

MOUND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 14, 2020

The City Council of the City of Mound, Hennepin County, Minnesota, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Westonka Schools Performing Arts Center (PAC) due to COVID-19 and the need to social distance.

Members present: Mayor Ray Salazar; Council members Phil Velsor, Jeff Bergquist, Paula Larson, and Sherrie Pugh

Members absent: None

Others present: City Manager Eric Hoversten, Fin Dir/Clerk/Treasurer Catherine Pausche, City Engineer Brian Simmons, Westonka Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Borg, Orono Police Officer Tim Sonnek, Chris Carlson, Peter Meyer, Michelle Herrick, Pat Buffington, Karen Buffington, Elizabeth Hustad, Stu Alexander, Rodney Beystrom, Venus Steffensen, Shane Steffensen, Jeff Kueper, Colin Charlson, Diane Lachenmayer, Brant Nelson, Andrea Nelson, Rob Ar, Gretchen Shaw, Lyle Shaw, Gretchen Shaw, Guy Jenken, Joan Jenken, Dan Saatzer, Marc Doepner-Hove, Anna Peters, Jason Zattler, Merrick Morlan, Steve Zielinski, Joanie Zielinski, Rich R, Kevin Johansen

Consent agenda: All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature by the Council. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence.

1. Open meeting

Mayor Salazar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve agenda

Hoversten noted the following replacement pages: Item 4B page 1157, and Item 9B page 1208.

MOTION by Bergquist, seconded by Velsor, to approve the agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Consent agenda

MOTION by Velsor, seconded by Larson, to approve the consent agenda. Upon roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

A. Approve payment of claims in the amount of \$1,427,268.20.

B. Approve minutes: 06-23-20 regular meeting.

**C. RESOLUTION NO. 20-63: RESOLUTION ADOPTING CITY OF MOUND
COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

D. Approve Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$91,896.11 to Kusske Construction

for 2019 Street, Utility & Retaining Wall Improvements, City Project PW-19-01

E. Approve Pay Request #3 in the amount of \$89,536.93 to G. F. Jedlicki, Inc for 2019 Commerce Blvd Watermain Project, Project No. PW-19-04

F. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-64: RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES AS RECOMMENDED FOR THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 11, 2020 AND THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

5. Comments and suggestions from citizens present on any item not on the agenda.

Peter Myer, 5748 Sunset, read in the Laker about Lifestyle Properties and wanted to express his concern over density and height. He served on Parks Commission and Council and raised a family here and questions why the move toward so much high density residential. Myer asked for it to remain park land.

Chris Carlson, 5950 West Branch Road, said he lives in Minnetrista but owns rental property. Carlson read a statement that stated he has previously written to Council on the concerns about so much high density. Carlson said the Comprehensive Plan includes a traffic study by Hennepin County that indicated the town is close to capacity and he knows many residents are concerned about traffic. Carlson quoted page 49 from the Comprehensive Plan and noted his biggest concern is the change in the small-town feel.

Karen Buffington, 4456 Radner Road, said they moved out here for the small town atmosphere and they want the Commerce Place property to remain zoned for business. Buffington urged the Council to table the issue due to the pandemic because no businesses are looking at expansion but in a year or two they will come back. Buffington asked the Council to consider other options for what Mound should be.

Venus Steffensen, 1838 Commerce Boulevard, read a statement that the majority of residents are not in favor and that she has a petition were 97% have a disapproval rating of development. Steffensen said Shafer Richardson is a member of the Met Council Urban Land Institute so they know where the transit hubs will be developed, they buy property and let it deteriorate so cities have to consider multifamily. Steffensen encouraged the Council to reach out to Anytime Fitness and other owners. Steffensen said Shafer Richardson's strategy is to create relationships with City Staff and create fatigue on the part of Council. Steffensen asked the Council to question Shafer Richardson's motive and strategy and acknowledge that we are not on a sinking ship and make Shafer Richardson come back with another plan.

Jason Zattler, 2345 Commerce Boulevard and business owner of Wiser Insurance, suggests the City put together an advisory commission of local business owners to come up with alternative solutions and not just go with Shafer Richardson's plan.

Matt Jenks, 6120 Beachwood Road, said he has been here a long time and that the City needs people to go the extra mile to find out what is going on. Jenks pointed to the \$30M investment in the PAC the community was willing to invest and questioned the Council working with Shafer Richardson and not coming up with alternatives.

Brant Nelson, 5527 Bartlett Boulevard, said he has lived here many years and recognizes Mound has been slow to develop compared to our neighbors in Excelsior and Wayzata. Nelson

said he is not aware of all the discussions leading up to this proposed development, but he experiences high traffic near his home on Bartlett Boulevard. Nelson recognized his comment is coming from an emotional place but asked the Council to listen to your constituents as they want what is best for this community.

Merrick Morlan, 4842 Shoreline Boulevard and owner of 3soteric, said he talked to Shafer Richardson about moving near to Anytime and it was cost prohibitive so he understands the building as it is has to go, but he is wondering why the conversation on mixed use ended.

Chris Carlson, 5950 West Branch Road, asked about any discussions with Hennepin County about how much traffic has to increase for changes to roads to be made and what those changes might be.

Mayor Salazar thanked the audience and said the development will be discussed at the July 21 Planning Commission meeting, noting the public hearing was closed so any additional comments will be at the Planning Commission's discretion. Mayor Salazar added the comments are being listened to.

6. Orono Police Officer Tim Sonnek presenting the June 2020 Activity Report for Mound
Officer Tim Sonnek summarized the number of calls/activity for the month of June, 2020 as shown in the report for the packet.

Larson asked if 326 total calls was the total and why there is a discrepancy. Sonnek said there is some information that does not get reported because if either a case number or narrative report is not created, it is not included. Larson said she likes the reporting and is wondering what the difference is year over year. Sonnek said it was just six calls from June 2019 to 2020. Larson said she had an extremely positive interaction on a recent call where the officers were very responsive. Bergquist thanked the all of the officers' efforts during the recent rioting noting he felt very safe in Mound.

7. City Engineer Brian Simmons requesting a public meeting for public comments on City of Mound Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit
Simmons summarized the presentation in one slide. Mound is required to have a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a MS4 permit based on Mound's population and proximity to Lake Minnetonka. Mound must meet some requirements to maintain permit status, including holding a public meeting for public comment on storm water management practices. Velsor asked if this is for individual projects and Simmons said it is for the City as a whole.

Chris Carlson, 5950 West Branch Road, asked about the white pipe that comes out of the building and discharging into grass/or storm sewer on Commerce. Simmons said that is a correctly plumbed sump pump that allows regular sewer to be separate from storm sewer, which is one of the objectives of the program/permit. Simmons noted no formal action is required on the City Council's part.

8. City Manager Eric Hoversten requesting discussion on State of Minnesota Cares Act Funding for counties, cities and townships

Hoversten stated the packet included some preliminary information on the Federal CARES Act funding for local governments under 500K in population. The City received an allocation of just over \$700K for the city to recover costs related to COVID-19, business relief and other qualifying individuals and organizations. Hoversten said any unutilized funds will go back to Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) per the CARES Act stipulations, any funds not used by the county will be returned to the State of Minnesota. Hoversten said Staff is looking for direction on how the Council may wish to proceed with looking at opportunities to assist locally. Hoversten said municipal revenue replacement is explicitly prohibited, but the City will have some qualified COVID-19 related expenses. Hoversten said it is important to ensure proper oversight and one thought is to partner with established County programs for their administrative services, but also acknowledged other taxing districts in our area may be enduring even more hardship that ultimately will impact our tax base.

Mayor Salazar agreed it is important to take a look at potential uses. Salazar noted Staff's recommendation to appoint two council members to an advisory committee along with three members of the community for a panel of five. Pugh said she agrees this is really important and the need is to act quickly to create partnerships and noted she would like to also participate on the committee. Salazar said it is important to look at local opportunities in addition to considering HCMC, which is a great institution. Salazar did an informal poll and all agreed with Salazar and Pugh being the Council representatives.

Salazar invited Superintendent Kevin Borg to speak to the Council on some of the challenges the school district is experiencing. Borg said he was just outlining the challenges to the school board and although they recognize there are other potential uses for the CARES act funds, he gave a series of examples of the challenges on how they are preparing their COVID-19 response. Borg said any of the plans – 100% return with social distancing, hybrid, or all on-line involve incremental costs, including technology to facilitate distance learning, PPE supplies, and more significantly transportation – 6' social distance is 13 students on a 77 passenger school bus. Borg said there are 15 routes already. Borg said the increased demand for keeping the building safe requires 2 more janitorial staff and rethinking the cafeteria model, in addition to more substitute teachers being needed to minimize classroom changes and in the event staff has to quarantine. Borg said safety and high quality education are everyone's top priority. Borg said there were some CARES Act funding for schools but it was only in the range of \$170K compared to Mound's \$700+. Borg noted transportation servers both public and private schools and keeping kids safe in our community is everybody's priority and benefits everybody.

Salazar thanked Borg and agreed our children are our legacy and wanting a safe, high quality education is everyone's priority. Hoversten said Staff will reach out with Salazar and Pugh to assemble the advisory committee. Salazar suggested 2 city council, 2 business and one non-profit.

9. Information/Miscellaneous

A. Comments/reports from Council members/City Manager:

Hoversten said candidate filing begins soon and absentee balloting will be handled through Hennepin County and the polls will be open August 11, noting the Tuesday City Council meeting was moved to Wednesday, August 12.

Salazar said Jason Zattler reached out to him to note on page 3 of the quarterly newsletter was a redevelopment recap that was well written, but omitted investments by Twin Cities Closets and redevelopment of the parking lot in the Langdon District. Also, the Girlie Project

Chiropractor also opened. Salazar thanked and welcomed these new businesses and thanked the audience as well.

Larson complemented the recent application of mulch in the downtown on how good it looks. In addition, Larson complemented the construction crews around the Shorewood Road sewer project noting how well managed it was and how well traffic flowed. Hoversten thanked Bolton & Menk for the day to day management of the City construction projects.

B. Reports: Liquor Store – June 2020 YTD
Mound Fire Relief Assoc. Pension Actuarial Report 2019

C. Minutes:

D. Correspondence:

10. Adjourn

MOTION by Velsor, seconded by Pugh, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Raymond J. Salazar

Attest: Catherine Pausche, Clerk