

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis City Hall 3750 Bridge Street NW
April 7, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mark Vogel.

Mayor Vogel asked for a moment of silence for Brady Geral Ausland and everyone involved in the fatal accident at Highway 47 and Ambassador Boulevard last week.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mark Vogel, Councilmembers Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, Amy Faanes, and Joe Muehlbauer.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator-City Clerk Jenni Wida, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Deputy Administrator-Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, and City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes - March 17, 2025

B. City Council Work Session Minutes - March 24, 2025

C. Abandoned Property

Resolution 2025-17 Declaring surplus property and authorizing the disposal of said property

D. Authorization to Post for the Position of Fire Prevention Captain (Part-time)

E. Trade In/Replacement of Skid Loader

F. 2025 Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant

G. 238th Ave Culvert Repair

H. PT Liquor Store Clerk Kristi Neubauer Resignation

I. Plant Place, Inc. – Temporary and Seasonal Outdoor Sales Permit

J. Acknowledgement/Approval of Premise Permit

K. Payment of Claims

Mayor Vogel requested to table Item D as he has a lot of questions.

Robinson asked what the premise permit in Item J is for. City Clerk Wida explained that this permit will allow the St. Francis Athletic Booster Club to host gambling at The Ponds Golf Course.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: MUEHLBAUER APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-C AND E-K.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: FAANES TO CONTINUE ITEM D TO A WORK SESSION MEETING.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Kelsey Marin, 23337 Arrowhead Street NW, came forward and shared that she is remembering the kids who were killed at the crosswalk on Highway 47 back in 2018 as well as the young man who was just killed in another accident on Highway 47. She asked what interim fixes are being put in place to slow down traffic and keep people safe. City Administrator Thunstrom shared that they are working with both MnDOT and Anoka County in regard to Highway 47. She said they do not have a solution as of now but they are looking into many options.

Mayor Vogel asked what WSB had proposed. Thunstrom explained that the State and WSB have discussed a potential interim demonstration project but they do not know what this would look like. She said they are looking for a temporary solution while they wait for a long-term fix.

Ms. Marin asked what they will do if they do not have the funds in place for the Highway 47 project by 2028. Thunstrom stated they have received a \$7,000,000 grant from the State but there is still a \$10,000,000 shortfall. She said they are working on looking at some financing options.

Mike Rodger, 2770 232nd Lane NW, came forward and shared that he watched the Work Session meeting and he was disappointed to hear about the 25% water increase as this will affect every single resident. He said they have an opportunity to fix this problem and it lies in the properties across the street. He noted that they have an opportunity to use TIF to their advantage. He encouraged the Council to do their due diligence and look into TIF before saying no to any requests. He said he is the President of the EDA and has denied TIF in the past but he thinks

Northshore is a good company with a great opportunity.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. 4058 Gate Replacement

Public Works Director Carpenter reviewed the Staff report in regard to the request for the 4058 gate replacement.

Muehlbauer said he hopes the new gate is more universal and easier to maintain.

Faanes asked if there would be a warranty on the new gate. Carpenter said yes.

Robinson asked if there are any government contracts out for gates and if they have seen any samples of these gates. Carpenter said no.

Robinson asked if they had received references from the bidders for the project. Carpenter said yes and explained that they have used Barnum Gate Company several times for gates within the City, as well as in Anoka County.

Mayor Vogel noted that both bids included a heater cabinet that they recommended. He asked if this is something that they already have. Carpenter said the heater cabinet is not required but some companies put it in as an extra layer. He said the current gate has a heater in it but they have had more trouble with the heaters than it was worth so they opted out of the heaters for the new gate. He added that this funding would come from the building fund.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECONDED: FAANES TO APPROVE THE 4058 GATE REPLACEMENT.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

B. Limited Use Permits with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation Resolution 2025-18 Approving the Limited Use Permits with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

City Engineer Jochum reviewed the Staff report concerning the limited use permits with MnDOT.

Mayor Vogel asked if there are any fees associated with these permits. Jochum said no.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECONDED: FAANES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-18 APPROVING THE LIMITED USE PERMITS WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MNDOT).

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

C. Work Session Request

Thunstrom shared the request for Council Work Sessions on April 28 and June 9.

The Council was in agreement with these dates.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NONE

11. REPORTS - NONE

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events.

Muehlbauer shared his appreciation for the residents who came to speak this evening. He explained that the Council has to consider so many different things when they are making decisions, and it is never easy. He said he saw some disparaging remarks on Facebook after the accident that were disappointing to see. He noted that part of the safety on Highway 47 comes down to those who are behind the wheel. He thanked the first responders who responded to this accident.

Faanes thanked the first responders as well. She added that they met with the School District to discuss bringing Bridge Street to Highway 47, which could help with this traffic.

Mayor Vogel noted that they are working on a concept plan for Highway 47. He said this is a State highway and they have to work with the State, which will take time and be expensive.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 PM

April 26 - Spring Recycling Day - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May 03 - Dog Clinic - 9:00 AM

May 05 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 PM

May 15 - Parks Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM

May 19 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 PM

Citizens Academy 6:00 PM - Starts May 6, 2025

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: FAANES TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 6:34 p.m.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk