

**CITY OF PARK RAPIDS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 25, 2017, 6:00 PM  
Park Rapids Public Library-Lower Level  
Park Rapids, Minnesota**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Park Rapids City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pat Mikesh, and everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Pat Mikesh, Councilmembers Ryan Leckner, Erika Randall, Dick Rutherford, and Liz Stone. Absent: None. Staff Present: Administrator John McKinney, Treasurer Angela Brumbaugh, Public Facilities Superintendent Chris Fieldsend, and Clerk Margie Vik. Others Present: Nancy Newman, County Commissioners Ed Smith and Char Christiansen, Kathy Grell, Sue Tomte, and Kevin Cederstrom from the Enterprise.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Leckner, seconded by Rutherford, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following additions: to the Consent Agenda #6.16. Resolution to Approve Temporary On Sale Liquor License for the Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism in the City of Park Rapids, and to General Business 8.1. Finance Committee's Report on the Purchase of Fish Hook Lake Lots.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**4.1. City Council Workshop Minutes-July 11, 2017:** A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Stone, and unanimously carried to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, City Council Workshop minutes as presented.

**4.2. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes-July 11, 2017:** A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, City Council Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

**5. FINANCE:**

**5.1. Payables & Prepays:** A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Stone, and unanimously carried to approve the payables in the amount of \$77,071.50, and the prepaids in the amount of \$1,307,567.90, for a total of \$1,384,639.40.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Stone, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to approve the following consent agenda items:**

- 6.1. Resolution #2017-117 Approving Ordinance No. 575 Amending the Park Rapids City Code of Ordinances, of the City of Park Rapids, Chapter 92 Nuisances, Sections 92.02 Definitions and 92.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Environment.**
- 6.2. Ordinance No. 575 Amending the Park Rapids City Code of Ordinances, of the City of Park Rapids, Chapter 92 Nuisances, Sections 92.02 Definitions and 92.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Environment.**
- 6.3. Resolution #2017-118 Approving Ordinance No. 576 Amending the Park Rapids City Code of Ordinances, of the City of Park Rapids, Chapter 36 Fee Schedule, Section 36.13 Miscellaneous Fees.**
- 6.4. Ordinance No. 576 Amending the Park Rapids City Code of Ordinances, of the City of Park Rapids, Chapter 36 Fee Schedule, Section 36.13 Miscellaneous Fees.**
- 6.5. Approve Plumber's Permit to Work in the City of Park Rapids in 2017 for Claypool Plumbing & Heating Inc.**
- 6.6. Resolution #2017-119 Approve Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the Antique Tractor and Engine Club Inc. on October 27, 2017.**
- 6.7. Resolution #2017-120 Approve Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the Antique Tractor and Engine Club Inc. on August 5, 2018.**
- 6.8. Resolution #2017-121 Appointing Tom Petschl to Serve on the Park Rapids Planning Commission.**
- 6.9. Approve Outdoor Dance Permit for American Legion Post 212 c/o Jerry Benham at 900 First Street East, on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.**
- 6.10. Approve Golf Cart/Class 2 ATV License to Operate on Park Rapids City Streets in 2017 for Roy Barten.**

- 6.11. **Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$33,594.61 to TKDA for Professional Services Pertaining to the 2016 Apron and Taxiway A Rehabilitation Project at the Municipal Airport.**
- 6.12. **Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$1,646.80 to TKDA for Professional Services Pertaining to the Master Plan for the Municipal Airport.**
- 6.13. **Resolution #2017-122 Approve Step Increase and Wage Adjustment for Full Time Accounting Clerk/Receptionist Janel Stewart.**
- 6.14. **Resolution #2017-123 Approving the Full Time Employment Status and Acknowledging the Declaration of Park Rapids Police Officer Austin Rittgers.**
- 6.15. **Resolution #2017-124 Accepting Donations for the City of Park Rapids.**
- 6.16. **Resolution #2017-125 Approve Temporary On Sale Liquor License for the Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism in the City of Park Rapids.**

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**7. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** There were no comments.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**8.1. Finance Committee's Report on the Purchase of Fish Hook Lake**

**Lots:** Randall stated the Finance Committee held a meeting today, and unfortunately we do not have a recommendation to bring to the Council. We decided that after talking about it more that it is not an issue of wanting to buy it, or where is the money coming from, but now it's an issue of whether or not the Council even wants to pursue a park down there. Is that something that the Council wants explored further? We've had discussions about this before, it's really hard to make that decision without some sort of vision. What is the plan? Has the DNR been talked to about what we can do down there when it comes to a beach? Have we looked at our own shoreland ordinance to see what we are able to do in that area? I think there are questions that need to be asked before it comes back to whether we want to enter into this agreement with the county to buy it. Ultimately, if we want to put it in our budget for the next handful of years to pay it back, we can do that. But it feels like we're putting the cart before the horse because here it is and then go backwards to a plan. We've had one of those in our past and they don't tend to work so well.

Randall stated we need to as a Council decide if we want to pursue this, and if it is, what we discussed was asking the county if they'd consider giving us until November 1<sup>st</sup> to explore a plan. If they accept, then referring it back to staff for a committee for a development to bring something back to us for us to consider. I think we need to decide if we even want to ask for those ninety days.

Leckner stated I think that sounds fair. At our economic development meeting we talked about if the county would reconsider and that they would pay for the full purchase price for the property, and then deed it to us. Then we might be able to develop it faster. Randall stated that's a really good way to look at it. If the county gave it to us tomorrow, would we want to develop it? That's the question that needs to be answered. Is it even a good spot to have the city beach. Leckner stated why should we let them waste their money if we are just going to let it sit there.

Randall stated to get to the answer, just act as if we already have this property. Do we want to pursue a beach down there, knowing the limitations of that area, the parking, and the distance from town? To me that's the issue. Stone questioned is one of our ultimate goals to have a city beach? Randall stated it was the goal of the Parks Board to expand the beach there. In our meeting today it was brought up that we do have a beach there. We have a space that if we wanted to develop a littler beach we could. But there's a lot of limitations with that spot in general. How big of a beach do you want to put there with the limitations that I already talked about? Leckner stated it's not conducive to kids in the city to ride a bike there. There's no parking. There's a lot of issues. Mikesh stated there's not much of a road. Rutherford stated if you put two cars on that road facing each way and a kid riding a bicycle, somebody's going to get hurt. Randall stated it would be tricky.

Mikesh stated we discussed it and we couldn't come up with a decision, so it's back to us as a Council, do we want to spend time pursuing it or do we want to kill it now. Let's make up our mind and not keep kicking it down the road. Randall questioned do we even want to pursue having a beach out there. The money part needs to come second.

Rutherford stated the county wants an answer. They have other places to give it to. They're not giving us anything. We have to pay it back. Randall stated the purchase price is around \$270,000.00 and they're paying half of it, and we pay half. They are giving \$135,000.00. It is a generous offer but we as a city have never said we want to develop a city beach out there. Do we even want to put time into bringing something back to us about the options, and if so we have to ask for the extension first to even see if they'll give us until November 1<sup>st</sup>. If they do then city staff will look at it and bring some stuff back to us. If they bring a report back to us and nobody even wants a city beach, why even do it. Stone stated I would hate to see efforts wasted. Rutherford stated it takes all of our staff time to do that. Randall stated we have to call in other people to help us. We do need a lot of answers about what can be developed out there and what the DNR would allow us to do. If we want more parking where will it go because you'll lose green space if you add parking.

Leckner questioned is the thing to do to make a motion to pursue it or not?

Kathy Grell questioned would you consider just asking the county for a ninety day extension? You'll have ninety more days to have more discussion amongst yourselves whether you think it's good. You can garner more public opinion on it, or pull together a task force to get other groups interested in this. It may help you answer some of the due diligence questions you are looking at answering. For instance, what will the DNR allow you to do, where are other options for parking besides right down at the point. For kids on

bikes can you take them across, where you first come up to the echo circle, on a nice bike path right next to the beach so they're not right on the road. Those are the things that if staff had time, and help from the DNR, you could use this ninety days for. Then you're actually putting off the decision of whether to buy or not for ninety days so you can look at all the facts and not just make a decision based on this little bit of discussion here.

Randall stated I apologize if I was unclear. I felt that was exactly what I was suggesting be before us. It was not about the money. Now it's about do we want to ask for an extension and put our city's resources into this and look at it. I'm not making a motion at all. If anyone wants to make a motion, it would be to first ask the county to extend their offer to remain open until November 1<sup>st</sup>, and then we would refer it to staff. If we don't want to ask for an extension to consider it, it's done.

Stone stated my first concern is safety. It's always going to be safety. Is it feasible to have a safe route for kids to access the beach, but that's quite a ways. We won't know that unless we research it further. It seems to me that's an awful lot of effort to put into something that could potentially not work out. To me, the first question to ask, is it possible or realistic for kids to access that location safely. From looking at it, I don't think it is. Randall stated you're always going to have to go on Highway 71. Once you're in the park it's a little different issue, it's getting to the park. Stone stated nobody's mentioned the narrow roadway once you get off of Highway 71. It's a very narrow road. It would have to be widened. I think that would be a very expensive and timely process.

**A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Mikesh, to reject Hubbard County's offer to purchase the Fish Hook Lake lots currently owned by the Gulbranson Family, due to safety concerns.**

**Discussion:** Randall stated I appreciate the time that the county has put into presenting this to us. The appearance from the minutes from the county board meetings was that there was some frustration towards the city and it appeared that we were dragging our feet. Again, I felt I was really clear at our last meeting, that this was very new to the City Council. This was presented to the full Council for the very first time when Miss Gulbranson came to our meeting three months ago. I feel that this process was backwards and that there should have been development of a plan and then go forward. I don't think that we've had the opportunity to put the due diligence into it that it deserved. I don't know if the outcome would have been different but at least we wouldn't have felt rushed.

**The vote was called.**

**The following Councilmembers voted in favor: Leckner, Mikesh, Randall, Rutherford, Stone.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Further Discussion:** McKinney questioned am I authorized to notify Lohmeier? Mikesh answered yes.

**9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** McKinney stated I will be out of the country visiting Korea for three weeks, and will miss the next two Council meetings. We

are working on the budget. The Finance Committee will be convening soon to look it over and move it forward.

**10. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:** Fieldsend stated the fundraising for the restrooms in Pioneer Park is at a little over \$11,000.00. They are almost halfway with their fundraising efforts.

**11. MINUTES/REPORTS/INFORMATION:** There were no comments.

**12. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Stone stated the Arts and Culture Committee is working and making progress on the Sculpture Walk.

Rutherford stated we did get someone to take the administrator job at River Heights Apartments. We contracted with Cass County. Scott Wilson is the representative. He will be managing River Heights for us. We saved money by doing it that way because we don't have to pay his wages or his compensation package. We had twenty-five applications.

Rutherford stated they are going to try to have the theatre open, after their fire, by Friday. Service Pros will be there working day and night until they get it done. They have three trucks that they need to park in front of the theatre during Crazy Days. Crazy Days is going to have to work around them. Randall stated everyone will just have to work together and work it out. Mikesh stated the chief will just have to be notified if there are any complaints.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Stone, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

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Mayor Pat Mikesh

ATTEST:

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Margie M. Vik  
City Clerk