

Owatonna City Council Minutes

May 16, 2023

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Council President Schultz called the regular session of the Owatonna City Council to order in the Gainey Room at the Owatonna Public Library. Present were Council Members Raney, Voss, Burbank, Boeke, Dotson, Svenby and Schultz; Mayor Kuntz; Community Development Director Klecker; Fire Chief Hoffman; Public Works Director Murphy; Park & Rec and Facilities Director Tuma; Communications Manager Sheely; IT System Administrator Sticken; City Attorney Walbran; and Administrative Specialist Clawson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council President Schultz welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised naming the city's new regional park, has been removed from tonight's agenda. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve the agenda with this item removed, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye for approval.

Consent Agenda Items

Council President Schultz explained council members review the Consent Agenda items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Consent Agenda items for this meeting include:

- Minutes – Council Meeting – May 2, 2023
- Minutes - Park Board Meeting - April 26, 2023
- Minutes - Airport Commission Meeting - April 13, 2023
- Minutes - Planning Commission Meeting - April 25, 2023
- Minutes - EDA Meeting - April 19, 2023
- Minutes - HRA Board Meeting - April 24, 2023
- Minutes - Planning Commission Meeting - May 9, 2023
- Building Inspection Monthly Report - April 2023
- Fire Dept Monthly Dashboard and Activity Report - April 2023
- Annual Tree Trimmer Permit - Mike Carstens, Austin MN
- Retail Fireworks License - Lowe's Home Centers LLC
- Outdoor Public Fireworks Display - Steele County Agricultural Society - July 4, 2023
- Event Permit - 2023 MnSNAP Clinics – Sundays April 30, June 25, July 23, August 5, September 17 and October 15)
- Event Permit - 2023 Farmers Markets - Saturday Mornings May through October
- Event Permit - 2023 11@7 Concert Series in Central Park - June, July & August
- Event Permit - Classic Car Shows - First Wednesdays - June to October 2023
- Event Permit - Downtown Thursday - Owatonna Area Chamber - June 1, 2023
- Event Permit - Federated Employee's Summer Club Celebration - June 16, 2023
- Event Permit - Amateur Radio Field Day - OSCAR Club - June 24, 2023
- Event Permit - 2023 Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival - June 17, 2023
- Joint Powers Agreement – State of Minnesota to conduct School Inspections for the State Fire Marshall's Office
- Warsinski Chalet Operations Agreement - 2023-2024 Winter - Martin's Equipment (includes warming house and outdoor skating activities)
- Stormwater Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement – Wottreng Properties, 135 28th St NE
- Resolution 45-23 Authorize Contract for Purchases - Fame Awards - (name plates, program award and plaques, Brooktree bagtags and cart passes for \$2,037.83)

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion. Council Member Voss commented he will recuse himself from vote on Resolution 45-23 as it pertains to his business. With no additional comments, members voted aye for approval.

Finance Report

Council Member Raney recapped payments made for amounts greater than \$20,000 during this period. The total amount of bills presented was \$844,380.56. Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve payment of all bills presented, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

First Reading Proposed Ordinance 23-10: Vacate all Rights of Way and Easements within Good Samaritan Addition

Community Development Director Klecker presented a request received from Prairie LaSalle Partners and property owner Chad Lange, Festal Farms to vacate all public rights of way and all utility easements within the plat of Good Samaritan Addition. The applicants plan to replat and develop this area as Mineral Springs Estate, an 82.72± acre tract of land located east of St. Paul Road and north of Lee Street NE. Clearing all current rights of way and easement will allow the developers to file a new plat and begin fresh.

Steve Wheeler, Managing Director HAS Capital, LLC was introduced, he commented they have worked with City Staff for three years to get a good understanding of what the city needs. Their goal is to develop housing to meet the needs of the community.

Klecker advised the Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request and recommend approval with one condition: Vacation is contingent upon approval of the plat of Mineral Springs Estates. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Burbank, Boeke, Raney, Svenby, Voss, Dotson and Schultz; No nay votes cast, the motion carried. The second reading of this proposed ordinance will be heard during the July 5th Council Meeting.

First Reading Proposed Ordinance 23-11: RZ-2 Mineral Springs Estates Planned Unit Development (PUD)

Community Development Director Klecker presented a request received from Prairie LaSalle Partners and property owner Chad Lange, Festal Farms for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) of Mineral Springs Estates, a residential development to be constructed with a mix of housing types. The total development will consist of 328 units over the 82 acres located east of St. Paul Road and north of Lee Street NE. The unit types include traditional single-family houses, single family attached units, townhouses as well as 6-unit multifamily flats. The townhouse and flat areas will also include detached garages. The intent of the development is to create a walkable neighborhood. With the exception of the single-family homes, all garages and parking will be behind the unit. The development also consists of more than 16 acres of open space. The applicant has submitted their Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to begin that process for approval. The Developer and Team held a neighborhood meeting on Thursday, May 4th.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request and recommend approval with the following conditions:

- 1) The Good Samaritan PUD adopted as Z-302 is hereby repealed and replaced with the PUD of Mineral Springs Estates.
- 2) The PUD is contingent upon the approval and recording of the Mineral Springs Estates Plat.
- 3) The Developer and the City shall enter into a Development Agreement laying out the roles and expectations of the development.
- 4) A full photometrics plan shall be submitted and approved by the City.
- 5) All signs shall be issued sign permits.
- 6) All CIC plats and declarations shall be submitted and approved by the City.
- 7) A turnaround area shall be provided on all temporary dead end streets.
- 8) A trash enclosure plan shall be submitted to the City prior to the Second Reading.
- 9) All permanent signs shall be reduced to 32 square feet and a maximum of 8 feet in height.
- 10) All signs shall be located outside of the public right of way and on private property.

- 11) All grading, utility, and stormwater work shall be approved by the City Engineer prior to commencing any construction.

Director Klecker commented there were many comments heard during the Planning Commission Meeting. Most comments were concerns about stormwater, drainage, and traffic concerns. When a new development begins, there is usually only one access point and additional access points are added as the project develops.

Council Member Svenby commented the proposed roadways in the development are 37' wide and suggested narrowing the streets to 28' wide. This would reduce the developer's input costs and the city's future maintenance needs. Most homes will be built with garages for two or three vehicles and parking on one side of the street should be sufficient. Director Klecker commented during the Neighbor Meeting, discussion was to allow parking on both sides of the street as they anticipate this will be a higher density populated area. Anticipate the preliminary plat plans will be on Council Agenda during the first meeting in July so council will have opportunity to for a broader discussion of plans prior to that meeting.

Council Member Svenby asked about stormsewer access. Director Klecker commented that these plans have not been finalized. They have remained flexible to meet the needs of the market and will now finalize prior to the July Meeting. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member Voss seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Burbank, Boeke, Raney, Svenby, Voss, Dotson and Schultz; No nay votes cast, the motion carried. The second reading of this proposed ordinance will be heard during the July 5th Council Meeting.

Resolution 38-23: Accept Bids & Award Contract - 2023 Cured in Place Pipe System (CIPPS) Project - Project #23010 CIPPS

Public Works Director Murphy commented that two bids were received for the 2023 CIPPS Project. The lowest responsible bidder was Insituform Technologies USA, LLC of Chesterfield, MO with a bid of \$233,864.94. Director Murphy requested approval of Resolution 38-23 accepting this bid and awarding the project to Insituform Technologies USA, LLC. The 2023 budget includes \$250,000 for contractor work; staff will work with the contractor to utilize this full allocated amount. A lot of the sanitary lines have been filmed to help determine which roads are included in this project. A new pipe is formed within the current tile line which helps with inflow and infiltration. Council Member Voss made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye for approval.

Resolution 39-23: Accept Bids & Award Contract Project #23009 Street Maintenance

Public Works Director Murphy presented Resolution 39-23 to accept the bids received for the 2023 Steet Maintenance Project. Two bids were received, the lowest responsible bidder was Pearson Bros, Inc. of Hanover, MN with a bid of \$208,714.80. The 2023 budget includes \$248,000 for contractor work; staff will work with the contractor to utilize this full allocated amount for efficiency when the contractor is in town for this chip, crack and seal project. Approximately six miles of roadway will be completed. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Resolution 40-23: Approve Feasibility Report - Main Street Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Project

Public Works Director Murphy requested Council approval of Resolution 40-23 to approve the Feasibility report prepared for the Main Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project. Main Street (CSAH 48) from Oak Avenue to Chambers Avenue needs rehabilitation and possibly reconstruction. Steele County is leading the effort on this project as it is a County State Aid Highway. Significant pavement deterioration and less than optimal intersection controls have been on the radar of the City and County and are proposing to move forward

with evaluation and obtaining recommendations for improvements. Council Member Voss asked what the timeframe is for the project. Murphy responded that this is a joint project lead by Steele County, the next step will be the County requests proposals to select a contractor for the project. There will be opportunities for input and feedback, there are several items the City hopes to include in this project. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Resolution 41-23: Conditional Use Permit (CUP-5) - Thompson Sanitation Outdoor Storage

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of CUP-5, a request by April Paxton of Mohs Homes, on behalf of Thompson Sanitation Inc. The request is to allow for the outdoor storage of recycling dumpsters, and semi-trailer and truck storage on the property at 255 Kilworth Drive. Thompson Sanitation Inc was awarded a contract with Steele County to provide recycling. The outdoor storage areas will consist of roll off and dumpster storage along the outer eastern edge of the property. Recycling dumpsters will be stored towards the front of the property, near the double driveway entrance on asphalt. A semi-trailer will be stored behind the building towards the outer western edge of the property. The trailer will be used for electronics and will be hauled away once full. Additional parking for trucks will be adjacent to the semi-trailer. Industrial districts require screening from abutting residential districts and view from a public right-of-way in the following instances: open and outdoor storage, service, sales and/or rentals; and all open, off-street parking areas of five or more spaces. There will be landscaping and a chain-link fence with privacy slats along the western and eastern sides of the property for required screening from the public right-of-way. In the case of outside storage or sales, the area must be grass or surfaced to control dust. The areas of the property that include outdoor storage have planned surfaces of gravel and bituminous paving.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing and neighboring property owners expressed concerns about garbage blowing about, there will be a fence to catch blowing items and there are other conditions that will need to be met. The Planning Commission recommends approval with these conditions:

- a) All comments per the City Engineer's memo dated 4/30/2023 shall be met prior to any permits being issued.
- b) No outdoor storage within the required setbacks of 50' of the front and rear lot lines and 30' of the side lot lines.
- c) If privacy fencing is within the utility easements, applicant must apply for a zoning permit.
- d) Continued maintenance and upkeep of fencing and landscaping to ensure adequate screening of public rights-of-way.
- e) Dust control may be required to meet outdoor storage performance standards.
- f) Outdoor storage shall be maintained in an orderly fashion as determined solely by the City of Owatonna.
- g) Shall be contingent upon the approval of the final plat of Thompson Corner Addition.
- h) All permits shall be issued by the City of Owatonna prior to work commencing for that item.
- i) Routine debris and trash clean ups are conducted to ensure cleanliness of the site and the surrounding area.

Council Member Raney commented he read Minutes of the Planning Commission with commissioners commenting they hope Thompson Sanitation will do a better job providing services within the community. Klecker commented that they now have a new contract to provide the recycling center for Steele County, he isn't sure what Waste Management plans to do with the site they have been using. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council member Burbank Seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 42-23: Preliminary and Final Plat - Thompson Corner Addition

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of the Preliminary and Final Plat for the Thompson Corner Addition. John Schulte of Thompson Sanitation, Inc. requested plat approval to combine two current lots into one lot at 1255 Kilworth Drive Nw. This 3.35 acres will serve as a new recycling Center for Steele County. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request and recommend approval with these conditions:

- a) The title opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the final plat.
- b) The final plat shall be recorded within 60 days of the date of approval.
- c) Perimeter drainage and utility easements shall be dedicated on the final plat as proposed.
- d) See Engineering comments for engineering and stormwater conditions.
- e) No access allowed from State Avenue (CSAH 45). Access is only allowed from Kilworth Drive per Steele County approval.

All utilities are in place so this request is for Council to approve both the Preliminary and Final Plats. Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval as recommended by the Planning Commission. Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 43-23: Preliminary Plat - Mineral Springs Estates

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval Resolution 43-23 to approve the Preliminary Plat of the Mineral Springs Estates requested by Stephen Wheeler, Prairie LaSalle Partners, and property owner Chad Lange, Festal Farms. The property, 82.72 acres east of St Paul Rand and north of Lee Street, will be replatted into a master planned neighborhood with a multitude of housing types. Planning for single family, two family and multi-family units; the total development consists of 328 units over the 82 acres. Single family detached homes will be around the outside of the development and the denser units in the center and then transition back to single family detached units. The intent of this development is to create a walkable neighborhood. They have sidewalks on both sides of all streets and a number of 10-foot-wide trails, and they are maintaining areas around the wetlands, there will be 6 acres of open spaces. 7th Avenue NE will be extended into the property and the east/west street will also be constructed in the first phase.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing and neighboring property owners expressed traffic concerns. The Planning Commission recommends approval with these conditions:

- a) The final plat shall be approved within one year of the date of approval of the preliminary plat.
- b) The title opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the final plat.
- c) The final plat is contingent upon the approval of the PUD referred to as RZ-2.
- d) The development agreement will contain provisions and timing with regards to the construction of Stoneridge Lane and the trunk main for the sanitary sewer.
- e) A development agreement will need to be recorded along with the final plat.
- f) A final decision on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet shall be made by the City Council prior to approval of the final plat.
- g) The plans shall adhere to the approved wetland delineation and replacement plan as determined by the Soil & Water Conservation District.
- h) Temporary turnarounds are required to be constructed at all dead end streets that do not connect immediately as required per fire code.
- i) All conditions included in the City Engineer's memo shall be met.

Council Member Raney made a motion for approval as recommended by the Planning Commission. Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye in

approval.

Resolution 44-23: Amend and Restate Utility Easement - Parkview Heights, LLP

City Attorney Walbran requested approval of Resolution 44-23 to amend and restate a utility easement with Parkview Heights, LLP. In 1957, the City acquired a utility easement "along the south property line" of a 30-acre tract without any other specific description or dimensions. The Parkview Heights Apartments ("Parkview") at 1450 St. Paul Road NE are located within that original 30-acre tract. Parkview Heights, LLP ("Owner") has obtained financing of approximately 12 Million Dollars from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to rehabilitate the 48 apartments. The MHFA requires that the 1957 easement be described with particularity. The Owner has provided a survey of the utility easements prepared by a licensed surveyor which has been reviewed and approved by the City Planning Department and the Owatonna Public Utilities. Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

City's External Social Media Policy

Communication Manager Sheely requested approval of the newly drafted External Social Media Policy. The proposed policy does align with the current League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) recommendation. The City utilizes various communication channels and has established a positive and informative social media presence. Staff, with assistance from City Attorney Mark Walbran, have created a new policy based on the recommended LMC policy for external audiences. Per the LMC recommendation, the Public Notice will be posted on the website and linked to all City of Owatonna existing and future social media platforms. This policy is separate and different from Section 17.4 of the City's Personnel Policy which specifically addresses employee use of social media platforms. Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member Voss seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Professional Services Agreement - Facilities Master Plan - ISC

Park & Rec and Facility Director Tuma requested the Council approve an agreement with ICS to provide Professional Services for the Facilities Master Plan. In the spring of 2022, a Facilities Task Force was created to explore and make recommendations to address the current state of city-owned facilities. In July, the Task Force brought forward their findings along with recommendations for the next steps in the Action Plan. One of the action steps was to update the 2020 Building Assessment with recent findings, which was completed in December 2022. One of the outcomes of the updated Building Assessment was the need for a long-range strategic plan to address the back log of maintenance, and plan for upcoming maintenance and future facilities. The Task Force identified the best approach to be through a city-owned facilities master plan. The plan will incorporate the existing facility's immediate needs as well as evaluate options for the future growth of city facilities and needs. Taking this comprehensive approach along with creating a funding strategy, the road map will provide how best to meet the city's needs. Staff recommend utilizing ICS to facilitate this process, which will coincide well with Community Development's work on the long-range Community Comprehensive Plan.

Chris Zimmer from ICS was introduced. He explained with an approved agreement, they would develop the project team to create the work timeline. Council Member Svenby questioned if the cost of this agreement would limit current maintenance needs. Tuma explained there is a separate account for this which is not part of the general operating account. This plan will include the city's ninety-five buildings and advise how to leverage these buildings as the city is growing. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Proposed Park Master Plans

Park & Rec and Facility Director Tuma requested the Council adopt individual Park Master Plans for the new regional park and the Cashman Property. Council adopted a Parks and Trails System Master Plan in February, 2020; this overarching guidance document is a comprehensive plan of all the City's park and trail assets. It also served as a first step toward developing specific park plans.

The plan identified the need to create Park Master Plans for two specific areas as a priority. First would be to create a regional park by combining Morehouse Park, Kaplan's Woods Parkway, Kaplan's Woods, Lake Kohlmier Area and adjacent property along the Straight River. The plan recommends applying for a regional park designation through the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission. With this designation, the City will be eligible for Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funding. To apply for the designation and funding, Park Master Plans are required to demonstrate a clear and transparent community engagement process was utilized. The year-long process for developing Park Master Plans for a new regional park and the Cashman Property began last summer and included a robust public input process on how to utilize these areas to address the community's current and future needs. Over the course of a year, City staff and the consultant conducted six focus group meetings with 27 participants, held two open houses that resulted in a steady flow of participants, exhibited information at the County fair generating 123 completed comment sheets, provided an online interactive map that had 1,949 unique visitors and an online survey that garnered 212 responses.

The other top priority was to create a Park Master Plan for the undeveloped parkland known as the Cashman property. In 2022, additional acres were acquired, increasing the area of this parkland. Being located adjacent to an existing paved trail makes this area ideal for a parking lot to be created for trail users, along with a restroom area to serve as a trail head. The plan also calls for a 27-hole championship disc golf course, a play area and helps connect neighborhood trails. Budget Impact: None immediately. Once Regional Designation is achieved, funding opportunities are available for application for maintenance and improvements in all areas of the new park.

Andy Masterpole, Landscape Architect with WSB Engineering presented displays of the proposed Park Master Plans and gave brief details of the proposal. City Council Members reviewed these proposals in detail during their May 2, 2023 Study Session. This is the master plan; any additional plans will require additional public engagement. Council Member Voss commented that most residents love the wooded areas within the city and asked if Cashman Park were to include a disc golf area, wouldn't there need to be a wide-open space? Andy responded that the fairways will not be undercut, and the character of the park should not change. Council Member Raney commented tonight's decision is to adopt the Park Master Plan and not specific amenities, the Master Plan will provide the insight of potential options and allow potential funding opportunities which we do not currently have. Council President Schultz commented there is a lot of funding available if you know the process to apply for grants. When we submitted previous applications, one of the first things asked for was the City's Master Park Plan and we couldn't provide this. There are a lot of amenities in these proposed plans which would take a lot of money to complete and phased in over 10-20 years; there would be a lot of discussion for specific amenities. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Change Orders - Council Chamber Renovation Project - Ebert Construction

Park & Rec and Facility Director Tuma requested approval of change orders related to the Council Chambers project. During the site staking for the underground utility work on the

Council Chambers project, an unidentified manhole utility component was discovered. This component will provide a better utility connection and a shorter route for the planned utilities, a saving of trees, reduction in construction costs, and an opportunity to replace an aged structure. This change resulted in the need for additional design work by CRW Civil Engineering consultants. Project adjustments have required change orders for the underground utility structure change, civil plan revision, additional conduit, light fixtures, and permits. Council Member Boeke commented this was an example of finding things in an older structure, utilities in the aged complex will affect other things. Council Member Burbank asked if the west basement wall of the building has been repaired, Tuma responded this is the next step of the project. To date the underground utilities are in and the hole has been covered, they will start to dig the foundation and pour the footings of the new space, the stage has been removed and most of the area has been cleared. The project is within budget, there are a few soft costs, and the figures are coming out good. Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

JPA to conduct Hotel Inspections – State of Minnesota

Fire Chief Hoffman requested approval to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the State of MN to conduct hotel inspections for the State Fire Marshalls Office. Under Minnesota Statutes § 299F.46, subdivision 1, It shall be the duty of the commissioner of public safety to inspect, or cause to be inspected, at least every three years, every hotel in the state. The State and the City of Owatonna have previously entered into a JPA for the Owatonna Fire Department to perform these inspections within our jurisdiction.

In addition to entering into this JPA, we propose the same inspection fee structure as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 299F.46, subdivision 3 be used which is what the State Fire Marshals office uses if they were to perform these inspections:

a) For each hotel required to have a fire inspection according to subdivision 1, the commissioner of public safety may charge each hotel a triennial inspection fee of \$435 and a per-room charge of \$5 for one to 18 units, \$6 for 19 to 35 units, \$7 for 36 to 100 units, and \$8 for 100 or more units.

b) Hotels and motels with fewer than 35 rooms and resorts classified as 1c under section 273.13 are exempt from the fee requirements of this subdivision.

The Fire Department has inspectors that currently meet the requirements necessary to perform these inspections in accordance with the JPA. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Staff Comments

Fire Chief Hoffman there are nine new paid-on-call firefighters in the training process. There were a lot of great candidates, and we are now able to fill openings where staff is needed. The last three full-time firefighters hired have completed certification for Fire Inspector 1 and another has certified as a Fire Officer 1. I also serve as the City's Emergency Manager and talking with County to monitor creeks and the river from the rains received this last weekend. There were no reports of major damages; there was a small amount of flooding in the parks and a few trails have some overrun.

Community Development Director Klecker gave a brief update on the Riverfront project. This week, the Owatonna Chamber will be moving to their new office location at the corner of Oak Ave and Bridge Street. The effort to move the former Centro Camepsino building at 216 N Oak Avenue (the Smerth House) have stopped and the house remains part of the project. Staff is collaborating with the developer for demolition; the historical society took the fireplace and plan to go back for the front step. The EDA Forgivable Loan Program awarded three or four loans earlier this year and we currently have five applications currently

in review; you will see a lot of improvements to buildings in the downtown area because of this program.

Pending construction updates:

Monson Eye Clinic – they are in their new building, and we will complete the inspection of the old building in preparation for demolition and the parking lot project.

Scooter Update – Bird scooters are offered by Bird Rides, a private company which we have an agreement with to offer rentable scooters around town. This year they are offering an updated model of scooter which is sturdier than those here last year and they also have rechargeable batteries. There are 100 in town, last year there were only seventy-five but only thirty-five to forty on the street at any given time. This year, they plan to have eighty-five available at all times. The weather has not been very good, so they haven't had a lot of use yet this year.

Scooter Coffee - the former utility tower on the adjacent lot is down. This wasn't part of the Scooter project but now that it is down, Scooter's is now trying to obtain the property so pausing construction as they hope to modify their building plans. They hope to start construction soon and should be done before the end of summer,

Public Works Director Murphy commented there has been some turnover within his department and there are currently openings in Streets, WWTP and Engineering so looking for great candidates to add to our team. The 2022 Street & Utility Project is underway on 15th Street, they just made a water connection on Cedar Avenue today. The 2023 Street & Utility Project has been posted out for bids which should be back by the end of the month. Last week, I attended the Chamber's Public Policy Committee Meeting for discussion of erosion and sediment control deposits. We had some good discussions to outline the city's needs and how we can better facilitate some discussion with our local contractors. We will be working with the Chamber to hold some listening sessions on how we can all work together.

Communications Manager Sheely commented that last month, communications increased public awareness of openings available on various boards and commissions. This year, the number of applications received was almost double the number of seats open. I continue to try to build our communication channels, there is a "Notify Me" function on the City's website which allows you to sign up and request topics you want to receive notifications about.

We just launched our first city newsletter; it is an e-newsletter which has eliminated printing and mailing costs. You can view the newsletter online on the city's website or you can subscribe to receive when a copy is available. This is a weekly publication, last week there were 145 requests and this week there were 166 sent so it is slowly growing. The number of requests of newsletters, videos and new releases. We did our first community engagement project on the Engage Owatonna to name the new regional park. Participants were asked to suggest a name or react to names that others were suggesting. Hope to use this platform for the Comprehensive Plan Engagement Process and the Facility Improvement Plan Engagement Process.

The number of followers on the City's Facebook continually increases. Popular postings on Facebook have been Mayor Kuntz welcoming new board/commission members; the Comprehensive Plan; our Police Bike Patrol Program; and the City's compost site.

Parks & Recreation and Facilities Director Tuma commented last weekend was the Corky Earlybird Softball Tournament with 170 teams participating. It was an adverse weather event and there have been a lot of good comments on social media about staff getting the fields game ready. This is a challenge faced when hosting a spring tournament, and our maintenance crew did an excellent job getting things done!

The River Springs Waterpark Project started late last year so we could be ready for this summer. This \$500,000 project changed all the pumps in the filtration system, the sand filters, the circulation pumps, the play feature pumps, the waterslide pumps and the basket. The pool was filled with water today and then it will be tested so we can be ready for Opening Day

on June 1st. We are thankful this project could be done in two phases, so we were able to complete it prior to our opening this year.

The Council Chambers Project, outside utility work is complete, and the hole filled. Inside the stage has been removed and staff working with the architects to use the former stage rail on the IT Room. They are clearing debris in buckets as demolition is being done. With the stage removed, the back wall windows have really lit up the room and we are almost done with demo and ready to begin building the new room.

Public Comments

Lindsay Livingood, 425 23rd Street NW, commented he has appreciated the Owatonna Park system since he was a kid, it is one of the finest in Southern Minnesota. He has concerns about the plans proposed for Cashman Park. When he purchased his home in 1985, he was told by City staff that this area was given to the City by the Cashmans for a bird sanctuary. We have lived there for almost forty years, my three kids and now my grandchildren have played in these woods, my kids have names for all the hills. These woods are dense, there is no way you will throw a frisbee in there unless you take down some trees. Several things that need to be considered include security and traffic, to get off 26th street it can be quite congestive. Also, comments made tonight about all the community input and focus group discussions held but nobody mentioned this to us or to our neighbors about these plans.

Myrtle Schrader, 518 E Main, commented she has lived in her home for 54 years and lived in Owatonna her entire life, so she knows all about Main Street. She is upset about the wants and needs of the city council members and county commissioners. The county told her this project on Main Street was a county project and would not cost her anything but that is not true, she is aware the City will also pay a generous portion of the costs and her taxes will continue to rise. They plan to put a turning lane in the 500 block on Main Street, but the street is only 39' wide so this will move traffic 7 feet closer to my home. There won't be any parking available in front of my house so my friends and family will have no place to park when they visit. There won't be any parking from Lincoln Avenue to Jaycee Park and bicyclists will not be able to ride safely on the street. Semis use Main Street during harvest time and their loud noise will be closer to my house, closer to my bedroom. The semis with sweetcorn, raise your hand if you would want this in your front yard! Don't see any hands! It is very upsetting, and the city cannot afford their wants list. Do the needs needed closer to downtown but leave the 500 block alone.

Diana Hager, 330 Stoneridge Lane NE, commented she has concerns about traffic into the proposed new development. Also, last year she sent a letter to Mayor Tom Kuntz, and she wants to thank the city for changing the crosswalk on 26th Street and Third Avenue to a flashing sign. When the new development goes in, it will cause more congestion, there are sidewalks but many walk in the street and traffic will be speeding in both directions. Also, I never heard about the meeting for this development project and the impact it will have on our neighborhood. I saw a letter my neighbor received, and I hope we will all receive notification prior to the July meeting. Council President Schultz commented state statute stipulates who must receive notifications. Community Development Director Klecker commented notices are sent to all property owners within 350 feet of the proposed project. She commented that her home is the eighth house away, which is more than 350 feet away.

Tim Matson, 300 Arglen Drive, commented he lives on the corner of 4th Avenue NW and Arglen Drive. He believes plans to build a park with a disc golf course next to one of the busiest streets in town is ridiculous. Kids, no mention of a pickleball court which was on one of the original plan, will be throwing discs onto one of the busiest streets in Owatonna, that being 26th Street? Is it really necessary to build a disc golf course or a pickleball court? You are putting your projects ahead of the kids, I can't believe you are even considering this. I'm ashamed to say this is happening in Owatonna, I think every one of my neighbors is here to say the same. Utterly

ridiculous!

Raymond Gray, 435 23d Street NW which is right next to where you want to put a frisbee golf course or whatever. I just found out about this project; I think it was from my neighbors throwing a flyer in my mailbox so I think you could find a way to do a little bit better of letting people know. I did not have a lot of time to research this project but the first question that comes to mind when I heard about it is why, why are we doing this? Initial cost was one of my first concerns. I have a real problem with the government wasting my tax dollars. I wonder what it would cost to put this park into Cashman Woods. I am tired of the government spending money on things we do not need. Secondly the effect on the neighborhood, I have two little dogs and a fence. People are going to be on my property, who is going to be responsible if something happens to my dogs or my property? The traffic on 23rd is going to increase dramatically. The plan says we are going to cut a little bit of underbrush, which isn't going to happen. I drove around town to look at some other parks to see what benefits there might be, I found most of our parks empty, do we need more? Do we need to build it and maintain it for something we do not need at this time, economic times are tough. You are the only entity in this room that can say, "I need more money". I know we need to spend money but not on things that are not needed. Money for safety and security, the essential things of life and then if we have money left, fine but pay the basics first. One thing I have heard is that Park and Rec is doing some great things. There are a lot of kids involved when they are young, and soccer comes to mind but what can they do when they get older that doesn't cost money? For many reasons they drop out and numbers decrease, what happens with the kids that aren't involved? When I was a kid, I was getting into trouble. We could use the old high school as a community center, put in some ping pong tables and they could be used by families or kids wanting to play all year around, so they aren't out running the streets. If you do go forward with this project, will you place property fences or is everyone on their own? Council President Schultz commented this project is so far in the future or it might not even happen, so there is nobody that can answer that question. Mr. Gray commented "It is a concern, there are people with a lot of concerns and seeing this waste of money is like a slap in the face".

Annie Adams, 710 Lee Street NE, commented she also has some concerns about the proposed new development. Phase 1 contains 140 housing units and there is only one entrance into this new development until Phase 3. It is going to take many years to reach 140 units, so there is going to be a lot of traffic on the road for this single entrance. Thanks for listening.

David Leek, 310 Arglen Drive, I first want to apologize to my neighbors for getting the time wrong on the flyer, but we looked up and that is what I saw and put it on the flyer. This speaks of the communication to all our neighbors for this project. I think it would be to everyone's benefit that they receive information and not rely on happen stance, they saw a message on Facebook or a website with information. We do have really good parks and trails, I use them a lot, I appreciate you putting a light on the trail, the trails are very walkable. One of the things the city could do better is the designed concept of the road. Design the roads in park areas with narrower roads aligned with trees, the traffic will slow down. People will drive at the speed for which the road is designed. There is plenty of opportunity to add things to these projects, use the parking lots already in place at the bottom of the hill and there is a parking lot on the edge of the hill along 26th Street. You say we don't know if we will need this funding but we need to do this so we can get funding, the homeowners want to add value to the neighborhood on our own. If you want to add value to the neighborhoods, we could interact with our neighbors. We could do something like the community gardens they have done in Rochester. A rain garden, for flood reduction, how can we anticipate costs when none of us know what your intent is. This is the place to do it, so you can make sure everyone knows what is going on. Thank you for listening.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Council Member Boeke thanked everyone who spoke during Public Comments. We appreciate all the citizens' feedback, a lot of times we do not hear anything. Your comments will be considered, thank you for participating on this local level.

Council Member Svenby commented that through the year we will approve quite a few Event Permits for activities within the community. Most don't cost the City anything but tonight there was a permit that will cost the city thousands of dollars. I think it's time we looked at our Event Permit and our steps of quality for all the departments and look at implementing steps to recoup some of those costs back. I would like this to be a topic of a future Study Session.

Council Member Dotson commented he would echo Mr. Boeke's comment and thanked everyone for their comments. Sometimes it isn't what we want to hear but need to hear said so I appreciate all of you participating. He asked then Council Member Raney if there is an update on the plumbing cost which was double billed in the N Streetscape project. Council Member Raney commented he spoke with the property owner today and the matter hasn't been completely resolved but he is speaking with the companies involved are working on it.

Mayor Kuntz commented we hope to increase communication and appreciate the input received from the public with suggestions on how we can do better so thank you for your concerns and comments.

Council President Schultz commented it was good to receive these comments and then commented this is the last meeting in May so Memorial Day is coming, and he thanked all veterans for their service.

Adjournment

At 9:06 p.m., Council Member Raney made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion and with no objection, the meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist