

**Nowthen City Council
November 10, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pilon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance: Administrator Lehner, Deputy Clerk Johnson, Planner Stockman, Lieutenant Jacobson, Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence and Assistant Fire Chief Schrag.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

2. FLOOR ITEMS

Matt Wessling – he asked if the council would be discussing the Pine River State Bank Account.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BLAKE, SECONDED BY GREENBERG TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

4. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Deputy Jacobson stated the Anoka County Sheriff's Department responded to 122 calls in Nowthen in October. These calls included 2 to Bar None, 0 Alarm, 1 Medicals, and 1 Animal Complaint.

Note: The end of the month had several vehicle citations – including unsafe passing, driving after cancellation, and a drunk driver nearly 5 times the legal limit, one of the highest he has ever seen.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief Lawrence reported the Nowthen Fire Department responded to 19 incidents in the month of October (4 more than last month), with an average response time of 11 minutes and 26 seconds (9-second increase from September). The average number of firefighters attending calls for service was 3.8.

The notable call for the month – a large grass fire on the 6000 block of Merles Lane; fire fighters from Ramsey and St. Francis assisted. No property damage was associated with this incident.

The Fire Department is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new Lucas Device. It has shown great success. Many of the fire fighters are already trained and just waiting for the device to arrive. It will help save lives as it provides better CPR than human CPR.

- a) Approval of Resolution 2022-XX allowing the purchase of a Defender 380 PVC with Mercury 15HP Boat & Trailer from Defender Marine Outfitter to assist the Nowthen Fire Department with ice and water rescues.

Much discussion regarding other communities and if they have a rescue boat and would Nowthen Fire Department be able to deploy faster than Anoka County boats stored in Andover.
Much discussion regarding the bond for equipment to get the fire department ready to be independent. And whether this purchase qualifies. Is it the most needed item on the departments list?

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY GREENBERG TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-XX TO PURCHASE A DEFENDER 380 PVC WITH MERCURY 15 HP BOAT AND TRAILER FROM DEFENDER MARINE OUTFITTER TO ASSIST THE NOWTHEN FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH ICE AND WATER RESCUE NOT TO EXCEED QUOTE OF \$10,530.00

Additional discussion on needs of the fire department and bond purchases.

**BACK TO ORIGINAL MOTION, 4 AYES: PILON, GREENBERG, RAINVILLE, BLAKE. NAY: ALDERS.
MOTION CARRIED.**

6. ASSESSOR PRESENTATION

- a) Anoka County Assessor – Alex gave a presentation as to what the County could do for the City of Nowthen.
- b) Erik Skogquist and Mary Wells – Our current assessors for the past 5 years. They gave a presentation as to what they would continue to do for the City of Nowthen.

7. PLANNING AND ZONING

- a) Consider approval of a 50-foot shoreland setback variance for 20885 Engen Blvd.
P&Z Commission recommend approving the variance. (5-0 vote).
Discussion regarding the Driveway Easement and Maintenance Agreement which is unenforceable by the city. Discussion regarding the demolition permit needed and Certificate of Occupancy.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY ALDERS TO APPROVE A 50 FOOT SHORELAND VARIANCE FOR 20885 ENGEN BLVD WITH #6 ON THE FINDINGS AND DECISION TO STATE 150 DAYS AND REMOVING #7. 5 AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Consider denial of an amended CUP application for a cell tower located at 5606 Verde Valley Road. It is the recommendation to table this item until the city attorney has ample time to review all the documents in this request.

MOTION BY MAYOR PILON, SECONDED BY RAINVILLE, TO TABLE DISCUSSION OF THIS APPLICATION UNTIL THE DECEMBER 13TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING. 5 AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Consider approval of final assessment list certified for 2023 tax roll.
There are eight (8) properties that were notified that the citations could be paid before November 3rd to avoid the assessment to their property. Three (3) of the 8 did pay the fee. Five (5) did not and can be sent to the county for the assessment process.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Brian Weichelt pleaded his case to the council regarding his citation and circumstances. Planner Stockman explained tonight was not the night to appeal. The point of the assessment was to re-coup some of the city costs associated with the citations issued.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

MOTION BY RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY MAYOR PILON TO APPROVE THE FINAL ASSESSMENT LIST TO BE CERTIFIED TO THE 2023 TAX ROLL – THE FIVE (5) UNPAID PROPERTIES.

Additional discussion regarding the Weichelt property. Council member Alders stated that the property owner has made progress with cleaning up; the RV is gone and the owner has an active building permit. Discussion to reduce this fine to \$300 or stay the fine.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ALDERS, SECONDED BY BLAKE TO STRIKE THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE WEICHELDT PROPERTY AND APPROVE THE FINAL ASSESSMENT LIST TO BE CERTIFIED TO THE 2023 TAX ROLL FOR THE FOUR (4) OTHER PROPERTIES. 3 AYES: ALDERS, BLAKE, GREENBERG. 2 NAYS: MAYOR PILON AND COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE. MOTION CARRIED.

8. ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

- a) 2023 Fee Schedule: The staff is analyzing current fees and researching our costs in comparison to our fees. A recommended fee schedule will be presented at the December 13th meeting to be discussed and approved prior to January 1, 2023.
- b) Election Update: Unofficial results show Mayor Pilon wins the mayoral race with 51.37% of the votes versus Matt Wessling with 47.92% of the votes. Shannon Fladebo and Dan Breyen will be the city's new city council members as Joel Greenberg and Lynda Blake did not seek re-election. Administrator Lehner gives a huge THANK YOU to all the judges that participated and to Deputy Clerk Johnson for a smooth-running election. Thank you to Joe and Eric in public works for all the help setting up and to the fire department for being flexible with the city and letting the elections take place in the fire station building. The canvassing board will meet after the Abstract is received from Anoka County to certify the election results.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Dead, Animated, or unregistered "write-ins" waste the taxpayers' money as every judge had to stay until the receipt results printed – three (3) times for each precinct as the judges have to sign that receipt to certify the election was run correctly, honestly and to certify that these are the results. The judges waited approximately 1.5 hours longer than necessary. Please only "write-in" actual candidates in the future.

- c) Administrator Lehner stated he is working on numbers to make Deputy Clerk Johnson a full-time employee as she puts in more than part-time hours and has since November 2021.

- d) Employee Benefits - There is a 6% increase for 2023 to the medical benefits offered to city employees. The city is in the 2nd year of a two (2) year contract. It has been advised to plan on a 30-50% increase for next year as PEIP is working to get to "market rate". It was noted that many cities saw more than a 30% increase for 2023 and some as high as 50%. The city currently pays 100% for the employee and 80% for family coverage. The coverage offered is the least expensive program offered with the highest deductibles. Dental coverage offered is 100% funded by the employee. The city currently does not offer life insurance or disability insurance.

9. City Council

a) OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Update on the progress of Ordinance 2022-04 Regulating Gambling in Nowthen. Administrator Lehner stated there are many pieces with the statutes and he is working on it but has nothing to present at this time.

b) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussing the dormant account at the Pine River State Bank – Economic Development Fund Account. Finance Consultant Yager recommended the city close this account and transfer the balance of \$2,489.02 into the general fund. This account has been unused for several years and has remained dormant. It would be recommended to close and clean up this unused account.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BLAKE, SECONDED BY GREENBERG TO APPROVE CLOSING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND ACCOUNT AND TRANSFERING THE BALANCE REMAINING INTO THE GENERAL FUND. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

- 2. Approval of Resolution 2022-XX Appointing the City Assessor for 2023-2027.

Both assessors gave their presentation earlier in the meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY ALDERS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-XX TO APPOINT ERIK A. SKOGQUIST AND MARY WELLS AS THE CITY OF NOWTHEN'S ASSESSORS FOR 2023-2027 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NOWTHEN. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

- 3. Approval of Resolution 2022-XX AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A SNOW BLOWER ATTACHMENT FOR THE SKID LOADER.
Discussion of the uses of the snow blower attachment including the ice rink, park areas and around buildings. Funds to purchase would come from donations received from the Elk River Youth Hockey Association (ERYHA).

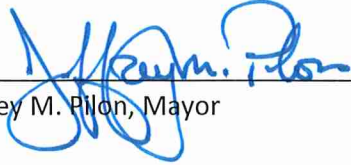
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAINVILLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BLAKE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-XX APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A SNOW BLOWER ATTACHMENT FOR THE SKID LOADER. MOTION CARRIED. 5 AYES.

Council Member Greenberg stated the Broom Ball Youth thanks the city and ERYHA for the donation!

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Pilon, Mayor



Scott Lehner, City Administrator



SIGN - IN SHEET

Meeting: Regular Mtg Date: 11/10/22

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Ben + Megan Polgreen	20885 Engen Blvd
2.	MAH Wessling	19441 Burns Parkway
3.	Katie Brian Wessling	5270 189th Ave
4.	Alex Guggenberger	11954 196th Cir NW, Elk River
5.	Chris Larson	3405 Edmar Ln NE East Bethel
6.	May Wells	3405 Edmar Ln NE East Bethel
7.	Erik Skogquist	314 Monroe St Anoka
8.	Shawn Fladelo	7230 Old Vikky Blvd NW
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FLOOR ITEMS

SIGN - IN SHEET

Meeting: Nov. 10 Regular Mtg Date: 11/10/22

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Matt Wessling	City Assessor Address Funds AT Bank?
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