Mooney, Abdo Solutions, came forward and reviewed the findings and recommendations from the compensation study.

Robinson asked what the cost of the COLA, plus this implementation cost proposed would be. He stated he would like to move this item to the upcoming Work Session to allow the Council more time to discuss this as it is a lot of information. He asked how long the study is good for. Mr. Mooney said the plan can last five to ten years as long as it is maintained.

Kreklow agreed that she would like to see this moved to the Work Session to allow more time for discussion.

Vogel agreed. He asked if the next steps were included in the contract. Mr. Mooney said yes and explained that all training and implementation are included in the contract.

Vogel asked if these numbers have been reviewed by Mulvihill. Mulvihill said yes and noted that around \$20,000 of the implementation cost could come from the general fund, and the rest would come from the enterprise fund.

Udvig was in agreement with moving the discussion to the Work Session.

Robinson asked if they got information from all the cities they reached out to for this study. Mr. Mooney said yes.

MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECONDED: ROBINSON TO ACCEPT THE COMPENSATION STUDY AND TABLE THE DISCUSSION OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE UPCOMING WORK SESSION MEETING.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Separation of Employment- Firefighter Jon Faanes

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report concerning the separation of employment request for firefighter Jon Faanes.

Mr. Faanes came forward and shared that he is saddened to have to be in front of the Council for this matter. He stated he has been a firefighter for 21 years and has been on the St. Francis Fire Department for 14 of those years. He explained that he has a ten-page paper that he had planned on reading this evening; however, he does not feel as though he should 'air the dirty laundry' to the public. He noted that he wished there was a Human Resources Department within the Fire Department. He shared that since Chief Schmidt has been in charge of the Fire Department, it has changed the way they operate and respond to calls. He explained that the classification between a day firefighter and a night firefighter has changed and has taken a toll on the night firefighters as they have to respond to every call. He noted that there is an individual who at one time accounted for 6% of their calls for service and Chief Schmidt stated in an email that they will no longer be counting this as an all-call. He said there are a lot of numbers that do not make sense and have conflicting information. He added that he does not know where he can find a copy of the personnel policy. He shared that he has requested a list of what calls he has gone on and not gone on. He said it is very hard to figure out if these calculations are correct. He noted that he has an email from June 2024 showing the percentage of calls he went on as 9% for the month of April and 24% for May, and when he received the same email in July, it showed 8% for April and 21% for May. He noted he was not able to get an answer or verification on how these numbers changed. He explained that when they moved from the old fire

station to the new one, there were two months where they never signed signature sheets showing what days they were there, and the responsibility was on the officer who was there to record who was there. He asked the Council if he could provide them with the ten-page letter he has prepared along with documentation of the inaccuracies that are going on.

Robinson said they have never had a situation like this before and do not know the best way to go about this.

Mayor Muehlbauer said they do not want this to turn into an argument or back and forth.

Kreklow asked what the grievance process would be for this situation and how this would play out with the decisions made this evening. Thunstrom explained that the personnel policy can be found at City Hall, and it could have been requested by anyone on the leadership team. She shared that she has sent several emails over the last few days on the grievance process, which would include a written request for a grievance with a minimum of 21 days from the initial grievance.

Vogel shared that there are always two sides to every story, and he does not see termination in this situation. He noted the fire stations for Nowthen and East Bethel are in disarray and are facing a lack of firefighters. He stated Mr. Faanes is a fully trained firefighter who wants to be a firefighter, and he does not feel as though termination is the right move at this point. He said he would like to discuss this more in-depth at a Work Session.

Mayor Muehlbauer noted that personnel items are not handled at Work Sessions.

Udvig said there is a lot of back and forth in this situation and it is hard to decipher what is really happening. She asked how many firefighters are actually able to meet the required number of calls. She added that there is still some information that is missing that would be helpful for consideration.

Schmidt shared that this request is not personal in any way. He explained that they have a policy that states each firefighter has to make 20% of their calls per quarter. He noted that he has been with the Fire Department for seven years and he has never had to fire anyone. He shared that for the first quarter of 2024, Mr. Faanes made 17% of his calls and was given a reprimand on April 17 letting him know his calls were below the percentage they needed to be and laid out the process if his numbers continue to be too low. He added that Mr. Faanes' calls for the second quarter was 18% which led to him being placed on suspension on July 17. He noted that for the second quarter, Mr. Faanes was also short on his training hours. He shared that his calls for the third quarter were 16% when he was placed on administrative leave after hitting the third occurrence of the attendance policy. He said this is what is laid out in the policy for attendance. He explained that they did an audit of all Fire Departments in Anoka County on what their attendance

requirements are and they found that St. Francis remains the lowest for attendance policy within the County. He shared that the department average for St. Francis is around 32%. He acknowledged that there are challenges in everyone's lives that can make this job difficult. He noted that while other departments are struggling with having enough firefighters, they have never had this high of recruitment. He shared that firefighters do get monthly updates to show where they are at with their attendance, and they can discuss with leadership at this time if they have any questions.

Robinson asked how many firefighters are currently on Staff. Schmidt said they have 27.

Robinson asked if any other firefighters had gotten to this point before. Schmidt shared that they have had a handful of firefighters over the last seven years that have had a reprimand for a quarter or went on suspension after two quarters; however, they have never had anyone be below their required attendance for three consecutive quarters within a 12-month period of time. He added that firefighters can also take personal or medical leave during which they would not be held to the same attendance standards.

Robinson asked if Human Resources or Administration had been reached out to about this matter. Thunstrom said no.

Mr. Faanes shared that Schmidt had told the firefighters that if they went to City Staff or Council about anything negative within the department they would be reprimanded or terminated. He noted that there was a firefighter in the past who made a comment to the Council which resulted in her being placed on suspension for 45 days.

Schmidt explained that if firefighters have a grievance or a concern, they follow the chain of command and report anything to the station officers or the Fire Chief. He stated the suspension Mr. Faanes mentioned was not directly related to this person going to the Council with concerns.

Mr. Faanes shared that he was aware of the 20% requirement when he was hired; however, he was also considered a night firefighter. He shared that they used to have a rescue sign-up which would have people sign up to take medical calls from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 24 hours over the weekends and these types of medical calls would not go towards the entire department. He explained that it is hard for him with the changes that have been made since he was hired.

Schmidt stated that when he joined the Fire Department in 2017, there were no attendance requirements and there was a firefighter on the roster who had not made a call in over a year.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if this has been in effect for seven years, and why the

issue with meeting percentages has only started recently. Mr. Faanes explained that his day job has changed as he used to do local lawn care and now, he has a job on the road. He said he is not around to take any kind of daytime calls.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if a firefighter responds to a call, but they get turned away if they still get credit for responding. Schmidt said yes.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if anyone could speak on Mr. Faanes' claim that he was denied documentation when it was requested. Administrative Fire Captain Kizer shared the email where Mr. Faanes requested his call percentages as well as the spreadsheets for the whole department on a monthly basis. He shared that he responded to this request by saying he would not send spreadsheets for every single person as it would be very time-consuming.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if there are any other firefighters who were also having an attendance issue. Schmidt said no.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked what makes St. Francis the lowest in the county for their attendance rates. Schmidt explained that most other departments have an attendance percentage of 25% to 35%. He noted that some departments also allow firefighters to sign out for a certain period of time and added that they have looked into this kind of model. He stated the system that they have seems to be working and if there are any concerns brought to leadership's attention then they are addressed and worked through.

Mr. Faanes added that since Schmidt has taken over the department, ten firefighters have left due to call volume and would have ended up getting fired if they did not leave.

Udvig asked what steps are offered to firefighters who are not meeting their attendance percentages. Schmidt explained that they have a lot of flexibility on the training side for those hours. He noted they have an online training platform as well which helps make training hours easier. He shared that they always offer solutions to anyone who asks for them, whether it has to do with attendance or training requirements. He added that they encourage people to advocate for themselves. Kizer said that they also have other ways that they can award hours, for events like the French Toast Breakfast.

Vogel shared that the emails in the packet do not include any options to appeal these numbers as Mr. Faanes has made it clear from the beginning that he has questions about these numbers. He asked if there was more communication that was taking place orally that there is no record of. Schmidt explained that these reprimands are delivered in person, and he cannot speak to what was said in each one of these conversations. He reiterated that they do not take any of this lightly and they are following the process that is laid out in their policies.

Kreklow asked when the Fire Department policy changes went into effect. Schmidt said they went into effect in 2020.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked Mr. Faanes what he meant by disagreeing with the percentage calculations. Mr. Faanes explained that his emails from June and July show different percentages of calls that he reported for April and May and it is inconsistent and unclear what his actual numbers really were.

Kizer explained that these numbers could have changed due to slight discrepancies in the data that needed to be updated. He shared that these numbers can occasionally change if he catches a mistake that was made in the calculation.

Mayor Muehlbauer said the most important thing to him is that when residents call 911 needing help, someone shows up to help them. He noted that Mr. Faanes did make a choice to change day jobs which has caused him to be out of town more often. He shared that when he became Mayor, he had to give up certain things in order to be able to attend these meetings.

Mr. Faanes shared that he has been a firefighter for 21 years and has sacrificed time with his family to do this as he appreciates the opportunity to give back to the community. He said he does not do this as a way to get rich and does it solely to help the community. He noted that if he can be there to respond to a call for service to help a fellow resident on their worst days, he wants to be there to do that.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked what the process would look like if they were to continue this item to get more information. Thunstrom explained that they could continue this and call a Special meeting, or they could continue it to the next Council meeting. She noted that Staff would need to know what additional information the Council is looking for before they can make their decision.

Vogel asked if there is any other additional information that they had not been provided that was written communication or if the only communication they had not been presented with was communicated orally. Schmidt said the only other documentation that was not provided as part of the packet was the intent to terminate documentation.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECONDED: UDVIG TO APPROVE THE SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT WITH FIREFIGHTER JON FAANES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT POLICY.

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

Nays: Vogel

Motion carries: 4-1

B. Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 6 – Section 13 Taxicabs - First Reading

Ordinance 335 - Removing the taxicab ordinance in city code chapter 6-31
Taxicabs

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report in regard to the request to remove the taxicab ordinance from City Code.

Kreklow asked if removing this still allows for driving services such as Uber and Lyft. Thunstrom said yes and explained that they currently do not have any regulations for Uber or Lyft.

MOTION BY: VOGEL SECONDED: KREKLOW TO THE ADOPT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - CHAPTER 6 - SECTION 13 TAXICABS - FIRST READING. ORDINANCE 335 - REMOVING THE TAXICAB ORDINANCE IN CITY CODE CHAPTER 6-31 TAXICABS.

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

C. Rum River Preserve of St. Francis PUD - First Reading

Ordinance 336 establishing the Rum River Preserve of St. Francis PUD at 3505
Bridge St NW with findings as presented by Staff

City Planner Richmond reviewed the Staff report concerning the Rum River Preserve PUD.

Vogel asked about the standalone apartments on Bridge Street. Richmond explained that standalone apartments are currently not permitted as a use in the B-1 district, while mixed use apartments that have a commercial or office component are allowed.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked who would be responsible for maintaining the trails. Richmond stated the trails throughout the development will be the developer's responsibility.

Vogel asked if there would be additional signage other than the signages on the buildings. Richmond explained that there have been no requests to have any flexibility for the City's current sign code.

Vogel asked if it is in the code that restaurants will drive-thrus must also have a dine-in component. Richmond said these businesses could be drive-thru only.

Grady Kinghorn, CEO of Kinghorn Construction, came forward and shared that

every business with a drive-thru will also have a seating area inside. He added that they will also have their signage on the buildings.

Robinson asked if the County has reviewed and commented on the traffic and access for this development. Richmond shared that the County has reviewed this, and they do not have any concerns.

Robinson asked if they will be able to see how the first two drive-thru work out before they approve a third. Richmond explained that since they do not have final plans for all of the phases, they are looking at the PUD as they see it today with an accommodation to add a third drive-thru in a later phase.

Mr. Kinghorn shared that in the packet they have circulation for traffic of all kinds for the project planned out and this plan is working really well at their project in Anoka. He stated that if they cannot do all three drive-thrus then they would not want to move forward with any of them. He explained that they have worked with Staff a lot on this project, and they are fixated on having these drive-thrus as they have become the norm since COVID-19.

Robinson asked if the third drive-thru is a sure thing. Community Development Director Rieland shared that the phase two design had some concerns with the commercial building not facing Bridge Street and the impacts of having the third drive-thru. She noted that since they are focusing on the first phase, the details of the second phase are being pushed to be discussed along with the second phase. She added that the Planning Commission and Staff have said the third drive-thru would be dependent on the success of the first two drive-thru. She said it is hard to guarantee anything as it will come down to the Planning Commission's review and recommendations, and the Council's final decision based on what happened in phase one.

Mr. Kinghorn explained that the entrance from the south has a median on it so there are two lanes going into the property and one lane coming out. He explained that the reason this is so long is because they provided enough distance for these types of drive-thru businesses.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECONDED: VOGEL TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 336 - FIRST READING, ESTABLISHING THE RUM RIVER PRESERVE OF ST. FRANCIS PUD AT 3505 BRIDGET STREET NW WITH FINDINGS AS PRESENTED BY STAFF.

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

D. Preliminary Grading Agreement Rum River Preserve of St. Francis

Rieland reviewed the Staff report concerning the preliminary grading agreement for the Rum River Preserve.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECONDED: KREKLOW TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AND WAIVER REGARDING PRE-APPROVAL GRADING OF THE PUD KNOWN AS RUM RIVER PRESERVE OF ST. FRANCIS CONTINGENT ON CITY ATTORNEY'S APPROVAL.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

E. Special Meeting to Canvass Election Results

City Clerk Wida shared the request for Special meeting on November 12 to canvass the election results for the municipal election.

MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECONDED: ROBINSON TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING TO CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER 12 AT 5:30 P.M.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Jon Faanes came forward and submitted his letter and documentation showed that he had tried to communicate with Schmidt about his attendance matter.

Trenton Trovik, 23462 University Avenue, came forward and shared concerns about the special assessment he had received. He shared that he had an inspection done at this property and started the process of abandoned property for the items on his property that do not belong to him.

Thunstrom shared that the Council has already taken action on this item and if there are any other questions, Rieland will be able to answer anything related to code enforcement.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if there is an appeals process that someone can follow for these assessments. Thunstrom explained this would have been a part of this evening's public hearing.

Assistant City Attorney Schaps explained that this item has already been approved and if they would like to discuss it, it will need to be reopened.

MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECONDED: VOGEL TO REOPEN THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AT 23462 UNIVERSITY AVENUE.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

Rieland explained that this property has been an ongoing process for over a year. She shared that she suggested dividing this property into zones to help the property owner make progress in each zone to help meet the deadlines. She said they are following the process, and the property owner has received five offenses.

Mr. Trovik explained that the first notice he received was the final notice and he did not receive the five offenses Rieland is speaking of.

Kreklow shared that when they discussed this last year, there was a plan in place to get the property cleaned up over a certain time period. She asked if the plans that were originally negotiated for the cleanup had been followed. Mr. Trovik explained that the original plan was for him to haul off a certain amount of scraps every week. He shared that he has started the 28-day process of abandoned property for the items on his property that are not his and he is not able to do anything with them until after the 28 days are up.

Kreklow asked if there is any documentation for starting the process of abandoned property that he was advised to go through. She added that the responsibility is on him as the property owner to clean up the junk on his property whether it belongs to him or not. Rieland said they can put together the email correspondence which shows all that was communicated.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if everything remaining on the property belonged to someone other than Mr. Trovik. He said that when they originally gave him a timeline of having the property cleaned up by February of 2024 it seemed unreasonable, and they extended it to June and this is still not taken care of. Mr. Trovik said that he still has a few scrap cars on his property.

Rieland explained that code enforcement is beginning again on this property as the deadline has passed, the cleanup was not complete during this time, and the property is still out of compliance.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked Mr. Trovik if he ever came into Staff to talk to them about not being able to meet the deadline. Mr. Trovik said he emailed Staff as soon as he got the notice of the special assessment.

Udvig asked if Staff has been able to get ahold of Mr. Trovik when they needed to. Rieland stated that code enforcement has been in touch with Mr. Trovik frequently.

Mulvihill noted that when they were sending out the special assessments, she was told to send it to two different addresses for Mr. Trovik, the address that he lives at and the address on the property tax records.

Mayor Muehlbauer stated his biggest issue with this is that they have done all they can to work with the property owner and get the deadline extended to be realistic, yet there has been excuse after excuse as to why it has not been taken care of. He noted that everyone has to be accountable for their own actions.

Kreklow noted if all that was left on the property were the items that belonged to someone else, then this would maybe be different; however, some of Mr. Trovik's items are still on the property and have not been taken care of that was supposed to be done months ago.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECONDED: MAYOR MUEHLBAUER TO CLOSE THIS ITEM.

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

Nays:

None

Motion carries: 5-0

Renee Wedan, 23645 Undercliff Street NW, came forward and asked for clarification on whether or not City employees are allowed to speak to Council without being reprimanded. Udvig explained that if the chain of command has been followed and there has been no resolution, then employees are able to speak to the Council.

Jason Wedan, 23645 Undercliff Street NW, came forward and noted that Kizer mentioned that there can be human error in the reporting of the attendance for firefighters. He noted that the difference of one extra call per quarter could have increased this to 20%. Mayor Muehlbauer said it would be irresponsible of him to comment on this as he does not have all of this information.

Mr. Wedan asked if they fired someone with over 20 years of experience over something that was possibly a human error. Robinson explained that there was a lack of communication and correction after Mr. Faanes was reprimanded.

Mr. Wedan said he would rather have someone with 20 years of experience show up for a fire or EMS call than someone new who shows up to every call and does not have the experience. He said there should be some kind of better software in place for reporting.

11. **REPORTS**

A. Public Works Quarterly Report

Carpenter reviewed the quarterly report for Public Works. He reviewed the water and wastewater usage for the quarter and shared that they have serviced all seven

generators. He added that they also replaced a 12-inch meter at the largest lift station and River's Edge and rebuilt the retaining walls at the Royal Oaks lift station. He shared that Staff is continuing to work with the MPCA concerning the chloride limits in the water. He stated they have seen an increase in pump plugging in one particular lift station on Arrowhead. He noted that this lift station has been plugged nine times since July. He said they will be sending notifications to all residents who use this lift station. He shared that they removed 117 trees, and 139 trees planted in parks throughout the City. He stated they will be watering these trees through June of 2026. He noted that the dog park was completed this summer and there were roughly 40 dogs at the leash cutting event and the dog park remains quite busy. He added that there were two recycling events this summer, one in July and one in September. He noted that they have added a compost site at Public Works. He explained that the storm events in late August helped Public Works refine its response and procedures during these kinds of storm events. He thanked Staff, the Fire Department, and the Police Department for their help with the response to this storm. He thanked all Public Works employees for everything that they were able to accomplish this summer with more jobs being added as time went on.

Vogel asked if the compost site is open 24/7. Carpenter shared that it is inside the Public Works facility, and they will be setting it out for recycling events and hope to evolve as time goes on.

Robinson asked if the dog park has remained clean and dog owners are self-policing and cleaning up after their pets. Carpenter said yes and that the residents have been amazing at cleaning up after their dogs and the park has remained extremely clean.

Council thanked Carpenter for his report and the great work by him and his crew.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events. They encouraged the residents to go out and vote tomorrow.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5 - Election Day
November 11 - City Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day
November 12 - City Council Special Meeting/Work Session
November 16 - Recycling Event 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
November 18 - City Council Meeting
November 20 - Planning Commission Meeting

14. CLOSED MEETING

Move into closed meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.03, Subd. 1(b), for the purposes of considering strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation

strategies or developments or discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECONDED: KREKLOW TO MOVE TO CLOSED MEETING.

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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

The meeting closed at 8:31 p.m.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECONDED: KREKLOW TO REOPEN THE MEETING.


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

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 8:52 p.m.



Jennifer Wida, City Clerk