

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 14, 2016**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Sartell City Council was held on March 14, 2016 in the Council Chambers of Sartell City Hall. Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Nicoll, Council Members: Braig-Lindstrom, Hennes, Lynch, Peterson  
COUNCIL ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Mary Degiovanni, City Administrator  
Anita Rasmussen, Community Development Director  
Brad Borders, Public Works Director  
Mike Nielson, City Engineer  
Judy Molitor, Recording Secretary  
Jim Hughes, Police Chief

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LYNCH AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**OPEN FORUM/ PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES:**

- a. February 22, 2016 – Regular Meeting
- b. February 29, 2016 – Special Meeting

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HENNES APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 29, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING AS CORRECTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Acceptance of Building Permit Activity Report
- b. Acceptance of Inspections Activity Report
- ~~c. Acceptance of Technology Report~~
- d. Acceptance of Fire Department Report
- ~~e. Approval of voucher payments~~
- f. Calling Special Meeting on April 11, 2016 at 5 pm
- ~~g. Award of SRTS Bid~~
- ~~h. Approval of County Project within Municipal Corporate Limits~~
- i. Acceptance of Avalon 8 Improvements

- j. Appointment of Police Officer
- ~~k. Approval of Southwest Siren Purchase~~
- l. Approval of temporary off sale liquor licenses for St. Francis Xavier for 4/14/16 & 8/20/16

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS a, b, d, f, i, j and l. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consent agenda items c, e, g, h and k were removed for separate discussion.

**Consent Agenda Item c: Acceptance of Technology Report**

Council member Braig-Lindstrom asked about use of the See Click Fix program and whether or not we can determine how many people have downloaded the app for use in reporting issues. Rasmussen will look into whether that can be tracked.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HENNES APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Consent Agenda Item e: Approval of Voucher Payments**

Council member Braig-Lindstrom questioned the payment made to the MN Dept of Health and Administrator Degiovanni explained this is a water system charge.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE VOUCHER PAYMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Consent Agenda Item g – Award of SRTS Bid**

Council member Braig-Lindstrom asked about the large oak tree on 2<sup>nd</sup> street being preserved as part of the Safe Routes to School sidewalk along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Engineer Nielson confirmed that a narrow sidewalk is planned for around the tree to try to preserve it.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HENNES APPROVING THE AWARD OF SRTS BID. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Consent Agenda Item h - Approval of County Project within Municipal Corporate Limits**

Council member Braig-Lindstrom asked City Engineer Nielson to explain the process of the two homes being acquired in order to make the 5-legged round about possible near LeSauk Drive. Engineer Nielson explained the process.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE COUNTY PROJECT WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATE LIMITS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Consent Agenda Item k – Approval of Southwest Siren Purchase**

Council member Braig-Lindstrom questioned if neighboring landowners have input into the siren location process. Chief Hughes said the locations are chosen for public safety so they don't seek landowner input.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH APPROVING THE SOUTHWEST SIREN PURCHASE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. Property Tax Abatements

City Administrator Degiovanni explained the reason for the public hearing this evening is to take public input for consideration of abatement bonds. These abatement bonds can be used as a tool to allow options for flexibility in financing upcoming projects but tonight's decision does not set which projects will be financed.

Mayor Nicoll opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. The following comments were made, although comments do not reflect entire statements made.

Zurya Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, Sartell, asked for a breakdown of cost of the different projects planned and how the proposed new High School would fit into City projects. Degiovanni explained that the City Council will determine how the sales tax money will be used separately from tonight's process but that community center budget was set at \$11 million. City-School architects memo was previously provided to Council and public and included discussion that new high school would not suffice to meet community gymnasium space needs.

Henry Smorynski 802 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North, Sartell, wanted to be sure what the Council is voting for on the abatement bonds and spoke in favor of a library in Sartell.

Zurya Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, Sartell, wants an open house meeting regarding the community center with City Council, GRRL and community to discuss location of where the library should be located and where the money should be spent.

Kim Tjaden, 1490 Riverside Avenue North, Sartell, suggested the City identify where the money should be spent before the project starts and suggested waiting until after the school referendum vote.

Jackie Peterschick, 603 9<sup>th</sup> Street North, Sartell, believes the residents should be happy that we are blessed with two libraries within 10 miles. She is tired of the negative letters in the paper and suggested we all work together as a team and respect our elected leaders.

Daryl Stevens, 832 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Sartell, said he has lived here for 30+ years and noted the library space he saw in Vail, Colorado.

Beth Laudenbach, 704 Edinburgh St., Sartell, questioned the process and whether there will be other opportunities to speak on this topic.

Mark Ruff, representing Ehlers & Associates, financial advisors for the City explained the process of approving the abatement bonds tonight prior to any specific project is similar to qualifying for a mortgage prior to the purchase of a home. It allows the City to use sales tax revenues as a general obligation bond pledge and to obtain a lower interest rate and taxpayer savings.

Joe Perske, 509 10<sup>th</sup> Street North, Sartell, questioned the wording in the abatement bond resolution and asked if it includes the word "library". He asked if the general public will have another opportunity to voice opinions on the community center and amenities of the building. He spoke in favor of the library and whether there

were sufficient funds left for a library. He displayed a map of the City and pointed out the location of the proposed new high school and the community center.

Linda Treb, 200 Victory Avenue, Sartell, said she voted for sales tax to be used for a library and since she used to work for the GRRL, she is available and willing to help when the time comes.

Two young students from Oak Ridge Elementary spoke in favor of a library.

Henry Smorynski, 802 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North, Sartell, suggested another public hearing and committing the money for specific amenities.

Bryan Hansen, 810 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Sartell, said he has watched the City grow over the years he has lived here and does not believe the location of the Community Center is the best spot.

Gary Schnellert, 1021 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, Sartell, has been involved in education most of his life and believes the community is not being heard. He suggested the library concerns are shared with the school and the community.

Amanda Schreiner, 1004 Connecticut Avenue, Sartell, believes the Council is doing a great job and they will do the best with appropriation of the money. She does not believe Sartell needs its own library.

Zurya Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, Sartell, wants a safe environment where students can meet to do projects, where kids can learn to talk to each other, build tolerance, voice their opinions and listen to other opinions and interact with other kids for stable mental health.

Joe Perske, 509 10<sup>th</sup> Street North, Sartell, asked for the language in the resolution to be broadened to include library, park amenities and community center. Degiovanni noted the City's bond counsel has indicated the language already exists in the resolution to allow for a library capital expenditure, at the current proposed location or a different location.

I-Jung Lee, 3736 Riviera Road, Sartell, talked about some of the benefits of a library, not only for young, but for adults also. She suggested the Council use the money wisely.

Theresa Lau, 14701 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Sartell, stated that abatement bonds are pledging money to specific projects and she believes the library should be mentioned in the abatement bond document. She is open to working together and suggested the Council move forward in the best interest of the City.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Nicoll closed the hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Mark Ruff of Ehlers recommended staying with the resolution as presented since legal counsel has indicated it is flexible to include library funding.

Council discussion followed regarding the amount of funding to be delegated to projects, and the fact that the abatement resolution presented this evening has flexibility to cover more than the current community center project, but is not restricted to specific other uses.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HENNES AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH ADOPTING RESOLUTION 18-2016 APPROVING PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS.**

**UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:**

**AYE: MAYOR NICOLL, COUNCIL MEMBERS HENNES AND LYNCH**

**NAY: COUNCIL MEMBERS BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND PETERSON  
MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**a. 2016 Sealcoat Project**

City Engineer Nielson presented the bids received for the 2016 project and requested authorization to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Astech, in the amount of \$102,933.79. Mike outlined the areas of the City where the sealcoat project is recommended and discussed the pros and cons of including the fog seal process.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE SEALCOAT BID FROM ASTECH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,933.79 WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FOG SEAL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Pinecone Regional Park Wetland Replacement Plan Proposal**

Engineer Nielson presented the request to authorize WSB & Associates to complete the wetland replacement mitigation application for the proposed parking lot construction at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM APPROVING THE PINECONE REGIONAL PARK WETLAND REPLACEMENT PLAN PROPOSAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Public Works Equipment Purchase**

Administrator Degiovanni presented the request to purchase public works equipment using State bid.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM APPROVING THE PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Adopt a Roadway Policy**

Community Development Director Rasmussen presented the request to adopt a local city street and the resulting policy developed by staff for Council consideration. Volunteers would keep the designated area clean of litter and debris, adopt at least one mile for three years, and get a sign with their name on it for the adopted route.

Both Council members Braig-Lindstrom and Peterson disagreed with posting signs with volunteer names because they feel the City would end up with multiple signs. They also believe there are other ways to recognize volunteers, such as an advertisement on the electronic sign.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LYNCH AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING THE ROADWAY POLICY.**

**UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:**

**AYE: MAYOR NICOLL, COUNCIL MEMBERS HENNES AND LYNCH**

**NAY: COUNCIL MEMBERS BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND PETERSON**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department report was included in the packet.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Director Borders presented his report and updated the Council on the status of the recent water/sewer line breaks.

**CITY ENGINEER**

Engineer Nielson presented his report.

**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMNT DIRECTOR**

Director Rasmussen presented her report.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Degiovanni presented her report.

**CITY COUNCIL UPDATES & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Council members gave updates on various meetings and community events.

A suggestion was made to televise City Commission meetings. Staff will get input from Commission members to get their thoughts.

**ADJOURN**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:25 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Minutes By:**

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**Judy Molitor, Recording Secretary**

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**Sarah Jane Nicoll, Mayor**