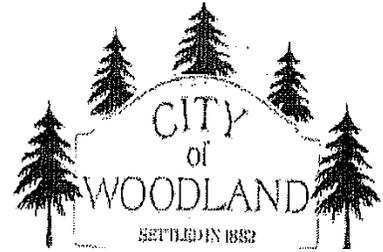


MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WOODLAND



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Doak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Doak, Councilor Massie, Councilor Newberry, Councilor Rich

Excused: Councilor Carlson

Staff: City Clerk Kathryne McCullum

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Regular City Council meeting

B. Resolution No. 10-2014 approving variances to exceed the maximum permitted grade alteration in conjunction with the construction of a new single family home at 2856 Gale Road, for Bruce and Judy Barnett.

Rich moved, seconded by Massie to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion carried (5-0).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

State House Representative Candidate John Tollefson

State House Representative candidate John Tollefson provided his educational and career background including his local, national, and international experience. Mr. Tollefson noted that his focus is on three issues: early childhood education, light rail infrastructure, and economic development through science and technology.

Mayor Doak explained that the district boundaries changed during the most recent redistricting. He said that the City had its political roots in the Lake area and the redistricting took Woodland out of that area and added it to the Minnetonka/Plymouth district. Mayor Doak explained that Woodland's interests are often different than

those of the cities of Minnetonka and Plymouth and noted that the City's current representative and senator have done an excellent job representing the unique needs of the City.

In response to a question from Councilor Rich, Mr. Tollefson stated that the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) line will be funded by the State at 25% and Federal government at 75%. He said that property developers see the LRT as a plus because it provides for high density, mixed use type development, and a "village" concept where more people can walk to the retail/commercial establishments, apartments, and single family homes. Mr. Tollefson said that there would not be high density in all cities, but the population would be concentrated in a "village" type model.

Mayor Doak questioned Mr. Tollefson regarding his stance on charter schools. Mr. Tollefson said that charter schools are "breeding grounds" for new types of learning, but he would not support charter schools as a replacement for public schools.

Councilor Rich stated that charter schools are more than breeding grounds in that they take a more aggressive approach to the curriculum and the children perform at much higher levels.

Mayor Doak said that charter schools are often a benchmark that makes public schools appear inadequate.

Mr. Tollefson thought that charter schools are not sustainable and they are taking resources from the public school system.

Mayor Doak asked if Mr. Tollefson would support performance standards for teachers. Mr. Tollefson presented an example of a master teacher evaluation system that he worked with in the past, and noted that he supports local school control and evaluations at the local level.

Resident Kathy Murphy asked for clarification on allowing children from outside the district to attend school within the district. Mayor Doak explained that every child who enters the district is financially supported by the State of Minnesota. When children come from outside the district, additional funds are provided that keep schools and facilities open and maintained at a higher level. Minnetonka is a nationally ranked school district. Mayor Doak encouraged Ms. Murphy read the Minnetonka School District annual report for additional clarification.

In response to a question from Councilor Rich, Mr. Tollefson stated that there needs to be more responsible budget management at the State level.

Mayor Doak thanked Mr. Tollifson for attending the meeting.

Residents Norm Rickeman and Kathy Murphy

Mr. Rickeman urged the City to work with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). He explained that he and Ms. Murphy were against the Lake Marion Woods subdivision because they did not wish to see a beautiful, natural area filled with houses.

Mr. Rickeman thought that the current Watershed District Wetland Ordinance is confusing. He also asked that the City “tighten up” its wetland ordinance to provide for more protections. Mr. Rickeman stated that the City should have strong requirements for wetland buffers. He gave an example of how the City of Orono created setbacks from the MCWD buffers and asked the City to follow that example.

Mayor Doak explained that the City assigned all wetland management and responsibility to the MCWD. He mentioned that the City would consider taking additional steps when the watershed rules are ambiguous or inadequate.

Mr. Rickeman stated that he had submitted written questions to the MCWD representatives and he did not receive a response. However, when speaking to the Watershed District representatives, he received two different opinions on the same questions from two different watershed representatives. He thought that all answers should be consistent. Mayor Doak indicated that a response from the watershed district is expected in the near future.

Mayor Doak explained that the City needs to ask the MCWD to respond properly to all requests. He said that the City must be able to expect that the Watershed District will be consistent when enforcing their rules.

Mayor Doak noted that the City is always in a position of weighing property rights against environmental and aesthetic concerns. He also noted that the City needs to take steps to improve and protect the environment without overly stepping on property rights – there should be a balanced approach.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Items pertaining to the City of Woodland Municipal Fee Schedule:

1) Public Hearing concerning amendments to the City Code of Ordinances

- 2) First Reading: An Ordinance O01-2014 amending Chapters 3 and 9 of the City Code, adding language relating to municipal fees (Chapter 3) and road condition inspections by the City Engineer (Chapter 9)
- 3) Resolution No. 11-2014 adopting Ordinance No. O01-2014 and authorizing publication of a summary ordinance

Mayor Doak introduced the item and opened the public hearing.

No one wished to speak.

The public hearing was closed.

Mayor Doak explained that this item was discussed in detail at the January meeting and there was general consensus of the City Council to move forward with the ordinance amendments.

Rich moved, seconded by Newberry to adopt Resolution No. 11-2014 adopting Ordinance No. O01-2014 and authorizing publication of a summary ordinance. Motion carried (5-0).

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on policy issues regarding the City's SSTS ordinance update

Councilor Newberry provided an overview of the item and policy issues.

Policy Question – should the City require compliance inspections at the point of sale?

It was noted that Hennepin County does not require inspections at the point of sale. It was also noted that it would be difficult to enforce this requirement because the City learns of home sales with a significant lag time.

The Council decided that compliance inspections at the point of sale should not be added to the City's ordinance.

Policy Question – should the City's current inspection process be considered a "maintenance" inspection rather than "compliance" inspection?

Mayor Doak explained that compliance inspections are more involved than the current City inspection process. He thought that all documentation relating to the every-other-year septic inspections should contain the language "maintenance review" and clarification should be made on all documentation that the maintenance review in no way constitutes a "compliance" inspection.

The Council agreed that the septic inspections are "maintenance reviews", not compliance inspections, and all documentation should reflect this fact.

Policy Question – should the City follow the County rule of a 15-percent leeway for setting in post-construction measuring of vertical separation on drainfields?

The Council agreed that the City should follow the County on this rule.

Policy Question – the County requires upgrade, replacement, repair or abandonment of systems failing to protect ground water within 3 years with the possibility of a 2 year extension. The City's ordinance is less restrictive with a 5-7 year timeframe. The City may be more restrictive than the County requirements, but not less restrictive.

The Council agreed to use the County requirements for this item.

Policy Question – the statute requires that someone from the City be designated as an SSTS Program Administrator.

The Council agreed to designate City Clerk McCullum as the SSTS Program Administrator.

B. Discussion regarding the 2014 Road Improvement Plan

Councilor Rich provided an overview of the item. He described the Breezy Point Road mill and overlay project and costs for the Council.

Councilor Rich stated that the roads are in relatively good shape and the City Engineer has said that the Breezy Point Road project could wait another year. He noted that he will follow-up with the City Engineer in the spring to inspect the roads for any urgent repairs that may need to be done this year.

The Council decided that any major road improvements should not occur in 2014 so that the maintenance reserve could be built to coordinate with the County's Highway 101 project and the intersection of Breezy Point Road and County Road 101.

C. Discussion relating to the Scenic Byway Program in the City of Woodland

Mayor Doak provided a brief background on the item. He stated that he would be attending a meeting regarding the program later this month and would be able to report more at the next Council meeting on costs and the City's participation.

Mayor Doak explained that the byway route would not go through Woodland, but the Stone Arch may be listed as an "attraction".

Mr. Doak stated that the other communities need to respect the fact that Woodland is a residential City and their focus on commercial development is not a priority for Woodland.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Doak reported on the following:

- Because of the redistricting and the change in the caucus location, the next winter newsletter should contain meeting dates, times, and locations of the caucus meetings.
- The well testing program will take place this summer. Dr. Shilling will be involved in the program again this year.
- He reviewed the draft audit and management letter and found no problems but made a few suggestions.
- He will be meeting with Norm Rickeman, Kathy Murphy, and staff regarding wetland protection in the City in addition to Watershed District concerns.
- Tim Lovett, the City's snow plowing contractor, mentioned that there may be a shortage of salt for the roads. He will keep the Mayor informed if salt becomes difficult to obtain.
- The website has been updated. He noted that the first page that describes the City needs to be updated and asked for input from Council members.
- Research on placement of deer traps should begin this spring to ensure that placement for the traps is known in advance so more deer traps could be in place next fall.
- The City is ranked No. 2 in Hennepin County for recycling.
- The snow plowing contractor has primary responsibility for any damage to property, but the City also has responsibility for damage. Mayor Doak asked that he be contacted regarding any issues relating to snow removal damage to protect the homeowners and the snow plow drivers, and to ensure that any claims that are filed are reasonable.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Newberry – Ordinances, Septic Ordinance, and Inspections
None.
- B. Rich – Roads, Signs, Trees, and Website

Councilor Rich presented an overview of the expenditures for snow plowing and tree trimming. It was noted that there is potential that the City will be over budget because of the heavy snowfall in late 2013 and so far in 2014.

C. Carlson – Finance, Enterprise Fund, Intergovernmental Relations, and MCWD
None.

D. Massie – Public Safety and Deer Management

Councilor Massie indicated that he will begin working on finding locations for deer traps in the spring.

10. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Newberry moved, seconded by Massie to approve the Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried (5-0).

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

Newberry moved, seconded by Massie to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried (5-0).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned by consent at 8:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathryne A. McCullum, City Clerk

James S. Doak, Mayor