

CITY OF NOWTHEN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING **DRAFT MINUTES**
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

The Nowthen City Council met for the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM, at the Nowthen City Hall, 19800 Nowthen Blvd NW, Nowthen, Minnesota.

Present:
Mayor Jeff Pilon
Councilmember Randy Bettinger
Councilmember Mary Rainville
Councilmember Paul Reighard

Absent:
Councilmember Dan Breyen

Others:
Sheriff James Stuart and Lt. Wayne Heath
Bldg. Official Schreder

Approve/amend the meeting agenda – Bettinger made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented; Rainville seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

1). **Sheriff**

a). **Introduction of Sheriff's Deputies** – Sheriff James Stuart spoke about the services that are provided through our Sheriff's Contract. Lt. Wayne Heath introduced Sgt. John Pilz, Sgt. Josh Hatton, Deputy Matt O'Connor and Deputy Tony Nelson. These are the Sergeant's and Deputies that take part in patrolling Nowthen.

b). **Sheriff's Report** – Lt. Wayne Heath provided an update of Sheriff's services for the month of February 2017. Lt. Heath said that if you need to contact the sheriff whether it is an emergency or not, to dial 911. The same operators that answer the emergency number also answer the non-emergency number.

2). **Floor Items:** Dan Williams, of 7967 191st Lane NW, said that the Council debated where the money would come from to have the City Code brought up to date, but when the discussion to paint and repair the City Hall came up a majority of the City Council Members voted to pay out up to \$5,000 without any details of what the project consisted of and had no quotes. It was talked about using carry over funds from last year. Why not use that carry over funds to pay the City Planner to update the City Code. He was told that it would cost less than \$2,000 and closer to \$1,000 to do. That could be brought up to date, then train the staff to keep it updated from there.

Another concern Williams had is when the discussion to donate the \$2,500, plus Fire Fighters time, staff time and free use of the facilities and park comes up, the Council doesn't have any problems paying for these things using taxpayer dollars. It has come to his attention that there is 32 hours of Fire Fighters time for the Festival. Some think that the Festival is smaller now and they don't need 32 hours (which is roughly 8 hours for 4 guys) to put on a display of the jaws of

life. They only need a couple for the display and one for emergencies. Some people think that the 32 hours is excessive. Some are frivolous about spending money. That needs to be looked into and cut down since it is taxpayer's money. Councilmember Rainville always claims to be frivolous about spending money, but she doesn't have any problems with spending over \$2,500 on a one day event that doesn't show any benefit to the City. There are other people that have private shows that bring people into the City as well and they want to know if they can use staff time and facilities for free. It seems like there is some favoritism here. Can the other events get the same things that the Heritage Event gets? Some people think that because Jeff Pilon's wife and Mary Rainville are Board Members of the Heritage Festival, they get the perks. Other people want to know if they can get these things too since they are taxpayers and they bring people into the City of Nowthen.

3). Consent Agenda:

- 1.1 Approve the February 14, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes and the February 24, 2017 Special City Council Meeting Minutes.**
- 1.2 Financial Report**
- 1.3 Approve All Audited Bills Claim # 110 through Claim # 148, plus Net Distribution reports dated February 13th, 21st and March 6th, 2017.**
- 1.4 Adopt Resolution 2017-07 - *Accept Charitable Gambling Donation – Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce***
- 1.5. Adopt Proclamation Resolution 2017-08 – *A Day of Action to End Domestic Violence***

Bettinger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Rainville seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

4). Road & Bridge:

- a). **Review of proposed 2017 Gravel Plan - Bettinger made a motion to approve the proposed 2017 Gravel Plan; Reighard seconded.**
Rainville wants to know if they have dollars associated with this. What are they looking at for the total dollars for the year? Last year when they approved the gravel and the dust control, they asked for a final report.

The report was supposed to show what was accomplished compared to what was forecasted. Rainville would prefer to have that information before they vote. Pilon said that there is a defined budget for the graveling. Reighard asked if Bettinger would be willing to change his motion to approve up to the amount not to exceed the budget amount. Bettinger agreed. Rainville would like to have more detail about what is new, what roads were dropped and why, what is approved and why. Reighard understands that to an extent. We have to rely on staff for this. The Council sets a gravel budget each year. They have a set budget and

if staff stays within that set budget he has no issues with that. Things can change over the year that could affect the gravel plan. They should rely on staff and what they have planned.

Bettinger said that this is just a 5 year gravel plan and staff tries to get all the roads within a 5 year cycle. These are just to show the roads that Glaze wants to proceed with graveling this year.

Bettinger amended his motion to approve the gravel plan for an amount not to exceed \$52,000 (budgeted amount) and to have staff provide a report of the 2016 plan vs. what was graveled and at the end of the 2017 gravel season provide a plan vs. actual report; Reighard seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

5). **Council Items:**

- a). **City Hall HVAC System Update – Bettinger would like to table this until it is determined where the money is coming from and then budget for it next year if no funding source is found; Pilon seconded.** There was a last minute submission from another vendor. Schreder said going to a one unit option from two units is not a feasible option because of the structure and configuration of the bearing wall.

Reighard would like to drop the 80% efficiency option from the spreadsheet. Schreder will revise the spreadsheet with the additional details of removing the 80% and adding the bid from the new vendor and other option choices. **All in favor; motion carried.**

- b). **Consideration of an ad in the Anoka Area Chamber Map – Rainville made a motion to approve the ad in the Anoka Area Chamber Map for \$215.00; Pilon seconded.** Bettinger doesn't think that this has provided any thing to the City of Nowthen.

Bettinger thinks they should put that money towards the furnace. Reighard agrees. Rainville feels being a City, this is an obligation. **Rainville and Pilon in favor of the motion; Bettinger and Reighard opposed. Motion failed.**

- c). **RCA – Proposal to update Standard Specification for Developers – Rainville made a motion to approve the Request for Council Action submitted by staff to hire Hakanson Anderson to update the Standard Specifications for Developers; Bettinger seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**

- d). **Consideration of Reducing Lot 1 Block 2 lot price — Due to fill issues – Rainville made a motion to move this forward for discussion; Bettinger seconded.** Pilon thinks it makes sense to have the engineer give us some elevations to determine how much fill would be required for the lot and if that impacts the asking price. **Rainville amended her motion to have the engineer determine the elevations on the lot and how much fill would be required; Pilon seconded.** Bettinger doesn't think that we should be engaging the engineer on this. He thinks the buyer should be filling the lot with the grade of the building they would be installing. Bettinger thinks it is reasonable price. **Rainville rescinded her motion. Council consensus is to keep the lot price where it is.**
- 6). **Introduction of New Items:**
Rainville made a motion for Council to direct staff to move forward with beginning the process for accepting applications for members of the Park and Rec. Committee; Reighard seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

LaDoucer asked about Breyen's email request to have a joint meeting with the Road and Bridge Committee in April. Al Viall would like to meet with the Council in April to discuss what they would like the Road and Bridge Committee to be working on. Reighard thinks it wouldn't be a bad idea to meet with the Committees to discuss the direction of the Council. Bettinger thinks the Committee should be working on an Assessment Policy and the Capital Improvement Plan and researching those areas. Rainville thinks the Council needs to decide what their thoughts are and then give direction to the Committees.

Bettinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM; Rainville seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectively submitted by:

Corrie LaDoucer, City Clerk

Mayor Jeff Pilon