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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AFTON
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

APPROVED City Council Special Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2020
Afton City Hall
3033 St. Croix Trail
Afton, MN 55001
(Held Remotely via Zoom)
4:30 P.M.

1. **THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 4:30 P.M. by Mayor Bill Palmquist

2. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Palmquist, Council Members Lucia Wroblewski, Randy Nelson, Annie Perkins, Stan Ross. **A Quorum was present.** The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Ron Moore, City Attorney Fritz Knaak and Washington Conservation District Manager Jay Riggs.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –**

Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross To approve the agenda for the August 24, 2020 Special City Council meeting. Roll Call, All Ayes, passed 5-0-0.

4. **CITY COUNCIL BUISINESS**

A. Tree Replacement Parameters and Specifications at 1073 Indian Trail Path

Moore indicated that one of the requirements related to mitigating the clearcutting of the slope to Lake Edith at 1073 Indian Trail Path is the replacement of the trees that were removed, in an effort to replace the screening, habitat, and canopy that the trees provided. This first requires a tree replacement plan, based on parameters that reflect the City's ordinance requirements and the DNR's tree replacement recommendations.

Moore reported that Jay Riggs, of the Washington County Conservation District, has performed a tree stump inventory to determine the number and size of trees that were removed. Based on the stump inventory, the City's ordinance requirements, the DNR recommendations and Jay's expertise, Jay has prepared a set of parameters and specifications that the tree replacement plan must meet.

The Council reviewed and the stump inventory and parameters. Wroblewski indicated it is important to plant large evergreen trees at the top of the bluff to mitigate the loss of screening of the house. Jay Riggs advised a diversity of evergreen trees in an 8 foot by 8 foot grid as recommended by the DNR. The Council discussed the need for a warranty or surety for a period of 3 to 5 years to ensure the trees remain healthy or are replaced.

The Council discussed the tree replacement ratio, and agreed the ordinance required a 2 to 1 replacement ratio based on diameter-inches of trees removed.

Motion/Second Palmquist/Wroblewski. To require a 2 to 1 replacement ratio based on the diameter-inches of trees removed, and to require screening at the top of the bluff using large evergreens 8 to 10 feet in height. Roll Call, All ayes, passed 5-0-0.

B. Uses of CARES Funding

Moore reviewed the following list of expenditures related to addressing the Covid 19 Pandemic that would be funded by the federal CARES funds that will be received by the City.

- Touchless faucets and toilet fixtures for restrooms (which may include the cost of opening up some walls to increase the size of water lines to toilet fixtures)

- 54 • Water softeners to improve water quality (rust) to prevent problems with the operation of the
- 55 auto flush mechanisms. (the cost of purchasing and installing a water softener is estimated at
- 56 \$3,000.
- 57 • Ion air purification module for furnaces
- 58 • Electronic spray sanitizer for walls, tables, countertops, etc, that enables the sanitizing media
- 59 to remain on the surface and continue to work for an extended period. (The estimated cost of
- 60 this item is \$1,800.
- 61 • Upgrade of City website to make it more accessible
- 62 • Enable on-line payments. (The estimated cost of this item is a one-time cost of \$7,000)
- 63

64 **Motion/Second: Palmquist/Perkins. To proceed with all outlined projects.**

65 **5. ADJOURN**

66 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross. To adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Roll call: All ayes, passed 5-0-0.**

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69 Respectfully submitted by:

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72 Ronald J. Moose, City Administrator

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75 Approved by Council on September 15, 2020 as (check one): Presented: X Amended: _____

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78 Mayor Bill Palmquist _____ Date _____