

**CITY OF MAPLE LAKE**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

The City of Maple Lake City Council Workshop Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Todd Borell.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Todd Borell, Deb Geyen, Brian Fondurulia, John Haack, and Kristin Logas

**Absent:** None.

**Also present:** Sabrina Hille, City Administrator; Dave Anderson, City Attorney.

**Nuisance Ordinance**

Mayor Todd Borell brought this forward as he wanted to make sure everyone on City Council understood the Nuisance Code. Due to councilmembers posting on Facebook stating false claims on the nuisance ordinances, and wanting to change the code. Mayor Borell reminded that one person is unable to change the code, if council is interested in adjusting the code they need to bring a specific part for review, and they would need a majority vote for the item to begin to be reviewed. Councilmember Haack was questioning when the code was last codified, and Administrator Hille did not know without looking further. The Nuisance Code was amendment in 2006 as noted on the code. Councilmember Fondurulia brought up the portion under definitions of annoyances, specifically "health, morals, comfort or repose" as he felt this phrase was vague and subjective. City Attorney Anderson clarified that the phrase and terms were used in the Minnesota Statutes. Council came to the conclusion that anyone who wants to review the nuisance ordinances is allowed to, and they can bring a specific portion of the code to council and a vote will be had if they feel it should be reviewed. They will continue on this topic at the March workshop so everyone is able to review the code. They will also invite MNSpect to come and speak at the next meeting, as they are interested in changing building official as they also provide nuisance code enforcement.

**WW2 Medal of Honor Plaque**

Council member Haack brought to the attention of council that there was a World War 2 Medal of Honor Recipient from the area. He was hoping to install a plaque in a park that gave him acknowledgement of his heroism, and the award he received. It was brought up that Mr. Vluga was

born in Maple Lake Township, and moved to Grand Rapids Michigan at a young age. His deployment and death are noted in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Council felt that he was not from Maple Lake, and that there are other veterans, award winners, and deaths that were from and life long residents. So there was discussions on other ways they could honor veterans. Council decided that if Haack wants to continue on with his pursuit of a memorial he should approach The Legion or the VFW. Then he would be able to report back to council, but it was project that should include and be overseen by the Veterans Associations, not the city.

### **Train Crossing Procedure**

Mayor Borell wanted to make sure everyone was updated on the previous discussion had on what the procedure is when the railroad tracks are blocking intersections. Todd has spoken with the Fire Department, and currently during the day residents should call City Hall, City Hall would call Todd and he would then pass the information on the Fire Department. He is waiting for the railroad to call back with information on who we should call. So the process currently stands at, city hall to Mayor Borell, to the railroad, and to the fire chiefs for personnel management. This will change when the railroad returns the call to Mayor Borell with the current contact.

### **2021 Wages and Health Insurance**

Administrator Hille brought to the attention of City Council that we over-budgeted for health insurance, she thought due to employees complaining of wages we could use this surplus to give employees a wage increase of 4%. Council was interested in seeing the money being used for capital projects, or the sidewalk plow. Discussion was on what it could be used for. Mayor Todd stated that everyone should have time to think on it, and that we can come back to it on March. The main discussion was it was a hard year for everyone, and that we should be using the money on other items as it is public money.

### **Other Business**

Council member Geyen brought up our policy on past councilmembers who pass away, and wondering if we send cards. Sabrina mentioned we can have a card for a recent passing of a councilmember for Thursday that everyone can sign. There is not a set policy in place, but typically a card is sent and flowers depending on the member of the family.

Mayor Borell mentioned that now that the grain elevator is down, to keep an eye on it to make sure that it gets boarded up still as it is still unsafe. Sabrina stated she will reach out to Wade to

make sure it is boarded up to make sure the area is safe. He also mentioned that the owner was hoping to bring another grain bin on that lot. And council was hoping eventually the equipment will be relocated.

**Adjournment**

*A motion, m/s/p. Haack/Fondurulia to adjourn the Maple Lake City Council Workshop at 7:56 pm.*

*Motion passed.*

Attest,

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer