

City of Gem Lake City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Heritage Hall, 4200 Otter Lake Road, Gem Lake

Mayor Uzpen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Councilmembers Artig-Swomley, Bosak, Kuny and Lindner were present. Others in attendance: Justin Gese and Ron Leaf, S.E.H., City Attorney Patrick Kelly, Chris Knopik, CliftonLarsonAllen, City Finance Director Tom Kelly, members of the community and business district, Sally Ackerman, SGS Holdings; John Birkeland, White Bear Floral; Ron Bartosch, Second Hand Tools; Gina Fiorini, Kennedy & Graven; Giogi Gochitashvili, SGS Holdings; Steve Osterkamp, Summit Mini Storage, Janna Severance, Presbyterian Homes; and Sheila Waldoch, Moldings, Doors & More.

June 16, 2015, Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

City Council Meeting Minutes, May 19, 2015

A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Linder to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2015, City Council meeting with no changes. Motion passed.

Special City Council Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2015

A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Lindner to accept the Special City Council meeting minutes for May 12, 2015, with no changes. Motion passed.

Committee Report

None

Old Business

Newsletter – Possible articles – profile of June/July Artisan Home Tour, update on water, dog license reminder, audit, contribution to Willow Lane, St. Andrews project, 35E closing authored by Councilmember Lindner, Vadnais Heights cell tower location and information, seal coating.

New Business

MS4 Report

Ron Leaf, from S.E.H. presented the results of the City of Gem Lake NPDES Phase II Storm water Permit MS4 Program. The public comment period is open from now till June 29, 2015. Councilmember Lindner reminded residents of Gem Lake and other communities that are within the watershed district that WLAMO has a cost sharing program on rain gardens/landscape grants and will reimburse residents up to \$1,000 on an approved project.

Mayor Uzpen opened the public hearing on MS4 report at 7:22 p.m., no public comments were made. Upon motion by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Bosak, the public hearing was closed at 7:24 p.m.

Public Hearing – Extension of Water from Along County Road E between Hoffman Road East in White Bear Lake and Scheuneman Road in Gem Lake by the City of Gem Lake in 2015 pursuant to Minn Stat § 429.011 to 429.11.

Justin Gese of S.E.H. presented a brief summary of the water extension project. City Attorney Patrick Kelly provided an overview of the public hearing process. At 7:33 p.m. Mayor Uzpen opened up the public hearing for comments.

Sally Ackerman, SGS Holdings, stated she was here to learn more about the project. In terms of whether or not water is necessary she doesn't believe it is and feels it is fine the way it is. She didn't know about the cost effectiveness of the project. Asked how the cost will be allocated, how many parcels will be assessed? When would be assessment hearing take place? In her opinion it seems like the small business owners don't want to do this.

Giogi Gochitashvili, SGS Holdings, asked about possible grant monies from the State.

Sheila Waldoch, Doors, Moldings & More, 3588 Highway 61 North, Gem Lake, asked if S.E.H. looked at getting water from Vadnais Heights. Why a hydrant at Café Cravings? Feels it's a good idea but wants to be mindful that we are struggling businesses and have to consider the expense of adding water.

Ron Bartosch, Second Hand Tools, 1601 County Road E E, Gem Lake, stated he thought there was a lot of time and resources spent on a small area of the city. Asked about whether there was a plan for the area. Was there future plans for water in any other area of the city?

Steve Osterkamp, Summit Mini Storage, 3716 Scheuneman Road, Gem Lake, Concerned with the costs, trying to improve his property, concerned about raising rents to offset cost of improvements.

John Birkeland, White Bear Floral, 3550 Hoffman Road, Gem Lake. Important to have water for protection from a fire, a business isn't like a home, solvents etc. are stored at a business. Stated the example of the recent fire in Lino Lakes with Burgess Greenhouses. Fire services had to truck water in by pumper, no city water was available to fight the fire thereby considerable more damage was done to the property.

Justin Gese/Councilmember responses: Assessment is determined by size of acreage, about thirty parcels will be assessed, the eastside of Highway 61 (the whole business district). The assessment hearing will be held in mid-September. Yes, but the proximity and quality presented concerns (Vadnais Heights water). A hydrant at Café Cravings is to create an air release. The city does have a comprehensive plan which is available for viewing at the City offices. There is a specific step by step process that the city is dictated by law to follow.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to close the public hearing. Motion passed, public hearing was closed at 8:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Lindner to approve the final feasibility report. Motion passed.

Resolution 2015-09, resolution to order the preparation of the plans and specs for the installation of water in the Hoffman/Scheuneman/County Road E area in the City of Gem Lake

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Bosak to approve Resolution 2015-09. Voice vote taken – five yes responses. Motion approved.

Public Hearing for the issuance and sale of senior housing revenue refunding notes series 2015, and authorizing the execution of documents relating thereto (St. Andrew's Village Project) Series 2005 and financing certain other costs Resolution 2015-10.

Gina Fiorini, Kennedy & Graven presented a brief overview the process. Mayor Uzpen opened the public hearing for comment at 8:29 p.m. No comments from the public. A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Bosak to close the public hearing. Public hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m. A motion was made by Councilmember Bosak, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve resolution 2015-10. Motion approved.

Resolution 2015-11 – Willow Lane Elementary School

A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Lindner to authorize the City Treasurer to distribute a portion of the gambling funds (\$3,000) to Willow Lane Elementary School. Motion passed.

New Business

CliftonLarsonAllen Audit Report

Chris Knopik from Clifton, Larson and Allen gave an overview of the City of Gem Lake's financial statement for year-end 2014.

Claims for June, 2015

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve the claims for the month of June, 2015. Motion passed.

Presentations from the Public

Justin Gese, S.E.H. informed the council that the neighborhood meeting scheduled for July 9, 2015, will be moved to September 22, 2015. This doesn't change the final outcome of the project, it is just moving the meeting.

Councilmember Artig-Swomley asked that the tax role be compared to the current newsletter list. Gloria Tessier will make the additions/changes.

The City Council Workshop scheduled for July 13, 2015, will be cancelled. Next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Adjournment

Being there no other business a motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to close the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Gloria Tessier