

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the regular meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2013.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, and Wickstrom.

Councilmember Withhart was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to approve the October 21, 2013 agenda as submitted.

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Martin recognized Ramsey County Sheriff Matt Bostrom who attended the meeting to give the Council an update on police activities. The Sheriff's Department provides all detention services in Ramsey County with 350 to 400 in detention on any given day at the County jail. The average stay is five days. Another service provided is court security. Sheriff deputies serve 12,000 to 15,000 orders from the judges of the court. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Department provides police service to seven cities from Arden Hills to Gem Lake. There is a SWAT team task force to support and assist in large scale investigations. Another mandate is to cover 23 recreational lakes plus 92 bodies of water and 18 miles of the Mississippi River with the Lakes and Trails (Water Patrol) Unit. At any time there are some 9000 outstanding warrants. The Department is launching an online warrant service. Many people are not aware they are under a warrant. That information is now public through the Ramsey County website. The Department is also working on a Safe Surrender program when there is a lingering warrant and have a place where people can schedule a court date.

With St. Paul lab and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) crime labs, it was determined that Ramsey County would work closely with the BCA rather than trying to build a new crime lab for Ramsey County. Approximately a dozen deputies have been trained by the BCA to handle a crime scene exactly as the BCA would.

Code Red is a way for the Department to give public notices and communicate with residents. Anyone with a land line is automatically subscribed. Anyone wanting to subscribe can opt in without a land line. Notices are sent out on any public safety issue when the Department is looking for public help or to give notice on an eminent danger. Facebook and Twitter are also used.

The Sheriff's Department has a Prescription Take Back Drug program to collect unused and unwanted prescription drugs to prevent pollution and to prevent these items from being on the street. Prescription medications can be turned in at the Sheriff's station. All old and unused drugs should be turned in. More people are turning to heroin from addiction to pain killers. Heroin is now being found at 90% purity. Contrary to popular thinking, it cannot be used recreationally.

The Ramsey County Sheriff Foundation is sponsoring the annual Halloween Fright Farm at the corner of Frost Ave. and White Bear Avenue. It is open Friday and Saturday nights until Halloween. Donations are used for youth programs in the county. All are welcome.

Patrol cars are being changed to be black and white, the two colors most people recognize as a police car. This will help people to know immediately when a police car is present.

The Department continues to work with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and help raise money for veterans and their families. Officers attend the monthly burger meal at the White Bear Lake VFW. He expressed his appreciation for all who support this program.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she attended a training for the Public Leaders Citizens Academy. It was well worth while and she encouraged public officials and anyone to attend. She noted that the community survey rated the Sheriff's services very high. City Manager Schwerm stated that 98% of residents rated the Sheriff's Department as excellent or good. The biggest safety concerns are traffic speed on residential streets and auto theft.

Sheriff Bostrom appealed to all who experience a theft from their car to contact the Department and report it. The information that can be provided is very useful and helpful to find the thieves. The people breaking into cars often deal in drugs. This is one way to interrupt the drug trade.

Councilmember Johnson commended Sheriff Bostrom and his Department for their professionalism and diligence in keeping the community safe.

Mayor Martin noted that Shoreview has never had its own police department. The city has always contracted with Ramsey County along with seven other cities. It is money well spent, as the City would be unable to provide such an experienced police department with the resources that are available to the City through the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Martin recognized the Boy Scout troop from St. Odilia School who were present to work on a government badge.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Jackie Diehl, 4724 Kent Street, stated that she would like to promote November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Pancreatic cancer ranks fourth in cause of cancer deaths. It is on the rise and no one knows why this type of cancer is increasing. One of the problems is that there is no pre-screening available. By the time it is detected, it is usually in a late stage. The survivor rate in five years is 6%. Within a year of diagnosis, 73% die. The Pancreatic Action Network is a national non-profit organization that lobbies for dollars for research and promotes and provides information to cancer patients. Research focuses on a screening tool and a cure. This organization has a local, active chapter and can be contacted at www.pancan.org. The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act is legislation that was passed in the last year to provide federal funding for cancers with low survivor rates. An event is being sponsored Sunday, *The Purple Light*, that will take place at 80 different locations throughout the nation. In the Twin Cities it will be in front of the State Capitol on Sunday, October 27, 2013. More information is available on the website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Martin:

There are vacancies on many City commissions and committees. She encouraged residents who may be interested to submit an application that is available online at the City's website. The deadline is Friday, October 25, 2013.

On Tuesday, October 15th, Mayor Martin attended the grand opening of Trader Joe's. Of the new hires, 80% live in Shoreview. Murals were created on the walls with Shoreview scenes. Trader Joe's will be a great community partner.

Councilmember Quigley:

The Business Retention and Expansion meeting last week was significant. The Allied Generator Organization has consolidated with its corporate headquarters in Shoreview with the acquisition of Weber Electric. There will likely be an expansion in the future.

Councilmember Johnson:

Commended the Historical Society for a wonderful event that brought together residents aged 80 and older who shared their stories and long history in the City.

Tuesday, October 22nd is the last Farmers' Market. It will be the Pumpkin Patch Farewell. Free pumpkins are available with cookies and warm cider. All are encouraged to participate.

Wednesday, November 13th, 10:00 to 1:00, the City will host the 9th Annual Life Fair for active aging adults and caretakers. The event is free.

Councilmember Wickstrom:

The Monday night Build A Burger Night event for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will be on Monday, November 11, 2013, Veterans' Day. Free burgers will be given to veterans and their immediate families.

In response to a question raised at the last Council meeting about extra money the school district is receiving from the State. Councilmember Wickstrom emphasized that the amount from the State is not even close to the amount that would be raised through the renewal of the levy. There was also a comment about how much the school district spends on Special Education, residents need to understand that the school is mandated to spend money on Special Education as required by the needs of the students. It is not budgeted but paid according to what is needed by the required plan for each student.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to adopt the Consent Agenda for October 21, 2013, and all relevant resolutions for item Nos. 1 through 8:

1. October 7, 2013 City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Receipt of Committee/Commission Minutes:
 - Economic Development Commission, August 20, 2013
 - Economic Development Authority, September 9, 2013
 - Human Rights Commission, September 25, 2013
3. Monthly Reports:
 - Administration
 - Community Development
 - Finance
 - Public Works
 - Park and Recreation
4. Verified Claims in the Amount of \$916,317.27
5. Purchases
6. Approval of Application for Exempt Permit - St. Odilia Men's Club
7. Approval of Joint Powers Agreement with Ramsey County - Voting System Acquisition and Operation
8. Developer Escrow Reduction

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

Mayor Martin noted that normally the City budgets in the range of \$35,000 for election costs. City Manager Schwerm stated that the voting machines are a capital cost and will range from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MOUNDS VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVY REFERENDUM

Responding to the request made during the presentation from the Mounds View School District Board at the last meeting, it was the consensus of the Council to adopt a resolution of support for the levy renewal to be voted on November 5, 2013.

City Manager Schwerm stated that the Community Survey indicates that approximately 86% of residents believe the school district is a major factor in the quality of life in Shoreview. The Council has historically supported school district levy requests.

Councilmember Quigley added that the quality of the school district also improves property values in the City.

MOTION: by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to adopt Resolution No. 13-92 supporting the renewal of the operating levy for the Mounds View School District that is scheduled on the November 5, 2013 ballot.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Quigley, Wickstrom, Martin
Nays: None

CONTRACT WITH HKGI - HIGHWAY CORRIDOR TRANSITION STUDY

Presentation by City Planner Kathleen Castle

The City's Economic Development Authority (EDA) has included in its 2013/2014 Work Plan this year a Highway Corridor Transition Study. The purpose of the study is to develop long-term strategies and actions for residential areas adjacent to highway corridors.

The scope of work to be done includes:

- Assembling background data on land use, economic development and housing market data
- Host a one-half day charrette with key staff and agencies in Ramsey County to explore land use questions
- Presentation to the EDA, City Council and Planning Commission
- Prepare a draft land use plan from the feedback to the presentations
- Develop a Strategic Action Plan to implement strategies, including public investment and tools

The areas to be included are Highway 49/Hodgson Road and Highway 96. Other areas may be added. The cost of the study was bid at \$46,500, which is within budget. It will be funded through TIF District No. 1. Completion is anticipated by May 31, 2014.

The EDA reviewed the proposal at its October meeting and supports the proposal. Staff is recommending a contract with Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc. (HKGI).

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc. for the Highway Corridor Transition Study.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Quigley, Wickstrom, Johnson, Martin
Nays: None

CONTRACT WITH SEH, INC. - RAILROAD OPERATIONS AND QUIET ZONE STUDY

Presentation by City Planner Kathleen Castle

As a result of increased rail operations on rail corridors in the City particularly at the Cardigan junction and at-grade crossings, staff is proposing an execution of a professional services agreement with SEH to conduct a Rail Quiet Zone and Operation Study. There are two major rail corridors in the City. One runs east/west along County Road E with crossings at Lexington Avenue and Victoria Street. The north/south corridor runs east of Snail Lake, Lake Wabasso and Lake Owasso with crossings at Jerrold Street and North Owasso Boulevard. Both lines converge at Cardigan Junction.

Quiet zones, as defined by the Federal Rail Administration, is a specified section of railroad corridor where train crews do not routinely sound the horn at railroad crossings. A quiet zone is typically one-half mile in length. The proposed study is the first step in the process to establish quiet zones. The study will provide the following information:

- Assessment of crossings to determine what improvements are needed to implement quiet zones
- Provide a cost estimate of improvements
- Phasing options

The second part of the study will provide the City with information on railroad operations that includes:

- Current/planned rail operations
- Rail line conditions and improvements
- Rail contents
- Applicable Federal and State regulations

The cost of the study is \$12,000 and is scheduled to be completed within 90 days. Staff is recommending execution of the proposed agreement.

Mayor Martin stated that this study is in response to the complaints and expressions of concern by many residents in the community who are being impacted negatively with the increase in rail traffic, particularly at Cardigan Junction. Cities do not have regulatory authority with railroads, and it was felt this study would provide solid ground for steps to move forward in trying to find some solutions to this problem.

Mayor Martin acknowledged the petition that has been submitted to the City from residents and invited public comment.

Ms. Marcia Figus, 3538 Rustic Place and **Ms. Jan Bundy**, 3681 Rustic Place appeared before the Council. **Ms. Figus** stated that Cardigan Junction is a very small area and is now being heavily used 24 hours a day. One night horns were blowing at 11:00 p.m., 1:00 a.m., 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., when she finally emailed Mayor Martin, Commissioner Huffman and City Manager Schwerm. They learned that it was not only residents in Shoreview being impacted but in Little Canada, Vadnais Heights, Arden Hills and Roseville. Cars are being switched at Cardigan Junction. As many as 137 cars have been counted in one train. When cars are switched, it is constant banging with windows rattling. The undersigned to the petition express their concern about the change and usage of the Cardigan Junction site. It used to be that residents hardly noticed there was a rail line in the neighborhood, but now the noise of horns and switching cars happens on a daily basis.

Areas of concern include pollution with drainage into Grass Lake and Vadnais Lake. Possible spills and leakage. Multiple engines idling for extended periods of time. The smell stings eyes. There are now trains sitting on the I-694 bridge. The cars are labeled flammable. This is a residential area in which the railroad is now using as an industrial site. When the train is 100 cars or more, it is over a mile long. Residents are asking for a safer environment and a safer neighborhood.

Mayor Martin stated that the City is trying to work through the City's federal legislative delegation on this issue since they regulate rail carriers. A meeting has been held between local officials and CP Rail. A letter is being prepared to update residents from that meeting. There is agreement that CP Rail will review their operations at Cardigan Junction.

Ms. Figus stated that residents have also contacted legislators and CP Rail. At this time, they have been unsuccessful in scheduling a meeting with CP Rail and residents. It is impacting children who are not getting enough sleep. She stated that there are 139 names on the petition and contact is being made in other cities for the petition to move forward. Petitions that are still circulating will also be submitted.

Mr. Schwerm stated that the City will continue to work with the neighborhood and try to mitigate impacts of the rail operation in this area. The process of establishing a quiet zone may take as long as a year or more. It will not happen at the end of the study. The City is looking at improvements that may be as much as \$250,000 per crossing and obtaining State grant funds to help defray these costs can take time.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she would like to know how much noise is coming from each area. The City is looking at improvements to three crossings which could cost upwards of \$750,000. If that kind of money is spent, she would want to be sure it would solve the problem.

MOTION: by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded Councilmember Johnson to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with SEH, Inc., for the completion of a Railroad Quiet Zone and Operations Study.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Wickstrom, Johnson, Quigley, Martin
 Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to adjourn
 the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

Mayor Martin declared the meeting adjourned.

THESE MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2013.

Terry Schwerm
City Manager