

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, August 12, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited along with Conner S. from Boy Scout Troop 507 in Inver Grove Heights. Mayor Tourville called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilmembers Piekarski-Krech, Bartholomew, Perry, and Dietrich; City Administrator/Interim Deputy Clerk Lynch, City Attorney Kuntz, Community Development Director Rand, Parks and Recreation Director Carlson, City Planner Hunting, and Public Works Director Thureen.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the July 22, 2019 City Council Meeting.
- B. Disbursements for Period Ending August 7, 2019. **Resolution 19-133.**
- C. Consider Pay Request No. 1 – Heritage Village Park Phase II, City Project No. 2017-07.
- D. Consider Declaration of Property for Heritage Village Park (SG-04273).
- E. Consider Approval of Proposal from McKinstry for a City Facilities Operations Plan.
- F. Consider Pay Request Nos. 1 and 2 for North Valley Pickleball Court Project.
- G. Consider Change Order Nos. 2 and 3 for Fire Station No. 2, City Project No. 2014-10.
- H. Consider Pay Voucher No 8 for Fire Station No. 2, City Project No. 2014-10.
- I. Consider Approval of the 2019-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Inver Grove Heights and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1065, Council 5, AFL-CIO.
- J. Consider **Resolution 19-134** Approving School Resource Officer Contract.
- K. Consider Pay Voucher No. 13 for City Project No. 2015-09D – Broderick Boulevard Reconstruction, City Project No. 2017-21 – VMCC/Golf Course Parking Lots, City Project No. 2018-08 – Fire Station No. 2 Sewer and Water Improvements, and City Project No. 2018-11 – Fire Station No. 2 Fiber Optic Improvements.
- L. Consider Pay Voucher No. 1 for City Project No. 2019-09B – Seal Coat.
- M. Consider **Resolution 19-135** Accepting Proposals for Consultant Construction Services from Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc. and Bolton & Menk, Inc. for the Scenic Hills Development, Phase 1 (Suite Living Senior Care Facility).
- N. Consider **Resolution 19-136** Establishing Parking Restrictions in the Intersection of 51st Street and Brent Avenue.
- O. Item 4O was moved to Regular Agenda Item 7B.
- P. Consider a **Resolution 19-137** Receiving Petition, Ordering Feasibility Study, Ordering Assessment Benefit Analysis, and Ordering Geotechnical Investigation for 60th Street, 62nd Street and Bacon Avenue Improvements, City Project No. 2016-09G.
- Q. Consider a **Resolution 19-138** Ordering Feasibility Study and Assessment Benefit Analysis for City Project No. 2019-09D – 64th Street Area Improvement.
- R. Consider **Resolution 19-139** Approving a Special Assessment Deferral for City Project No. 2018-09F – 55th Street and 55th Court Reconstruction.
- S. Approve Custom Grading Agreement and Agreements Related to 1565 82nd Street (NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 18, Township 27, Range 22, Dakota County, Minnesota).
- T. Approve Revisions to Personnel Policies 1-6A-12-1A through 1-6A-12-1D and 1-6A-7E Regarding Vacation Leave and 1-6A-12-3 Regarding Funeral Leave; and Authorize Implementation and Application of Changes as they Relate to Benefits for All Eligible City Staff.

U. Personnel Actions.

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Perry to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Georgia Mueller, 2591 80th Street, stated her concern about the turnover of fitness instructors at the Grove, especially Yoga instructors. She asked if enough money was being budgeted for instructors pay.

Mayor Tourville stated a letter was received by the Council listing the concerns. He asked Parks and Recreation Director Carlson to come back before the Council with an update on this topic.

Parks and Recreation Director Carlson stated a meeting was held earlier this evening with 6-8 members to try to dispel some of the rumors. Staff is paid within the market range of other community centers. He stated he would meet with those in attendance for further discussion out in the lobby.

Councilmember Piekarski-Krech asked if there was a recruitment issue with obtaining instructors. Parks and Recreation Director Carlson responded there are recruitment issues with all staff at times due to a tight job market.

Kathy Fischer, AFSCME Union President of Local 1065, stated the AFSCME Contract was approved and thanked City Administrator Joe Lynch for his involvement in the 2019-2020 negotiations. The negotiations team appreciated his commitment, input, understanding, and willingness to be engaged. Ms. Fischer also thanked Janet Shefchik for her participation in the 2019-2020 negotiations.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Consider the Application of a Temporary One to Four Day Liquor License for the Church of St. Patrick for the Premises Located at 3535 72nd Street E., Inver Grove Heights.

City Administrator Lynch stated St. Patrick’s Church is applying for a temporary liquor license for their fall festival taking place on September 14th and 15th. Notice was published in the July 28th 2019 issue of the Southwest Review. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Piekarski-Krech, seconded by Perry to close the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Piekarski-Krech, seconded by Perry to approve the Application of a Temporary One to Four Day Liquor License for the Church of St. Patrick for the Premises Located at 3535 72nd Street E., Inver Grove Heights.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

7. REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Kyle Hannah – Case No. 19-29V – Consider a Resolution relating to a Variance to allow a detached accessory building within the front yard setback for property located at 1808 63rd Street. Resolution 19-140.**

City Planner Allan Hunting stated the request is for a variance to construct a 576 square foot detached garage on an existing farmstead located at 1808 63rd Street. The setback is twenty-one feet from the current property line. The required setback along Babcock Trail is forty feet. He stated there is a non-conformity with the existing house and there is no other detached or attached garages on the property. Staff was concerned with the non-conformity of the twenty-one-foot setback. The proposed garage is at sixteen and one-half feet, bringing it closer to Babcock Trail than the house. Staff suggests a variance be approved at the same setback as the house. The Planning Commission recommended approval as presented. He stated Staff believes there is ample room to get the garage to fit and meet the setback. Staff supports a variance but believes the variance should be at a greater distance from Babcock than proposed. The applicant was not in attendance for questions.

Councilmember Piekarski-Krech asked how close the proposed garage would be to the house and why it was not attached. City Planner Hunting responded it was approximately six feet or more and thought it was not attached due to layout and age of the home.

Councilmember Bartholomew asked if the history of the road easement was known and if the property lost space as a result. Planner Hunting responded additional right-of-way was taken when the lot was a part of the Salem Hills Farm plat. Councilmember Bartholomew commented the original homestead did not encroach and was not a non-conformity until the easement was increased. Planner Hunting agreed.

Mayor Tourville suggested tabling the item until the next regular meeting. The suggestion to the applicant would be to be in attendance and that the variance be the same for the house and garage.

Motion by Piekarski-Krech, seconded by Dietrich to table the item until the next regular meeting in August, Case No. 19-29V – to Consider a Resolution relating to a Variance to allow a detached accessory building within the front yard setback for property located at 1808 63rd Street. Resolution 19-140.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

- B. Consider Receiving the Blaine Avenue/Seidl's Lake Park Pedestrian Crossing Study, City Project No. 2019-03**

Public Works Director Scott Thureen discussed the results of an authorized study that was completed due to concerns raised about park improvements for Seidl's Lake Park. WSB and Associates were hired in May to investigate possible locations for a crosswalk on Blaine Avenue along with vehicle counts and speeds.

Gus Perron, WSB and Associates, discussed the study area along Seidl's Lake Park from Bloomberg to Boatman Streets stating counts were collected during a five-day range via cameras for pedestrian volume and tube counts for speeds and vehicular volumes. The peak number of crossings for an entire day was 30. He stated the recommendation is for a 20 pedestrian per hour rate and falls short. Bisset Lane had 30 weekday crossings and 18 weekend crossings and it does not meet the volume guidance to install a painted pedestrian cross walk. He commented the crossings could be enhanced with signing.

Mr. Perron indicated that 85% of the traffic was traveling at 36 miles per hour with some over 45 miles per hour. After discussion with the Public Works Director it was decided that one plan could be striping the roadway.

He discussed options such as bump outs or curb extensions and recommended placing one at each end and possibly one in the center. He stated for pedestrian crossings there is sidewalk on the north side. There is a private walk along the townhomes leading out to Bisset Lane that could be a point source and looked into further. For accessibility needs it is suggested placing a pedestrian curb ramp along the north and south side. He stated installing a bump out at Bisset Lane would reduce the width of the roadway and could reduce speeds and pedestrian exposure by reducing the size of the crossing. He stated a dynamic display with speeds listed is another way to raise awareness and has good effects on reducing speeds.

Councilmember Piekarski-Krech asked how a bump out works and what it does for traffic configuration. Mr. Perron responded the bump out has a curb coming out into the roadway and then is tapered inward. A pedestrian ramp can be located within. A benefit to striping the roadway brings the curb out and narrows the road bringing speeds down. He stated there is parking on one side, the bump outs could be larger on that side than the other side, or the bump outs could be located on only one side of the road.

Councilmember Perry asked for the dates the study was done. Mr. Perron responded the first set of information was collected for Bisset Lane on May 31st. June 1st was the weekend count. Boatman Lane was done on June 7th and 8th. One study was done before school was let out and the other after. Crossing volume during the weekday at Boatman was zero with midblock having two. Bisset Lane, before school let out, had 29 crossings with midblock having 11 crossings. He stated the time of day and video for Bisset Lane could be looked into if that was something the Council was interested in.

Councilmember Perry stated the playground equipment was installed this week and could result in different numbers. Mr. Perron responded they wanted to get preliminary numbers to see if improvements could be installed along with the park improvements. Now that improvements at the park have been made, they may reevaluate the counts.

Councilmember Perry commented the speed sign is a temporary fix. When she lived in the area the sign was out a couple of times and once removed the speeding picked back up. Mr. Perron responded another option would be extra enforcement.

Mayor Tourville asked about those not using the crosswalks. Mr. Perron responded it is only illegal to cross a road between two traffic signal-controlled intersections. Any intersection is a legal crosswalk, every pedestrian has a right to cross at those intersections. Vehicles are legally obligated to stop/yield, it does not need to be striped. He stated that people can cross midblock, but the vehicle has the right of way. He commented a marked crosswalk was what they were trying to establish, but those locations are technically crosswalks today.

Mayor Tourville asked if anything could be done immediately, such as signage, to give a reminder of the playground nearby. Mr. Perron responded there are experimental fixes that could include a study and recording speeds. He stated planters could be placed to mimic what a bump out would be like. Numbers could be evaluated to see if a stop sign would be needed. He stated striping would define the traveled path.

Ed Colon, 4879 Bitterman Path, appreciated the information received from the Public Works Department and WSB. He stated his concern is with the 15% of drivers who drove faster than 36 miles per hour. Over five days there were 393 vehicles exceeding 40 miles per hour in front of the park. Fifty-one exceeded 46 miles per hour. He stated in April he spoke with Sonja Piper, Pedestrian Safety Specialist at MnDOT. She recommended bump outs and a dynamic speed sign. He requested one of those options in addition to marking the lanes. He requested having two dynamic speed signs and asked about the cost. Mr. Perron responded they would need to look at the directions of traffic to see if one or two were needed. Cost is based on size and message on the sign but could cost approximately \$2,000 or more for one.

Mr. Colon commented that due to speeding, Police monitoring would be helpful and requested their presence in the area.

Mayor Tourville suggested having pedestrian crossing signs similar to those on Cahill by Arbor Pointe Park. Public Works Director Thureen responded those could be done.

Councilmember Piekarski-Krech asked if the State helps with temporary measures. Mr. Colon responded this is doable. He asked for attention on 49th and Blaine where speeds are also significant. He stated he would be willing to help with education.

Public Works Director Thureen stated they are waiting to stripe until the development is finished with driveway projects. He commented that he would contact MnDOT. He stated temporary measures were done on Blaine by Gertens before something more permanent was put in place. He stated he would get more data and work with Mr. Perron about signage.

Councilmember Piekarski-Krech suggested trying the speed trailer to see if it makes a difference. Another study could be done afterwards.

Mayor Tourville stated school would be starting soon and asked if there were any bus stops in the area. Mr. Perron stated parking should be limited within the devices to allow for better sight lines. Public Works Director Thureen stated he would meet with Mr. Perron and then get back to the Council with an update.

Mr. Perron recommended speeds be measured to quantify the effectiveness if going with something temporary.

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Perry to receive the Blaine Avenue/Seidl’s Lake Park Pedestrian Crossing Study, City Project No. 2019-03.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED DOOR

None

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Tourville stated that he attended a District 3 and 2 Congressional Meeting today in Bloomington to discuss Interstate projects. One topic was the Argenta and 494 study and interchange.

Councilmember Perry stated the last food truck event takes place on Wednesday, August 14th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Rich Valley Park.

Mayor Tourville stated the comfort station at 111th Street for the Mississippi River Trail takes place on Thursday. People can meet at Pine Bend School between 5:00-5:30 p.m. and bike over. Ribbon cutting takes place at 6:00 p.m. The Chief Medicine Bottle Monument has been found and will be installed on the trail soon.

10. ADJOURN:

Motion by Dietrich, seconded by Perry to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek