

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
August 3, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zenzen at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Zenzen, Council Members Backes, Genereux, Coleman and Schmitz; Engineer Boots; Attorney Couri; Fire Captain Voigt, Fire Captain Savage, Fire Captain Sandhurst, Street Supervisor Kiffmeyer, Water and Sewer Operator Blashack and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Hartkopf, Paul Reinert, Sue Reinert

**CONSENT AGENDA:** A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items 3A – 3H as amended by Mr. Backes seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, July 6, 2021  
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated August 3, 2021 and for US Bank payment, and Checks #24430-24505.

City Council Agenda, August 3, 2021  
B. McCabe's attendance at Fall EDAM and Annual MCMA Conferences  
Temporary Liquor Licenses, St. Mary HOC  
Gambling Permits, St. Mary HOC  
Criminal Prosecution Contract

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Mr. McCabe indicated the report was not received.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S**

**REPORT:** Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building spreadsheet. He indicated there were nine permits issued during the month.

**A motion was made to accept as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mrs. Coleman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**FIRE DEPT.**

**REPORT:** Captain Voigt was in attendance and presented the June run and training report. There were 14 calls during the month bringing the total to 53 calls for the year as compared to 65 at this time last year. Training was done in house on address recognition.

**A motion was made to approve the monthly fire report by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Captain Sandhurst presented the list of candidates that were interviewed for the Lieutenant positions. The committee recommended promoting Alex Bahr and Jason Koshiol.

**A motion was made to promote Alex Bahr and Jason Koshiol to Lieutenant by Mr. Backes seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Captain Voigt presented a quote for air compressor repairs on Engine #2 in the amount of \$958.50 from Fire Safety, USA.

**A motion was made to approve the air compressor repairs by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:**

Mr. Kiffmeyer was in attendance and explained the process of mowing ditches and suggested we look at trading in the tractor mower for a tractor with a boom mower. He indicated he had been looking for a used one and saw the price range of \$40K-\$60K. He indicated Arnold's stated we should be able to sell our tractor and mower for \$18,500.

Mr. Kiffmeyer also presented a quote to remove two dangerous trees in Kiffmeyer Park from Greater North Tree Service.

**A motion was made to authorize the removal of the trees at a cost of \$6,975 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Blashack was in attendance and reported the lift station inspector is recommending replacing 3 wear rings and an impeller. He presented a quote to repair 3 wear rings and an impeller at the main lift station.

**A motion was made to authorize the repairs at the lift station in an amount of \$4,084 by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Blashack brought a preliminary bid for starting to budget to replace the pumps. There was discussion about having the replaced pump rebuilt to have it as an extra for when the next pump goes out. Mr. McCabe explained where we were at on the budget wise in the sewer fund.

Mr. Kiffmeyer and Mr. McCabe stated they wanted to begin the discussion of choosing a street project for 2022. They were suggesting we do 215<sup>th</sup> Street from 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from 215<sup>th</sup> Street to 200<sup>th</sup> Street. They also suggested we look at adding all of Vienna Hills. Mr. Boots was instructed to get soil borings on the proposed plan.

**OPEN FORUM:**

**ENGINEER'S  
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe reported that we didn't receive any additional quotes for the Annis Acres Ditch project. He indicated the only quote received was included in the updated packet.

**A motion was made to authorize Steve's Excavating to do the alternate project on the Annis Acres ditch project by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATION  
COUNTRY SQUARE  
PLAT 5:**

Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission unanimously recommended approval

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2021-12, approving Country Square Plat 5, by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATION  
A&E STORAGE:**

Mr. McCabe reported the planning commission again recommended approval unanimously on the items discussed at the hearing.

**A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2021-02, amending the text of the zoning ordinance to allow mini storage as an allowable use in the BW Districts by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2021-10, granting a variance from the requirement that outdoor storage must be on a paved surface for a period not to exceed 10 years by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Zenzen specified the resolution declared only cars, rv's and boats would be allowed to be stored outdoors. Mr. Reinert, asked if he can be allowed to amend the resolution to include enclosed trailers and most individually contained licensed units along with cars, rvs and boats. Mr. Couri suggested we could limit the time on trailers if they are higher than the fence. Mr. Backes suggested the time period be six

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2021-11 as amended , approving the site plan and CUP for A&E Storage by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING,  
VACATING A DRAINAGE AND  
UTILITY EASEMENT IN  
COUNTRY SQUARE**

**PLAT 4:** Mayor Zenzen opened the public hearing on the request to vacate the drainage an utility easement between lots being combined in Country Square Plat 4 for A&E Storage.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution #2021-13, vacating the drainage and utility easements specified in Country Square Plat 4 by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**AMERICAN RESCUE**

**PLAN FUNDS:** Mr. McCabe presented a receipt of the funds received this year and indicated we would be receiving the same amount in 2022. He also presented a plan from MIDCO to extend internet and TV in the community and explained they said they could do it this year with assistance from the City. Mr. McCabe explained broadband access is a priority and allowable expense with the ARPA funding. He also stated he visited with Stearns County and asked if they would be willing to share the cost of the expansion. Stearns County Administrator Mike Williams indicated he wasn't sure what their policy would be especially within cities in the county as they have many un-served and underserved areas throughout the county.

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

**PURVIEW:** Ms. Coleman wondered if there should be thoughts about an additional industrial park. Mr. Reinert suggested there is approximately 80 acres off of Galaxy Road that could become available. Mr. McCabe also stated there is approximately 192 acres available. Mr. Reinert stated the EDA maybe should look at what is coming available.

Mr. Genereux wondered about trail fixes.

Mr. Genereux asked about the warning siren and will be arriving soon.

Mayor Zenzen

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**REPORT:** Mr. McCabe presented housing sales information from Stearns County Assessor Don Ramler.

Mr. McCabe indicated we had six full applicants for the utility billing/administrative assistant position and asked for two members to volunteer to be on the committee to interview the top two or three candidates. He also asked if a special meeting could be called to hire

the employee to start as close to August 30 as possible to begin the training on the monthly utility billing.

**ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn to at 8:45. Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Meeting Adjourned.**

Approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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Michael G. Zenzen, Mayor

Attest:

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William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator