

**CITY OF HANOVER
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
JULY 11, 2016 – OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Call to Order:

Mayor Kauffman called the special council meeting of Monday, July 11, 2016, to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chris Kauffman, John Vajda, Doug Hammerseng, Ken Warpula, and Jim Zajicek. Also present were City Administrator Brian Hagen, Accountant/Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Lindrud. Guests present were Wright County Sheriff, Michael Kehn, Chris Kehn, Stephanie and Tom Gleason, Missy Wanke, Don and Lois Mahler, Tim Bienias, Clark Lee, Colleen Williams, Linda Eckard, Jim Hautala, Trudy Hunter, Sandy Braun, Karen Kaul, The Sogans, the Kuglers, The O'Briens, Vonnie Waters, Sara Williams, Chuck Wilson, Jared Torkeleson, Matt and Jen Amenrud, Claudia Pingree, Teresa and Tony Harrer, Jaci Donlan, Jenny Larkin, Mat Boie, Brenda and Bryan Arthur, Mary Coons, Brian Benson, Torrney Marshall, Dave Thomson, Jen Dismang, Dean Kuitunen, Amy Sefton, Derek Rosso, Michele Snyder, Tom Leimer, Cathi Gabrielson, Janet McDaniel, Karl Kiputh, Michelle Armstrong, Anne Jungwirth, Corey Hickmann, Cassandra Vajda, Jamie Franen, Dana Arrigo, Mary Bergeron, and several other residents.

Approval of Agenda

Hagen stated that Mike Fadden was not able to make the meeting for the photo accepting the CenterPoint Grant. Kauffman added the proposal from WSB for a still 3D rendering of the Settlers Park ballfield redesign under New Business item 6.f.

MOTION by Vajda to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Warpula. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Citizen's Forum

Res No 07-05-16-78 – Accepting Donation from Hanover Lions, Lion Fountain Costs

MOTION by Hammerseng to accept Res No 07-05-16-78, seconded by Warpula. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Res No 07-05-16-79 – Accepting Donation from Hanover Lions, 2016 Cleanup Day

MOTION by Warpula to accept Res No 07-05-16-79, seconded by Hammerseng. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Clark Lee:

Clark Lee recommended to Council that the Moratorium on Single Family Home Permits not be lifted. He stated that per the Planning Commission presentation, surrounding community's standards due vary, however they do have standards in place. Lee further stated that Planning Commission may have been under the impression that a decision had to be made in one meeting, not the six months allowed by the Moratorium. He also stated that two builders appeared before Planning Commission because they were unable to build their homes and this should not be a reason to lift the Moratorium.

Michael Kehn

Michael Kehn stated he is the President of the Hanover Historical Society and he would like to try and save the trees. He stated that the Mayor wrote an editorial in the Crow River News with

disparaging remarks and that these were also echoed by Dee Zajicek on the Save the Trees petition. He further stated the difference between the Settlers Park trees and the trees removed for the Historical Bridge are that the bridge timbers did not come from a city park.

Sarah Williams

Sarah Williams stated that she has lived in Hanover for 11 years because the residents value history, preservation and the environment. She further stated they take pride in how the City looks. The trees will have a cost associated with their removal, the loss of the aesthetic value they provide. She explained that the community wants to give input in how the parks are created, Loretto and Delano have beautiful ballfields and asks that Council ask for community input.

Marty Waters

Marty Waters stated he is a former coach, former Mayor, and former Park Board member. He stated that the decisions around the ballfield are shortsighted. The trees have value and the city has the space. He further stated this is a clandestine effort, the decision was made very swiftly without public input. The votes in favor of the ballfield from Park Board and Council were from members who live on Prairie Lane. There are 1,000 signatures on the petition to save the trees. Waters also thanked the Hanover Fire Department and City Staff for their assistance during the storm last week.

Stephanie Gleason

Stephanie Gleason stated that elected officials are the residents voice. The residents have never been more united, 1,000 people signed the petition, most of whom are Hanover residents. She stated the City sent out a survey and 71% stated the ballfields meet the community's needs. In the 2007 survey residents wanted trails, basketball courts, and tennis courts. She stated this clearly indicates a large ballfield is not an improvement the community wants. She stated that one 16U team is around 26 children who are not all Hanover residents. She inquired about the other groups that use the park, the 164 girl scouts, the elementary school, the preschool, and the church groups. Gleason also stated there is a safety risk having stray balls near the playground and asked if the city has enough insurance to cover any injuries. This plan will remove two fields and is currently safe, since younger kids do not hit foul balls far enough to reach the playground.

Missy Wanke

Missy Wanke stated that this land is ours and if someone would ask for our land, she would hope Council would not give it away. She inquired as to why Hanover would provide land to an outside entity.

Colleen Williams

Colleen Williams stated it is very disheartening that Council is taking money and other concerns over the residents' concerns. She has five pages of heartfelt comments and requested that Council look at other options. The Park Board survey stated that 71% of respondents were happy with the community's ballfields and that 230 residents took the time to fill out the survey. She further stated that it would be horrible to cut down trees older than the city itself and with more time and creative thinking they could find a better place.

Tom Gleason

Tom Gleason stated that he is on the Park Board and was the liaison to the Hanover Athletic Association since January of 2016. He stated he was excited when Hanover Youth Ball came to present to Park Board since the ballfields have been being discussed since 2009. He was for the ballfield at first, but since hearing the feedback from residents he has changed his mind and would like Council to look at other options. Gleason gave a brief recap of the history of the Settlers Park Ballfield redesign. He stated that a Hanover Athletic Association member did come up with an alternative plan in June that would cost less money and not require the oak trees to be removed. The Hanover Athletic Association has tabled the plan until they hear what Council decides on the current redesign plan.

Chad Kugler

Chad Kugler read a prepared statement from the Hanover Youth Ball Organization. He stated that over the past few years Hanover Youth Ball has been in communication with the City and Hanover Athletic Association. Hanover Youth Ball has been growing and the program does not cut players. Hanover is a great place to grow up and realizes that the opposition is not to the kids or Hanover Youth Ball. He stated that Hanover Youth Ball is 100% focused on children, their program has become better organized and better advertised and are in need of more fields. The field is not just for the 16U team, but can be used for all ages up to 16U. The City and Hanover Athletic Association approved the Settlers Park Ballfield and Hanover Youth Ball also received a grant from the MN Twins to improve the T-ball fields at Hanover Elementary School. Hanover Youth Ball is grateful for the City's careful considerations and Hanover Athletic Association's support helps keep costs and fees low. The fields are used from snow melt until snow fall. He stated that all options have been reviewed and nothing is currently available. Hanover Youth Ball did not want to wreck a park, the fencing would have green vines, trees would be added and eventually lights. He thanked everyone for their support and understanding and that everyone in the Hanover Youth Ball organization is a volunteer. Kugler stated that many people have said the trees are Hanover's future, but Hanover Youth Ball feels that the children are Hanover's future.

Trudy Hunter

Trudy Hunter stated that this is not about trees, but listening to one another. She requested more information on the \$1.00 lease of the fields to Hanover Athletic Association and what the timeline is for the ballfields. She further inquired if residents can have more detail without having to sit at a council meeting. She stated that her children are in T-ball and residents do not have to choose sides.

Dana Arrigo

Dana Arrigo stated that she is new to Hanover and works for Edina Realty and tells her coworkers that she lives in Mayberry. She attended Caroling at the Bridge and said it reminded her of a Norman Rockwell painting. In her career she has watched Maple Grove and Plymouth develop. She stated Maple Grove had a plan and Plymouth did not. She hopes that Hanover has a vision, it is a historical place. Her children are in Youth Ball, but she chooses to go to Corcoran because Hanover does not have a good program. She stated that Crystal has a baseball

field that was funded by the MN Twins and has not heard people ask to live there because of that baseball field. She said that she is disappointed that ballfield is not on the agenda.

Karen Kaul

Karen Kaul stated that she loves Hanover and has respect for everyone in the room. She stated that everyone needs to drop the politics and mean comments and move forward. Both her children were in Hanover Youth Ball and Tom Therrien has a wonderful vision, but she does not want to trade a beautiful reality for a vision. Right now the entire community can use the park, the argument for Hanover Youth Ball is that it is an awesome program, but the argument against is the environment. She stated the Emerald Ash Borer is in Plymouth, there is also the safety argument, the giving up the public land to an organization argument, and for her the spiritual argument. She stated Hanover had a huge storm and she lost a 20-year-old apple tree, but the oak trees were still standing and for 150 years, God has kept them safe.

Vonnie Waters

Vonnie Waters stated that there have been lots of sincere thoughts from people and this issue is tearing the community apart, but it could help bring it together. She stated with the Park Board asking Council to reconsider, she asked that Council take that to heart. With the storm and the Emerald Ash Borer, how many trees will Hanover lose. She requested that Council listen and it is not trees versus baseball, but what is right for our community.

Tim Bienias

Tim Bienias stated he grew up within a five-mile radius of Hanover and is for the trees and for Youth Ball and has two children in Youth Ball. He stated that currently all the T-ball fields are in use, so why eliminate fields. He also understands parents not wanting to drive to Montrose for home games and practice, however he has friends with children in Elk River traveling soccer and they drive to Moorhead for games. He did not want to diminish the value of the \$17,000 MN Twins Grant, but stated that the City could come up with that amount if they had too. He stated it is more important to get it right than to be right.

Abby Peterson

Hagen read a letter sent by Abby Peterson, who was not able to attend the meeting. Peterson stated that she has been a Hanover resident for 14 years and she and her husband, Dave, co-chaired the first Hanover Harvest Festival. She has also served as an election judge and on the Park Board, her husband was active in the EDA until his death. Peterson also has volunteered at the city offices helping with filing and was one of the chairs that created the Community Garden. She stated that she feels the city is one of the best run cities of similar size. Peterson went on to recap some of the comments made at the last Park Board meeting. She also stated that she has talked to some of the people who signed the petition and they did not realize there is not an alternative site for the ballfield or that city funds were not being used for the expansion. In addition, she stated that some said they felt pressured into signing the petition. Peterson is strongly in support of the ballfield expansion and feels the residents of the community should know the facts and not just opinions.

Joe Kaul

Hagen read a letter sent by Joe Kaul, who was not able to attend the meeting. Kaul stated he is in the unique situation of understanding the perspectives of both sides of the ballfield argument due to his past involvement as a Hanover Youth Ball board member and current position as Treasurer for the Hanover Historical Society. Kaul stated his core issue is the concept of deeding away prime parkland to a private non-profit organization for their own uses. He would like Council to keep in mind that the City is under no obligation to help out the Hanover Athletic Association or the Hanover Youth Ball with their space or field requirements. He asks "Would the HAA and HYP organizations be interested in the same deal if we re-developed the Cardinal Circle park field for use by 16U Youth Ball players?". Kaul explains that his understanding of the pending agreement with Hanover Athletic Association, their funding would not be transferred to the City until the project is completed to their satisfaction and control over the property has been transferred to their organization. The Hanover Athletic Association would also need to seek approval for the expenditure from the State Gambling Board before the funds can be expended. Kaul's concern is that this agreement leaves open the possibility that the project will be completed, the oak trees removed and the City will have to pick up the costs and the Hanover Athletic Association will still be able to use the field, as it is public land. Kaul also refers to the petitions, between both online and written there are 1,100 signatures, most of which are Hanover residents. He stated there is another petition in support of the ballfield project that was created by a Maple Grove resident who is the Commissioner for the MN Amateur Softball Association that has 124 signatures, 44 are Hanover residents. Kaul points out that there are many interests from outside of Hanover pushing for the ballfield redesign. Kaul would like Council to take a step back and think through the situation their decisions related to this project have created in Hanover.

Kauffman stated that he would like to correct some of the misinformation that he has heard. First, the Hanover Athletic Association would be leasing the ballfield from the City, which reduces the City's liability, because Hanover Athletic Association would take that on. Second, the City is not deeding the land and once the leasing agreement is approved the funds for the field renovation would transfer at that time.

At 8:24 Mayor Kauffman called for a recess as residents were leaving after Citizen's Forum.

At 8:39 Mayor Kauffman called the meeting back to order.

Unfinished Business

Res No 07-05-16-80 – Terminating Ordinance 2016-03

Hagen explained that Planning Commission held a meeting at the end of June in regards to the Single Family Dwelling Moratorium and the conversation revolved around how the homes looked. Planning Commission does not want smaller home designs in Hanover, but design guidelines were more of a factor. He stated that was the main reason Planning Commission passed a motion recommending Council terminate the moratorium and give further direction to Planning Commission and staff on setting the guidelines.

Hammerseng stated that how the home looked was discussed more than size. He stated that Dan Bowman showed Planning Commission one of his model homes and how designs are changing. The homes have a smaller footprint, but more square footage because builders are adding space

above garages. He further explained that Planning Commission will be meeting on Thursday to further define guidelines and maybe Council should lift the moratorium after hearing more on Thursday. Clark Lee stated that the City needs some standards in place, a combination of foundation size and livable square footage above grade.

Hagen stated that he does not think the moratorium is needed and does not feel smaller homes have been built in recent years. He did state that there is a risk of a smaller home being built and that Planning Commission can discuss guidelines for the next development. Hagen further explained that all the ordinances should be reviewed to make Hanover more appealing to developers.

MOTION by Hammerseng to table Res No 07-05-16-80 until July 19, 2016, seconded by Vajda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Hearings

Adoption of an Amendment to Ordinance 2016-03 – Moratorium on Single Family Dwelling Building Permits

Hagen explained that direction was given to hold a public hearing to discuss an amendment to Ordinance 2016-03 to adjust the minimum size requirements for single family homes.

Kauffman opened the public hearing at 9:05 p.m.

Clark Lee recommended that Council not change the ordinance, but that there does need to be a combination of foundation size and livable square footage.

Dan Bowman explained that if a corporate builder were to come in for a new development they would will have PUD, so even with the new standards it would be a new ballgame.

Kauffman closed the public hearing at 9:08 p.m.

New Business

Ordinance 2016-04 – Amending Ordinance 2016-03 Relating to Moratorium on Building Permits for Single Family Dwellings

MOTION by Vajda to deny amending Ordinance 2016-04, seconded by Hammerseng. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Res No 07-05-16-70 – Approving EDA Low Interest Loan Program

Hagen explained that the EDA discussed business incentive programs. The plan for the changes is to offer a larger amount of incentives to potential new businesses and expansions. The EDA increased the loan amount to a maximum of \$100,000. The EDA cash balance has been growing, the Special Revenue Fund currently has \$114,718.66 and the Business Incentive Fund has \$236,818.91. Both Vajda and Warpula as sitting EDA members support the changes.

MOTION by Vajda to accept Res No 07-05-16-70, seconded by Warpula. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Res No 07-05-16-71 – Approving EDA Matching Grant Program

Hagen explained the EDA changed the structure of the financing. 50% must be private funding, 25% through EDA grant, and 25% through a 0% interest loan. Maximum EDA contribution

could be \$15,000. The EDA also added security improvements as an eligible expense, this is due to recent break-ins to the Industrial Park.

MOTION by Vajda to accept Res No 07-05-16-71, seconded by Warpula. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Res No 07-05-16-72 – Approving EDA Rent Reimbursement Program

Hagen stated there were no changes made to the amount, the maximum will remain \$2,400 up to \$800 per month. The landlord and tenant may not be related and they must show proof of payment before reimbursement.

MOTION by Vajda to accept Res No 07-05-16-72, seconded by Zajicek. **Motion carried unanimously.**

August 2, 2016 Council Meeting Time Change

Hagen stated that Night to Unite is August 2 and requested the best time to hold the meeting. Council gave direction to hold the meeting August 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION by Vajda to hold the August 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Warpula. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3D ballfield rendering from WSB

Hagen explained that WSB put together a proposal to create a still 3D rendering of the Settlers Park Ballfield redesign for \$3,250. The design would show two views, one from home plate looking in the direction of trees and the second, a bird's eye view. Council felt this proposal would provide everyone with a better vision of the proposed project.

MOTION by Vajda to approve the proposal not exceed \$3,250, seconded by Zajicek. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Reports

Vogel:

- Will continue working on clearing up storm damage through the end of this week. Clean up is going faster now, they are using a truck to haul away the branches instead of the wood chipper.

Vajda:

- Stated that he has been on Council for seven and a half years and has loved being part of the City and Council and loves that residents have a voice and would like to apologize for getting over heated. He also stated that Council does take comments and concerns seriously.

Zajicek

- Stated that the Park Board meeting was quite challenging. He stated he just wants the facts and truth out to residents and inquired if the topic could be put on the ballot for November. Hagen stated he can check if it would be allowed. Kauffman cautioned against giving up all decisions by putting items on the ballot.

Hammerseng

- Stated that the Planning Commission meeting focused mostly on the moratorium, but they did also talk about Rhino Auto. Planning Commission and staff are working on how to limit the number of cars. Rhino Auto did withdraw its fence permit, there is no room for a fence or outside storage behind the building.

Lindrud

- Stated that the Zoomobile will be at Settlers Park Thursday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m.

- Thanked the Fire Department for providing information on social media after the storm last week. City Hall was without power and staff was able to update the City's facebook page with information from the Hanover Fire Department using staff's cell phones.

Hagen

- July 26 and 27th will be the public accuracy testing.
- August 2 through the 16th is the filing period for council seats
- August 6th City Hall will be open for absentee voting.
- The Planning Commission will be considering an ordinance opting out of a statute requiring cities to allow temporary housing for living quarters to care for family members in need.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Vajda to adjourn at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Hammerseng. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVED:

Chris Kauffman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brian Hagen, City Administrator