

SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

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

**DRAFT City Council Work Session Minutes
October 21, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

1. **THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 5:04 P.M. by Mayor Palmquist.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Council Members Nelson, Ross, Wroblewski and Perkins, and Mayor Palmquist. **Quorum Present.**
ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Ron Moorse
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion/Second: Ross/Nelson. To approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0.
4. **CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

A. Putnam Bridge/Trail

Moorse explained that the Council has had discussions regarding reopening the bridge and Putnam Boulevard to pedestrian traffic. The main obstacle to that has been the requirement to bring the bridge up to current Mn/DOT bridge standards, which would be prohibitively expensive. In researching this issue, the City Engineer has found that the bridge could be re-opened at minimal cost if it was removed from the Mn/DOT bridge list and if its use was limited to pedestrian use only. The bridge improvements needed to reopen the bridge to pedestrian traffic are safety barriers between the trail and the creek, re-grading of the surface of the bridge - which is gravel, and installation of bollards, or use of jersey barriers, to keep motorized vehicles off the bridge. The safety barriers are needed because the existing guardrails are in poor condition and would be expensive to repair or replace. The safety barrier needs to be 42 inches in height. This could be accomplished most cost effectively by the installation of a chain link fence on both sides of the bridge.

The Council directed staff to obtain a price quote from Tri County Services for the fence, regrading the surface of the bridge and relocating the jersey barriers.

Mayor Palmquist questioned whether there was a cost-effective solution that would have a better appearance than a chain link fence. He also pointed out that signage is needed to indicate "Motorized Vehicles Prohibited".

It was also discussed that, if the Putnam Boulevard trail is shown on the Parks Plan as an official trail, the costs could be funded from the Park Dedication Fund.

B. Short Term Rentals

Moorse provided information regarding regulations for short term rentals.

Mayor Palmquist clarified that there is a Department of Revenue rule change that provides direction regarding how to tax-classify a property that is not owner occupied and is being used exclusively for short term rentals. Such a property could be classified as commercial.

The Council discussed short term rental regulations, including requiring a residential property that is being used for short term rentals to be homesteaded, requiring documentation of the compliance and capacity of the septic system, and placing a limit on the number of people allowed. The Council also discussed the enforcement of these types of regulations, as well as existing regulations and prohibitions.

55 C. Construction Hours

56 Moose explained that, although the City generally restricts construction hours for City projects and for
57 projects over which the City has some authority to Monday to Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the
58 City's noise ordinance allows motorized construction equipment to be used from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
59 and does not restrict the use from any day of the week. Moose suggested the Council may want to
60 consider more restrictive hours and days for the use of motorized equipment for construction activities.
61

62 The Council identified pros and cons of restricting the construction hours, and directed staff to compare
63 Afton's construction hours to regulations in other cities for further discussion.
64

65 D. Septic System Non-Compliance

66 Moose explained that a key element of protecting groundwater is ensuring private septic systems are
67 properly treating wastewater before it reaches the groundwater. Neither Afton nor Washington County
68 currently have a program of periodic septic system compliance inspections. While there are triggers for
69 septic system compliance inspections, the triggers may not occur for many years. Moose also explained
70 that the County has a model that can identify properties with higher relative risk and no septic system
71 information. This model could be used to guide an inspection program to identify non-compliant septic
72 systems.
73

74 The Council agreed that the City should ensure that required septic system compliance inspections are
75 actually performed, i.e. at the time of transfer of property ownership, and that failing systems get replaced
76 in a timely manner.
77

78 5. ADJOURN –

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80 **Motion/Second: Nelson/Ross. To adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

81 Respectfully submitted by:

82 _____
83
84 Ronald J. Moose, City Administrator

85
86
87 **Approved by Council on November 19, 2019 as (check one): Presented: _____ Amended: _____**

88
89 **Signed by Mayor Bill Palmquist _____ Date _____**

9.6.1

Ron Moore

From: Bruce Smith <brucesmith@customdrywall.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Ron Moore
Cc: Nick Guilliams; Brad Nelson; Charles Plowe Sr; Will Carlson
Subject: Afton Creek Stormwater Plan
Attachments: 20191115102416022.pdf; Afton Creek Preserve Stormwater System Proposed Work Plan.pdf

Ron,

Attached is an official letter and our proposed plan for the stormwater basin issue at the Afton Project.

Nick,

Peterson companies will be onsite Monday November 18th to pump down pond 7 for Allied Testing's borings. It appears weather will be favorable that day for double ring infiltrometer testing. Can you coordinate testing of pond 4 that day? Peterson Companies would like to be onsite with you during the process to ensure Pond 4 has optimal conditions for testing.

Chuck,

Can you please keep everyone in this email chain updated on the status of the boring tests for bond 7. The sooner we can get those results the sooner we can devise a plan if needed.

Thank you everyone,

Bruce Smith, Controller

Direct 651-605-8130 | Mobile 763-202-9969 | Fax 651-488-8432 Custom Drywall | St. Paul
488 Atwater Cir, St. Paul, MN 55103

November 15th, 2019

Afton Creek Preserve Development, LLC
Bruce Smith
488 Atwater Circle
St. Paul, MN 55103

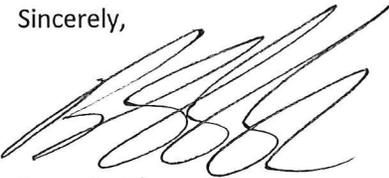
City Administrator
Ron Moore
3033 St. Croix Trail
Afton, MN 55011

Dear Mr. Moore,

In response to our November 13th City Council special session meeting to discuss stormwater ponds, I have enclosed with this letter our proposed plan to address the draw down rates of the ponds. Over the next week we would like to conduct various tests and analyze the data to ensure we make an educated decision on how to proceed. We are fully committed to complete whatever work we can this year to ensure we don't encounter catastrophic failures of this system in the spring. Please review the attached document and let me know if you have any questions.

Due to previous travel commitments for both Will Carlson and I, we will not be able to attend the November 19th City council meeting. Please forward any questions or concerns you would like addressed prior to the meeting and I will do my best to respond prior to the council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Smith', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Smith

Afton Creek Preserve Stormwater System Proposed Work Plan

This document is to serve as our current work plan for investigating why the infiltration basins of the stormwater management system are not functioning. The current problem surrounds failing draw down rates of the infiltration basins.

All recommendations in this document take into consideration the as-built drawings passed all analysis by both our civil engineer (Plowe Engineering) and the contracted city engineer (WSB). The As-builts show the site was built in compliance with the approved engineered plans. Furthermore, when compared to calculated hydro CAD figures the as-built drawings showed flow and volume run off rates equal to or more favorable than those presented with the original plans. This leads us to believe that no basin is failing the draw down metric based on site grading.

All proposed work will be completed promptly and to the best of our ability barring no delays from subcontractors or adverse weather that interferes with the efficiency of the proposed scope of work.

POND 7

Analysis:

This pond has been tested several different times with double ring infiltrometer tests; each of these tests have shown different rates; however, each result was a favorable passing rate. These passing double ring infiltrometer tests show us that the surface infiltration media is not silted in. This data, in conjunction with the approved as-built drawing, leads us to believe there is a deeper underlying issue below the surface.

Proposed Work:

Plowe Engineering and WSB both agree that the next course of action for this basin is to conduct boring exams. Chuck Plowe from Plowe Engineering is coordinating with Allied testing to get hand borings completed either Monday November 18th or Tuesday November 19th weather and schedule permitting. Peterson Companies is going to be onsite Monday November 18th to pump this basin empty and remove ice if required. We would ask that WSB work promptly in conjunction with Plowe Engineering to ascertain the results of the borings; at which time a more accurate course of action for remediation can be agreed on. New vegetation will be planted at the earliest available time in the spring of 2020

POND 4

Analysis:

This pond has been tested several different times with double ring infiltrometer tests; each of these tests have shown different rates. Early tests all passed; two tests conducted later in the season showed varying results. Both tests conducted later in the year showed failing infiltration rates; prior to the second test Peterson Companies was on site disturbing the surface infiltration media. In our November 13th City Council Special Session meeting WSB pointed out that the freezing temperatures during the last double ring infiltrometer tests were adverse conditions for accurate testing.

Proposed Work:

Given the fact that Peterson Companies will be onsite Monday November 18th we would like to coordinate WSB to be onsite the same day to conduct more double ring infiltrometer tests. Peterson companies will be available to do any work in pond 4 to ensure optimal test conditions are met. If the double ring infiltrometer tests come back unfavorable, Peterson Companies will remove the top layer of infiltration

media and replace with new media. If the tests come back favorable, we would feel no work is required this year; and we would closely monitor this pond in the spring. If we see failing draw down rates in the spring, we will remove the surface layer of infiltration media and replace with new media. New vegetation will be planted at the earliest available time in the spring of 2020

POND 2

Analysis:

This pond has been tested several different times with double ring infiltrometer tests; each of these tests have shown different rates. Early tests all passed; two tests conducted later in the season showed varying results. The first test showed failing infiltration rates; prior to the second test Peterson Companies was on site disturbing the surface infiltration media. The second test showed passing infiltration rates; furthermore, the pond has since drawn down and remained empty.

Proposed Work:

Giving the passing infiltration rate, and the total draw down, we would like to leave this pond alone and closely monitor through the spring. If we see failing draw down rates in the spring, we will remove the surface layer of infiltration media and replace with new media. New vegetation will be planted at the earliest available time in the spring of 2020