

COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The first regular meeting of the Coon Rapids City Council for the month of April was called to order by Mayor Jerry Koch at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, in the Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Koch led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Jerry Koch, Councilmembers Brad Greskowiak, Kari Rehrauer, Wade Demmer, Jennifer Geisler, and Pat Carlson

Members Absent: Councilmember Brad Johnson

ADOPT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GRESKOWIAK, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. MARCH 16, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA/INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

2. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-45 ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT AND APPROVE WATER QUALITY COST SHARE AGREEMENT
3. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-47 ACCEPTING TWIN CITIES GATEWAY 2021

MEMBER CITY GRANT AGREEMENT

4. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-50 ACCEPTING DONATION FOR PARK BENCH
 5. RATIFY TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF LIQUOR LICENSING TO ALLOW FOR EXPANDED OUTDOOR SERVICE
 6. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-48 ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND APPROVE CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM CONTRACT
 7. RECOMMEND REAPPOINTMENTS OF CHARTER COMMISSION MEMBERS
 8. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-49 APPOINTING SHALONDA GORDON TO THE SAFETY COMMISSION
 9. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-46 APPOINTING STEVE RIEKEN TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS
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MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Councilmember Geisler asked a question concerning the temporary expansion of liquor licensing. She asked if the motion allowed staff to approve administratively should another business want to do the expansion. City Clerk Lenzmeier said that was correct. A restaurant did not have to have the liquor license, but could go through the Planning Department for review. City Manager Stemwedel added that the practice established last spring allowed staff to make the temporary call to approve, but it still had to be ratified by Council after the fact.

Councilmember Demmer thanked everyone who volunteered to serve on commissions. He also thanked Ms. Amanda Tukic for the donation and offered his condolences for the passing of her grandfather.

Mayor Koch also asked a question concerning the temporary expansion of liquor licensing. He asked how much notice the City would provide if the emergency order was terminated. Mr. Stemwedel explained once notice was provided, the business would have 30 days to vacate the expansion.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

BID OPENINGS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

10. CONSIDER RESOLUTION 21-11(9) AWARDED CONTRACT FOR EAST RESERVOIR REHABILITATION
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

Councilmember Demmer commented this was the widest range of bidders he had seen. Public Works Director Himmer said it was good news to have so many bidders. There was a pre-bid meeting so all the parties were aware there was competition. Elevation Coating was located near Clearwater so they were pretty close and ready to move forward.

Mayor Koch asked if emptying a 5,500,000-gallon ground reservoir would impact the residents during summer watering season. Mr. Himmer talked about the booster pump project that was ordered a few months back. He said they would make sure the booster pumps were online and would also be able to maintain storage with other locations.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-11(9) AWARDED A CONTRACT TO ELEVATION COATING, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$675,000 FOR PROJECT 21-11, EAST RESERVOIR REHABILITATION.

Councilmember Greskowiak said he totally supported updating the City's infrastructure, but had some constituents ask about the security of monitoring systems and the state of the City's cyber security. Mr. Himmer said Public Works extended fiber between the well fields and treatment plants in 2018. It also upgraded software and computer systems. Currently they are working to update the Emergency Response Plan due in June.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

11. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2243 AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 5-203 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO

1. ADOPT ORDINANCE 2243, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 5-203 TO ADD A DEFINITION OF GROCERY STORE AND AMEND THE DEFINITION OF CLASS B OFF SALE LIQUOR LICENSING TO INCLUDE A GROCERY USER WITH A SQUARE FOOTAGE OF AT LEAST 25,000 SQUARE FEET TO QUALIFY FOR A CLASS B OFF SALE LIQUOR LICENSE; AND
2. AUTHORIZE SUMMARY PUBLICATION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

12. PC 21-6: CONSIDER INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE CHANGING ZONING FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL 2 TO MODERATE DENSITY RESIDENTIAL – 12691 HANSON BOULEVARD

The Staff report was shared with Council.

Mayor Koch asked if a conversation such as the retention of the pine trees on the perimeter should come at the time of the Site Plan. Community Development Director Fernelius confirmed that was correct. He said this might be a little unusual. The zoning boundary was being shifted, but it was still one parcel and the church was still a conditional use. When the applicant goes through the subdivision process, independent of the townhome development, they would need to address any issues that arise related to existing parking, setbacks, etc.

Councilmember Demmer asked if the townhomes that were already built would fit as moderate density or low density two. Mr. Fernelius said the future land use map reflected the current use which was institutional, but that was not being addressed this evening. The Comprehensive Plan would also need to be amended because it needed to be in alignment with the zoning. Councilmember Demmer explained he was asking because the zoning was currently low density residential, but what was going into the new site was medium density. However, he thought the reality was that it is roughly equivalent to the rest of the neighborhood. Mr. Fernelius agreed. Councilmember Demmer asked if the City would clean up the zoning. Mr. Fernelius explained that this was a Planned Unit Development and the Comprehensive Plan and zoning code were in alignment.

Mayor Koch introduced the proposed Ordinance approving the zone change to Moderate Density Residential in Planning Case 21-7 based on the following:

1. The proposed rezoning to Moderate Density Residential is consistent with the proposed land use designation of Moderate Density Residential.
2. The proposed rezoning is compatible with the adjacent land uses and zoning.
3. The proposed zone change would not have an adverse impact on the area. The area is predominantly zoned as Planned Unit Developments with townhomes as the use.

13. PC 21-5: CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR USE FLEXIBILITY FOR A SECOND GROUND SIGN – 1560 COON RAPIDS BOULEVARD – INDIGO SIGNS

The Staff report was shared with Council.

Councilmember Geisler said she was frustrated that the County chose not to have any conversations with Caribou Coffee to consider having a co-located sign.

Councilmember Demmer said he drove by today and Caribou's sign was not visible from one direction.

Mayor Koch thought it was perfectly reasonable for the County to have its monument sign for a very popular park three blocks down the road and for Caribou to have its own sign.

Councilmember Greskowiak asked if the developer had knowledge of the situation going in to the project. Community Development Director Fernelius said he was unsure at what point in the process it came up, but said it was not an unusual request. Councilmember Greskowiak asked where the sign would be located and Mr. Fernelius showed the location on a map.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, TO APPROVE USE FLEXIBILITY FOR A SECOND GROUND SIGN IN PLANNING CASE 21-5 BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE APPLICANT DEMONSTRATED THE MODIFICATION SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCES THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION. THE PROPOSED SIGN WILL ADVANCE THE INTENT OF THE SECTION IN THAT IT WILL ALLOW THE BUSINESS TO BE IDENTIFIED TO THOSE TRAVELING ALONG COON RAPIDS BOULEVARD.
2. THE SIGN WILL ALLOW THE PROPERTY TO DEVELOP IN AN EFFICIENT AND WELL-ORGANIZED WAY. GROUND SIGNS ALLOW BUSINESSES TO BE IDENTIFIED BY DRIVERS ALONG THE STREET. GROUND SIGNS ARE A NORMAL COMPONENT TO SITE DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS A UNIQUE SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE EXISTING REGIONAL PARK SIGN PROHIBITS THE BUSINESS FROM HAVING THEIR OWN SIGN WITHOUT THE GRANTING OF USE FLEXIBILITY.
3. THE PLAN PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT SITE AMENITIES, BUFFERS AND OTHER ELEMENTS TO OFFSET ANY POTENTIAL HARMFUL EFFECTS THAT COULD BE CAUSED BY THE USE. THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED LANDSCAPING ENHANCES THE APPEARANCE OF THE SIGN AND OFFSETS AND POTENTIAL VISUAL IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE SIGN.
4. THE PROPOSED SIGN WILL NOT DETRACT FROM OTHER USES IN PORT DISTRICTS.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Koch reviewed the rules of order for the Open Mic/Public Comment portion of the meeting.

REPORTS ON PREVIOUS OPEN MIC

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Stemwedel said the best way to find out what was happening for the spring/summer season was to check out the City's Park and Recreation guide which came out a couple of weeks back. He said it could be located online. The City is planning for as much as possible with the caveat that it has to follow current guidelines.

Mayor Koch noted that Saturday night the Coon Rapids cruise started back up, but seemed like everyone was pretty well behaved. Mr. Stemwedel said the activity of cruising on the Boulevard was completely legal. The City's approach was to address issues such as noise, traffic, parking, etc. as best it could. He encouraged everyone to send complaints, comments, or compliments to clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov. Police Chief Wise said the Department did and would have extra officers working as part of the traffic flow to deal with any illegal activity that popped up. He said there was one high profile incident on Saturday that involved a vehicle that fled and crashed. The driver was eventually apprehended for drunk driving.

Councilmember Demmer asked if there was anything that could be done about people hanging out late and spreading out over the City. Chief Wise said it was a big town and warm weekends tend to be busier, but he encouraged everyone to call 911 and report any concerning activity.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:54 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jerry Koch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joan Lenzmeier, City Clerk