

**CITY OF WOODLAND
COUNCIL MEETING
August 12, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor James Doak; Council Members Sliv Carlson, Chris Rich,
and John Massie

Absent: Council Member Tom Newberry

Staff: City Clerk Shelley Souers

Guests: Ellen DeHaven and Richard Henry

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes, July 8, 2013; Regular Council Meeting

B. Resolution No. 19-2013; Septic Review Agreement for 2014 (Kurt Larsen)

**C. Resolution No. 20-2013; Septic Inspection Agreement for 2014 (Metro West
Inspection Services)**

D. Select Date for 2014 Budget and Levy Hearing

**E. Resolution No. 24-2013; revising Resolution No. 02-2013 to include the appoint of
Mayor James Doak to the LMCC Board of Directors as a dual liaison**

Council Member Rich moved to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Henry, 18060 Shavers Lane, requested that the Council consider reestablishing an official parking zone along Shavers Lane by securing a formal easement agreement with the owners of the property. Mr. Henry provided a brief history of the Shavers Lane properties and the parking area that had historically been located along the south side of Shavers Lane. Mr. Henry stated that a portion of the Shavers Lane right-of-way easement was vacated by the City a number of years ago to facilitate the subdivision of a large property (18150 Shavers Lane) into three conforming lots. As part of the agreement to vacate a portion of its easement, the City secured a parking zone on the south side of Shavers Lane. Subsequently, the residents that purchased the property abutting Shavers Lane, following the subdivision, asked the City to remove the designated parking area along Shavers Lane, but agreed to continue to allow parking along their property with their permission. At the request of the property owners, the parking area was rescinded in 2002 by Council action. Mr. Henry stated that the current owners allow parking with their approval and there have been no issues. Mr. Henry expressed concern that future owners may not continue to permit neighbors to park along the area. He, therefore,

requested that the Council attempt to reinstate the parking area through an agreed upon perpetual easement with the current and all future owners.

Mayor Doak stated that the City will review the history of the vacation of the right-of-way easement and subsequent removal of the designated parking in 2002. Mayor Doak stated that the City will speak with the current owners regarding the use of the south side of their property adjacent the road for parking.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ellen DeHaven - Discussion Regarding Real Estate Signs

Mayor Doak noted that Ms. DeHaven was not in attendance, but he asked the Council to discuss the issues that she raised in a memo to the City. He stated that a number of real estate signs had been placed along the front and lakeside of 2400 Cedar Ridge Drive that violated the sign ordinance.

The Police asked Ms. DeHaven, the listing agent, to remove the signs and the property is now in conformity with the sign ordinance. Realtor, Ellen DeHaven has requested that the Council consider an amendment to the sign ordinance to permit additional signage for unique properties that are located on the lake or off the main traveled City streets.

Council reviewed the suggestions submitted by Ms. DeHaven, including increasing the number, variety, and size of signs and to allow larger signs on the Lake.

Council noted that the sign ordinance currently permits directional signs/arrows for an open house. Council agreed that most people looking for a home in Woodland are represented by a realtor who probably is very familiar with the community. Drive-by property searches may be a more common approach in dense neighborhoods, but not in Woodland.

Council was not supportive of real estate or construction signs on the lakeside of properties as they can impede the lake views of other lakeshore properties and are unsightly.

Mayor Doak stated that the sign ordinances are to protect the quality of life of those that to reside in Woodland. Broadening the signage for realtors would be unfair to other contractors seeking additional signage. The appearance of the City is of paramount importance.

The Council expressed no interest in changing the current sign ordinance.

Ms. DeHaven arrived at the meeting and was told that her issues had been discussed, but that the Council would like to hear her point of view. Ms. DeHaven stated that she had lived in Woodland and appreciates the quality of life in the City and the minimally invasive sign ordinance. However, Ms. DeHaven stated that it can be difficult to locate property in Woodland, given the private streets and wooded area. For this reason, she asked if the Council would consider modifying the sign ordinance to permit low additional signage for properties that are difficult to locate. Ms. DeHaven noted, as an example, her current listing at Cedar Point in Woodland has 1,700 feet of lakeshore located down a private road. Ms. DeHaven stated that she would like council to consider an amendment to the ordinance to permit a second sign or an

arrow to make finding certain properties easier. Ms. DeHaven contended that many homes are sold from signs on land and along the water.

Mayor Doak stated that given the value of property in Woodland, he believes most persons will seek a realtor for help in their house hunting.

Ms. DeHaven reiterated that properties are not always found in the conventional way and many people drive around looking for signs listing property and also look at lakeshore property from their boats.

Mayor Doak stated that the ordinances protect the quality of life and general aesthetics for those persons that reside in Woodland. He believes the sign ordinance ultimately improves property values and those selling, their homes consequently benefit from Woodland's image. The City seeks to balance the rights of persons residing in Woodland with the rights of persons leaving Woodland and the desire of realtors to advertise their services.

Mayor Doak noted that the sign ordinance applies to all signs, not just real estate signs. Mayor Doak summarized the two issues to be considered: 1) Allowing lakeshore signs and 2) permitting additional directional signs for a private road or cul-de-sac situation where there is difficulty finding the property.

Ms. DeHaven stated that she is not trying to disrupt the neighbors and believes the suggestions are reasonable.

Mayor Doak stated that he appreciates Ms. DeHaven's comments. The Council will discuss the issue again at the September Council meeting.

Ms. DeHaven stated that she appreciates being heard by Council after arriving late to the meeting.

Ms. DeHaven then asked about the possibility of a city-wide water and sewer service.

Mayor Doak stated that such an installation was highly complex and costly. Of even greater concern, installing municipal water and sewer service would be highly disruptive and an engineering challenge that would alter the character of Woodland. There has been no interest in a municipal water and sewer system other than where it currently exists on the eastern portion of the City.

B. Resolution No. 21-2013; support of County Road 101 sidewalk

Council reviewed Resolution No. 21-2013, supporting the County Road 101 sidewalk. Mayor Doak reported that the County is still attempting to get the costs to Woodland down through negotiations with the State and utility companies.

Council Member Rich moved to approve Resolution No. 21-2013. Council Member Massie seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Resolution No. 22-2013; Temporary On-Street Parking By Permit In Designated Zone

Council reviewed Resolution No. 22-2013; amending parking zone "G" on Woolsey Lane to include parking at the top of the circle. The minor change in the parking area will facilitate the new curb cut on Woolsey Lane and create several additional parking spaces.

Council Member Massie moved to approve the Resolution No. 22-2013. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Resolution No. 23-2013; Lease Agreement with Hennepin County for Voting Equipment

Council considered Resolution No. 23-2013; entering into a lease agreement with Hennepin County for new voting equipment. Council tabled discussion on the Lease Agreement until definitive cost could be reconfirmed for the equipment.

E. Municipal Insurance Coverage for Stone Arch

Council reviewed a quote for supplemental insurance coverage for restoration of the Stone Arch in case of natural or accidental damage. Council agreed to pass on insurance coverage for restoration purposes. The City will continue to carry liability insurance for the structure.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2014 Budget Discussion

Council reviewed the draft 2014 General Fund budget and levy. No changes were made to the draft budget. Council will adopt the proposed levy and budget at the September Council Meeting.

Mayor Doak stated that most expenses are not virtually beyond the City's practical control. The road fund is the most flexible expenditure and fluctuates depending on the improvement schedule. The City anticipates a major overlay project in 2014.

Council Member Carlson asked if the County Road 101 traffic would be detoured through Woodland and expressed concern about the potential damaged to City streets with increased traffic volumes.

Staff will contact with County regarding the plans for road closures and detour options. Staff will inform the County that Woodland is not willing to become the detour route during the construction of County Road 101.

B. Resolution No.18-2013; Model Resolution Supporting the Viability of the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC)

Mayor Doak reported that several cities are leaving the LMCC. The LMCC provides local broadcast stations, negotiates the cable franchise and mediates service issues and complaints. Woodland does not use the LMCC for public access broadcast. Council agreed the access is important to municipalities, however believes that the number of stations and services could be reduced and costs trimmed. Any reduction in franchise and peg fees should be to the benefit of those who subscribe to Mediacom. The Resolution supports the LMCC, and asked that the LMCC make modification to their bylaws. The Resolution does not include language seeking a

municipal refund of franchise and peg fees. Council Member Carlson moved to approve Resolution No. 18-2013. Council Member Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Doak stated that he will take a more active role in the initial review of the plans and zoning matters that are submitted to the City staff.

COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Ordinances & Septic Ordinance & Inspections

No report

B. Roads, Signs, Trees, & Website

Council Member Rich reported the website data transfer is underway and the new website should be running shortly.

C. Finance, Enterprise Funds, Intgov. Relations & MCWD

Council Member Carlson reported on recent legislative actions. Carlson reported that she and Mayor Doak met with the City Clerk to review the water and sewer funds and projected budget. She will continue to review the enterprise funds and budgets over the next several months.

D. Public Safety & Deer Management

Public Safety – The speed trailer was set up to monitor traffic speeds along Breezy Point Road. The majority of traffic was within the posted speed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Council Member Massie moved to approve the Account Payable as submitted. Council Member Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

TREASURERS REPORT

Council Member Rich moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Council Member Massie seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM

ATTEST:

Shelley J. Souers, City Clerk

James S. Doak, Mayor