

**Nowthen City Council
August 11, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pilon called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Council Members Blake, Greenberg, Alders and Rainville.

Also in attendance: Administrator Lehner, Deputy Clerk Johnson, Lieutenant Jacobson, Fire Chief Schmidt, and Interim City Administrator Boyles

Agenda Discussion:

Add 2C – Volunteer Recognition

Add 8b – Parks update by Council Member Greenberg

Move 3d to 8c for discussion

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECOND BY BLAKE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.
MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.**

2. CITY ADMINISTRATOR INSTALLATION

a) Oath of Office for Nowthen's First City Administrator, Mr. Scott Lehner

Mayor Pilon administered the Oath of Office for Administrator Lehner.

b) Code of Ethics for Nowthen's First City Administrator, Mr. Scott Lehner

Interim City Administrator Boyles read the Code of Ethics to those present.

c) Volunteer Recognition for Mary Rainville

Council Member Blake announced that Council Member Rainville made it to the top 100 of 700

Nominations as a RECOGNIZED OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER for her many volunteer efforts year round.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BLAKE, SECONDED BY ALDERS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED MOVING 3d TO 8c. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

4. FLOOR ITEMS

Mr. Sam Corns addressed the council to discuss a 7/20/22 Potential City Code Violation notice. He would like details on policy for code violations. What are the policies for using old aerial photos and policy for what code enforcement is looking for when coming on resident's property? Boyles explained that the city does not know if any violations exist. The letter he received is to begin the process to discover and work cooperatively to eliminate any issue which may exist. Administrator Lehner, Interim Administrator Boyles, and Planner Stockman will discuss and formulate a plan to address this complaint.

5. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lieutenant Jacobson reported 119 calls in July.

Notable calls:

1. Loose cows cause chaos in strawberry field
2. Distracted Driving caused a vehicle and a semi head on crash. It was a miracle the car driver survived.
3. 2 motorcycles crashed into each other – again distracted driving.

Discussion if the City can work with the County to reduce the speed limit in some areas.

Discussion to have Sheriff's Department patrol 201st more due detour causing more traffic.

The Mayor thanked the Sheriff's Department (and Fire Department) for their participation in Night to Unite.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Schmidt reported 20 incidents in the month of July. The average response time was 12 minutes, 4 seconds with an average of 4.2 fire fighters per call.

Notable calls:

1. Nowthen FD assisted Ramsey in a 2-alarm fire at Waltek, Inc., a large brush fire and house fire
2. Nowthen FD assisted ACSO and Allina EMS with a pediatric patient who stepped in a burn pit
3. Nowthen FD assisted ACSO with removing a body from a death scene
4. Nowthen FD assisted Oak Grove with a house fire

Grass 1 is in for repair. Boyer thinks they have found the long-standing electrical problem.

We are looking at receiving the new tanker early 2023.

7. PLANNING AND ZONING

7a) CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2022-02 AMENDING SECTIONS 11-2, 11-5 AND 11-6 OF THE NOWTHEN CITY CODE REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES.

The Planning and Zoning commission recommends approval of Ordinance 2022-02.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY GREENBERG TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2022-02 AS AMENDED WITH THE INTENTION OF CONTINUING WORK ON OTHER ORDINANCE CHANGES RELATED TO THE PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICTS IN THE CITY, INCLUDED BUT NOT LIMITED TO LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING REQUIREMENTS. MOTIONS CARRIED. 5 AYES.

8. CITY COUNCIL

8a) CONSIDER INTERIM ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE, TESTING, MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE THC PRODUCTS IN NOWTHEN, MN.

Discussion regarding THC products and sales in MN.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS, SECONDED BY RAINVILLE APPROVE ORDINANCE 2022-03 PROHIBITING THE SALE, TESTING, MANUFACTURING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THC PRODUCTS. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

8b) PARKS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER GREENBERG

Signs are missing on the Disc Golf Course, maintenance is needed, there is an abundance of poison ivy. Council Member Greenberg would like to have permission to get estimates from contractors to complete the maintenance. Discussion about possible goats to help with the poison ivy.

Pickle Ball courts – Much discussion to find a good location. One thought is at Twin Lakes Park the other is to use the Volleyball court and resurface the basketball court. Discussion to do it right the first time. Discussion to allow Pickle Ball Clubs to help contribute to the space.

Discussion to expand the Disc Golf to 18 holes since the park currently has 9. Players would like to have longer drives. The city would need a committee to start the process.

These items could be considered as part of the Capital Improvement Program for Parks and reiterate, if the work is to be done, it should be done right the first time.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS SECONDED BY RAINVILLE TO GIVE COUNCIL MEMBER GREENBERG APPROVAL TO SPEND UP TO \$10,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OR CIP FUNDS TO REPAIR DISC GOLF COURSE, HIRE GOATS FOR POISON IVY EXTRACTION, AND TO WORK WITH STAFF TO COME UP WITH PLANS FOR EXPAND DISC GOLF & CREATE A PICKLE BALL COURT IN MEMORIAL PARK USING THE BASKETBALL COURT AND VOLLEYBALL COURT.

3d) CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-xx ESTABLISHING A PER MEETING POLICY FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Discussion regarding a stipend for different meetings council members attend outside the normal city council meetings for informational or educational resources.

Discussion about a stipend for private citizens that represent the City of Nowthen on the P&Z and the Upper Rum River Water Management Organization commission liaison.

Planning Commission is currently receiving \$20.00 a meeting. Farmer's market stipends are covered by the Farmer's Market Fee's – it does not come from the City funds.

Discussion to change the stipend amount from \$50 to \$40 per meeting outside city limits (with the exception of P&Z Commission Liaison) as pre- approved by the council and increase the planning commission stipend to \$40 from \$20.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-XX AS AMENDED ESTABLISHING A PER MEETING PAY SYSTEM FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND RESIDENTS REPRESENTING NOWTHEN ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

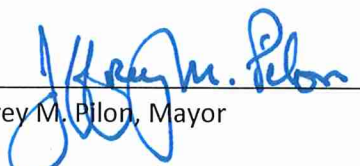
MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY BLAKE. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Lehner, City Administrator



Jeffrey M. Pilon, Mayor