

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW  
MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 6, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Martin called the regular meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 6, 2011.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom.

Councilmember Withhart was absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Quigley requested a brief discussion on the resolution regarding *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campaign* under the *Special Order of Business* portion of the meeting.

MOTION: by Councilmember Huffman, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to approve the September 6, 2011 agenda as amended.

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor Martin announced and read a resolution for Shoreview to become a *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* community:

**WHEREAS**, Many families support their military service members who are serving in the United States and overseas to protect the values and freedom enjoyed by the citizens of the United States of America, and;

**WHEREAS**, a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community Group has been formed in an effort to assist connecting local military family members with a community network of support that is understood and trusted by military families, where military residents and their families are recognized and can access information and services to assist them during the deployment cycle and is sustainable for future military families as deployment becomes necessary, and;

**WHEREAS**, this Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community Group will build on the existing strength of our community and organizations by continuing to support awareness and addressing the needs of spouses and children throughout the deployment, deployment-reintegration process and through extended periods after homecoming in ways to lessen their burden while a family member is deployed or is impacted by their service to community and country, and;

**WHEREAS**, We believe the effects of deployment do not end when the soldier returns home and the family is reunited; this process takes months for some families and years for others; We believe the ultimate vision of the community is to offer support to military families and honor them in our midst, and;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community Group encourage key groups of the community service members and their families to be proactive and work in harmony to develop a program which empowers community synchronization of effort and build an enduring and sustainable network of support.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on behalf of our residents, the City Council of Shoreview, Minnesota is proud to recognize, appreciate and say Thank You to our military members and their families for their service sacrifices and in all they do.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the residents and the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota do fully support the efforts of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community Group to support our military members and their families while defending the democratic values of the United States of America.

Councilmember Wickstrom thanked the Council for supporting this resolution. There are monthly meetings at the Roseville Oval complex. Many are involved in this effort, including business people, city officials from a number of communities, faith members, attorneys and public safety officials, as well as military families. The program is being organized through the Ramsey County League of Local Governments, rather than each City trying to have a project on its own.

Councilmember Huffman commended Councilmember Wickstrom for her work and Ramsey Council League of Local Governments for taking on the project.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to support a resolution for the City of Shoreview to become a member of the *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* project.

**VOTE:** Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were none.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS****Mayor Martin:**

The Farmer's Market is busy at peak time. All are encouraged to participate over the next few weeks.

The Community Center pool is closed until September 17, 2011, for annual maintenance.

The Fitness Center is offering free trial classes.

Fall Cleanup Day will be October 1, 2011.

**Councilmember Huffman:**

Cautioned residents to drive safely and be aware of children on the streets, as they go back to school.

**Councilmember Wickstrom**

As part of the *Yellow Ribbon* project, Victory Celebration Church in Roseville will host an event for military families on October 2, 2011, at the Roseville Armory 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for planning and to help on October 2nd. Anyone interested, please contact Councilmember Wickstrom at 651-780-5245.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were pulled for separate discussion: 1) August 8, 2011 City Council Workshop Minutes, No. 1; 2) Emerald Ash Borer Startup Costs, No. 12; and 3) Community Center Rate Adjustment, No. 15.

**August 8, 2011 Minutes**

The spelling of Bob Schirm's name should be corrected.

Councilmember Wickstrom noted that reference to Ramsey County League of Local Governments and the *Yellow Ribbon Project* is confusing. St. Paul is a member of the League but not of *Yellow Ribbon Suburban Ramsey County*. St. Paul is doing its own *Yellow Ribbon Project*.

Page 3: Councilmember Withhart's comments in reference to the tree sale is not through Ramsey County Parks but through Friends of the Parks and Trails.

### **Community Center Rate Adjustment**

Mayor Martin expressed concern about the \$30 per year increase for family membership. City Manager Schwerm stated that individual rates per year are increasing \$10; dual membership is up \$15; this proposal would put families up \$30 to increase the gap between dual and family membership.

Mayor Martin acknowledged the amount of analysis done to reach competitive rates and agreed with the rationale but would prefer the \$20 increase rather than \$30 increase.

Councilmember Quigley stated that previous discussions have reflected the careful assessment process for rates. In that light, he is not supportive of choosing out individual items for consideration. He would be reluctant to support a change, but would accede, if that is the Council's wishes.

Councilmember Huffman noted that the good news is the Community Center compares very favorably in quality with very competitive pricing to other programs. He asked if the limit of six for daily family passes is a new policy. Mr. Schwerm answered that policy has been in place for a number of years.

It was the consensus of the Council to readjust the \$30 per year family membership increase to \$20 per year.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

Councilmember Wickstrom asked if a precedent is being set by removing a tree on private property. Mr. Schwerm stated this joint powers agreement with the Department of Agriculture is to make sure a precedent is not set. The tree in question is a one-time event because the Department of Agriculture wanted to remove it for research.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Huffman, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to approve the Consent Agenda and all relevant resolutions with the amendments to the August 8, 2011, City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes and adjustment to the per year family Community Center membership to an increase of \$20:

1. August 8, 2011 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes, as amended
2. August 15, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes
3. August 15, 2011 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
4. Receipt of Committee/Commission Minutes:
  - Economic Development Authority, June 13, 2011
  - Economic Development Commission, June 21, 2011
  - Human Rights Commission, June 22, 2011
  - Planning Commission, July 26, 2011
5. Verified Claims in the Amount of \$1,172,808.46
6. Purchases
7. Renumbering of Ordinance 882 to 883

8. Developer Escrow Reductions
9. Approval of Final Payment - 2011 Seal Coat Project, CP 11-06
10. Approval of Maintenance Agreement between the City and Rice Creek Watershed District for Buffalo Lane Stormwater Facilities, CP 11-09
11. Approval of Final Payment - Sanitary Sewer Lining Project, City Project 11-03
12. Authorize Joint Powers Agreement with State of Minnesota - Emerald Ash Borer Startup Costs
13. Minor Subdivision - 5790/5784 Fairview
14. Authorize Trade-In and Purchase of Skidsteer Loader
15. 2012 Community Center Rate Adjustments, as amended in the motion
16. Acceptance of Donations - 2011 *Slice of Shoreview*
17. Award of Quote - Tennis Court Resurfacing, Shamrock Park

VOTE:           Ayes - 4                           Nays - 0

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **ADOPT ASSESSMENT ROLE FOR ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCES**

**1698 Lois Drive, 1704 Oakwood Drive, 4711 Laura Lane**

#### **Presentation by City Planner Kathleen Nordine**

The public hearing is for assessment costs back to the property owners that are associated with weed abatement on their properties. These properties were abated for vegetative growth earlier in the summer. The property owners were billed the cost of the work in July, and the bills remain unpaid. Staff is requesting a public hearing to authorize the assessment for these costs:

1698 Lois Drive	\$404.03
1704 Oakwood Drive	\$381.35
4711 Laura Lane	\$370.64

These properties are either vacant or in foreclosure. Property owners will have 30 days to pay the costs before assessment is certified.

Mayor Martin asked if this process has to be repeated if more work has to be done. Ms. Nordine stated that it is possible more work will be necessary. The previous resolution approved by the Council allows abatement for two years. Subsequent bills that may be unpaid will have to go through this assessment process.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked if there are additional penalties for the processing costs and whether property owners will think they can deduct these costs shown on their tax statements from federal taxes. Mr. Schwerm stated that this cost is not deductible. Although there is no additional penalty, administrative costs are recovered. Publication costs are minimal and come later than the notice given to property owners. Ms. Nordine added that notice is given to property owners that this cost is not deductible. Processing costs are recovered through the public hearing process.

Mayor Martin opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

There were no comments or questions.

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to close the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to approve Resolution No. 11-61 adopting the assessments for the cost of the nuisance and/or vegetative growth abatement at properties located at:  
1698 Lois Drive  
1704 Oakwood Drive  
4711 Laura Lane

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom, Martin  
Nays: None

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **ITEMS RELATED TO 2012 TAX LEVY AND BUDGET**

#### **A. ADOPT PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY**

#### **B. ESTABLISH DATES FOR BUDGET HEARING**

#### **Presentation by Assistant Finance Director Fred Espe**

The budget process requires the City to certify a preliminary levy and budget hearing date to Ramsey County by September 15, 2011. The County will mail estimated tax statements between November 10 and November 22, 2011. The City will hold its public hearing on the budget and levy on December 5, 2011. The adopted budget and levy will be submitted December 19, 2011.

The proposed budget achieves the following: 1) maintains existing City services, programs and infrastructure; 2) meets debt obligations; and 3) supports capital replacements. The proposed levy is \$202,000 less than initially estimated. The impact on home values is not yet available because more analysis is needed on the new market value reduction program being initiated by the State in 2012. The total levy increase is 3.3%. Levy increases break down to a 1.15% increase for General Fund operations, a 0.55% increase for debt payments, 1.22% increase for capital funds, and 0.44% increase for the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

Staff is recommending adoption of a resolution to establish the preliminary tax levy. This is the maximum levy that can be set. Further reductions can be made after adoption of the preliminary levy. Staff also recommends setting the budget hearing for December 5, 2011.

Mayor Martin questioned the HRA and EDA levy, as she believed the total increase was \$70,000. Mr. Schwerm explained that the total levy is \$70,000.

Councilmember Huffman stated that he believes the budget is reasonable, as it is a maintenance role of services. The EDA and HRA increases are really a shifting of payroll costs and not additional staff. However, his issue is in connection with the environment people are living. The cost of living next year is 1.7%. Raises given to employees will be less than 1.7%. However reasonable the budget is, it is disconnected from the issues citizens face. The budget is asking more than what many citizens will receive in their own pocketbooks. He would like the Council to rethink its mission of what services are provided.

Mayor Martin noted that the budget has already been reduced by \$202,000. Between adoption of the preliminary levy and final levy, there will not be any easy cuts. Further cuts need to be examined carefully. There are increasing costs to running a City and maintaining our infrastructure and believes the Council needs to continue its forward looking approach to running the City.

Councilmember Huffman agreed that significant cuts have been made in the levy. What is more at issue for him is the regressiveness of property taxes that do not take into account lack of employment or pay decreases, which is a much broader discussion than just Shoreview.

Mayor Martin stated that the elimination of the market value homestead credit will reduce property values and total taxable value for the City. The full implications are not yet known. That will play a big role in the City's budget. The legislation was done very fast in special session. What is presented are the best numbers known at this time.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she does not want to jeopardize the excellent bond rating the City has received. It is important to fund capital replacements to maintain the overall quality of the City. She would prefer gradual increases rather than a zero tax increase and then have to catch up with larger increases in future years. She is not hearing a cry for less services. If services should be decreased, the Council needs to know which ones.

Councilmember Huffman stated that he is not advocating a zero increase but would like to see it less than what is being proposed.

Councilmember Quigley stated that the Council listens carefully to citizen input and base what is structured today on that making it difficult to make any abrupt changes and maintain continuity. The numbers presented are half of what was being considered when the Council began looking at this budget.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Quigley to adopt resolution number 11-55 establishing a preliminary City tax levy of \$9,290,086, and a preliminary HRA tax levy of \$70,000 for collection in 2012.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Quigley, Wickstrom, Martin  
Nays: Huffman

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Quigley to set a public budget hearing for Monday, December 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the 2012 City budget, tax levy and capital improvement program.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Wickstrom, Huffman, Quigley, Martin  
Nays: None

**APPROVAL OF ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE: RED GINGER CHINA BISTRO,  
5999 RICE CREEK PARKWAY**

**Presentation by City Manager Terry Schwerm**

City Manager Schwerm reported receipt of an application from Michael Chan for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the Red Ginger China Bistro. This restaurant has been in business nine years. Previously, as the Red Ginger Asian Bistro, the restaurant had an on-sale liquor license. The Red Ginger Asian Bistro closed in 2008, and was taken over by new owners and opened as the Red Ginger China Bistro in October 2009. It is successful and looking to upgrade its liquor license from a non-intoxicating beer and wine licenses. Mr. Chan's background record is excellent, and he has provided a lot of information to demonstrate that he and his staff are in compliance with alcohol sales training. No issues have been reported from the Sheriff's Department regarding the current license. Staff is recommending approval.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to approve the application for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for Red Ginger China Bistro, located at 5999 Rice Creek Parkway.

Discussion:

Councilmember Wickstrom emphasized that the City takes liquor licenses very seriously. She is pleased to hear there have been no problems and hopes that continues in the future.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom, Martin  
Nays: None

**TRAFFIC CONTROL RECOMMENDATION: INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON  
TERRACE DRIVE AT PASCAL STREET**

**Presentation by Public Works Director Mark Maloney**

There was a request from the neighborhood to study this intersection. There is a pattern of neighborhoods with such low volumes of traffic that no STOP signs were installed. The trend is that traffic volumes have been increasing as a result of travel behavior, not outside traffic. People are driving more than ever. There have been reports of near misses with drivers not understanding who has the right-of-way. That meets the warrants for a STOP sign. The neighborhood has been notified of this pending action. Staff is recommending approval of

installation of STOP signs on Terrace Drive at Pascal Street. It will not be a four-way STOP. Signs will only be posted on Terrace Drive.

MOTION: by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Quigley to authorize the placement of STOP signs on Terrace Drive at the intersection with Pascal Street.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Quigley, Wickstrom, Huffman, Martin  
Nays: None

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campaign**

Councilmember Quigley stated that this is a big program. He would like to use Councilmember Wickstrom's experience to be sure the City begins with steps that can be done successfully and not replicate other services available.

Councilmember Wickstrom responded that it is important that the project not be City run. It is a community project with City involvement. Some things will be done at the City level, such as a prototype web page related to Shoreview. Also, events and programs will be publicized by the City. The City will not necessarily be holding events but will be instrumental in communicating various events and programs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: by Councilmember Huffman to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes - 4 Nays - 0

Mayor Martin declared the meeting adjourned.

THESE MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011.

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Terry C. Schwerm  
City Manager