

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA
Monday, May 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor DeWayne “Tank” Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Schroeder led the Council, City staff, and visitors in stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council members present: Mayor Schroeder, Member David Fitzpatrick, Member Robert “Bob” Klug, Member Amanda Ninneman, and Member Brad Rykhus. Council members absent: None. City staff present: Casey Klug, public works/zoning director; Adam Swann, city clerk/administrator. Visitor(s) present: Judith Albert; Audrey Almo; Deb Augedahl; Holly Becker; Larry Becker; Carlene Boone; Joel Boone; Steve Brown; Danielle Burg; Gretchen Buege; Deb Cody; Bernice Doering; Harley Doering; Andy Falken; LaVon “Spanky” Felton; Margie Ferring; John Gaspard; Marian Gavin; Lee Grippen; Dana Gunn; Chris Hansen; Polly Heberlein; Ancy Hellickson; Carol Hood; Janene Hosch; Greg Hoscheit; Tom Jennings; Jean Kinneberg; Deb Knutson; Fred Kruckow; Bob Lemke; Pat Lemke; Ellen Manning; Jane Meisch; Mary Mell; Randy Mell; Craig Moorhead, *Caledonia Argus*; Kari Neumann; Kathy Nelson; Suzanne Roesler; Judy St. Mary; Mark Schieber; Karen Schiltz; Joyce Schroeder; Matt Schuldt; Diane Schulze; Charlene Selbee, *Fillmore County Journal*; Cathleen Swenson; Bonnie Tollefson; Joe Tollefson; and Dave Utke.

CONSENT AGENDA: Member Rykhus moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. The consent agenda comprised the following items:

- a. Approve minutes from April 26, 2021 regular City Council meeting
- b. Approve hiring Kole Skauge and William Persons as part-time firefighters for Caledonia Fire Department
- c. Accept letter of resignation from Andrea Colsch as part-time clerk at Caledonia Liquor Store effective May 22, 2021
- d. Approve permit for 2-day temporary on-sale liquor license for Caledonia Founders, Inc. on June 18-19, 2021
- e. Approve quote from RDO Equipment Co. to trade in 2018 John Deere 544K wheel loader for 2021 John Deere 544P wheel loader for cost of \$19,510.07
- f. Approve Change Order No. 2 from Ricchio, Inc. to provide zero-depth floor inlet drain piping and zero-depth trench drain improvements for Caledonia Pool Gutter Replacement Project at a cost of \$5,786
- g. Choose not to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability, established by Minnesota Statutes Section 466.04, for period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Suzanne Roesler: Suzanne Roesler was present and expressed concern about the application to install an electric sign at 111 E. Main St., which was located in the downtown historic district.

PUBLIC WORKS/ZONING DIRECTOR:

a. Updates

i. Progress of Caledonia Aquatic Center pool gutter replacement project: Public Works/Zoning Director Klug reported that the contractor, Ricchio, Inc., had completed two pool wall pours and was scheduled to do two more the next two weeks. Klug reported that the City had met with the contractor the prior week and determined that the pool would likely be ready to open by July 12, 2021.

ii. Construction of detention pond on former Frisch property: Klug reported that the Public Works Department was going to start constructing a detention pond (i.e., dry pond) on the southern part of the former Frisch property.

iii. Seal coating of police/ambulance building parking lot: Klug reported that the Public Works Department had seal coated and striped the police/ambulance parking lot.

iv. Survey of former Hauser property: Klug reported that the City engineer, Bolton & Menk, had surveyed the former Hauser property on May 6, 2021.

v. Progress of watermain looping project on E. South St. and E. Washington St.: Klug reported that construction of the watermain looping project on E. South St. and E. Washington St. was done and that Bolton & Menk was going to be flow testing the new watermain.

vi. Installation of new bases and anchors at Veterans Memorial Park fields: Klug reported that Public Works staff had installed new bases and base anchors for the baseball and softball fields at Veterans Memorial Park.

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

a. Updates

i. Final plans and specs for Well House No. 8: Clerk/Administrator Swann reported that the plans and specs for Well House No. 8 would be ready for Council's review and approval at the next Council meeting on May 24, 2021. Swann reported that project engineer Ray Theiler of WSB & Associates would be attending the next Council meeting to present the plans and specs and answer Council's questions.

ii. Boiler replacement at City Auditorium: Swann reported that Public Works/Zoning Director Klug was working on preparing bid specs for the new boiler for the City Auditorium.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of revised intergovernmental agreement between City of Caledonia and Caledonia Township to cooperate on improvement of Green Acres Dr.: Council reviewed and discussed Caledonia Township's requested changes to the intergovernmental agreement. Member Fitzpatrick moved to accept the requested changes and approve the revised intergovernmental agreement between the City of Caledonia and Caledonia Township to

cooperate on improvement of Green Acres Drive. Member Klug seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

b. Consideration of application by Katie O'Regan of Sacred Noise Society for permit to erect electronic sign at 111 E. Main St.: Public Works/Zoning Director Klug reported that he had spoken with Katie O'Regan of the Sacred Noise Society about the Council's concerns regarding the proposed electronic sign at 111 E. Main Street. Klug further reported that O'Regan was agreeable to the following four restrictions:

- 1) The display message has to be stationary;
- 2) The display color will be white, not any other color that resembles traffic control devices or emergency vehicles;
- 3) The display brightness will not be distracting or so bright that it casts a light; and
- 4) The sign must be fixed flat to the face of the building, not protruding out from the building.

Klug recommended that Council approve the proposed electronic sign with the four conditions set forth above.

Member Klug moved to approve the application by Katie O'Regan of the Sacred Noise Society for a permit to erect an electronic sign at 111 E. Main St. provided that the sign complied with the following four conditions proposed by Public Works/Zoning Director Klug. Mayor Schroeder seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Public hearing re future of Sprague Woods: At 6:03 p.m. Member Fitzpatrick moved to adjourn the regular City Council meeting and open a public hearing on the future of Sprague Woods. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. The public hearing convened at 6:03 p.m.

The following members of the public were present and wanted to address the Council:

- 1) Lavon "Spanky" Felton: Mr. Felton addressed the Council and said that General Motors was not requiring Sleepy Hollow to move to the highway and that there was no timeline for doing so. Mr. Felton further said that he liked the dealership's downtown location and pledged that if he moved locations the new location would have a Caledonia address.
- 2) Randy Mell: Mr. Mell said that he had been a field forester for the Minnesota DNR. He said that there were spectacular trees in Sprague Woods, including oaks and maples. He thought the City should keep the woods.
- 3) Kari Neumann: Ms. Neumann said that the City would lose credibility if it didn't abide by its prior commitment not to develop Sprague Woods for commercial purposes.

4) Carol Hood: Ms. Hood said that she owns property near Sprague Woods and sees people using the woods. She opposed developing the woods because of the negative environmental impact and because of the loss of recreational opportunities.

5) Fred Kruckow: Mr. Kruckow said that Sprague Woods was donated to the City to be used as a park and should remain that way; according to Mr. Kruckow, no one would donate to the City in the future if the City reneged on its word.

6) Ancy Hellickson: Ms. Hellickson said that the Sprague family wanted to keep Sprague Woods as woods. Ms. Hellickson said that the woods were part of the Sprague family's legacy in Caledonia and that Caledonia should be a tree city.

7) Holly Becker: Ms. Becker said that Sprague Woods was the last stand of trees in the City and contained many types of trees and flowering plants. Ms. Becker said that she had seen a baby fawn in the woods over the weekend and that the City should honor the intent of the Sprague family to use the property for a park. Ms. Becker said that she had a petition with 554 signatures opposing development of the park for commercial purposes. The petition stated the following: "Keep the Sprague Woods Nature Preserve: The Caledonia City Council will continue honoring the original agreement that Sprague Woods would never be used for commercial purposes. It will continue as a nature preserve for all future generations. In memory of Bob and Madge Sprague."

8) Dianne Schulze: Ms. Schulze opposed tearing down the trees in Sprague Woods and stated that people would not want to donate to the City if the City did not abide by the original terms of the gift. Ms. Schulze thought the City could do a better job of promoting Sprague Woods and investing in the community.

9) Suzanne Roesler: Ms. Roesler, owner of the Caledonia Bakery, opposed using Sprague Woods for commercial development, noting that Sprague Woods enhanced the appearance of the City. She said that she was happy that more people were visiting the City for day trips and that the City should make Sprague Woods beautiful to help attract and keep visitors in the City.

10) Deb Augedahl: Ms. Augedahl opposed developing Sprague Woods for commercial purposes, saying that she lived near the woods and her kids enjoyed playing in the woods.

11) Danielle Burg: Ms. Burg stated that no one wanted to see Sprague Woods turned into commercial property.

12) Kathy Nelson: Ms. Nelson stated that selling Sprague Woods would not generate a lot of money and recommended that the City apply for grants to fix up the woods.

13) Jean Kinneberg: Ms. Kinneberg said that Sprague Woods meant a lot to her and that she and other members of the community had donated time to clean it up in the past and would be willing to do so again. Ms. Kinneberg wanted to keep Sprague Woods as a park.

14) Steve Brown: Mr. Brown asked everyone to stand who wanted to keep Sprague Woods as green space.

At 7:01 p.m. Member Ryhkus moved to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular City Council meeting. Member Ninneman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. The regular City Council meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

b. Discussion re future of Sprague Woods: The Council discussed their thoughts regarding the public comments made during the public hearing and their opinions regarding the future of Sprague Woods:

1) Member Ninneman: Member Ninneman appreciated hearing from the community members, including Lavon “Spanky” Felton. Member Ninneman expressed that the City would benefit from commercial space and talked about the difficulty some local businesses had had finding space, such as Tactacam, which had moved its distribution operations to a location outside the City. Member Ninneman further expressed that although finding commercial space was a priority, Sprague Woods had been given to the City as a gift for the community’s benefit and she thought it was clear the community wanted to keep Sprague Woods as a park. As a result, she supported keeping Sprague Woods as a park.

2) Member Klug: Member Klug appreciated everyone’s comments and was impressed with all the visitors who had come to the meeting. Member Klug expressed that if the City kept Sprague Woods “as is,” he hoped the City could find new commercial space because there’s no way to make more highway frontage. Member Klug further noted that the Council had a duty to do what was in the best interests of the City. Member Klug expressed that he was not ready to vote on the future of Sprague Woods.

3) Mayor Schroeder: Mayor Schroeder thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and noted that in his 9 years of serving on Council he had never seen so many people attend a meeting. Mayor Schroeder said that he had read all the emails he had received and heard the public’s views. Mayor Schroeder expressed that if the City kept Sprague Woods “as is,” the City would need a plan for improving the park.

4) Member Fitzpatrick: Member Fitzpatrick thanked everyone for coming and said he was surprised by the amount of interest.

5) Member Ryhkus: Member Ryhkus said that he thought the public’s opinion was clear, so he supported keeping Sprague Woods green.

By consensus the members agreed to table further discussion on Sprague Woods until the next City Council meeting on May 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

c. Discussion re proposal to retain lifeguards and pool managers for 2021 summer pool season: Council discussed the delayed pool opening for summer 2021 and evaluated the options for providing the lifeguards, assistant managers, and manager financial incentive to work for the City when the pool opens and not to find alternative employment. Member Ninneman moved to pay the lifeguards double their hourly wages when the pool opens. Member Rykhus seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Mayor Schroeder voting against the motion.

d. Prepaid claims: Council reviewed the prepaid claims for the period April 14, 2021 – May 7, 2021, which totaled \$455,530.66. Member Rykhus moved to approve the prepaid claims as presented. Member Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

e. Claims payable: Council reviewed the claims payable for May 2021, which totaled \$46,667.11. Member Klug moved to approve the claims payable as presented. Member Ninneman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

f. Overtime Report: Members reviewed the overtime reports for the pay period April 19, 2021 – May 2, 2021. No further action was taken by the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Fitzpatrick. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and the motion was declared carried to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

DeWayne “Tank” Schroeder
Mayor

Adam G. Swann
Clerk/Administrator