

**Sandstone City Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. This meeting took place at City Hall with an option for Zoom video conferencing.

ROLL CALL: Val Palmer, Peter Spartz, Julena Rahier
Members absent: Randy Riley, Cassie Gaede
Staff present: Administrator Kathy George
Others present: SEH Engineer Greg Anderson, Rob Murry, Joshua Beecher, Denise Baran

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to approve the Agenda with the changes of removing Agenda Item 8(d) Resolution Designating Depository – Northview Bank, and adding Agenda Item 9(c) Application for Payment No. 7: 2020 Street Improvement Project. Motion carried 3-0.

PETITIONS, COMPLAINTS, OR COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS AND/OR COUNCIL

MEMBERS: Staff received complaints about flooding the alley east of Panther Park during heavy rainfalls, an abundant amount of junk on a property, grading needed on Old Military Road, and two loose dogs barking aggressively. Council Members received positive comments about Arts in the Park; attendees prefer the gazebo location for the shade trees.

PUBLIC HEARING/ PRESENTATIONS:

Resolution No. 20210616-01 Vacation of Block 14 Alley

The City received a petition to vacate the alley of Block 14, Original Townsite of Sandstone. All affected property owners signed the petition. A Public Hearing is required. Notices were mailed to all property owners located within 350 feet of the affected block. It was also published in the 6/3 and 6/10 editions of the *Pine County Courier*. No comments were received prior to the hearing. There are no City utilities running through this alley. If approved, the 20' wide alley will be split equally between the adjoining property owners.

Motion Palmer, second Spartz, to open the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Spartz called for any comments from the public. No comments were received. Council Members reviewed the map of Block 14 and noted that the platted alley was never developed or used as an alley.

Motion Spartz, second Rahier, to close the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion Palmer, second Spartz, to adopt Resolution No. 20210616-01 Vacating Alley of Block 14, Original Townsite of Sandstone. Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to approve the May 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Terminate and Abate Nuisance: 717 Commercial Avenue North

The City has received numerous complaints about the compilation of junk and miscellaneous debris located throughout this property. A Notice of Intent to terminate and Abate the Nuisance was posted on the front door of the property on June 8, 2021. Administrator George reported that since then, there has been much improvement. **Motion Rahier, second Palmer, directing staff to continue to work with the occupant to complete the cleanup at 717 Commercial Avenue North. Motion carried 3-0.**

Quarry Days Requests

Quarry Days is planned for August 13 - 14. Sandstone Area Chamber of Commerce is making the following requests:

- Block off Main St from Hwy 123 to 5th St (Gas Light to Amy's) beginning 7:00 a.m. on Friday, August 13th, to 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 15th
- Approve the parade route
- Provide letter of support to MN DOT for temporary road closures for the proposed 5K, parade and fireworks
- Ask the Sheriff for additional patrol and traffic control
- Provide portable toilets, including handicap restrooms at Train Park
- Have staff available to empty trash cans throughout the weekend
- Waive the noise ordinance requirements for both days through 11:00 p.m.
- Notify MN DOT, State Patrol and Sheriff about fireworks on August 14th
- Approve Special Event Permit for Quarry Days
- Approve Application for Display of Fireworks
- Approve Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Sandstone Lions for August 13th and 14th
- Approve Minnesota Lawful Gambling permit

During discussion, Council Members noted that the Kettle River Watershed Mural must not be blocked by vendors during Quarry Days. They also discussed smoking in the pavilion during bingo. These will be brought up at an upcoming Chamber meeting.

Motion Spartz, second Palmer, to approve Sandstone Area Chamber of Commerce requests regarding Quarry Days. Motion carried 3-0.

East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) 2021-2022 Budget

The City received a notice of public hearing from ECRDC regarding their 2021-2022 Budget. They are proposing a 2.5% cost of living adjustment resulting in a 1.5% tax levy increase. Mayor Spartz represents Pine County on the ECRDC Board. Council Members did not feel the need to respond to the public hearing notice.

Sale of Portion of Parcel 45.0069.000

The City was contacted by a property owner who asked if the City was interested in selling a portion of Parcel 45.0069.000. The Council met in closed session on April 21st to discuss the request and to discuss an asking price. The Council determined that \$5,000 was a fair asking price, based on the price of recently sold residential City-owned property.

The notice of land for sale was published in the May 6th *Pine County Courier*. It was also mailed to the adjoining property owners. Bids were due Friday, May 21st.

Two bids were received:

- Charles & Kathleen Armstrong \$ 500.00
- Joshua & Alexa Beecher \$5,013.00

Beecher stated that he plans to keep the lots as two separate parcels and just extend the boundaries of each parcel.

Motion Palmer, second Rahier, to accept the bid from Joshua & Alexa Beecher for \$5,013 to purchase a portion of parcel 45.0069.000. Motion carried 3-0.

Administrator George will prepare a purchase agreement and other relevant documents for the July Council meeting.

OLD & CONTINUING BUSINESS

Application for Payment No. 2: 2020 Water System Looping

SEH Engineer Greg Anderson presented Application for Payment No. 2 on the 2020 Water System Looping project for New Look Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$306,925.97. This amount represents 83% of the work completed and material on hand, with 5% held for retainage. Anderson reported that the casing has been placed under the railroad tracks and the water pipes are connected to the existing main. They are waiting for test results. If the results are favorable, they can open the valves and let the water flow through.

Motion Palmer, second Spartz, to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from New Look Contracting, Inc. for the 2020 Water System Looping project in the amount of \$306,925.97. Motion carried 3-0.

Application for Payment No. 2 – FINAL: Washington Street Sanitary Sewer Repair

Anderson presented Application for Payment No. 2, the final payment to Jensen Backhoe, LLC on the Washington Street Sanitary Sewer Repair project in the amount of \$973.35. Anderson stated that the payment should be held until the contractor has turned in the consent to surety, lien waivers, and other close-out documents.

Motion Spartz, second Palmer, to approve Payment No. 2 - FINAL to Jensen Backhoe, LLC for the Washington Street Sanitary Sewer Repair project in the amount of \$973.35. Motion carried 3-0.

Application for Payment No. 7: 2020 Street Improvement Project

Anderson presented Application for Payment No. 7 on the 2020 Street Improvement project for A-1 Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$17,363.80. This amount represents work completed and material on hand, with 2.5% held for retainage. The final work to be done is re-seeding the grass. Council discussed whether or not it would be feasible or helpful for the City Street crew to water the grass because conditions have been so dry, and then the contractor would provide a deduct on the contract. Staff will review and discuss this further with the engineer.

Motion Palmer, second Rahier, to approve Application for Payment No. 7 from A-1 Excavating, Inc. for the 2020 Street Improvement project in the amount of \$17,363.80. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS:

Sheriff's Deputy Report – May, 2021

The Sheriff's Department had 200 calls logged in Sandstone for the month. That compares to 221 calls in 2020, 243 calls in 2019, and 149 calls in 2018. Councilors had questions about some of the calls; however, the Deputy was not present at the meeting.

Fire Department – May, 2021

Fire Chief Andy Spartz reported that the Department had five calls in May: 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 assist law enforcement, and 3 fires (1-DNR mutual aid and 2 in the City of Sandstone).

Library Report – May, 2021

Librarian Josh Menter reported that there were 12 computer appointments, 301 visitors, 114 reference questions answered, and 10 curbside pickups. Virtual Dungeons and Dragons continues and has been really fun. The Summer Learning Program is underway and continues until August 14th.

Personnel Committee Report – Community Service Partner

At the May Council Meeting, the Council decided to add the Rental Inspection Duties to the job description of the Community Service Partner. The decision was also made to advertise it as a full-time position. The ad ran in the 5/6, 5/13, and 5/20 editions of the *Pine County Courier*, *Hinckley News*, *Askov American*, *Pine City Pioneer*, and related issues of the *Evergreen*. 15 applications were received. The Personnel Committee met on June 10th and determined that 8 applicants will be interviewed on July 5th. County Attorney Reese Frederickson and County Commissioner Matt Ludwig will participate in the interview process.

Planning Commission Meeting – June 9, 2021

Ordinance No. 20210616-01 Amending City Code 515.17 Highway Mixed Use District

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 10th to consider adding “public schools or equivalent private and parochial schools” as a conditional use in the Highway Mixed Use District. The Planning Commission recommended the City Council make the amendment contingent on the completion of Harvest Christian School's purchase of the Lunderoff Drive property (the former Gateway Clinic). At the February 17th Council meeting, the Council voted to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation. Harvest Christian School has now purchased the Lunderoff Drive property and they are in the process of renovating it for use as a school.

Motion Palmer, second Spartz to adopt Ordinance No. 20210616-01 Amending City Code 515.17 Highway Mixed Use District to allow public schools or equivalent private and parochial schools as a conditional use. Motion carried 3-0.

Harvest Christian School – Conditional Use Permit

The City received an application for a Conditional Use Permit on behalf of Harvest Christian School to operate a private school at 204 Lunderoff Drive. The property is zoned Highway Mixed Use District. “Public schools or equivalent private and parochial schools” are allowed with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in the Highway Mixed Use District. A notice of the Public Hearing was published in the 5/27

and 6/3 editions of the *Pine County Courier*. The notice was also mailed to all property owners located within 350 feet of the subject property. During the review process, the Planning Commission made the following findings of fact:

1. The use **will not** create an excessive burden on existing parks, schools, streets and other public facilities that serve or are proposed to serve the area.
2. The use **is** sufficiently compatible or separated by distance or screened from adjacent residentially zoned or used land so that existing homes will not depreciate in value and there will be no deterrence to development of vacant land.
3. The structure and site will have an appearance that **will not** have an adverse effect upon adjacent residential properties.
4. The use, in the opinion of the Planning Commission, **is** reasonably related to the overall needs of the city and to the existing land use.
5. The use **is** consistent with the purposes of the zoning ordinance and the purposes of the zoning district in which the applicant intends to locate the proposed use.
6. The use **is not** in conflict with the comprehensive plan.
7. The use **will not** cause traffic hazards or congestion.
8. Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, and necessary facilities **are** being provided.

Commissioners recommend the City Council approve the Conditional Use Permit. They did not feel the need to add additional conditions onto the Conditional Use Permit.

Motion Spartz, second Rahier to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Harvest Christian School to operate a private school at 204 Lundorff Drive based on the Planning Commission’s recommendation and findings of fact. Motion carried 3-0.

Park & Rec Commission Meeting – June 11, 2021

The Park & Rec Commission discussed the following:

- Placement of the logo on the Adirondack chair.
- Arts in the Park, which is going well.
- National Night Out coming up on August 3rd.
- Quarry Days coming up August 13-14; the Commission will have a booth to promote the parks.
- Oktoberfest coming up October 2nd; Commissioners Dybvig and Chasson will work with Administrator George on planning the event.
- Potential name change for Robinson Park to Robinson Quarry Park.
- KREEC Site and the potential for the property to be placed in the MN Land Trust, details regarding creek crossings 1 and 2, completing the bridge over the creek, and having local artist Carole Bersin design signage.
- It was determined that the Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden will be developed on the east side of the driveway into Eagle Field.

Resolution No. 20210616-03 Accepting Donation for Panther Park

The City received a donation of \$1,000 from the Sandstone Lions towards the development of Panther Park. **Motion Palmer, second Spartz to approve Resolution No. 20210616-03 and accept the donation of \$1,000 from the Sandstone Lions for the development of Panther Park. Motion carried 3-0.**

Building Inspection Report – May, 2021

4 building permits, 7 maintenance permits, and 3 right-of-way permits were issued during the month. There are currently 10 on-going building projects and 4 right-of-way projects active in town. Construction value of projects for 2021 through May is \$610,210.00, which is a positive sign.

Streets & Parks Supervisor Report – May, 2021

Supervisor Craige Hiler reported that more pothole patching was done, trees were trimmed, gravel roads were graded, downtown banners were switched out, and flags were put out for the season. Gravel is being added to the road through Robinson Park, the picnic table at Johnson Park was repaired, the building at the KREEC site was demolished. Interior reconstruction on the John Wright Building is 99.9% complete, with fencing around the City Shop side underway. A new ditching bucket was installed on the Backhoe. Three new push mowers were purchased (one to replace one that was stolen off the trailer last year, one to replace an old mower that died, and one additional mower).

PeopleService Report – May, 2021

Operator Alex Leger reported that hydrants were flushed for spring exercising, he checked the connections on the water looping project, had to shut the water plant down to replace the broken caustic valve, responded to a concern from the Fire Department about a hydrant cap by the hospital, Total Control worked on the high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant, replaced the furnace at the Water Treatment Plant, continued to work with the hospital regarding water pressure, is trying new procedures for transferring water from one sewer pond to another, pursued warranty repair of Pump #2 in the Lift Station at Aspen Court, among other routine maintenance items.

Financial Reports

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to approve the A/P Clerk Claims – May in the total amount of \$625,085.13. Motion carried 3-0.

WRITTEN NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: The Administrator reported on the following items:

Code Violation Letters – 77 total went out

- 30 regarding vehicles
- 27 regarding grass
- 20 junk

Train Park - Trees

- 3 dead trees were removed on Monday - FYI

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

- Funding request submitted
- All indication is that Sandstone will receive about \$300,000
- 50% will be paid in 2021; 50% will be paid in 2022
- Costs must be incurred by 12/31/2024, and funds must be spent by 12/31/2026
- Eligible uses that would be applicable to us include Small Business loans/grants, drinking water/wastewater/broadband infrastructure
- Pine County hosted a coordination meeting which Mayor Spartz and George attended; Cities and Townships were invited to talk about options and coordinated projects (i.e., broadband)

Mondays in May Report

	Metal Monday	Tired on Monday	Miscellaneous Monday	TOTAL EXPENSE
2018	Unknown	6.18 tons	7.38 tons Plus 85 mattresses	\$2,237.29
2019	7.68 tons	9.81 tons	6.84 tons Plus 83 mattresses	\$2,308.31
2020	7.01 tons	4.16 tons	8.57 tons Plus 85 mattresses	\$1,997.40
2021	7.83 tons	3.51 tons	15 tons Plus 64 mattresses	\$2,579.31

Airport Road - Gravel

- Regular gravel would cost \$33,600 (included in existing contract)
- Upgrading to red rock would add \$28,952
- Recommend we upgrade because it lasts longer and reduces maintenance

MN DOT TH 123 Project – Quit Claim Deed

- After considering questions raised by Council Members; MN DOT has decided to make some changes from a permanent easement to a temporary easement; therefore, a Quit Claim Deed is no longer needed

John Wright Building

- Certificate of Occupancy was issued June 15th – the Day Care Center can start the State Licensing Process
- Concrete work (sidewalks and curb) is complete; parking lot paving – soon
- Inspection of kitchen appliances revealed some needs:
 - New booster heater for the dishwasher: \$3,734.35
 - Freezer compressor is shot: Repair \$3,183.40; Replace \$5,606.00

ADJOURN

Motion Palmer, second Rahier to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Peter Spartz, Mayor

Kathy George, Administrator