

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The City of Maple Lake City Council Workshop 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; Scott Qualle, MNspect

**MNSPECT**

Scott Qualle the president and building official at MNspect to share about the services they provide as a company. Scott mentioned that they also do nuisance code enforcement, which could be done with building official duties. City Council would be able to dictate how much time they would spend on nuisance code enforcement. Scott mentioned the idea of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code for the city, this would have specific items for property owners to abide by. MNspect is able to do all plumbing permits internally, which avoids having to go to the state for issuance, saving time for contractors. Another service they provide is Rental Ordinance inspections and enforcement. Council had questions on existing properties, what the change over would look like, and brought up problem situations they would hope would be enforced differently. Council would like to see the International Property Maintenance Code as well as a proposal from MNspect on their services and costs. Scott will get that information to Sabrina and she will share it with council.

**LEAF BURNING**

City Council was looking at banning leaf burning from now on and not allow burn barrels to be used. Discussion came to why the specifics of the size needs to be defined. There was also discussion about what can be burned, and how that will change or disrupt residents. The city has the new compost site that can be used, and they will also offer a fall pick up of leaves. Geyen wanted to make sure enough notification went out to residents so they are aware of the change. Social Media will be used to share the information, as well as the Messenger, our website and utility bills. Council would want this at the March council meeting so people are aware before the

April 1<sup>st</sup> date that allows for leaf burning. City Council hopes to have warnings issued in the beginning to educate the public on the change in ordinance. Council member Geyen and Logas and Mayor Borell stressed that this was due to the health risks that burning leaves causes for the public.

### **NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

Council member Haack went through the current Nuisance Ordinance and made comments on parts he felt should be changed. He had his comments and gave Howard Lake's and Annandale's current nuisance ordinance for comparison. Haack's main concern was the ability for the city to assess the full amount of the abate cost back on the property owner, he was concerned as this was done to him in the past. City Attorney Anderson spoke in to remind council that they should not be discussing council member Haack's property; and if Haack has a personal issue with the ordinance he needs to recuse himself as a councilmember and make a complaint as a resident. Haack asked City Attorney regarding a recent supreme court ruling that limited the amount the city can assess back to the property owner, Dave was unaware of a change as it was not noted in the state statutes. Council member Fondurulia stated to Haack that he can not make a change on the ordinance to help his property, and that he sees no issue with the current ordinance. Mayor Borell said that he sees nothing that needs to be changed, and that Haack is motivated for his own personal being not for the residents and businesses of Maple Lake. Mayor Borell said that if John wants to bring it to a vote at the next meeting he can, otherwise they will move on to the next agenda item.

### **TRAIN CROSSING PROCEDURE**

Mayor Borell said he got a hold of the Canadian Pacific Police, which handles concerns and complaints regarding the train in town. They are working to begin notification from the police to contact Wright County dispatch to notify Steve Peterson the fire chief, not through the pagers but to get a medical bag on the other side of the tracks. Issues with the train will be sent to the Canadian Pacific Railroad Police to make sure notification is given to emergency services.

### **2021 HEALTH INSURANCE SURPLUS**

Administrator brought up that at the last workshop they discussed how to spend the surplus for health insurance that was budgeted. Hille said since the sidewalk plow was already budgeted for, and the quote to redo sidewalks came in higher than budgeted she suggested to allocated the funds to the sidewalks. The sidewalks would then get a full re-mill and seal which would fix the

issues currently present. This is looking at the trail to Ney Park

### **LAKERS IRISH STADIUM USER AGREEMENT**

Last fall specifically with COVID regulations, City Attorney Anderson recommended that we put in place a user agreement with the Maple Lake Lakers for use of Irish Stadium since it is city property. This would make sure that especially with alcohol involved the city is not liable for actions done by a private group. Council discussed potential other groups that we might need user agreements with. Staff will reach out to the Softball Association as they also serve alcohol, those users are the higher priority for the city at this time. Council would like to get this approved for use with the Maple Lake Lakers.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Administrator Hille had the current Social Media Policy for council to look at. She recommended updating it since it was written in 2015, and social media has significantly changed since then. She recommends using the League of Minnesota Cities Sample Model Policy for it. There is a section that can be added that includes council members, but since council members are not considered employees of the city, it is difficult to do that. Council should review the sample policy and there can be discussion on how the city will move forward. Council member Geyen stated that everyone needs to remember that they are public figures and that everyone is watching, so you need to be conscious of your actions and words. Council member Fondurulia also stated that although it is good to be smart on social media, someone will always have an issue to what you post and you will not please everyone.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Council member Geyen wanted to bring up a discussion about how we can honor and support the Buffalo community after the events and also help out the current residents that were affected by the tragic event. She was wondering if they should send a card or do a proclamation from the city to show support. Council member Logas shared she was hoping to start a fundraiser for the family if they get a dog to install an Invisible Fence. Her son currently works there and they would be able to help, as the dad was hoping to get a puppy for the kids during this difficult time. Council members were interested in helping out on this. Fondurulia offered to do a pig roast fundraiser for the family.

Randy's Sanitation contract with the city will be up this May, and staff wanted to make sure that

council is still interested in using Randy's as the provider for Maple Lake. They will be at the March 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting to present on the contract renewal. They will include document shredding and furniture disposal at our annual clean up days as part of our contract. They also will give information on the fall clean up option they provide.

Geyen brought up the idea of doing a safety training and active shooter plan for all city staff and council. Hille stated that she has already contacted Wright County Sheriff's and they will be helping us with a plan and making recommendations for the spaces. They also visited the Liquor Store to do the same. Soon they will giving the city more information and recommendations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion, m/s/p, Logas/Geyen, to adjourn the City Council Workshop at 8:36 pm. Motion passed.*

Attest,

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer