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

**APPROVED** City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2019  
Afton City Hall  
3033 St. Croix Trail  
Afton, MN 55001  
7:00 P.M.

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1. **THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Bill Palmquist

2. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Palmquist, Council Members Lucia Wroblewski, Stan Ross, Annie Perkins, Randy Nelson. **A Quorum was Present.**

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Accountant Tom Niedzwiecki, City Administrator Ron Moore, City Engineer Susan Polka.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** –

Delete item 10c9, move to work session

**Motion/Second Ross/Wroblewski to approve the agenda for the December 17, 2019 Regular City Council meeting with deletion of item 10c9. Passed 5-0.**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular City Council meeting

**Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular City Council meeting. Passed 4-0-1 (Perkins abstain due to absence).**

B. Minutes of the December 4, 2019 Special City council meeting.

**Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 Special City Council meeting. Passed 5-0.**

6. **PUBLIC INPUT** –

Perry Eggers 13379 50<sup>th</sup> St S. Stated he is concerned about the ag zone over control of erosion, water runoff, ground water. His brother is a civil engineer who said the developers have to be careful of protecting the groundwater. Concern over damage to aquifer. Pond 7 needs proper repair be careful of taking out too much. Be careful with environment.

Kathy Graham 5912 Trading Post Tr. Stated she is concerned over pond 7 at Afton Creek Preserve. It lies 10 feet from her property line and would like a proposed solution to repair.

7. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS** –

A. Sheriff's Monthly Report

No report

B. Tom Niedzwiecki, Budget Report

Provided an overview of the financial reports.

C. Lower St. Croix Fire District Report

Richard Bend reported on the last meeting. Discussion was held on a proposal for a permitting process for multi-family, non owner occupied homes that would require annual fire inspections. 3% cost of living raise was approved.

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**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Just and Correct Claims**

**B. 4M Fund Transfer August – Resolution 2019- 41**

**Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to approve Resolution 2019-41, 4M fund transfers for November. Roll call:**

**All aye, Passed 5-0.**

**9. BUDGET AND TAX LEVY HEARING**

**A. 2020 Proposed Budget & Tax levy**

**Resolution 2019-42 2020 Budget**

**Resolution 2019-43 2020 Tax Levy**

Mayor Palmquist opened the public hearing at 7:20 pm.

Administrator Moorse provided an overview of the 2020 budget proposal.

Kris Kopitzke asked about the 401 system fund for 12 houses on river road.

Administrator Moorse stated the funding will likely come from a bond issue, also there is an existing levy in place.

No other comments

**Motion/Second Ross/Wroblewski to close public hearing. Passed 5-0.**

**Motion/Second Nelson/Ross to adopt Resolution 2019-42 approving the 2020 Budget. Roll call: all aye, passed 5-0.**

**Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to adopt Resolution 2019-43 approving the 2020 Tax Levy. Roll call: all aye, passed 5-0.**

**10. CITY COUNCIL BUISINESS**

**A. Planning Commission Report – (PC report & Draft PC minutes)**

1. Draft PLCD ordinance amendment

Chair Kopitzke provided a summary of the last meeting and the draft ordinance.

Council member Nelson recommended looking at wildlife corridors in the future.

Palmquist asked about the enforcement language

**Motion/Second Wroblewski/Ross to have the Planning Commission finalize the draft and hold a public hearing. Passed 5-0.**

2. Draft Short Term Residential Rental Ordinance

Planning Commission will be discussing more at the next meeting.

**B. Engineering Report – (Engineer Staff Report & Council Update)**

1. 2020 Washington County Culvert Replacement Project CSAH 21

Culvert will be replaced next summer, residents will be informed prior to construction.

2. WSB 2020 Fee Schedule

**Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to approve WSB requested rate increase for 2020. Passed 5-0**

**C. Administration –**

1. Afton Creek Preserve Construction Update

Jennifer Hildebrand reported that they (WSB) met on Dec 9 with the development team. Discussed strategy to address spring thaw issue, items done to date for winter construction, seeding plan, pond 7, overflow berm at 6, and ponds 2&4.

Spring thaw – different action levels were discussed based on rainfall and water levels at high event in ponds. She is pleased with the feedback from developer’s team.

Winter work – satisfactory at this time.

- 106 Seeding plan – satisfactory at this time.  
107 Proposed drawdown level pond 7, drain tile – satisfactory at this time.  
108 Overflow berm at pond 5 – grading issues on south end. The plan highlights what will be re-graded.  
109 Satisfied that items have been adequately addressed.  
110 Council member Wroblewski asked if the plan is on paper and agreed to? (yes)  
111 Pond 5 berm will be reshaped for better drainage as specifically stated in plan.  
112 Council member Ross asked who will be in command as we go into spring? Relationship?  
113 Hildebrand replied the development team collectively will be monitoring on daily basis along with  
114 Nick or Jennifer.  
115 **Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to adopt plan as presented and direct staff to encourage WSB to**  
116 **retain Jennifer Hildebrand as point person. Passed 5-0.**  
117  
118 2. River Road Sanitary Sewer Project Update  
119 Engineer Polka provided an updated: The contractor has run into bedrock and was unable to  
120 complete the job. There is an option to cut into the road to install, the cost estimate is double.  
121 WSB recommends getting other quotes and waiting until spring to complete.  
122 Council member Ross stated that the same contractor did a private septic and left damage on the  
123 road which has not been resolved.  
124 Council member Wroblewski asked if it would cost more money to go through the bid process  
125 again?  
126 Administrator Moose stated it would be price quotes, not a formal bid process.  
127 Mayor Palmquist asked how far they could linear drill? (about ½ way)  
128 **Motion/Second Nelson/Ross to get three quotes to complete work on River Road sewer**  
129 **project.**  
130 Council member Perkins asked about the other option of grinder pump and connecting to force  
131 main.  
132 **Motion Vote: Passed 4-0-1 (Perkins abstain)**  
133  
134 3. Afton Historical Museum Application for National Registry  
135 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Nelson to approve a letter recommendation supporting the Afton**  
136 **Historical Museum’s application for grant funding for the preparation of an application for**  
137 **inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Passed 4-0-1 (Ross abstain).**  
138  
139 4. Four Paws Animal Carcass Disposal  
140 **Motion/Second Wroblewski/Ross to approve an arrangement with Four Paws for the disposal**  
141 **of animal carcasses from the City’s public right-of-way. Passed 5-0.**  
142  
143 5. County Rd 21 Snow Storage  
144 **Motion/Second Nelson/Perkins to allow Washington County to store excess snow in the Carver**  
145 **park area, with the condition that fiber rolls be placed along the edges of the ponds in the**  
146 **park to prevent silt from the melting snow from running into the ponds. Passed 5-0.**  
147  
148 6. Vimeo storage proposal from Afton Historical Museum  
149 Administrator Moose provided information on a proposal from the Afton Historical Museum to  
150 archive, catalog and store public meeting videos at a cost of \$5,250.  
151 Council member Wroblewski asked what other cities do to store videos?  
152 Council member Ross stated that this proposal is to preserve historic events. Would compile videos  
153 and put onto different media to be able to update.  
154 **Motion/Second Nelson/Wroblewski to table item. Passed 4-0-1. (Ross abstain).**  
155  
156 7. Laserfiche goals

157 Council member Ross provided a summary of the public portal and online payment feature addition  
158 to Laserfiche. Cost would be \$10,000.  
159 Council member Wroblewski asked if there is an alternate way to do electronic payments that may  
160 cost less?  
161 Council member Nelson asked if this is in the budget (no). One time cost? (yes)  
162 Mayor Palmquist stated the cost is too high and would like to look for an alternative for now.  
163 Council member Nelson suggested we wait a year and re-evaluate.  
164 **Motion/Second Nelson/Perkins to table item for one month and research other options. Passed**  
165 **4-1 (Ross nay).**  
166

167 8. Public Works Infrastructure Cost planning spreadsheet  
168 No action was taken  
169

170 ~~9. Firearms Ordinance Violation update~~  
171 Moved to work session  
172

173 10. Afton House Liquor License Renewal for 2020  
174 **Motion/Second Nelson/Perkins to approve liquor license for Afton House for 2020. Passed 4-1**  
175 **(Ross nay).**  
176

177 11. Lumberyard Pub liquor license renewal for 2020  
178 **Motion/Second Nelson/Wroblewski To approve liquor license for Lumberyard Pub for 2020.**  
179 **Passed 5-0.**  
180

181 12. Proposal for use of new ice breaker equipment to break up compacted snow  
182 Tri County has new equipment they would like to purchase and trial which is supposed to break up  
183 compacted snow on streets.  
184 Mayor Palmquist suggested testing on roads that we're going to re-do.  
185 Ken Johnson, Public Works stated we are getting more complaints. Currently use 50/50 mix of salt  
186 sand on the roads.  
187 Engineer Polka stated that there will be more regulations on use of salt in the future, would be worth  
188 looking at.  
189 Council member Perkins stated that there is too much salt on River Road.  
190 Council member Ross suggested limiting to roads that are going to be repaved, and hill on 30<sup>th</sup> st.  
191 Take photos before and after.  
192 **Motion/Second Perkins/Wroblewski to authorize Tri County to use new ice breaker**  
193 **equipment to break up compacted snow and ice on select roads and the hill on 30<sup>th</sup> St. Passed**  
194 **5-0.**  
195

#### 196 **D. Committee Reports**

- 197 1. Public Works – no report
- 198 2. Personnel – need meeting
- 199 3. Parks – no report
- 200 4. Heritage Preservation Commission / Design Review – no report
- 201 5. Natural Resources and Groundwater – no report
- 202

#### 203 **10. COUNCIL, CONSULTANT, AND STAFF REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES**

- 204 A. Ward 1 Council Member Perkins – request for snowmobiles in town
- 205 B. Ward 2 Council Member Wroblewski – ice on 30<sup>th</sup>, appreciate being included in ice-break machine trial
- 206 C. Ward 3 Council Member Ross – no report
- 207 D. Ward 4 Council Member Nelson – no report
- 208 E. Mayor Palmquist – cell towers. MnDOT mtg on east metro transit Cottage Grove

- 209 F. City Attorney Knaak – no report
- 210 G. City Administrator Moorse – no report

211

212 **11. ADJOURN**

213 **Motion/Second Nelson/Wroblewski to adjourn. Passed 5-0 .**

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215 Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

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218 Respectfully submitted by:

219

220 JY

221 Julie Yoho, City Clerk

222

223 Approved by Council January 21, 2020 as (check one): Presented:  X  Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

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225

226 Mayor Bill Palmquist \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_