

City of North Saint Paul
June 15, 2021
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Mayor Furlong

Staff: City Engineer Morgan Dawley, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Administrative Assistant Lisa Ritchie, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Furlong requested that Reports of City Manager Item A - City Manager's Resignation be moved to Council Business Action Item A.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as amended.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Washington County Transit Study

City Engineer Morgan Dawley welcomed representatives from Washington County Public Works who presented a summary of a recent transit operations study for Highway 36. He added the City of North St. Paul is considered a stakeholder in this process. He noted several meetings were held, and public engagement coordinated by County Public Works staff as well as City Communications staff, and constituents took part in the process.

Washington County Public Works Planner Emily Jorgensen stated she serves as the Project Manager for the transit feasibility study to review possible future transit improvements between Minneapolis and Stillwater. She introduced Assistant Project Manager Joe Ayers-Johnson. Mr. Ayers-Johnson gave a presentation on the transit study to determine the feasibility of providing better transit options for the Highway 36 corridor to the Stillwater area.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson stated the purpose of the study was to identify transit needs and provide recommendations that reflect current corridor needs as well as anticipated future goals and objectives. The study included ongoing efforts by City technical advisory working groups and operations groups, including participation by City Engineer Morgan Dawley and Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson stated goals were identified during early phases of the study that would address transit issues along the corridor. There has been a lot of residential growth in the corridor, but there are some communities that will not experience increased population. Public engagement with businesses, government agencies, and other organizations was conducted along the Highway 36 corridor, including virtual meetings with city partners. An online questionnaire received 1,200 responses from people living and working along the corridor, with 73% of respondents expressing an interest in transit. Some of the reasons that were given were congestion on Highway 36, improving mobility, and improving the convenience of travelling without a car.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson stated the study results showed a need for east/west transit travel through the Highway 36 corridor, and the need for transit within the Stillwater area.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson reviewed transit options that were studied for this corridor – bus rapid transit (BRT); express bus and Park & Ride service; local express bus; regular route service buses with more space between stops; and on-demand public transit. He added on-demand transit is an emerging service type, on-call transit within a set region with reliable fare rates. He noted this option can be successful in areas where fixed route options are not successful or sustainable.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson stated four transit scenarios are being considered that vary based on the eastern terminus of the bus rapid transit. He reviewed the four scenarios: Rice Street to Minneapolis; Maplewood Mall to Minneapolis; Hadley Avenue to Minneapolis; and Stillwater to Minneapolis. He stated these scenarios are relatively comparable in terms of ridership and costs, but the second scenario had the highest projected ridership. He added the farther east the transit goes, the higher the operational costs. He noted the purpose of the study was to assess feasibility, and it is not yet clear which scenario would be the best fit.

Ms. Jorgensen stressed the importance of acknowledging current context and challenges, as municipalities are experiencing financial challenges and constraints due to Covid, as well as changes to the transit market. She added it is unclear whether Park & ride will ever return to pre-Covid levels. She noted the study was fully funded by Washington County, and moving forward, it will be critical to have funding support from partners, including other counties, the Met Council and Metro Transit.

Ms. Jorgensen thanked the City Council for allowing the Planners the opportunity to give their presentation, even though North St. Paul is not located in Washington County. She added the planning group would like to know what the City Council's initial reaction is to bringing transit to Highway 36, and whether the recommendations and scenarios align with the transit needs of North St. Paul.

Council Member Thorsen stated a recent Minneapolis *Star Tribune* article stated that 7.6 million people used transit services between January - March, 2019, which represents a 56% decline from 17.3 million users for the same time period in 2020. He added the North Star Line, which runs from Minneapolis to Big Lake, saw a 95% decrease in ridership. He asked how this project

compares to the North Star Line in terms of ridership. He asked how existing projects are being evaluated.

Ms. Jorgensen stated the North Star Line is a commuter rail, operating on a track that railroads still use, so there is an agreement about how many trips they are allowed make. This creates problems with directional service, which is why the Twin Cities has moved away from heavy rail to light rail where ridership is better. The service that is faring the best is arterial bus rapid transit, which is less costly than light rail or dedicated BRT. It is not clear whether ridership will ever rebound to pre-pandemic levels, but toward the end of the year, ridership is expected to continue to grow.

Mayor Furlong thanked the Washington County representatives for their presentation.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2021-059 consisting of:

- A. June 1, 2021 workshop meeting minutes.
- B. June 1, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
- C. May 26, 2021 closed meeting minutes.
- D. June 1, 2021 closed meeting minutes.
- E. General accounts payable: \$318,429.59

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl stated there was a workshop item today related to a change in the City Code that deals with parking in the right of way. He added what has not been mentioned is the issue of snowplows in the winter. He added does not recommend changing the 10-foot limitation from the curb or edge of the road. He noted this was a recommendation to the Planning Commission four years ago, to not have any setback limitations in the right of way.

Mayor Furlong requested that City Planner Eric Zweber make a note of this issue, to be reviewed later under the Planning Commission items.

Dave Nelson stated he would like to promote WaterFest at Lake Phalen, to be held June 19-27, 2021. He added he will have a booth there from the 19th-25th, and he will be raffling off seven bluebird houses worth \$60 each, as well as suet feeders, with a special suet formula. He noted he is one of Minnesota's North Metro Master Naturalists.

Jack LeTourneau stated he wanted to talk about Scott Duddeck. He added he has been in town since 1974, with a garage on Main Street, and they have been taking care of the City's police cars for many years. Mr. Duddeck is a very good man, and he is a true citizen of North St. Paul. He puts in countless hours and wears a lot of hats. Mr. Duddeck is very dedicated, and there is no way he would ever do anything underhanded to this town. Mr. Duddeck has spent many hours, unpaid, helping the town, and he absolutely saves the City by knowing so much. He urged the City Council to take a good look at the situation before changing Mr. Duddeck's status. There are many projects going on, and many things evolving, and Mr. Duddeck should still be a part of it.

Mimi Miller stated she has lived in North St. Paul her whole life. Many of her neighbors and former neighbors are at tonight's meeting. She added she would like to speak about Scott Duddeck. There is a Facebook page called "City of North St. Paul News and Updates" that is very biased against Mr. Duddeck. She has learned that the Facebook page is not run by the City, but many people probably assume that it is an official City webpage, and the City should look into that.

Ms. Miller stated Mr. Duddeck has worked for the City of North St. Paul for over 30 years. She added she has worked with him on many different projects and has always had a lot of respect for him. She noted she finds it very hard to believe that something like this was intentional on his part. She asked that the City Council follow the rule "innocent until proven guilty".

Linda Zick stated she is a real friend of Scott Duddeck. She added she and her husband did the food shelf for 15 years, and if they ever needed something from Mr. Duddeck, he was there to help out. He is an individual that gives 150% no matter what he does, whether he was a firefighter, or working in Public Works, or any of the projects he has worked on. He is Mr. North St. Paul.

Ms. Zick stated she has a grievance against (Council Member Thorsen). It is (Council Member Thorsen's) website that has started all this, just like he did to the previous Mayor, and he also did it to the former Police Chief. You are a bully, and I will say it to your face. I am very angry that people will listen to this man, and that is my real concern.

Sue Springborn, 2573 13th Avenue, spoke in support of Scott Duddeck. She praised him for all the things he has done for North St. Paul. She stated she does not think people realize all the things he has done for the City. She has been here for 76 years, and the City was dying, and Mr. Duddeck helped developers get what they needed to get their projects pushed through – the Anchor Block site, the new apartments, and all the new development downtown. She added she does not believe any of that development would have occurred without Mr. Duddeck's perseverance. Our community is richer because of all the things we have, and it would have been very difficult to get things done without Mr. Duddeck. He is a gift to the community. Everyone makes mistakes, including herself, and all the City Council Members.

Ms. Springborn stated, if Scott is watching, thank you for everything you have done for us.

Bob VanCanneyt, 17th Avenue, stated he has questions for Council Member Thorsen. He stated the City Council and Mayor are elected by the general public, and they work for the businesses and residents to help move the community along. There are many committees with various duties. He added he heard that Council Member Thorsen resigned from all the committees upon which he serves. He noted Council Member Thorsen will not know what is going on, nor stay in touch with the general public and local businesses, if he is not involved in any City business.

Council Member Thorsen stated he resigned from the EDA, Business Association and Investment Committee on Tuesday, June 2, 2021. He added the EDA meets on every 2nd Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., and it is increasingly difficult for him to attend those meetings during the workday with his work schedule. He noted he is not the only member who struggles with that meeting time.

Council Member Thorsen stated he hopes to find a replacement to serve on the Investment Committee and Business Association. He added he will continue to attend the Business Association meeting as an employee of the company he works for.

Council Member Thorsen stated, with regard to the accusation about Facebook, he has not had a Facebook account since March 2021, for several reasons. He tried to use it as a communications tool but not many people were engaging with it, and all pertinent information is now available on the City's website. He added he does not know who owns the "North St. Paul News and Updates" Facebook page. He noted that does not matter at this point, as people are upset with him, but that is not his Facebook page.

Bob Engwer stated he is a lifelong resident of North St. Paul, and his family has a long history in North St. Paul that he is proud of. He added his family has always supported the community. He noted he did not intend to speak, but he is frustrated about the resignation of the City Manager.

Mr. Engwer stated he has come to know Scott Duddeck very well through his role as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, a position which he has held for over 20 years. Mr. Duddeck has always been a committed North St. Paul resident as well as employee and has done great things for the City as City Manager. He added he is very angry about the circumstances around Mr. Duddeck's resignation. He noted it is his understanding that there has been a negative and hostile work environment that became untenable for Mr. Duddeck to manage, and that the City audit precipitated recent happenings that were posted on Facebook and created issues for Mr. Duddeck. He asked how the City Council could allow that to happen. Mr. Duddeck is a key employee who runs the City and has done a number of great things over his 36 years of service. There is one Council Member who has been negative with Mr. Duddeck but there are four other Council Members that should be supporting Mr. Duddeck and advocating for him.

Mr. Engwer stated the City is losing a valuable asset in Mr. Duddeck. He asked where the City will find another individual with Mr. Duddeck's commitment, dedication and abilities to fill the City Manager role. This situation has made him and many other North St. Paul residents very angry.

Mr. Engwer stated the City Council allowed one City Council Member to voice his opinions, which is fine, but the other four Members should have controlled the situation before it got out of control. He added this happened with the previous Mayor. He noted shame on the City Council for allowing this to happen to Mr. Duddeck, and for not handling the situation and taking some leadership.

Mr. Engwer stated he is interested to see what kind of transition plan the City Council will have, and how many people will want to work for a City Council that does not support the City Manager. He added the City Council should be one voice for the citizens of North St. Paul, but that voice was not heard, and you lost a really good City Manager. Shame on the City Council.

Tom Sonnek, 2539 16th Avenue E, stated he was coming home from work tonight from Minneapolis to come to the meeting, and he drove through the Anchor North area with its incredible development. None of this would have happened without Scott Duddeck. When he was on the City Council, the only criticism he had of Scott was that he worked too hard and did not delegate enough. The City of North St. Paul has seen the highest level of development in the past 5 or 6 decades. When the City Manager could have used more help and support, the City Council eliminated four full-time roles to ensure a zero % increase in the levy. Mr. Duddeck took on all that work. He always supported the direction of the City Council, even when he was already doing the work of 2-3 people.

Mr. Sonnek stated Mr. Duddeck made some policy mistakes that may have been prevented if he had more administrative help, and now he is being pressured to resign. The City Council, in its efforts to reduce the cost of service to North St. Paul residents, will be raising costs as it will be necessary to hire at least 3 people to replace Mr. Duddeck. He added he is unsure whether it will be possible to find anyone willing to work in this environment, and work with a City Council that does not want to pay for services and airs their grievances in the *Star Tribune* newspaper and elsewhere.

Mr. Sonnek asked the City Council to refuse to accept the resignation of Scott Duddeck. He recommended that the City Council clarify performance expectations going forward, build better systems for transparency, and hire him an assistant. Good businesses do not look for ways to get rid of their best employees, they look for ways to make it harder for their best employees to make mistakes. They help their employees be successful and give them the support they need. If this City Council is unwilling to support and retain its best employees, then it may be time for Council Members to consider resigning.

Mayor Furlong stated this is a difficult time for the City Council. He added he has known Scott Duddeck for many years, and what he has heard tonight from many residents is how he feels about Scott Duddeck. He noted the City Council thought we had a plan in place. He requested comment from City Attorney Soren Mattick.

Mr. Mattick stated the City Council could move on to Item IX.A.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Scott Duddeck Resignation

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated, as the City Council is aware, there have been two closed sessions to evaluate Scott Duddeck's performance, and concerns were expressed about the audit and compliance with the City spending policy. Mr. Duddeck addressed the City Council on this issue at the conclusion of the second closed session, at which a plan was made to finalize the performance evaluation at tonight's meeting, and discuss the path forward, with Mr. Duddeck remaining as City Manager. At the end of that meeting, the City Council felt that changes should be made to ensure that the City's spending policy was strictly followed, and future audits were clean, but there was a desire on the part of the City Council to work with Mr. Duddeck.

Mr. Mattick stated, since the second closed session, an article was published in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* followed by negative coverage on Facebook that was largely critical of Mr. Duddeck. Since that time, Mr. Mattick has spoken at length with Mr. Duddeck about what he wants to do, and what he feels he can handle at this point. He added Mr. Duddeck is under a lot of pressure.

Mr. Mattick stated, on a personal note, he has been representing cities for many years, and has worked with many different communities, and he can say, without equivocation, he has never worked with a City Manager who is so embedded and cares so much about a City as Scott

Duddeck. Mr. Duddeck has made some of the most authentic gestures he has ever seen, and it is very clear that Scott Duddeck cares about and wants what is best for the City of North St. Paul.

Mr. Mattick stated, in light of that, Mr. Duddeck is interested in moving forward, and letting the City move forward. While there are a number of paths that could be taken, Mr. Duddeck felt that the best path forward would be to submit his resignation. Mr. Mattick added he understands the sentiments that have been expressed tonight, and he does not disagree with them. He noted, however, he is convinced that Mr. Duddeck wants the City Council to honor his request to resign.

Mr. Mattick stated, under the personnel policy, Mr. Duddeck is required to give 30 days' notice on his resignation, but there has been some discussion about making a clean break right now. Mr. Duddeck is asking to be able to resign in good standing. Through the years, due to his dedication, he has accrued a number of PTO hours which he would like to collect, and which require a determination that he has resigned in good standing. Mr. Mattick stated that would be a fair way to proceed on this matter.

Mr. Mattick stated Mr. Duddeck is prepared to resign tonight, and the necessary protocols are in place. He would be paid per the personnel policy. He is not asking for anything beyond simply to be treated as an employee who has given over 30 years of service to the City of North St. Paul.

Mr. Mattick stated Mr. Duddeck prepared a written statement, and it is his request that the statement be read into the record.

Mayor Furlong stated he has been speaking with Mr. Duddeck over the last few weeks, and he believes that Mr. Duddeck is broken. Mr. Duddeck has tirelessly served the City of North St. Paul and given up time with his family. He has confided to Mayor Furlong that his family is the most important thing to him right now and he needs to be with them.

Mayor Furlong read Mr. Duddeck's letter of resignation.

Honorable Mayor and Council,

I officially submit my resignation as City Manager of North St. Paul effective June 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., expressly conditioned upon the North St. Paul City Council's acceptance of my resignation, its agreement to waive the 30-day notice period for my resignation, and its agreement that I am in good standing and eligible to receive all applicable employment benefits that I have earned, including but not limited to accrued sick time and vacation time.

North St. Paul is not just a job to me, it has been my life and vocation. I have served the City in almost every department for over 36 years, responding to the needs of the community, day or night, sacrificing family time without taking a vacation, and returning hours earned every year of my career here.

I have been a part of and seen the City's rich history as well as its potential for a bright future. I have worked tirelessly to support, promote and care for this entire community and I am very proud of my work here. I have been working with an unbearable amount of stress, having to lay off several high-level staff members last year, working through Covid, and working hard to ensure all developments

continue and do not fall victim to the Covid economy and other high stress issues. I will retire from my position with my head held high.

Through substantial efforts together with others committed to the City, we have redeveloped parts of our historic downtown and will soon welcome many new residents to the Sentinel Residence, and with further hard work, we may soon see a much-desired downtown restaurant in the new building.

We are now in the final stages of the old Anchor Block site development that will bring hundreds of new residents and two desirable businesses to our City. Under my stewardship we have moved our core City services online, including all licensing permits, parks reservations and meeting management. Our Finance Department continues to transition to new financial transparency tools and is currently implementing new programs to improve our utility billing.

I have worked hard to establish and maintain valuable partnerships with our representatives, businesses, community and schools. Together we have created a student-built program to enhance the skills of our students while revitalizing our neighborhoods. These important relationships have served the city well and helped us accomplish many of our goals.

As you are aware, we have been working hard together to address issues outlined in our recent audit and update our policies and procedures accordingly. This City has always entrusted me to initiate and move forward many projects, including the purchase of body worn cameras, new tasers, Lexipol software for our Police Department, and ensure our Fire, Electric and Public Works staff have the equipment they need to serve our community. I have hired a team of professionals who are committed to serving the City of North St. Paul including a new Finance Director and Police Chief. I leave you with a dedicated and capable team to continue this work.

To the staff, current and past, I say thank you. I have the highest respect of your hard work and dedication to the City. You have tirelessly worked to provide the best possible service, communications and transparency to our residents. As a fellow staff member, I miss you all dearly. My commitment to the City remains unbroken, and I will always be an advocate and do what's best for our community to help it successfully move forward.

To the City Council, thank you for the opportunity to serve our great City that I love dearly.

Respectfully,
Scott

Mayor Furlong stated he believes that it is in Mr. Duddeck's best interests to be with his family at this time. He added Mr. Duddeck has been through a lot over the last few weeks, and he is broken. He noted he respects Mr. Duddeck's decision to resign.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Mayor Furlong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to accept the resignation of Scott Duddeck.

Mayor Furlong stated this is one of the hardest things he will have to do as Mayor. He added Mr. Duddeck has never said a bad word about anyone, even throughout this situation. He noted he believes accepting Mr. Duddeck's resignation is the best thing to do right now.

An audience member made a comment. (inaudible)

Mayor Furlong stated that was one of our major discussions with Mr. Duddeck, and he declined it.

An audience member made a comment. (inaudible)

Mr. Mattick stated the Resolution states that Mr. Duddeck is resigning in good standing, and per the personnel policy he is entitled to all those benefits. There is nothing that can be done to take that away from him, especially the pension, which is outside the City Council's purview.

Mayor Furlong stated the City Council did not set up a support team for Scott. He added he plans to meet with Mr. Mattick and other City Staff tomorrow. He added Brian Frandle is being recommended for the Interim City Manager role.

Mr. Mattick recommended a motion from the City Council approving the appointment of Brian Frandle as Interim City Manager.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to appoint Brian Frandle as Interim City Manager.

Mayor Furlong stated he worked with Scott Duddeck very closely, especially during 2020 and the Covid pandemic. During the last quarter of 2020, when there were many deadlines related to different developments, Mr. Duddeck and his family had Covid, but he never missed a beat. If Mr. Duddeck had not worked tirelessly to meet development deadlines, even while sick with Covid, the City could have potentially lost a lot of money.

Mayor Furlong thanked everyone who came out to show support for Mr. Duddeck. He stated Mr. Duddeck knows he has a lot of support, and he thanked all the residents for speaking on Mr. Duddeck's behalf.

Mayor Furlong requested a 5-minute break at 7:21 p.m.

B. Level 2 Home Occupation Interim Use Permit for Bradley Plumbing at 2081 Park Row

City Planner Eric Zweber stated this request for an Interim Use Permit (IUP) was tabled at the Planning Commission's June 1 meeting, pending additional information regarding Code violations on the property. The applicant has vehicles on the site associated with his business, that would be covered under the IUP.

Council Member Thorsen stated the IUP is the only item for consideration and is not related to Code enforcement issues. He added the applicant's request is to be able to park his work van in his driveway.

Mr. Mattick, stated according to Code Enforcement, there is currently an active case whereby the property owner is being criminally prosecuted by the City for Code violations. He added the City Council has the opportunity to put reasonable conditions on the application. He noted it is difficult to discern from the photographs whether other items on the property are related to the plumbing business.

Mr. Mattick stated he has concerns with the potential for using a permitting process to influence a criminal case. He added he was reluctant to make a recommendation that may infringe on the applicant's rights through the criminal process. He noted the conditions that have been proposed do not contemplate Code compliance, and it is difficult to tell whether they are related.

Mr. Mattick stated he is reluctant to have the City Council weigh in on a criminal prosecution, and the best course of action is to treat the two issues separately.

Mayor Furlong asked whether the issue should be tabled. Mr. Zweber stated the City is getting close to the 120-day limitation. He added he believes the City Council must act on this application as it might cloud the issue in the court's eyes if they were to table it.

Council Member Petersen asked how current the photos are. Mr. Zweber stated the two photos on the left were taken June 8, 2021, and the one to the right was taken a year ago.

Council Member Petersen stated she went by the home earlier, and she thought it looked a lot better, and she was very impressed with it.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with Councilmembers Petersen, Thorsen and Wong voting aye, and Mayor Furlong and Council Member Cole voting nay (3-2), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2021-062 approving a Level 2 Home Occupation Interim Use Permit to park a plumbing contracting truck within driveway located at 2081 Park Row.

Discussion during the motion: Council Member Cole expressed concern over the length of the permit, which will run the length of his residency or until he closes the business. He added the permit should be renewed on an annual basis. He noted he does not feel that the applicant has proven to be a good neighbor or good citizen, based on what was presented here.

Mr. Mattick stated the IUP is unique in that a special terminus or review can be placed on it, or it can be terminated after a specific amount of time.

Council Member Thorsen stated the IUP relates to a parking issue, and the Code enforcement items are separate issues which should be not combined with the IUP. He recommended moving forward with the request as submitted by City Staff.

C. Outdoor Storage Conditional Use Permit to Allow T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc. to Install Three (3) New Silos and a Scale.

Mr. Zweber stated this Conditional Use Permit (CUP) request for outdoor storage at T.A. Schifsky & Sons was reviewed by the Planning Commission twice, and additional conditions were added of which the applicant is aware. The existing operation is a legal non-conforming use in the MU-3 District as the principal use of the property is asphalt plants and aggregate crushing which are only allowed to expand in the MU-3 district. The CUP is for outdoor storage, which is a conditional accessory use. Screening is required for outdoor storage with a wall, solid fencing, evergreen hedge or equivalent material, no taller than 6 feet in height.

Mr. Zweber stated the applicant is proposing a 6-foot-tall chain link fence with plastic slats along the south half of the site, and approximately 175 feet along 3rd Street N. Trees and bushes are proposed between the fence and the property line. City Staff has requested that the southern access on 3rd Street be realigned to match the new Anchor Drive. The planting of shrubs and grasses at the entrance will be required as well as improvements at all the access points to minimize the tracking of sediment onto City streets.

Mr. Zweber stated the Planning Commission reviewed this request and held a public hearing at a May 20, 2021 special meeting, and tabled the item pending additional information. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the application with conditions recommended by City Staff and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Zweber stated the Planning Commission recommended that the applicant work with City Staff on installing artwork or murals on the silos, and the applicant is amenable to this proposal.

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2021-063 approving a Conditional Use Permit for outdoor storage to allow for the addition of three (3) silos and a vehicle scale to the existing Schifsky & Sons operation located at 2310 Highway 36 East.

D. Pay Voucher 8 – CSAH 68 (McKnight Road) Intersection Improvements Project

City Engineer Morgan Dawley reviewed Pay Voucher 8 related to improvements on Anchor Drive adjacent to developments. He added City Staff anticipates the next payment will be the final payment on the contract.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to Approve Pay Voucher #8 in the amount of \$61,724.66 related to CSAH 68 (McKnight Road) Intersection Improvements Project.

Discussion during the motion: Council Member Thorsen asked whether contract changes have already taken place. Mr. Dawley confirmed this.

Council Member Thorsen stated the City's policy is that contract changes must be approved by the City Council. Mr. Dawley stated the City plans for a 5% contingency over and above any contract amount, which might absorb formal change orders or overruns. He added it is his understanding that any and all contract changes must be reviewed by the City Council, although these changes were necessary to fulfill the agreement with the contractor. He noted the City is still within contingency on the project.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether Pay Voucher 11 relates to a change order for fencing on the hill. Mr. Dawley confirmed this.

E. Pay Voucher No. 11 – 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project

Mr. Dawley stated Pay Voucher #11 relates to the Schifsky contract for the 2020 Street and Utilities Improvements Project, primarily on 7th Avenue between 1st and 3rd Streets, with some work on 1st and 2nd Streets including the construction of a pond at the corner of 1st Street and 7th Avenue. He added most of the work is done, and the pay voucher includes compensation for landscaping and medians.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Pay Voucher #11 for \$75,664.46 for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

F. Resolution Approving Acceptance of Donations Received April 1, 2021-May 31, 2021

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2021-060 approving acceptance of Donations received April 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021.

G. Special Event Permit Application North High Cheerleader Car Wash

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Special Event Permit Application for North High Cheerleader Car Wash.

H. Special Event Permit Application North Haven Church

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Special Event Permit Application for North Haven Church.

I. Music in the Parks

Mayor Furlong stated this item is related to payments to three music acts for the summer Music in the Parks series: Brio Brass (\$500); Matt & Laurel (\$400) and MT Pockets (\$400).

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve three payments related to Music in the Parks.

J. Liquor License Renewal for City Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License (Target)

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2021-061 approving Annual Renewal for Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Target.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

A. Building Permit Report – May 2021

Mayor Furlong stated the building permit report is up to date.

B. National Night Out – August 3

Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach stated no City Council meeting has been scheduled for August 3, 2021, the night of National Night Out. It is hoped that the City Council will visit neighborhood block parties, as well as the Snow Man. She added City Staff hopes to add this information to the block party information packet. She noted City Staff has also discussed the possibility of holding National Night Out in place of the Public Safety Open House in the coming years.

C. Touch a Truck Event – August 13

Ms. Erpenbach stated the Touch a Truck event will be held at 7th Street and Charles Street, and trucks from the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments will be available for viewing. She added people will not be allowed inside the trucks this year.

D. City Car Show Sponsor Night: Friday, September 17

Ms. Erpenbach stated the City will be sponsoring the Car Show on Friday, September 17, which is the last party before the Fall Roundup Parade.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Casey Lake, preceded by a community meeting at 6:00 p.m. He added all are welcome.

Council Member Wong stated the Planning Commission's recent meeting included the Planning Items reviewed at tonight's meeting. She added the Planning Commission's next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2021. She noted no meeting is scheduled for July as there are no planning items.

Council Member Petersen stated the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Commission, of which she is a member, is offering paid internships for students ages 18-24. She urged interested residents to contact the Ramsey County Internship Program.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended an in-person meeting for the League of Minnesota Cities last week. She added the virtual conference is planned for June 23-25, 2021. She noted she will begin interviewing potential board members and leadership tomorrow.

Council Member Thorsen stated, as noted earlier in the meeting, he submitted his resignation from his City Commission appointments, effective immediately. He added the EDA and Business Association meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and it is increasingly difficult for him to take the afternoon off of work to attend both meetings. He noted the meeting time was moved from

4:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to accommodate a member who no longer serves on the EDA, and he does not want to ask them to change the meeting time again.

Council Member Thorsen stated he still plans to attend the Business Association meetings as a representative of his place of business.

Council Member Thorsen stated the Investment Committee meets quarterly and has not met in person recently. He added he has not been able to join their Zoom meetings due to work conflicts on weekday mornings. He added he is open to serve on other commissions that meet in the evenings.

Mayor Furlong stated he will re-assign Council Member Thorsen's meetings at the next City Council meeting.

Council Member Cole wished Mayor Furlong a happy belated birthday. He stated tonight was a difficult meeting, and his support goes out to Mr. Duddeck and his family. He added he hopes the City Council can move forward and act collectively.

Council Member Wong stated she agrees with Council Member Cole's comments. She added we feel the weight of it in this room today. She stressed the importance of moving forward collectively as a group. She noted City Staff is dedicated and committed, and she is hopeful. She thanked them for their continued hard work.

Council Member Petersen stated this has been very difficult, and it is a lose/lose situation. She wished the Duddeck family all the best and all the support they need right now. She added Mr. Duddeck has a lot of support here tonight.

Council Member Petersen stated Silver Lake has been really busy, but everything seems to be going okay.

Council Member Thorsen stated he concurs that this has been a difficult path. He added he would like to state for the record that Scott Duddeck is a great man, and he concurs with a lot of the comments that have been made tonight about the great things he has done. He noted he understands that people are very frustrated, and they feel that this is his fault, but it is the nature of politics, and it is not personal. He thanked Scott Duddeck for his service to the community. He stressed the importance of moving forward and working together as a team.

Mayor Furlong stated we are looking at uncharted times, and the City Council needs to work together as a team. He added he wants to assure residents that the City will continue to work hard for its residents, and hopefully there will be no difference in City services. He noted it is our goal to move ahead, and keep the momentum going.

Mayor Furlong stated he would like to thank Scott Duddeck, who is a dear friend and a great person, and whom he believes had the City's best interests in mind.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Cole, Seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager / Clerk