



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, August 28, 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: Add item 8. e. to the agenda

Motion to: Approve the Agenda

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Sam |
| SECONDER: | Hanna |
| 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.

6. Forest Lake Area Pickleball

Comments: Eugene Huerstel provided information and history about the sport of pickleball. He commented that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. He noted that there are many seniors involved in the sport and younger individuals are also getting involved. Eugene provided a demonstration of two players showing how the sport is played. He noted that the sport is growing at a fast pace and the group is expected to outgrow the number of available courts.



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Duane Ditbrenner also spoke about pickleball and noted that he started playing the sport after retirement. He noted that pickleball is not just a game, but also a social gathering and has become important in his life since the death of his wife. He noted that 30 to 50 players show up to play during the day. He also commented that over 100 players showed up at the courts just last weekend. He also commented on the investments the group has made for storage and other items. Duane indicated the group is addressing Council to ask for a commitment from the City to maintain the courts.

Tony Wood, Hugo Resident, noted that he is a competitive player locally as well as in other states such as California. He noted there are major sponsors involved in pickleball tournaments noting that Tom Brady and Lebron James are owners of pickleball teams. Tony also commented that pickleball is now his full-time job as he teaches the sport. He noted that pickleball is for everyone, not just athletes. He highlighted the competition side as well of the social aspect of the sport. He indicated that Hugo has just revamped one of their parks, and included pickleball courts, which are now always full. He requested that Council and the City makes efforts to maintain the existing courts, provide improvements, and additional courts.

Eugene mentioned the new development in the south area of the City and has hopes of a new court in the park area that may be included. He noted that the current courts are playable now, however, the existing cracks will eventually widen with the changes in weather. He noted the cracks at Beltz Park and has some concern about the repairs. He also indicated the group would like lights added to the courts for evening play. He noted that their group would like to work with the City in terms of fundraising to provide revenue to the courts. Eugene suggested obtaining an estimate of repair costs to give them an idea of how much fundraising they would need to do to help support the courts.

Mayor Bain suggested that a representative from their group get together with City Staff to explore how the City can partner with this group. Councilmember Roberts commented that he would like to see an estimate of costs. City Administrator Casey noted that Staff has contacted a vendor for an estimate of repair costs. Eugene asked about looking at multiple companies who would be willing to look at the courts sooner rather than later.

7. Consent Agenda Considerations (Action Items)

Comments: Councilmember Husnik requested to move item 7. c. to regular agenda and approve items 7. a. through 7. b. and items 7. d. through 7. f.

- a) Approve City Bills
- b) Approve Minutes from August 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting
- c) Approve Minutes from August 21, 2023 Council Workshop
- d) REMAX Synergy – Outdoor Entertainment Permit



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- e) Church of St. Peter Fall Festival – Outdoor Entertainment Permit
- f) Water Treatment Plant No. 4 – Contractor Request for Payment No. 15

Motion to: Approve Consent Agenda Items 7. a. through 7. b. and Items 7. d. through 7. f.

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

Motion to: Approve Consent Agenda Item 7. c.

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

8. Regular Agenda (Action Items)

- a) **Public Hearing - Ordinance No. 726 - Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment re: Contractor Yards**
Comments: Community Development Director Wittman provided information on a zoning text amendment request from Interstate Companies noting that there is not an allowance for contractor yards in the industrial district. She provided a map of the industrial districts in the area of the City noting there is a limited amount of this type of zoned land. She also noted that at the August 9, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting, the Commission recommended a change to the ordinance to allow for contractor yards in the industrial district.

Public Hearing opened at 7:34 p.m.

No comments provided

Public Hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.



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Motion to: Approve Ordinance No. 726 - Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Allow Contractor Yards in the Industrial District

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

b) Resolution 08-28-23-01 - Washington County Environmental Center – PID 29.032.21.11.0003

- 1) Preliminary Plat
- 2) Final Plat
- 3) Conditional Use Permit
- 4) Site Plan Review
- 5) Grading Permit

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman provided information on the site for the Washington County Environmental Center. She noted that the City has entered into a land swap agreement with Washington County located near the intersection of Highway 61 and Headwaters Blvd and noted that this is in exchange for a parcel on the north end of the property, essentially redrawing the boundaries of the properties. She provided additional detail of the plat specifications and land swap to allow the County to build the environmental center.

Councilmember Husnik asked if there are any compromises to air traffic. Community Development Director Wittman noted that Staff is still waiting for comments from MnDot Aeronautics. Mayor Bain asked about intersection design and turn lanes. Community Development Director Wittman provided additional information regarding the site access.

Councilmember Husnik asked about public input. Community Development Director Wittman indicated there was a neighborhood meeting and some residents expressed concern over noise operations of the facility.

Motion to: Approve Resolution 08-28-23-01 - Preliminary and Final Plats, Conditional Use Permit, and Site Plan Review for the Northern Environmental Center (Washington County).



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

Motion to: Approve Conditional Grading Permit for WA County PID 2903221110003 (Site of the Washington County Northern Environmental Center)

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

c) Headwaters Land Group – Hidden Creek – PID 30.032.21.21.0006

- 1) Resolution 08-28-23-02 - Final Plan for Hidden Creek PUD
- 2) Resolution 08-28-23-03 – Hidden Creek Final Plat
- 3) Hidden Creek Development Agreement

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman presented information on the Hidden Creek development noting the changes to the plan. She indicated that on August 9, 2023, the Planning Commission approved the final plat. She also noted the green space as part of the plat and additional opportunity for development to the south along with the addition of more park space.

Motion to: Approve Resolution No. 08-28-23-02 – Approval of the Final Plan for the Hidden Creek Planned Unit Development



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

Motion to: Approve Resolution No. 08-28-23-03 - Hidden Creek Final Plat

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

Motion to: Approve Hidden Creek Development Agreement with Minor Modifications as Approved by the City Attorney Including No Utility Work to Occur Without a Letter of Credit and Pre-Construction Meeting

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

d) Ordinance No. 727 – Prohibit Cannabis Use in Public Places

Comments: City Attorney Johnson, provided a recap from the last Council Meeting as it pertained definition of “public places” to just include government owned property and not private property that may be open for public use.

Mayor Bain commented that she is open to monitoring and potentially amending the ordinance in the future. Councilmember Husnik commented that businesses should be able to implement their own policies for their private properties.



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Motion to: Approve Ordinance No. 727 - Enacting Forest Lake City Code Title XIII, Chapter 130, Section 130.12, Prohibiting Cannabis Use in Public Places

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

e) **North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration Grant Letter of Support**

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman presented information regarding the North Shore Circle work that has previously been done on the area. She noted that CLFLWD would like to conduct a restoration project. She indicated that they are seeking funding from the DNR and would like a Letter of Support for their grant submission. She noted they would like to submit a grant to the DNR for funding.

Director Adams commented that North Shore Circle Park was an open space and part of stormwater pond project. Filtering was also put in with a berm. He noted that there have been comments from the public on “cleaning” up the area.

Community Development Director Wittman provided photos of what the restoration may potentially look like with natural landscape. She also noted that if the project goes through, there will also be public outreach for feedback from residents.

Councilmember Roberts expressed concern about access via a path or usable land that is becoming a watershed project. City Engineer Goodman commented that there were several open houses held regarding the prior stormwater project for North Shore Circle. He noted there has been a long-term vision that the Watershed has identified as wanting to improve the shoreline in this area.

Public Works Director Adams noted there are two parks on North Shore Circle indicating Staff and Council can revisit the previous suggested project that the Parks Commission didn't approve.

Motion to: Approve North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration Grant Letter of Support



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

9. Discussion

Comments: No items discussed.

10. Staff Updates

Comments: Deputy City Clerk commented on elections as well as the refuse services agreements that will be coming forward to Council in September. Community Development Director Wittman commented on the ebb and flow of development in the City. She also noted that she will be out of the office until after Labor Day. City Administrator Casey commented that on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a ground-breaking event for the Washington County Environmental Service Center. Public Works Director Adams commented on funding for the pickleball courts.

11. Mayor and City Council Updates

Comments: Councilmember Roberts commented on the access points to the lake and would like a conversation or information out to the public on use of the access points. Mayor Bain indicated that it would be good to have a summary of the number of access points, and information about these spaces. Public Works Director Adams commented that he can bring back information to Council at a later meeting. Mayor Bain asked for similar information on Clear Lake as well. Councilmember Valento reminded everyone of the Corn Feed and the final Arts in the Park event of the season. Mayor Bain thanked the pickleball group for their presentation. She also commented on the proposed 2024 budget and the work that has gone into the documents so far.

12. Adjourn

Comments:

Motion to: Adjourn



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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Leif Erickson, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| ABSENT: | |