**Dakota County Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**held Tuesday June 10, 2014**

**Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the City Council, City of Mendota, Minnesota**

**held at 7:30 pm at the Mendota VFW 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy Mendota, Minnesota**

**Present –** Deputy Mayor Alan Ralston, Council Members; Joan Perron, Melody Rasmussen and Erick Lehet, Building Official; David Neameyer, Chief of Police; Mike Aschenbrener, City Attorney; Tom Lehmann and City Clerk; KimberLee West.

**Absent:** Mayor Brian Mielke

**1. Deputy Mayor Ralston opened the City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Minutes - Motion by Councilmember Lehet, seconded by Councilmember Perron to approve the May 13, 2014 City Council minutes as presented. Passed 4-0.**

**Agenda –** **Motion by Councilmember Perron, seconded by Councilmember Lehet to approve the agenda with the addition of 3.5 MnDOT South Area Planner report. Passed 4-0.**

**2. Treasurer’s Report -** Transfer from Sewer Fund to General Fund in the amount of $1,374.16 for the wastewater bill. Transfer $10,000 from MM Fund to General Fund to maintain the General Fund balance. **Motion** **by Councilmember Lehet, seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen to approve the above transfers.**

**Passed 4-0.**

**3. Disbursements –**



**Motion by Councilmember Perron, seconded by Councilmember Lehet to pay the June 2014 bills.**

**Passed 4-0.**

**3.5 MnDOT Report –** Jon Solberg, South Area Supervisor for MnDOT told the city council that Trunk Highway 13 is closed due to a bluff failure. Solberg said this is an emergency repair that will take eight to ten days. Solberg added it is located in front of Senator Rosen’s home. The area is 80 feet at the edge of the trail, about 6 feet tall and 20 feet wide. The Dakota County Trail was closed on June 2nd  and will stay closed thru the month of June. Solberg told the council that soil nailing will be done at the top of the bluff with 10 to 15 foot spikes that are nailed into the ground under Trunk Hwy 13. Then a mesh cover is put in place and concrete over the mesh to help stabilize the soil. After the top of the bluff is secure the bottom near the trail will be evaluated.

Deputy Mayor Ralston asked Solberg if it was a private drain tile that failed. It is MnDOT’s system said Solberg and he explained that water was coming through the soil and not the drain system as it was intended to. Solberg added this is one of many failed attempts to fix the problem.

Councilmember Lehet asked Solberg how long soil nailing lasts. Solberg said it’s a permanent fix. Solberg added that back in 2012 when the government shut down occurred a contractor was hired to fix the bluff fail that had occurred. Solberg said MnDOT was not satisfied with the work that was done.

Solberg told the council that a 3 inch mill and overlay project will begin on a portion of Trunk Hwy 13 in 2015. Solberg said it will be from 35E in Lilydale to 2nd street in Mendota. Lilydale is adding larger pipes for drainage to help with erosion. Solberg said that because of the recent bluff failure an additional 400 feet of gutter have been added to the Trunk Hwy project. Originally 800 feet of gutter was planned, it will now be 1,200 feet.

Solberg said that the lane width will narrow to 11 feet to allow for a shared bike lane on the south side of the highway. Councilmember Lehet asked if walkers and joggers should use the highway. Solberg said it’s not illegal for them to. Councilmember Perron asked if a path has to be provided for bikes. Solberg said its MnDOT’s policy to accommodate everyone along the roadway. Solberg said bikes already use it now and by adding the share lane and narrowing the lane traffic will slow down. He added it’s proven that speeds will go down to 35 mph even though it’s posted 40 mph.

Deputy Mayor Ralston asked about the helicopter that was flying over the bluff. Solberg said it was KARE-11 who was videoing the bluff failure.

Councilmember Lehet said he’s been told that rocks from the roadway on the Mendota Bridge are hitting pedestrians and bikers on the west bound bike/walking path. Solberg said he will tell maintenance. Solberg added that MnDOT budgets $1 million for potholes and now an additional $2 million has been added for this spring.

Deputy Mayor Ralston complimented MnDOT on their snow removal off of Hwy. 13 in Mendota. Saying they did a nice job.

Resident Carl Robinette told Solberg that there are natural springs on the south side of Trunk Highway 13. Solberg thanked Robinette for the information.

**4. Resolution 14-03 - Calling for a public hearing at the July 8, 2014 City Council Meeting for the Issuance of a Bond to Saint Croix Lutheran High School –** Attorney Lehmann said this is a step in the process of issuing a bond. Attorney Lehmann added there is no risk to the city to lend money to the school. Attorney Lehmann said this bond will bring in $25 thousand dollars to the City of Mendota adding that attorney fees are covered. Saint Croix Lutheran High School is located on Oakdale Avenue and Butler in West Saint Paul. **Motion by Councilmember Lehet, seconded by Councilmember Perron to hold a public hearing at the July 8, 2014 City Council Meeting. Passed 4-0.**

**5. Public Comment –** opened at 7:59 p.m.

Resident Carl Robinette asked when Mendota Day will take place. Councilmember Lehet said it is on Saturday July 12, 2014. Robinette said the edges of city streets weren’t cleared of sand left over from the winter. Robinette said this could cause problems when the roads are overlaid in a few weeks. Councilmember Perron told the council that Willard can’t do it. Robinette added that the culverts under the roadways are full of sand and dirt and need to be cleaned out. And that the culverts should be cleaned before the roads are done. Deputy Mayor Ralston asked how the culverts are cleaned. Robinette said that Willard has done some by the pond with a bobcat. But they can be blown out too.

Attorney Lehmann will contact John Mazzitello, Mendota Heights Public Works Director, about culvert cleaning to see what options are available for the City of Mendota.

Public Comment closed at 8:14 p.m.

**6. Council Comment** - opened at 8:14 p.m.

Councilmember Rasmussen no comment.

Councilmember Lehet announced that he will not be running for reelection in November. Councilmember Lehet told the council he is going back to school to get his PhD in education. Councilmember Lehet added he will be absent from the July meeting.

Deputy Mayor Ralston stated that Fun Jumps trucks are blocking the vision of drivers when they are exiting parking lots and driveways on Highway 13. Deputy Mayor Ralston said according to City Code 409.08, trucks are not allowed to stand on Highway 13. Only loading and unloading is allowed. Minnesota Statute 327 says no trucks over 10,000 lbs. are allowed to park on Highway 13. Deputy Mayor Ralston suggests Fun Jumps contact Mayor Mielke to set up a meeting about the parking issues. Deputy Mayor Ralston said that Axel’s has met the minimum requirements when it comes to their berm, trees are planted, the lawn is mowed and trash has been picked up. Deputy Mayor Ralston added that Village Lawn Service is doing a great job mowing.

Councilmember Perron has received some comments about resident’s lawn’s that are not being mowed and kept up. Councilmember Perron gave Clerk West the addresses. Clerk West will send please comply letter’s sighting City Code 605 to those residents. Councilmember Perron added that the area just over the hill from Lucky’s needs to be mowed, the city owns that property. Clerk West will contact Village Lawn Service and ask them to mow that area from now on.

Council Comment closed at 8:44 p.m.

**7. Staff Comment** - opened at 8:44 p.m.

Building Official David Neameyer said it was a slow month for permits with nothing unusual to report.

Attorney Tom Lehmann - no report

Clerk West said On-call sweeping will sweep three of the cities roads for $475. Clerk West reminded the council that Saturday is the appliance recycling event from 10 a.m. - noon. David Olin will be at Benson Metals to accept appliances and Clerk West will be at the city park.

Chief of Police Aschenbrener told the council that there was a good turnout for the alcohol best practices meeting with about 60 in attendance. Chief Aschenbrener said there is still time to sign up for the Citizen’s Police Academy. Citizens can go online to sign up or go to the police station. Once 30 students have signed up registration will close.

**There being no further business, it was motioned by Councilmember Rasmussen, seconded by Councilmember Perron to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:49 p.m. Passed 4-0.**

Respectively submitted:

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KimberLee West, City Clerk