

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting-6:30pm Thursday,
August 13, 2020
Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota
Minnesota**

1. Call to order: Mayor Mielke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Present: Mayor Mielke, Council members Golias, Perron, Donnelly and Rasmussen. City Attorney, Tom Loonan, City Clerk, Kathy Krotter, and Captain Wegener. Absent Building official, Mike Andrejka, Engineer Lucas Jones.
4. Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Perron. Passed 5-0 adding number 7 to adoption of planning committee meeting.
5. Approval of July 14, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve last month's minutes with a few minor adjustments by Council Member Golias and seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 4-0 Mayor abstained.
6. Treasurer's Report: Motion to move to pay the bills by Council Member Golias and Seconded by Council Member Donnelly. Approved 5-0
7. Development Proposal of Valley View Oak 3rd addition Mendota Heights: Mendota had a good turnout from all of the land owners that are directly affected by this development. Mayor Mielke spoke as well at the meeting about our concerns. The meeting is tabled until August 25th. The council talked about what they could do before the council meeting started tonight, which included getting a copy of the DNR letter that Mendota Heights received so Mendota could review it and to see if it is comprehensive and to make sure Mendota is included and not just the new development in Mendota Heights. Mayor Mielke asked at the meeting at Mendota Heights, if Dakota county soiled water had been contacted about the project and they had not. Mayor Mielke would like them to be involved and to see what they think about the underground springs that Mendota has. As far as the councils pro-active ideas that we had in our working meeting,

we talked about some ideas for the project like lawsuits, petitions, that could include Mendota and Mendota Heights, getting the media involved, hiring our own engineer, asking for a smaller project that would not have such a big impact to Mendota, requiring Escrow funds or a formal declaration. Tom Loonan suggested that we review what the city of Mendota Heights engineers have done before we start hiring engineers and geologists to come in. Council member Golias spoke and said that 4 people attended the meeting at Mendota Heights and having lived here all our lives we know about the underground springs and what affect they have on the hills in Mendota. Council member Golias gave some history of when he was a kid and how the hills used to have wagon wheel trails through them and one time his dad found a musket. Council member Donnelly stated that no one at Mendota Heights mentioned the impact this would have on Mendota and this was very disturbing to him. Mayor Mielke also stated that he got notice two days before the meeting in Mendota Heights and that was not enough time to get our questions together or gather our information. A woman who lives on the slope in Mendota Heights got up to speak. (Sandra Krebsbach) She said that the City, Laos, and the developers have not done their due diligence with their findings which would be the geotechnical. There has been no soil samples, if they want to save the trees of a certain size, you can do a tree inventory, and the city has done tree inventories in the past. The city had required a warranty on the hidden creek development and the engineering on the pond that was prior to those big homes on Dodd and Marie. The warranty would be 125% of the cost of the development, and they could put this in an escrow or a bond for 5 years to make sure they guarantee their work and by they she does not know if it would be Culligan or Laos. And the City of Mendota Heights has to protect itself from lawsuits. What the residents of Mendota Heights are concerned about and there are between 15 to 20 of them is that the city has not done their due diligence for this type of project. Sandra got a notice that is comparable to a lot split in the mail seven days before the planning commission meeting, and a two page document with a picture. There is no topographical map or soil test and no tree inventory, no survey, no guarantee that water is not going to run on Mendota. There are three constituencies in this project. There is the existing houses, in Mendota and Mendota Heights and then the houses that are going to be built. Any kind of slide even 2% is going to make a difference. A gentleman added that at the parks commission meeting last night they did not have the 47 page report and they made the statement that they are not building on the slope. He stated if they're not building on the slope where are they

building, his property backs up to the new development and if someone walks out from their property 30 to 40 feet you can't see them anymore. And they claim there is no slope. He says that he thinks no one on the planning commission, parks commission or the city council has ever been on this site. Julie Hunt stated that she is Sandra's neighbor and she has been doing some extensive research on this area. She did not know about the mudslides that have happened in Mendota and other areas until the closing of 13 due to the mud slide up there and the costs involved. So we need to be pro-active in stopping this. She got a hold of ~~this~~ the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources report and the report had a bunch of names on it. She contacted the Friends of the Mississippi and got a hold of a geologist. Carrie Jennings who worked for the DNR now works for this clean water non-profit operation. She read the e-mail that she sent to the Mayor. It is about the slopes and critical areas that have landslides, and Mendota Heights happens to be one of them. So Julie asked her to keep her informed cause due to Covid Carrie's project has been put on hold. Carrie also sent along a geology consulting firm which Julie would like the city of Mendota Heights to hire. Carrie could tell by a satellite view all the springs and indentations and was blown away about what was going on. Sandra stated too that the 47 page reports shows that walls would be installed. Sandra asked what these walls would be made of. And that they should be installed now so we are not playing catch up later. Who will own these walls and who will maintain them? Mayor Mielke will work with Tom to formalize a declaration with a needs or request list. We need to have a meeting to form a resolution of what needs to be done. This could be a zoom meeting and the public is invited to join the meeting.

8. Adoption policy for planning commission: Swanson Haskamp and the planning commission on August 3 had their first official meeting. Appointed officers and general procedures. Tom presented the draft policy. Motion moved by Council member Rasmussen and seconded by Council member Donnelly. Approved 5-0

9: Public Comments: 7:07 pm. Renee (a resident of Mendota) would like to be added to the planning committee. Reneemonet1@gmail.com. The planning commission meets when they need to meet, they do not have a regular schedule. Closed public comment at 7:10 pm

10. Council Comments 7:10 pm Council member Donnelly had nothing, Council member Golias nothing, Council member Rasmussen nothing, Council member

Perron had one thing. She has had several calls about the trees at the corner of Third Street and G Street. Willard is willing to cut the trees and weeds down. She also asked about Jeff Olson and is he part of the Sandy Hoff group. Mayor Mielke said that Jeff Olson might be representing the Sandy Hoff Group and wants to help them develop Mendota. Tom will get a hold of Mr. Olson and tell him he needs to come to a meeting and not e-mail and call council members personally. Mayor Mielke has mail. He stated that up on Second Street and D Street there are five trees that are dead or almost dead. One actually wraps around the power line. His neighbor had Kaposia trees out cutting down his tree and Mayor Mielke had them give him a quote on cutting down the trees. Mayor asked if we should get other quotes also. It was decided that would be a good idea, so we will get other quotes. Mayor Mielke got a grant for Covid and it needs to be spent by November 15th. Tom says he will check into it. The League of Minnesota has a list of things it could be used for. Closed council comments at 7:24pm

11. Staff Comments: 7:24 pm Mike was absent and had reported that he had no activity to the city clerk. Lucas was absent and had nothing to report. Captain had a 6 month update on activity in Mendota and so as of the end of June the city of Mendota had 117 cases which 15 were criminal cases. The criminal cases would be related to thefts, damage to property and domestic calls. The remaining cases were traffic stops. The Mendota Heights police department has a new officer, his name is Eric Wagman and he comes from St James, MN and he is one of the final ones hired to make the police department up to full strength. City Clerk asked for a new computer, Mayor Mielke said try a new battery first. And put it in the budget for next year. Tom mentioned that he had a letter from David Post that was sent to the City Clerk about the water in his basement and water starting to pool in his back yard. This caused a tree to come down. Mr. Post commented that this is getting to be quite expensive for him. Tom suggested that maybe Lucas could come out and take a look at the water issues. Tom worked with Swanson Haskamp and helped with the planning commission stuff and the meeting. He reached out to a few attorneys that he knows and Judge Lehman about public conduit financing and our city is on the list for when the opportunity comes up. Staff comment closed at 7:36 pm.

12. Adjourn: 7:36 pm Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Donnelly. Seconded by Council Member Golias.