

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the City Council for the City of St. Joseph met in regular session on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the St. Joseph Government Center.

Members Present: Mayor Rick Schultz. Councilors Bob Loso, Kelly Beniek, Brian Theisen, Kevin Kluesner

City Representatives Present: Administrator Therese Haffner, City Clerk Kayla Klein, Finance Director Lori Bartlett, Community Development Director Nate Keller, Public Works Superintendent Ryan Wensmann, Police Chief Dwight Pfannenstein, City Engineer Randy Sabart

Approve Agenda: **Schultz made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Loso and passed unanimously.**

Consent Agenda: **Theisen made a motion to approve consent agenda items a-f and i-k; seconded by Beniek and passed unanimously.**

- a. Minutes – **Requested Action:** Approve the minutes of March 1, 2021.
- b. Bills Payable – **Requested Action:** Approve check #'s 057471-057526, Accounts Payable EFT 1972-1975, Payroll EFT 112041-112047, Regular Pay Periods 5, 5.01 and City Council Pay Period 3.
- c. Financial Report – **Requested Action:** Approve the February 2021 financial report as presented.
- d. Donations – **Requested Action:** Approve Resolution 2021-013 Accepting Donations.
- e. Gambling Report – **Requested Action:** Accept the 4th Quarter 2020 Gambling Report.
- f. Police Officer Position – **Requested Action:** Authorize staff to begin the hiring process for a full-time police officer.
- ~~g. Resignation – **Requested Action:** Accept the resignation of Recreation Director John Anderson effective March 31, 2021.~~
- ~~h. Mayor Appointments – **Requested Action:** Approve the amendments to the Mayor Appointments for 2021.~~
- i. Release of Mortgage – **Requested Action:** Approve the Mortgage Satisfaction for 31 2nd Ave SE, St. Joseph, MN 56374.
- j. Equity Designations/Squad Purchase – **Requested Action:** Approve the general fund equity designations and approve the purchase of squad 707.
- k. Transfers – **Requested Action:** Authorize the 2020 transfers as presented.

Consent Agenda Item g, Resignation: Schultz thanked Recreation Director John Anderson for his service in the role of director and also his commitment to the City and the Park Board.

Consent Agenda Item h, Mayor Appointments: Loso stated that he would not approve the amended appointments unless Councilmember Beniek officially steps down from EDA as appointing someone else is against the EDA's establishing resolution.

Beniek stated she will step down from the EDA. Schultz will remain the council liaison for the Park Board until a replacement for the Recreation Director is hired.

Schultz moved to approve consent agenda items g&h; seconded by Theisen and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing, Foreclosed Auction Sale Proposed Re-Assessment: MN Statutes allows local governments to assess unpaid fees for charges noted in the City Ordinances. Charges include weed cutting, snow removal, street sweeping, utility bills, tree trimming, etc. Statute also allows the City to re-assess property maintenance costs and street assessments that fell off the tax rolls due to foreclosure once the property sells. In the past, the Council has agreed to allow up to five years for repayment of the re-assessments at 0% interest rate. If the property is developed or changes hands, the remaining assessments due would become due and payable at the time of the sale.

Schultz moved to adopt Resolution 2021-014 Adopting Re-Assessment from Foreclosure Sale; seconded by Loso and passed unanimously.

Purchase Agreement Addendum: On February 1st, the Council approved to extend the closing date of the purchase agreement from February 15, 2021 to March 31, 2021. The Council also approved to waive the lease payment from February 15, 2021 to March 31, 2021. The purchaser has requested the closing date be extended again to on or before April 30, 2021 as well as the waiving of the April lease payment.

Loso moved to adopt Resolution 2021-015 Approving an Addendum to Purchase Agreement for the sale of PID 84.53797.0951; seconded by Schultz and passed unanimously.

Schultz moved to approve the waiver for the April 2021 lease payment; seconded by Theisen. Motion failed.

Aye: Schultz, Theisen

Nay: Beniek, Kluesner, Loso

Sale of Property – Portion of PID 84.53843.0005: Currently there are three parties interested in purchasing the old fire hall building and garage. The sale would require platting through a Common Interest Community (CIC) plat. The building would require separation and re-routing of utilities, including water, sanitary sewer, gas and electric. The intent would be for the buyer to cover the costs of plumbing, gas, and electrical upgrades and separation. The City would need to complete sanitary sewer and water main work.

General consensus of the Council was to sell both buildings together.

Loso made a motion authorizing staff to draft an RFP for the sale of the former fire hall and garage, a portion of PID 84.53843.0005; seconded by Theisen and passed unanimously.

Department Reports:

Mayor Reports: Schultz reported on the following:

- Staff met with the college regarding Case Day and ways to keep the event maintained. Loso questioned why the city is not doing more to prevent it. Schultz noted that it will happen no matter what and it is better to keep maintained.
- The APO met and had discussions on earmarking federal dollars for projects.

The council discussed the likelihood of having the properties north of the water tower connect to city services. Staff had not received many inquiries about it from residents, but it would be a cost to those homeowners if connected.

Adjourn: **Theisen made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 PM; seconded by Beniek and passed unanimously.**



Kayla Klein
City Clerk