

COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The second regular meeting of the Coon Rapids City Council for the month of July was called to order by Mayor Jerry Koch at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 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 GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED TO ADD ITEM 1A. UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT UNDER PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1A. UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

Peggy Scott, Minnesota House of Representatives, said the Special Session had finally ended and she was attending to provide an update to the Council on the final decisions. She talked about transportation, housing, and public safety.

Mayor Koch asked about the subsidy on Northstar. Representative Scott said the last she heard was \$25-30 each way.

Councilmember Greskowiak said he was very glad to hear that Highway 10 had come through, but he was concerned about not having a third lane for traffic during construction. Representative Scott said she would continue to push for it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1B. JULY 6, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA/INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

2. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-78 ACCEPTING 2021 STATEWIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP) GRANT AND APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH ANOKA COUNTY
 3. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-75 CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS, ROBINSON TOWNHOMES DEVELOPMENT
 4. ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-77 ACCEPTING DONATION OF A K9 TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Police Chief Wise said it was a very generous donation from Mr. Mark McDonough, a retired, long-term K9 handler for the Coon Rapids Police Department. He said it spoke to the relationship that was special in Coon Rapids.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. HOLD PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – LAND SALE, 125XX LARCH STREET
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

Mayor Koch asked who was responsible for lot lines. Economic Development Coordinator Brown said the surveyor.

Councilmember Greskowiak said the lot lines went over Frontage Road and asked if that would be figured out prior to the sale. Mr. Brown said the sale would not include the entirety of the lot. The City would work with the buyer to establish new lines and legal description.

Mayor Koch opened and closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. since no one appeared to address the Council.

Mayor Koch introduced the ordinance authorizing conveyance of the property at 125xx Larch Street to Cardinal Rapids LLC for \$20,000.

BID OPENINGS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

6. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS AWARDING CONTRACT AND APPROVE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT – RIVERWALK SANITARY SEWER LINING PHASE 2 – AMENDING 2021 SANITARY SEWER BUDGET
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

Councilmember Demmer asked about the estimate, bid, and addition to the budget. He asked why the budget was \$1 million, but the engineer's estimate was \$2 million. Public Works Director Himmer said he made a mistake; the number had increased more than he anticipated.

Councilmember Greskowiak said the 42-inch pipe called for a full rehabilitation. He asked if that meant lining or all new pipe. Mr. Himmer said lining.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER REHRAUER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-14(9) AWARDING A CONTRACT TO MICHELS CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,442,082.00 FOR THE RIVERWALK SEWER LINING PHASE 2 PROJECT; TO APPROVE A CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SEH AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-76 AMENDING THE 2021 SANITARY SEWER FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$604,000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

7. PC 21-26: CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2247 DEFINING MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY AND ALLOW AS PERMITTED USE IN COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL – LEAFLINE
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2247 ADDING A DEFINITION FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY AND ALLOWING IT AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2248 AMENDING TOBACCO DEFINITION
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2248 AMENDING CHAPTER 5-209(11) REVISING THE DEFINITION OF ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. PC 21-20: CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2249 CHANGING ZONING TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL, 3525/3531 COON RAPIDS BOULEVARD AND 35XX 115TH STREET – U-HAUL COMPANY
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER REHRAUER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GRESKOWIAK, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2249 CHANGING THE ZONING FROM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE PROPOSED REZONING TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF COMMERCIAL MIXED USE.
2. THE PROPOSED REZONING IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE ADJACENT LAND USES AND ZONING.
3. THE PROPOSED REZONING WOULD NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE AREA.
4. THE PROPOSED REZONING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN THE 2010 COON RAPIDS BOULEVARD FRAMEWORK PLAN AND THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN'S REDEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMERCIAL NODES AND REDEVELOPMENT OF BLIGHTED SITES.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2250 REGULATING TARGETED RESIDENTIAL PICKETING
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The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2250 RELATING TO AND REGULATING TARGETED PICKETING IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

Councilmember Rehrauer said she supported similar ordinances in general, but did not support this ordinance because of the timing and interest in balance. She said she had proposed the reinstatement of a Human Right's Commission and proposed an Outreach and Inclusion Commission, but neither effort had gained traction. She felt strongly that Coon Rapid's needed to show BIPOC residents that it was committed to equity and inclusion.

Councilmember Geisler said while she appreciated Councilmember Rehrauer's comments, residents should not look at this ordinance as something against BIPOC. The ordinance was a way of protecting everyone in their personal and private space.

Mayor Koch agreed and thought Councilmember Rehrauer's comments were unrelated to the ordinance.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-1 (NAY – REHRAUER).

11. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2251 AMENDING SECTION 5-209(8)(a)
OFF SALE LIQUOR LICENSING

The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2251 AMENDING CHAPTER 5-200 CLASS A OFF SALE LIQUOR LICENSING.

Councilmember Demmer said the City received some emails from residents who owned liquor licenses in the City. He said these were not easy to walk through. The City wanted to protect existing businesses, but also be inviting to new businesses. He said the Council had heard the concerns and took them seriously. This one action unfortunately did not show the months of compromising.

Councilmember Rehrauer agreed. She said this was the middle ground and took a lot of work to get there.

Councilmember Carlson said even though there was not much discussion tonight, the Council had been hashing this out in workshops.

Councilmember Greskowiak commented that the City was still pretty restrictive with its licenses and was not expanding the number of licenses. He also thought it was a good compromise in terms of changing consumer demand.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

12. CONSIDER WATER EMERGENCY

The Staff report was shared with Council.

Mayor Koch said when this started the water tower was at 15 feet and then made it to 25 feet. He asked where it was now. Public Works Director Himmer said staff had been manually manipulating the pumps to keep it fairly stable; however, the amount they were pumping was continuously high.

Councilmember Demmer asked if residents were complying with the restrictions. Mr. Himmer said they were trying to get the word out the best they could. Public Works did get reports about residents not following the restrictions. Councilmember Demmer asked what a resident should do if they notice someone not complying. Mr. Himmer said to contact Public Works. They use door hangers and document. Then if the same property continued to not comply staff could follow the fine process. Councilmember Demmer talked about the Report It system on the City's website.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, TO AFFIRM THE CURRENT WATER EMERGENCY ENACTED BY THE EMERGENCY BOARD ON JUNE 18, 2021.

Councilmember Greskowiak said he did not see the restrictions in the newsletter and did not think that everyone knew. He recommended mass mailing a postcard.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR CITY HALL MISCELLANEOUS
CONCRETE REPAIRS – PROJECT 21-20

The Staff report was shared with Council.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DEMMER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER REHRAUER, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH NEECK CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR CITY HALL MISCELLANEOUS CONCRETE REPAIRS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT. 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.

Wael Sakallah, 314 Buchanan Street NE, asked about the tobacco ordinance. He asked if it would allow businesses to sale vaporizers without having a tobacco license.

City Attorney Brodie said it would. If a business did not sell tobacco, it did not need a license. But they could only sell products or vaporizers for the purpose of using medical marijuana. Mayor Koch said since the item was on the agenda earlier and had already passed, he recommended speaking with staff about any issues.

Todd Luttmann, 10559 Martin Street NW, addressed concerns regarding their neighbor's multi pet permit behind his property. He said it had been three years. Last year it was finally documented, but because of COVID there was not a hearing. He requested a hearing for their license renewal which was in August. He said it had become a real issue.

Mayor Koch said the Police Department handled the multi pet permits, but staff would look into it.

REPORTS ON PREVIOUS OPEN MIC

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Demmer said there was a lot of smoke in the air from Canada. He encouraged residents to take care of themselves and watch out for their neighbors. He also recommended no outside fires for the weekend.

Mayor Koch noted the Anoka County Fair running July 21st through July 25th.

Police Chief Wise mentioned Night to Unite on August 3, 2021. He said the best way to register was to call the Police Department.

Councilmember Geisler recommended Rec on the Spot indicating the schedule was on the City's website. The Farmer's Market is at the Ice Arena every Wednesday. The Summer Concert Series is at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park on Thursdays. The next Neighborhood meeting is at Prospect Park on Tuesday, July 27th.

ADJOURN

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GEISLER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:04 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jerry Koch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joan Lenzmeier, City Clerk