

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, June 9, 2008
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stark called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jean Stark; Councilmembers Jim Doak, Michael Jilek, Mark Evenstad and Tom Newberry.

Absent: None

Staff: Police Chief Cory Johnson and Clerk Shelley Souers,

Guests: Maria Saulsbury, Mitch Bartlett and Dr. Dennis Peterson

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes May 12, 2008

B. Resolution No. 05-08 Execution of Cooperation Agreement for Participation in CDBG
Councilmember Evenstad moved approval of the consent agenda and items A and B contained within it. Councilmember Doak seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for 2805 Stone Arch Road, to connect to municipal sewer and water system and Adopt Resolution No. 06-08; Approving a Special Assessment Agreement and Adopting Special Assessments for Sewer and Water Improvements and waiving a public hearing.

Ms. Maria Saulsbury, 2805 Stone Arch Road, was present to request connection to the existing municipal sewer and water system.

Councilmember Newberry reported that he had reviewed the application requesting connection to the municipal system and the applicants have met the requirements of the City's guidelines, demonstrating that repairing or replacing the existing septic system is not feasible based on several factors relating to property area, trees and landscaping, as noted on the application. Councilmember Newberry noted that guideline B is not applicable to this request.

Councilmember Newberry moved to approve the request for connection to the sewer and water system and approving Resolution No. 06-08; Approving the Special Assessment Agreement and Adopting Special Assessments for Sewer and Water Improvements. Councilmember Jilek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Review the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) 2009 Budget

Council reviewed the LMCD'S proposed budget for 2009.

Councilmember Evenstad reported that Dick Osgood attended a recent Maplewoods Homeowner's Association meeting and spoke about the milfoil issues facing the lake this year. The DNR is helping to fund a pilot program to help treat the exotic weeds.

Councilmember Doak stated that all property values in Woodland are inherently dependant on the quality of the lake.

Councilmember Evenstad reported that the 2007 pilot program to eradicate weeds along the eastern shoreline of Grays Bay was effective.

Councilmember Doak noted that several LMCD member Cities have responded to the LMCD regarding their proposed budget expressing concern with the overall budget increase, not just the issue of weed control. He reported that recent levy limits imposed by the legislature will restrict many Cities to 3.9% levy increases. This issue is one of the reasons Cities are opposed to the double-digit increases proposed by the LMCD.

Councilmember Doak suggested the City send a letter expressing the concern with the proposed budget increase and the need for the LMCD to be sensitive to the new levy restrictions placed on Cities.

Councilmember Evenstad noted that one-half the budget is for weed control and the remaining budget is allocated to bureaucratic expenses. He felt that the milfoil eradication expenses are acceptable but would like to see the LMCD exercise some restraint with the other budget costs.

Council was supportive of the necessary funds for controlling and eradicating milfoil, but less supportive of other budget increases.

C. Resolution No. 07-08; amending Resolution No. 17-07 regarding Temporary On-Street Parking By Permit in Designated Zones.

Council reviewed a draft resolution to amend the current resolution dictating parking zones. The proposed resolution would eliminate the designated parking by permit zone along Gale Road, known as zone A.

Councilmember Evenstad requested that action on the proposed Resolution No. 07-08 be tabled for one month until the residents along Gale Road can discuss parking options and find a solution for the neighborhood.

Mitch Bartlett, 2850 Gale Road, was present and stated that he was opposed to eliminating the parking zone along Gale Road.

Councilmember Doak explained that there had been some issue in the past with parking along this area because it is private property.

Mr. Bartlett stated that a parking area is needed along Gale Road and questioned what options the residents have.

Councilmember Doak stated that the residents along Gale Road may have to work together to find a neighborhood solution. He suggested that parking along Gale Road be a cooperative effort on behalf of the neighbors to arrange and coordinate parking. This effort should be a neighbor to neighbor proposition.

Mayor Stark reported that there are residents along Gale Road that are not aware the road is located on private property.

Councilmember Evenstad suggested that the residents along Gale Road work together to decide on the parameters for parking.

Councilmember Evenstad moved to table the discussion of Resolution No. 07-08, until the July Council meeting. Councilmember Doak seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Evenstad suggested the homeowners along Gale Road create a parking solution that works for their neighborhood. The City can send an informative letter to the residents on the new parking changes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Mail Theft

Mayor Stark reported that there has been an increase in mail theft in communities around the lake.

Chief Johnson reported that mail theft is becoming a huge issue and Woodland is getting targeted monthly with mail theft. The Chief provided a handout with an example of a locking mailbox made of steel. Chief Johnson recommended that residents avoid putting outgoing mail in their curbside mailbox and instead drop mail in the blue USPS boxes.

Councilmember Doak noted that there is some difficulty in that the timing of the daily mail delivery has been inconsistent and the residential mailboxes are not directly in front of residents' homes. Many boxes are along the roadway or down at the end of a long driveway and not visible from the houses.

Councilmember Evenstad suggested that it may be a judicious use of City funds to explore offering a locking-style mailbox to interested resident. Having a safer mailbox may cut back on the hours the police department spends assisting with mail theft crimes.

Councilmember Jilek agreed that locked cluster boxes may be helpful.

Chief Johnson stated that another issue with increased mail theft is limited lighting.

Councilmember Doak stated that it may be difficult to get all residents to participate in changing their mailbox. He suggested that the City put a notice in the next newsletter to learn whether there is an interest in obtaining the mailboxes and whether the City should have a role in that process.

Chief Johnson reported that the police department will issue a crime alert to the residents along Breezy Point Road regarding mail theft.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Minnetonka School District Updates for 2008-2009, Dr. Dennis Peterson, District Superintendent

Dr. Peterson was present to update the Council on the Minnetonka School District and distributed the District's Annual Report. Dr. Peterson highlighted the community survey results, noting that the public is very supportive of the schools and staff and has been supportive of the fiscal responsibility the District has demonstrated. He stated that the District is accountable to several Cities and hundreds of families and is committed to keeping the levy increases minimal. Dr. Peterson reported that due to open enrollment, the 2008-2009 kindergarten class will be the largest class ever, partially due to language emersion offered to these students. Open enrollment has drawn students from as far as Osseo and White Bear Lake.

Councilmember Evenstad asked if the District had any goals to attract the 66% of the Woodland students that do not go the District schools.

Dr. Peterson stated that the school markets to families in the District first before opening up to open enrollment students. There are 7,900 students of the 9,000 in the District that attend one of the Minnetonka School District schools.

Councilmember Evenstad asked if the District anticipates more migration back to the public schools given the economic changes.

Dr. Peterson stated that there is the possibility of a slight increase in enrollment once the housing market turns around and also for economic reasons, so the District is careful when planning for open enrollment given these multiple factors.

Councilmember Evenstad noted that with the open enrollment option, schools that lose students also lose \$6,000 in state money. Councilmember Evenstad asked how the District decides which students to accept.

Dr. Peterson stated that the District is not allowed to choose students. They must take all that apply if the District has openings.

Councilmember Doak asked if there is sufficient funding to develop and sustain advanced placement and accelerated students.

Dr. Peterson stated that special education funding is state mandated but the funding for accelerated students is raised or ear-marked through the budget process.

Councilmember Doak noted that the enrollment statistic for Woodland indicate that Blake and Breck are the schools of choice. How can the District convince these students to come to the Minnetonka School District?

Dr. Peterson stated that Blake and Breck are good schools and many students attend those schools because of family history. Minnetonka School District markets to all District families and offers excellent value in quality education.

Council thanked Dr. Peterson for his time and updates regarding the School District.

MAYORS REPORT

No report.

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Safety & Finance

Councilmember Evenstad reported that the Maplewood Homeowner's Association met and suggested that the next newsletter contain a general reminder regarding the sign ordinance and weed issues.

Police report

No other report.

Roads and signs

Councilmember Doak reported that several trees were removed since last month. The soil boring tests along the low spot of Breezy Point Road have been completed and the engineer will have the results for the July meeting.

Website & Deer Management

No report.

Ordinances

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Councilmember Evenstad moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilmember Newberry seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilmember Jilek moved approval of the Accounts Payable. Councilmember Evenstad seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Councilmember Evenstad and second by Councilmember Jilek the meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M. Motion carried 5-0.

ATTEST:

Shelley J. Souers, City Clerk

Jean M. Stark, Mayor