

**CITY OF PARK RAPIDS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015, 6:00 PM
Park Rapids Public Library-Lower Level
Park Rapids, Minnesota**

1. CALL TO ORDER: The September 22nd, 2015, Regular Meeting of the Park Rapids City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Acting Mayor Paul Utke, and everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL: Present: Acting Mayor Paul Utke, Councilmembers Ryan Leckner, Rod Nordberg, and Erika Randall. Absent: Mayor Pat Mikesh. Staff Present: Administrator John McKinney, Treasurer Angela Brumbaugh, Public Facilities Superintendent Chris Fieldsend, Planner Ryan Mathisrud, Fire Chief Terry Long, and Liquor Store Manager Scott Olson. Others Present: Dick Rutherford, Sue Tomte, Cynthia Jones, and Kevin Cederstrom from the Enterprise.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Leckner, seconded by Randall, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following changes: Remove Item #8.1. Request by Park Rapids Senior Center Club Inc. to Abate Special Assessments and for City to Provide Free Water/Sewer Services.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1. City Council Workshop Minutes-September 8, 2015: A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to approve the September 8th, 2015, City Council Workshop minutes as presented.

4.2. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes-September 8, 2015: A motion was made by Nordberg, seconded by Randall, and unanimously carried to approve the September 8th, 2015, City Council Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

5. FINANCE:

5.1. Payables & Prepaids: A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Nordberg, and unanimously carried to approve the payables in the amount of \$124,797.46, and the prepaids in the amount of \$267,334.61, for a total of \$392,132.07.

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

- 6.1. Approve Quote in the Amount of \$1,821.00 for Repairs to Lighting at the Airport Main Hangar.**
- 6.2. Approve Purchase in the Amount of \$4,000.00 for Turn Out Gear for Firefighter Curt Eischens.**
- 6.3. Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$2,853.98 for TKDA for Professional Services Regarding the Airport Master Plan Update.**
- 6.4. Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$13,892.50 for TKDA for Professional Services Regarding the Airport Master Plan Update.**
- 6.5. Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$26,870.92 for Apex Engineering Group for Professional Services for Various Projects in the City.**
- 6.6. Approve Pay Request #5 in the Amount of \$427,617.92 for C&L Excavating for Work Completed for the Riverside Area-Phase One/North Main Avenue/Mill Road Project.**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

7. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Dick Rutherford stated on North Central Avenue there is a house that burnt down earlier this year. Now it's for sale. It's not been cleaned up. Why haven't we got an ordinance that when this happens, and it can't be used, it should be cleaned up? They do every place else. The house is gutted.

Randall stated there are a lot of issues with that house. One, the lady that owned it went into a nursing home. Her grandson was in charge of it. He didn't pay the homeowner's insurance. There's absolutely no money to pay for any clean up. The county stepped in and took over guardianship of that lady. She has just recently passed away. There is no money to do that. An ordinance would be great, but that was a really bad series of events there.

Rutherford stated but the house is for sale. Who is selling it, the county? Randall stated the guardian of the previous owner. Rutherford stated even if there is no money, and if they sell the property that money could go towards clean up. People drive out to the golf course and they see a burnt out shack. What does that look like for the city?

Utke questioned do we have anything that comes close to what he's looking for? McKinney stated if it's a public nuisance, but the problem is we have to come up with the money to do it because there is no money. Utke stated so it would be the city paying for it, and then you would assess it to the taxes. McKinney questioned does it rise to the level of a public nuisance? Mathisrud stated yes. Our normal process would be for public nuisances the police department would issue letters and those types of things. If there's

nobody to contact it makes it pretty difficult to clean these places up. What you can do is exactly what you just described, write a check, demolish the property, but you still have to go through a process to do that. There's official notification and those types of things. I have been looking at this issue closely, trying to figure out an avenue to proceed on this one. This will take time to get it cleaned up. We don't have a bulletproof process.

McKinney stated maybe we should take a look at what others are doing in these situations and see if there's something that we could adopt. Randall questioned what if somebody buys it and they try to live there like that? Mathisrud stated in other cities they allocate a budget for acquiring these properties and then demolishing them, and then flipping the property. You can either do it that way or you can do it by picking up the property and then selling it to an eligible person who would redevelop it. I haven't looked into the details of Minnesota Code on how you can pick up a property. But that would be the first step.

Utke stated I'm hearing good discussion, and we can refer this to staff and they can report back. Randall stated it sounds like Mathisrud is keeping an eye on it. I can tell you that it's for sale, and this gal did just pass away on Sunday and her family was in town. There were parts of the home that they were able to go in and get photos out. It still has sentimental value and it's not completely cleared out. We shouldn't force them to bulldoze it down yet. McKinney stated the issue is what we should be doing about partially destroyed properties that aren't cleaned up after a certain period of time. We'll look into that and we'll get back to you.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

8.1. Request by Park Rapids Senior Center Club Inc. to Abate Special Assessments and for City to Provide Free Water/Sewer Services: *Item removed from the agenda.*

8.2. Truth in Taxation Hearing: A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Nordberg and unanimously carried to approve the date of Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for the Truth and Taxation Hearing, which will be held in conjunction with the regular City Council meeting.

8.3. Resolution Appointing Councilmembers to Various City Committees, Boards & Commissions: Utke stated we started some discussion regarding appointments, but we could delay this. Nordberg suggested postponing this until our Mayor is back. **A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to table the Resolution Appointing Councilmembers to Various City Committees, Boards & Commissions until October 27th, 2015.**

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: McKinney stated we have started preparations for next year. We will have a meeting of the Finance Committee soon to discuss the CIP. That's a five year plan that will start with 2016 and go forward. The

budget also comes into play with that. We will also discuss the health plans for the union contracts.

10. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES: Mathisrud stated we have completed our RFP for building official services. We did receive a response back on that and we are currently reviewing that proposal. We have issued another building permit for a new house. We started drafting the point of sale septic ordinance, which the Planning Commission will review at an upcoming meeting.

Fieldsend stated I do not have a specific date to start on the front part of the public works building. It should be sometime in the first part of October. The back part, the humidity portion, will be done by a local company. They have ordered what they need. As soon as that comes in they will start working on that. The squad cars are in and in ten days they will go in for outfitting. The decals are on all of them. Next will be the cages and the radios. Randall questioned will the squad cameras go in at the same time, and are they new? Fieldsend stated yes they will, and I don't know if they are brand new. Eilers ordered them to be compatible with the sheriff's department.

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

12. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Utke stated we have the company that will be doing the research for the library coming to town soon. Fieldsend stated they will be doing the interviews this week. They have received two hundred surveys. The library board has been lining up people for the retreat. They have twenty-five so far, but they want about forty. Randall questioned when do they hope to have the report done? Fieldsend stated by next month for sure.

Nordberg stated I'd like to express best wishes to our Mayor. I hope he gets well enough to get back. The library work that Fieldsend is working on is continuing. The library survey is still up on line so let your friends know.

13. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Randall, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

[seal]

Acting Mayor Paul Utke

ATTEST:

Margie M. Vik
City Clerk