



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Karin Derauf, Deputy City Clerk

Monday, October 9, 2023

7:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

[City of Forest Lake - Livestream and Recorded Meetings](#)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mara Bain	Mayor	Present	
Sam Husnik	Councilmember	Present	
Hanna Valento	Councilmember	Present	
Leif Erickson	Councilmember	Present	
Blake Roberts	Councilmember	Present	

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve the Agenda (Action)

Comments: Change the Open Forum portion to item number five (5) and Presentation of Downtown Stormwater BMP to item number six (6).

Motion to: Approve the Agenda

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mara Bain, Mayor
SECONDER:	Sam Husnik, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

5. Open Forum – Citizen Petitions, Requests, and Concerns

The Open Forum is available for residents to express personal opinions for any item of business. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

Comments: Jason Syring, Resident, commented on the downtown stormwater management plan execution. He noted lack of communication of the project commenting that the project started over a year ago, however, were only notified 2 months ago. He noted the decrease in value to his property. He also noted that he cannot cross directly to his lake lot across the street. He also commented that communication has been inaccurate. He noted how water flows indicating there is



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no reason for the size of the project in front of his house. He referenced photos that were provided indicating the project is not a “shallow depression” as was indicated in the communications.

Pam Chall, Resident, indicated she was blind sighted by this project and there was no communication. She noted the look of North Shore Trail has greatly changed. She commented on the depth of the cavern in her yard noting that it is dangerous. She indicated the depth is about four (4) feet deep. She also noted that she has never had water on their grass but now it will be running to the lake with reeds, phosphorus, and methane gas. She commented that the Watershed didn’t know about the project when she called them and was directed to the City. She also commented that her husband cannot mow around the culvert because it’s dangerous.

Tom Chall, Resident, noted that he learned of the project from Xcel Energy in April 2023. He commented that he came in to the City and asked about the project and was told there was no project. He commented he also contacted the watershed who said there was no project. He expressed concern about the depth of the culvert noting that he was told it would not be that deep. He indicated he measured the depths himself and it is much greater than three (3) feet deep. He expressed concern of taking care of the culvert stating that it will get filled with leaves and will be too steep and dangerous to mow in this area. He stated he will not be able to take care of this area of his yard.

Blake Dalbec, Resident, expressed surprise and concern on the depth of the culvert. He provided photos for Council to review. He commented that Bolton-Menk has not been truthful about the depth. He commented that the project is unsafe, and noted that it is not necessary to have that depth.

Aaron Meier, Resident, commented on the damage he feels was done. He indicated that he first learned about the project from Midco who was marking his yard. He also indicated this has affected his property value by approximately \$100,000. He asked about the point of the project because there has never been standing water in his yard and now there is. He also asked about the budget on the project and how this is tied to a project in the downtown area.

Brian Tilton, Resident, commented on the speed of vehicles driving along this road. He also expressed concern about someone getting hurt.

Leslie Dalbec, Resident, commented that the hole is very deep and expressed concern for her young children’s safety. She noted that she doesn’t feel the project development has been unethical.

Aaron Meier, Resident, asked if it is too late to go back to the beginning and would be happy to fill the hole back in with dirt. He indicated his yard is over \$500,000 in damages.

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6. Presentation of Information for Downtown Stormwater BMP Project

Comments: Tim Olson, Bolton-Menk, presented information to Council and Residents about the background and location of the project noting that this project was started in 2021. He indicated this project has been in collaboration with the watershed as part of the regional watershed improvements. Mayor Bain noted that the conversations began at the EDA level. Councilmember Roberts commented that these are requirements to move forward with developments in the downtown area. Mayor Bain noted that in absence of this project, the responsibility would then fall on the residents to manage stormwater. She indicated this project has been a regional approach to stormwater management in partnership with the watershed as part of the watershed requirements.

Tim noted the feedback from residents on communication. He indicated there were door hangars, on-site meetings with residents, written updates during construction, phone calls and emails, and on-site engagement during construction with the inspector. He noted that there was over five (5) inches of rain in one week, so there were constructions delays during the project. He noted the utility locates are complete. Tim commented on the depths of the basins of individual properties indicating there is additional certification prior to completion that will be corrected if they contractor has not done the project to specifications.

Mayor Bain asked if Tim has any concerns if the slopes are out of specifications. Tim noted that the validation certificates will show that when the project reaches that point. He commented on the drain tile, seed to sod conversions, any fixes in relation to the downtown development and resident perspectives. He spoke about maintenance planning and referenced the MS4 permitting to discharge stormwater. He indicated the watershed requires a Maintenance Declaration Agreement for all public and private best management practices, as well as an Annual Maintenance Report Form for any private practices.

Mayor Bain asked who does the work of inspection of the ponds. Tim noted that the City does these and may also do the maintenance, but would need clarification from the Public Works Department to see if that is under their scope of work or if it's contracted out. He noted the first year or two is vegetation management, then filter management. He provided explanation of how these steps are maintained, noting the typical life cycle is approximately thirty (30) years.

Tim also provided a schedule noting Bolton-Menk is currently working with the contractor for an updated schedule of the project. Mayor Bain asked how close is the current state of the project versus the expected design. Tim commented on several steps noting there will be a sub-contractor brought in to accelerate the project with October 20, 2023 as the finish deadline. He indicated that only four (4) of seven (7) basins are constructed.



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Ryan Goodman, City Engineer, spoke of liquidated damages as penalties that can be part of a contract for not getting the project done in the scheduled amount of time. Councilmember Roberts commented on a specific property being discharged. Tim answered about the survey information noting the discharge areas. There was continued comments about the size of the ponds, drainage, how it has affected private properties, communication efforts, and the closeness to the road as a safety issue. Councilmember Husnik commented on the timeline and winter arriving very soon. Councilmember Valento commented on the depth of the basins and safety issues. Mayor Bain asked what the next steps are. Tim commented on the sloping, grading, and adequate drainage with possible addition of more drain tile, top-soiling, and additional sand. There was discussion regarding areas of right of way. City Engineer Goodman commented on the future reconstruction of North Shore Trail roadway. Councilmember Roberts asked about any changes to the project indicating he thinks the city should spend the additional dollars to correct the project for the residents.

7. Consent Agenda Considerations (Action Items)

Comments:

- a) Approve City Bills
- b) Approve Minutes from September 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting
- c) 2023 Forest Lake Airport Apron Expansion Project – Contractor Request for Payment No.2
- d) 2023 Street Pavement Maintenance Project - Contractor Request for Payment No. 3
- e) Downtown Stormwater BMP - Contractor Request for Payment No. 2
- f) 2022-2023 Lift Station and Forcemain Project - Contractor Request for Pay No. 10
- g) 2024 Local Street Improvement Project – Authorize Plans and Specifications
- h) Approval of Land Swap Deed – Washington County Environmental Center
- i) Revised Development Agreement for Washington County Environmental Center

Motion to: Approve Consent Agenda Items 7. a. through 7. i.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sam Husnik, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Hanna Valento, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts
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8. Regular Agenda (Action Items)



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a) Resolution 10-09-23-01 – Shadow Creek Minor Subdivision

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman commented that Tom Christianson has petitioned to split parcel 20.032.21.41.001. She noted that no development has been proposed at this time. She also noted that the County prefers the access point is on the east side of the property. She provided additional information regarding access to the property as well as approval conditions. She noted that the Planning Commission did recommend approval, however, it was not a unanimous decision. She also commented on next steps for the future right of way and access to the property. She spoke of the County’s access plan of a right in and right out plan to the property and the County’s willingness to look at the access from a safety perspective.

Motion to: Approve Resolution No. 10-09-23-01, Conditionally Shadow Creek Minor Subdivision of Washington County PID 20.032.21.41.0001

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Leif Erickson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Blake Roberts, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

b) Pre-Approval for Caterpillar 926M Wheel Loader

Comments: Public Works Director Adams provide a request for the pre-approval of a Caterpillar 926M Wheel Loader indicating the price increases of equipment noting that pre-ordering will save the city money in the future.

Motion to: Approve Purchase of Caterpillar 926M Wheel Loader

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mara Bain, Mayor
SECONDER:	Sam Husnik, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts
NAYS:	
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c) Broadway Avenue Bridge Lighting

Comments: Public Works Director Adams presented information from a vendor noting that they can get the city on the schedule by November to ensure the lights are in place for the



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holidays. He indicated that the only change is an additional aerial lift would be required to make the installation, noting there would be an increase of a little over \$1,000. He provided a description of the lighting noting it would be outline only on both sides of the bridge. He also noted there is an additional proposal that would be over \$10,000 that includes outline of the bridge as well as the support beams being lit.

Motion to: Approve Option 1 for \$5,600 for the Lighting of the Broadway Avenue Bridge.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hanna Valento, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Blake Roberts, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

9. Discussion

Comments:

10. Staff Updates

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman commented that the Hometown Holiday Date will be on Friday, December 1, 2023. Mayor Bain commented on extra communication for the event. Public Works Director Adams commented on the Compost Site. City Engineer Goodman commented that the County will not be at the next workshop meeting as they are still working on other funding options and communications with the residents. He also commented on the Everton Avenue project.

11. Mayor and City Council Updates

Comments: Councilmember Roberts commented on the stormwater project. Councilmember Husnik commented that he attended the EDA Meeting and a SWOT analysis was started. He also noted that he attended the School Board Meeting commented that there was a large donation from Hallberg. Mayor Bain commented on the EDA Meeting and the EDA work plan. She also commented on the County 32 road project.

12. Adjourn

Comments:

Motion to: Adjourn



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