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

**APPROVED** City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 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 Wroblewski, Ross, Nelson, Perkins. **A Quorum was Present.**

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Engineers Nick Guilliams, City Accountant Tom Niedzwiecki, City Administrator Ron Moore, City Attorney Fritz Knaak, Planning Commission Chair Kris Kopitzke

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** –

Add items: C10 “review of protocol for accidents with injury”; 7a “River Confluence Group”; 7b “Lower St Croix Veterans memorial”; c11 “purchase road salt”; c12 “storm drains in park”; c13 “River Road”; under C1 “60<sup>th</sup> St & drain ponds”.

**Motion/Second Ross/Perkins To approve the agenda for the September 17, 2019 Regular City Council meeting with additions above. Passed 5-0.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A.** Minutes of the August 20, 2019 Regular City Council meeting

**Motion/Second Wroblewski/Ross To approve the minutes of the August 20, 2019 Regular City Council meeting with spelling correction in line 24. Passed 5-0.**

**B.** Minutes of the August 20, 2019 City Council Work Session

**Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross To approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 City Council Work Session. Passed 5-0.**

**C.** Minutes of the August 21, 2019 City Council Work Session

**Motion/Second Ross/Wroblewski To approve the minutes of the August 21, 2019 City Council Work Session. Passed 5-0.**

**D.** Minutes of the August 29, 2019 City Council Work Session

**Motion/Second Ross/Palmquist To approve the minutes of the August 29, 2019 City Council Work session. Passed 5-0.**

**6. PUBLIC INPUT** –

Kevin Slaikeu, 14233 60<sup>th</sup> St S.; Stated that he is concerned over drainage pond in Afton Creek Preserve – it is being pumped continuously with all the rain. Culvert is draining into his neighbor’s property and causing erosion. What will be happening with the holding pond as it is not working correctly? Also when will road be paved?

Jodie Belknap, 13201 40<sup>th</sup> St.; Concern over speed limits on 40<sup>th</sup> st. Stated she appreciates improved markings at the intersection but would like speed limit to be decreased on road. How could it be lowered, would like to know process?

54 Council member Ross stated that he will contact her.

55

56 **7. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS –**

57 **A. Great Rivers Confluence group**

58 Gene Groebner, Afton State Park & Jennifer Vieth, Carpenter Nature Center; provided an overview of the  
59 group and of the symposium coming up next spring in River Falls which will focus on sustainability topics.  
60 The group is a mix of chambers, businesses, and local government. All are volunteers. There will be a Mayors  
61 breakfast, March 12, 2020.

62

63 **B. Lower St Croix Veterans Memorial Park.** The Chair of park committee provided an overview of the park.  
64 The group would like a veteran from Afton to be on the committee. A re-dedication will be held on Nov 9  
65 would like mayor Palmquist to attend. Memorial bricks can be ordered for \$25 in honor of veterans.

66

67 **C. Sheriff's Monthly Report**

68 No report

69

70 **B. Tom Niedzwiecki, Budget Report**

71 Provided an overview of the financial reports. Will have an estimate of year- end for next month.

72

73 **C. Lower St. Croix Fire District Report**

74 No report

75

76 **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

77 **A. Just and Correct Claims**

78 **B. 4M Fund Transfer August – Resolution 2019-33**

79 **Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to approve Resolution 2019-33 4M fund transfers for August. All aye,**  
80 **passed 5-0.**

81

82 **9. CITY COUNCIL BUISINESS**

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

84 1. James Koktavy Variance Application at 16508 Swede Hill Drive – Resolution 2019-34

85 **Motion/Second Ross/Wroblewski to approve Resolution 2019-34 approving the variance**  
86 **application at 16508 Swede Hill Drive. All aye, Passed 5-0.**

87

88 2. PLCD ordinance review – update

89 Chair Kopitzke provided an update on the review. Questions over enforcement, shared driveway,

90 Wroblewski would suggest a work session to discuss and watch video of discussion from the latest  
91 Planning Commission meeting.

92 A work session will be scheduled.

93

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

95 1. Bridge Inspections

96 4 bridges are due for inspection this year.

97 **Motion/Second Ross/Perkins To approve \$4,100.00 for WSB to perform bridge inspections.**  
98 **Passed 5-0.**

99

100 **C. Administration –**

101 1. Afton Creek Preserve Construction Update

102 City Engineer Guilliams reported that portions of the roads were defective, repairs are being made,

103 base will be tested and repaved Friday. There is a 2 yr warranty. Barricades in place until shouldering  
104 is done. He reviews what the developers engineer proposes. Need to see their plans.

105

- 106 Stormwater ponds & 60<sup>th</sup> st  
107 City Engineer Guilliams reported that this is an ongoing issue, aren't draining as designed, also this is  
108 the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest season on record. He has been monitoring. Pumps were put in to reduce sediment  
109 release. The permit states that within 48 hrs it needs to drain, not meeting the requirement. Permit is  
110 thru the MN PCA.  
111 Jennifer Hildebrand, WSB Environmental Compliance division; explained that the ponds are built to  
112 design standards set by state PCA. In new development they take the first 1" of water and infiltrate.  
113 This design met the standard on paper, have to allow for corrections by developer. There have been  
114 large rain events. PCA doesn't typically come out to inspect. The sediment release was reported. Mayor  
115 Palmquist would suggest not issuing building permits until the ponds are functioning.  
116 Jennifer stated that there have been multiple discussion about ponds not functioning with Peterson  
117 (contractor)  
118 Council member Ross asked how will they prove it has been resolved without another huge rainfall?  
119 Jennifer replied that a test can be done on water percolation timing - 3- 5 tests locations around the  
120 pond are recommended.  
121 Mayor Palmquist asked if the grading plan was followed? (Nick replied yes per plan)  
122  
123 60<sup>th</sup> St. paving  
124 City Engineer Guilliams stated the base needs to meet standard prior to paving. More class 5 is needed  
125 for base approx. \$35,000 worth of work. Culverts need to be replaced also \$25,000.  
126 Council member Wroblewski stated that this was tipping point for vote on this, that developer would  
127 pave road.  
128 Council member Ross stated that the spirit of agreement was that it would be paved to Afton standards.  
129 Don't want to have problem with road in a few years. Would support using funds to be sure it is brought  
130 up to standards.  
131 Council member Perkins stated that the developer should do this  
132 Council member Nelson stated that no other development required similar road, this was a good deal.  
133 Part of deal so should be to standards.  
134 City Attorney Knaak stated the city has a strong position to insist developer pay for as per agreement.  
135 Council member Nelson stated that we have road standards they agreed to meet.  
136 Mayor Palmquist feels we should do it and know road will last.  
137 Council member Wroblewski disagrees and stated that the tax payers should not be paying for this. To  
138 issue building permits, the road has to be paved properly and city has to approve of it.  
139 Mayor Palmquist stated that Denmark twsp felt it was up to their standard as per the agreement  
140 Council member Perkins recommended the city pay for culvert and base prep required to get the road up  
141 to our standard.  
142 Council member Ross stated that the areas were not precisely specified.  
143 Council member Perkins stated that the developer should be knowledgeable in this area.  
144 **Motion/Second Palmquist / Perkins to authorize the city to cover cost of culverts, staff to work**  
145 **with developer and to bring base up to standard at cost of \$35,000.00 as identified.**  
146 Discussion  
147 Council member Wroblewski asked if the motion is be firm about this – that we are not paying for  
148 gravel, only culverts, and it has to be to our standard.  
149 Guilliams stated that the plans would be reviewed.  
150 Council member Nelson asked if we should review plans prior to motion on this? Also how do we  
151 know they are going to do it?  
152 Administrator Moorse stated that Carlson (developer) indicated they would go by agreement and he  
153 didn't see those improvements in there.  
154 Council member Nelson stated that this is the least expensive road segment we've ever built.  
155 **Motion vote : Passed 5-0**  
156  
157 2. Installation of Rip Rap on Levee

- 158 The DNR has determined that the installation of rip rap is eligible for funding under the City's current  
159 Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant agreement with the DNR and funding is available for the rip rap. The  
160 rip rap can be installed this fall so that it is in place for possible flooding next spring.  
161 **Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to accept the price quote of \$63,000 from Rumpca Excavating, Inc for**  
162 **providing and delivering the rip rap, the price quote of \$2,365 from Ferguson Waterworks for the**  
163 **geotextile fabric, and the price quotes of \$15,500 for installing the fabric and rip rap and \$6,350**  
164 **for restoring the levee after the rip rap installation from Tri County Services. Passed 5-0.**  
165
- 166 3. Purchase small additional area of easement for trail on levee  
167 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross to table item until we have more information. Passed 5-0.**  
168
- 169 4. Purchase Additional Permanent easement on Gehrke Property  
170 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross to table the item until we have more information. Passed 5-0.**  
171
- 172 5. Native Plantings at City Hall  
173 **Motion/Second Palmquist / Ross to approve the plan for native plantings at City Hall at a cost not**  
174 **to exceed \$8,000.00.**  
175 Discussion  
176 Council member Ross stated that the council passed a resolution that we are a pollinator friendly city,  
177 this is start of pilot program  
178 Grant Jensen, Parks committee member stated that they plan to do the work with volunteers from the  
179 parks committee  
180 **Motion vote: Passed 5-0**  
181
- 182 6. 2020 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy – Resolutions 2019-35 and 2019-36  
183 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross to set 7:00 PM, December 17, 2019 as the date and time for the**  
184 **Budget and Tax Hearing for the adoption of the final 2020 budget and tax levy. Passed 5-0**  
185  
186 **Motion/Second Ross/Nelson to approve Resolution 2019-35 approving the preliminary 2020**  
187 **budget. All aye, passed 5-0.**  
188  
189 **Motion/Second Palmquist /Wroblewski to approve Resolution 2019-36 approving the preliminary**  
190 **2020 tax levy. All aye, passed 5-0.**  
191
- 192 7. Proposal for Historic Designation Consulting.  
193 **Motion/Second Ross/Palmquist to accept the proposal from Blondo Consulting for the local**  
194 **designation nomination project at the cost of \$20,000.**  
195 Mayor Palmquist noted the city received a grant to cover the cost.  
196 **Motion Vote: Passed 5-0.**  
197
- 198 8. John Kroschel Request for noise ordinance waiver for fundraising event at 15106 50<sup>th</sup> St  
199 **Motion/Second Ross/Wroblewski to waive noise ordinance for event at 15106 50<sup>th</sup> St on October**  
200 **12, 2019. Passed 5-0.**  
201
- 202 9. Schedule Council work session  
203 Upcoming work session will be scheduled via email  
204
- 205 10. Accident procedures  
206 Council member Wroblewski noted that recently a serious accident occurred. Would like to know about  
207 policies and procedures and how can we encourage protocols with the Sheriff's office.  
208 Council member Ross contacted the Sergeant about this. Unless there is a fatality the County doesn't do  
209 scene reconstruction – the State does in that case. Insurance companies often will reconstruct.

210 Council member Wroblewski stated that procedures can always be improved.  
211 Mayor Palmquist would like to know the process and understand roles.  
212 City Attorney Knaak stated that the County Attorney could come and discuss with the council, along  
213 with the sheriff.

214  
215 11. Road salt

216 **Motion/Second Palmquist /Ross to purchase of 150 tons of road salt at a cost not to exceed**  
217 **\$12,000. Passed 5-0.**

218  
219 12. Storm drains at Town Square Park

220 Erosion around the drainage pipes needs repair

221 **Motion/Second Palmquist/Ross to approve spending \$450.00 for Croixcavating to do minor**  
222 **grading and providing and placing river rock around the drains. Passed 5-0.**

223  
224 13. River Road gravity line (taken out of order)

225 Council member Perkins stated that it is \$32,000 to connect her house to sewer with \$21,000 for work  
226 off of her property for gravity feed to the sewer line to station. (that is part of bid that is going out in  
227 January). Could we pull that item out so that she can connect now with gravity line? (with Capras bid.)  
228 Engineer Guilliams can review proposal.

229 Council member Ross has discussed the River Rd issue with several state reps to see if there is any state  
230 money available.

231  
232 **D. Committee Reports**

- 233 1. Public Works – no report  
234 2. Personnel – no report  
235 3. Parks – pollinator plan. Trees at Steamboat park  
236 4. Heritage Preservation Commission / Design Review – no report  
237 5. Natural Resources and Groundwater – info on micro plastic testing

238  
239 **10. COUNCIL, CONSULTANT, AND STAFF REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES**

- 240 A. Ward 1 Council Member Perkins – no report  
241 B. Ward 2 Council Member Wroblewski – attended the water consortium meeting  
242 C. Ward 3 Council Member Ross – working on a new Vimeo account for videos, website, e-commerce  
243 D. Ward 4 Council Member Nelson – no report  
244 E. Mayor Palmquist – no report  
245 F. City Attorney Knaak – uptick in volume of work generated by state patrol  
246 G. City Administrator Moore – no report

247  
248 **11. ADJOURN**

249 **Motion/Second Nelson/Ross to adjourn. Passed 5-0.**

250 Meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

251  
252 Respectfully submitted by:

253  
254 \_\_\_\_\_  
255 Julie Yoho, City Clerk

256  
257 Approved by Council October 15, 2019 as (check one): Presented: \_\_\_\_\_ Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

258  
259 Mayor Bill Palmquist \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_