

Owatonna City Council Minutes

The Owatonna City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Council Members Schultz, Raney, Voss, Svenby, Boeke, Dotson and Burbank; Community Development Director Klecker; Parks & Rec Director Tuma; Finance Director Moen; Police Chief Hiller; Fire Chief Hoffman; Mayor Kuntz; City Attorney Walbran; City Administrator Busse; and Administrative Specialist Clawson.

Agenda

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council President Schultz welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised two items have been removed, Item 2.5.1, Architectural Plans for a Storage Building, and Item 3.4.3 Event Permit for Food Truck on Sundays. Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve the agenda with these items removed, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members voted aye for approval.

Public Hearing – Proposed Assessments – Delinquent Snow Removal Fees

City Administrator Busse advised 11 invoices are unpaid for snow removal services done last winter. Property owners received statements, publication and notices were sent advising assessments were proposed against their property for these unpaid services. The total amount to be assessed is \$1,159.20. At 7:05 p.m., a public hearing was opened for comments on these proposed assessments. With no comments heard, at 7:06 p.m., Council Member Raney made a motion to close the public hearing, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

City Administrator Busse requested approval of Resolution 80-21 to adopt the proposed Assessments for the Delinquent Snow Removal Fees setting repayment over a one-year period with a three (3) percent interest fee added. Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve Resolution 80-21, Council member Voss seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Mayor Kuntz

Mayor Kuntz proclaimed the week of September 17 through 23, 2021 as Constitution Week. September 17th will be the 234th anniversary date of drafting the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Conventions. Activities planned will help citizens better understand the provisions and principles contained in the constitution to effectively support, preserve, and defend against all enemies.

Mayor Kuntz presented a Letter of Resignation received from Fifth Ward OPU Commissioner Dena Kielman. Council Member Raney made a motion to accept her resignation; Council Member Dotson seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval. Advertisement will be made to fulfill this unexpired term set to expire April 30, 2024.

Mayor Kuntz made recommended approval of the following Board/Commission Members:

Airport Commission:

Angela Lipelt to serve a term which expires April 30, 2024.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority) HRA:

Hussein Osman to fulfill term which will expire April 30, 2022.

Planning Commission – Member-at-Large:

David Effertz to fulfill term which expires April 30, 2022.

Fire Civil Service Commission & Fire Code Board of Appeals:

Paul Smith to fulfill term set to expire April 30, 2024.

Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve these appointment recommendations, Council Member Svenby second the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Consent Agenda

Council President Schultz explained council members review Consent Agenda items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

Minutes - Council Meeting – August 17, 2021.

Minutes – OPU Commission Meeting – July 27, 2021.

Minutes – EDA Meeting – August 18, 2021.

Minutes – Planning Commission Meeting – August 24, 2021.

Minutes – Park Board Meeting – August 9, 2021.

Monthly Activity Report and Dashboard – Fire Department.

Exempt Permit – Raffle - Open Arms Suicide Prevention – September 11, 2021.

Event Permit – North Bluff Block Party – September 11, 2021.

Change Order #1 – WWTF Biogas & Site Improvement Project – Magney Construction, Inc.

\$3,744.36 increase – to remove a portion of an existing cleanout and add piping and a clean-out in the garage and change route of the 6’ gas piping to the Waste Gas Burner to avoid the Electrical panel.

Change Order #1 – West Bridge Street Project – BCM Construction, Inc.

\$84,229.13 – replace 48” CMP culvert and relocation of 16” watermain

Change Order #2 – West Bridge Street Project – BCM Construction, Inc.

-\$2,000 – monetary deduction for failure to complete work specified in time allowed.

Change Order #3 – Truman Avenue Project – Northland Grading and Excavating.

\$62,872.45 – increase amount of 1-1/2” stabilizing aggregate for aggregate base & reconnection of new water service system.

New T-Hangar Agreement – Paul Stanton.

Renew Four T-Hangar Agreements – Mike Powell, Jim VanReeth (2) and Becky Wolfe.

Council Member Voss made a motion to approve these Consent Agenda Items; Council Member Svenby seconded the motion; all members voted aye for approval.

Finance Report

Vice President Raney recapped expenses for the period. Bills presented for payment totaled \$1,971,809.22. Council Member Burbank made a motion to approve payment of these bills, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye for approval.

Ordinance 21-10: Adjust Elected Official’s Salaries

City Administrator Busse requested approval of Proposed Ordinance 21-10 authorizing \$300/month increases in the City’s Elected Officials salaries. Monthly salary amounts proposed:

Mayor	\$1,200
Council President	\$1,150
Council Vice-President	\$1,100
Council Members (not President or Vice-President)	\$1,000

Council approved the first reading of this proposed ordinance during the August 2, 2021, Meeting and there have been no changes since. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve Proposed Ordinance 21-10; Council Member Burbank seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were members: Raney, Svenby, Voss, Boeke, Burbank, Dotson, and Schultz; no members voted nay, the motion carried. This will be known as Ordinance 1623 effective January 1, 2023, State Statute requires changes in elected official's salaries becomes effective January 1st after the next General Election which will be November 2022.

Ordinance 21-11: Vacate Portion of Maple Leaf Lane NE and Easements within Maple Creek Estates No. 2

Community Development Director Klecker presented the first reading of Proposed Ordinance 21-11 for request received from Craig Wahl and Schrom Construction to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way and utility easements within the Maple Creek Estates No. 2 Development as they wish to replat and develop this area. The existing house on the site was previously platted in the right-of-way and the applicant proposes to vacate and shorten the cul-de-sac to place this home on a private lot and easements that are not needed are being vacated. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommend approval of this ordinance. The second reading will coincide with the final plat for this development will include numerous new easements to accommodate the sewer line and storm drainage needed. Council Member Voss made a motion to approve Proposed Ordinance 21-11, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were members: Svenby, Voss, Dotson, Burbank, Boeke, Raney and Schultz; no members voted nay; the motion carried. The second/final reading of Proposed Ordinance 21-11 will be heard at a future meeting with consideration of the Final Plat for this development.

Resolution 81-21: Set Date for Public Hearing to Establish Development District 17 and Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District 17-1 – 224 Cedar Ave N

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of Resolution 81-21 setting a public hearing on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, to consider establishment of Development District 17 and TIF District 17-1. The City has received a Purchase Agreement for the former Bubba's Bar building at 224 North Cedar Avenue from Oscar and Tammy Mazariago. They plan to renovate this building for a wine lounge; renovations would consist of 3 phases with the main floor of the building being completed first. This Purchase agreement is contingent on tax increment financing being approved for their project. TIF would be used to pay the City \$225,000 for the property, this amount represents the amount of money the City has put into the property up to this point. Any remaining TIF would assist the purchaser with TIF eligible renovation costs. This would be a Redevelopment TIF District which can last up to a maximum of 25 years. They hope to open next summer when the downtown hotel will be completed. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve Resolution 81-21, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Proposed 2022 Levies and Budget Discussion

City Administrator Busse commented overview of the 2022 proposed budget was presented to Council on August 17th which is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan. Tonight, three resolutions are needed to set the proposed levies and budget; these resolutions were prepared using a proposed levy increase of 9.75%; however, Busse suggested we may need to bump this up to 9.95%. We have

enjoyed growth over the last three to four years and did not raise the levy to be over that growth. We want to make Owatonna an even greater place to live, and there are investments to make in amenities to continue to support additional growth.

Finance Director Moen advised the City's current year estimated tax capacity growth rate is 6.2%. Cumulatively, from 2020 to 2022, this growth has been 21% and the levy increase 18%. The total proposed levy includes the City levy of \$15,127,323 and \$190,000 each for the EDA and HRA levies. Council will receive detailed presentations from Department directors in September and October during Council Study Sessions. The final levy amounts and budget will be presented on December 7th at 6:00 p.m.. Council can approve a final levy amount that is lower but not greater than the proposed levy amount approved tonight.

Council Member Dotson asked to confirm if the estimated growth rate value received from the Steele County Assessor was a change in Tax Capacity or was an increase in Property Valuation. Moen responded the County Assessor's 6.29% increase was 40% new construction and the balance was changes in property valuations. Property Valuation adjustments seem to lag a year behind as they are certified on July 1st so recent changes, are not used in next year tax calculations.

Council Member Raney commented he recommends setting the proposed levy at 9.95% to allow additional further discussion prior to final approval when it can be lowered if needed.

Council Member Svenby commented he prefers setting the proposed levy lower than the 9.75% presented. We have seen increases in Tax Capacity and managed with the lower levy amount, anticipate the approved amount will be lower than the presented 9.75% but would like to see the proposed amount similar to the growth rate between six and seven percent.

Council President Schultz commented last year the levy was lowered because of uncertainty because of the COVID-19 Pandemic but we need to catch up on some things that should be done.

Council Member Svenby commented many are struggling coming out of the pandemic, costs are increasing, and some are out of unemployment, so he hopes to keep the proposed levy amount low.

Council Member Dotson commented he has some long term concerns as it seems we are in a bubble which will eventually pop. We will have to make some tough choices and cuts where we can. Staff has done a good job, but additional cuts should be made in staffing/personnel costs; they seem small but over time they accumulate so I agree with Council Member Svenby and want the Proposed Levy amount lowered.

Council Member Raney commented that just tonight Council received the first of the department presentations of their proposed budget during the Council Study Session. This was first opportunity for line item discussion and setting the proposed levy at 9.95% allows two to three months for Council to look at everything in detail and then make determination of what the Final Levy amount will be.

Resolution 84-21: Proposed 2022 Levy

Council member Raney made a motion to set the Proposed Levy amount at 9.95%. Council Member Boeke commented he agreed this allows opportunity to review and reduce as needed and seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Raney, Boeke, and Schultz; voting no were Council Members Svenby, Dotson, Voss, and Burbank; the motion failed.

Council Member Dotson commented he would support setting the Proposed Levy amount as proposed in the information received, 9.75%. Council Member Burbank commented he would prefer setting at 10% because it is easier to understand and not mask information to the public.

Council Member Voss made a motion to approve Resolution 84-21 setting the Proposed 2022 Levy at 9.75%, Council Member Raney seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Voss, Dotson, Boeke, Raney and Schultz; voting no were Council Members Svenby and Burbank, the motion carried.

Resolution 82-21: Proposed 2022 HRA Levy

Council Member Burbank made a motion to approve Resolution 82-21 setting the Proposed HRA Levy at \$190,000. Council Member Raney seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 83-21: Proposed 2022 Budget

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve Resolution 83-21 approving the proposed 2022 Budget for Final Budget adoption in December. Council Member Raney seconded the motion; all members voting the motion was approved by majority vote.

Resolution 85-21: Authorization to Execute FAA Grant Agreement – Construct 10-Unit T-Hangar and Taxi-lanes, Phase 2 of 2

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of Resolution 85-21 authorizing the acceptance of the FAA grant agreement for the airport T-Hangar and Taxi-lane Project. This project includes the construction phase of a ten unit T-Hangar building and access taxi-lane which will increase the revenue generating capacity of our City's airport. The airport currently has three ten unit T-hangar buildings. The development is identified on the approved airport Master Plan and increases capacity to accommodate existing and projected growth. At the May 4, 2021 City Council meeting the low bid was accepted and award of contract approved for this work contingent on securing the required federal grant and associated grant funding documents. The FAA grant agreement is for 90% funding participation as well as additional funding from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for all eligible project costs. There were four bids received for this project with the lowest responsible bidder being Everstrong Construction of Redwood Falls, MN. The Airport Commission has reviewed the scope of the project including specifications, timing, and funding plan and recommends approval. The grant offer is for \$1,638,033.00 for all eligible project costs including engineering, construction, and administrative costs as follows:

FAA Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE) Funding:	\$1,474,230.00
ARPA Funding:	<u>163,803.00</u>
FAA Funding Grant:	\$1,638,033.00

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve Resolution 85-21 accepting this FAA Grant, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 86-21: Authorization to Execute MnDOT Grant Agreement – 1-ton Utility Vehicle

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of Resolution 86-21 authorizing acceptance of a MnDOT Grant Agreement for a one-ton utility Vehicle. The acquisition of a new one-ton utility vehicle with plow and spreader is recommended by the fleet manager to replace existing depreciated equipment. The equipment is used as a utility vehicle for airport maintenance, inspection, and snow removal. This replaces the existing 1999 vehicle that will be retained by the street department. The grant agreement for the new vehicle is for 70% funding participation. The existing 1999 vehicle was purchased utilizing 60% MnDOT funding. Therefore, the new grant offer includes a calculated reduction based on the original state funding percentage rate and the existing vehicles current value. This results in overall MnDOT grant participation in the new vehicle at 63%. The grant offer is for \$50,902.90 representing 63% state funding participation for all eligible project costs. The city share of all project costs is anticipated to be \$29,894 budgeted for in the airport and street department vehicle replacement funds. Council Member Voss made a motion to approve Resolution 86-21 accepting this MnDOT Grant, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 87-21: Preliminary Plat – Turtle Creek Addition

Council President Schultz recused himself as he is applicant for this new plat, Council Member Raney took over the meeting.

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval Resolution 87-21 to approve the Preliminary Plat of the Turtle Creek Addition, a two lot commercial plat located at 490 & 496 West North Street. The applicant was approved for a minor PUD in 1997 to allow for the tow building to be constructed on one lot. Now, they request to split the lot to allow them to allow them option to sell the buildings separately in the future. Staff is researching the sanitary sewer services for the properties to confirm they are two separate services, this will be confirmed prior to Final plat approval. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request, they were advised these properties are not currently for sale. The Planning Commission is recommending approval with the following conditions:

1. The Final Plat shall be approved within one year of the date of approval of the Preliminary Plat.
2. The Title Opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the Final Plat.
3. A joint Parking, Access, and Maintenance Easement Agreement will need to be recorded with the Final Plat.
4. A joint easement will be needed for the gas and electric services as approved by Owatonna Public Utilities.
5. A joint Drainage and Utility Easement will be needed for the storm sewer that is located on the north side of the site and any storm water that may use that pipe.
6. Sanitary sewer services shall be located for each building prior to the approval of the Final Plat.

Council Member Voss made a motion to approve Resolution 87-21 as recommended by the Planning Commission, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Council President Schultz returned to his seat on the dais to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Resolution 88-21: Preliminary Plat – Maple Creek Estate No. 3

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval Resolution 87-21 for approval of the Preliminary Plat of Maple Creek Estate No. 3. Request from Schrom Construction for a Preliminary Plat of Maple Creek Estates No. 3, a 7 lot single-family residential replat of a portion of Maple Creek Estates No. 2. The applicant plans to develop the remainder of this area and will shorten the cul-de-sac to allow the existing house to be located on its own lot. The developer will construct the necessary street and utility improvements needed to build on these lots in the future. Requesting vacation of a portion of the street and some of the utility easements. All necessary easements will be rededicated as needed for the new plat. A storm water pond will be constructed on the west side of the development between the creek and the end of the cul-de-sac behind future homes. This pond is required for the development. The applicant is leaving the right-of-way connection that was platted previously to Walker Drive to provide a future second connection out of this subdivision once the Hills Acres development is annexed. There is not a timeline of when this area would possibly be annexed. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request and two adjoining property owners express concern about stormwater and the impact this will have on the surrounding properties. The property will have an approved stormwater plan and there will be a stormwater pond and have specified type of houses that can be built. The Planning Commission is recommending approval with these conditions:

- 1) The Final Plat shall be approved within one year of the date of approval of the Preliminary Plat.
- 2) The Title Opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the Final Plat.
- 3) The developer shall enter into a development agreement with the City prior to recording of the Final Plat.
- 4) The City Engineer's comments shall be addressed prior to the Final Plat.
- 5) All comments from the Water Quality Specialist shall be adhered to.
- 6) The cul-de-sac shall have a minimum of a 96' wide turning radius as required by the Fire Department.

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve Resolution 88-21 as recommended by the Planning Commission, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Accept Bids & Award Contract: HVAC Rooftop Unit Replacement at West Hills Social Commons

Park & Rec Director Tuma requested approval to accept the bid received from Owatonna Heating and Cooling to replace the HVAC Rooftop Unit at the West Hills Social Commons. The air heating and cooling units have exceeded their life cycle and need replacement. This is the first of three units to be replaced, the other units are slated for replacement in 2023 and 2024. Owatonna Heating and Cooling has completed previous work for the City with positive results. The \$16,940.00 bid includes

removal, crane, curb adaptor, rooftop unit, and thermostat. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve this bid and award contract to Owatonna Heating and Cooling, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Facility Use Agreement: West Hills Gym – Owatonna Wrestling Association

Park & Rec Director Tuma requested approval to renew the Facility Use Agreement with the Owatonna Wrestling Association at the West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center for one year. Last year, an agreement was made for use from September 2020 through August 31, 2021 to use space in the Fitness Center. This was during the COVID-19 pandemic when the building had limited use. They used the gymnasium and the activity room for wrestling practices and meets. They are requesting to renew the lease for another year for similar activities. This agreement would be in effect for one year (September 2021 – August 2022). It provides the Wrestling Association use of the gymnasium and activity room on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm and three additional Friday and Saturday dates for camps or instructional meetings, they are not to hold any tournaments or meets. The additional three Friday and Saturday dates will be requested and approved by the Recreation Manager later. The agreement includes use by the wrestling association of two small storage spaces within the activity room for mat storage. The mats will be rolled up and stored on one side of each room when not in use providing space for other activity. This agreement does not give the wrestling association exclusive use of the gymnasium or activity room. Those spaces are available for other renters and/or city to offer programs during times not listed in the agreement. The City will receive \$7,200 in rental revenue over the agreement period. By having an agreement, the city will save money because it eliminates the need to staff the building during the wrestling association's scheduled use as they will utilize the key card access. Council Member Raney made a motion for approval, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

Extend Right-of-Way Permit: Benike Construction

City Administrator Busse requested authorization for Public Works to extend Right of Way Permit 2021-61: Benike Construction Dumpster Permit. Permits for dumpsters located within the City Right of Way are valid for 2 weeks upon issuance with a 2-week extension period. Benike Construction is doing a renovation project in the Federated Office Building at 121 E Park Square in the downtown area and have requested an additional extension of their permit. It is proposed that the dumpster remain in the City Right of Way on the corner of E Broadway and N Elm for the duration of the project which will be late winter 2021/early spring 2022. The location of the dumpster has been identified as the safest and most direct route out of the building. Permit holder acknowledges that the area around the dumpster must be maintained, and that snow removal is their responsibility. Benike Construction has paid a total of \$200 for Right of Way Permits related to this project. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve this permit extension, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Police Chief Hiller: Our Annual Report has been delayed because of state data but should be out soon. We have been working with our Human Resources department to hire and promote officers; there will be an Officer Swearing-In Ceremony during the next Council meeting. This week, we received the first audit completed with body worn cameras, this transition has been pretty seamless and has been working well so looking forward to that report.

Fire Chief Hoffman: We are currently hiring Paid-on-Call Fire fighters as we are trying to get more community members involved, applications will be accepted until the end of September. I am continuing to look at our process of inspections for improvements. On October 5th, I plan to bring an amended contract for the Rural Fire Fighter's Associations, the current contract includes an incorrect townships listing. As the City's Safety Coordinator, I am looking at our policy and procedures to confirm if any updates needed. State Statute requires an update by entities once every four years in the Emergency Operations Plan; Steele County owns the agreement which the City is part of so working with the County for this update. Currently looking at some grants offered for training opportunities for hazmat concerns. The Fire Fighters Association hosts the Annual Chili/Wild Rice Soup Event and currently not sure if they will hold one this year. They are looking to see how the county fairs and state fair were attended; many cities are canceling these types of events. The Association's Secretary indicated they are leaning to canceling the 2021 event, but no final decision made yet.

Parks & Recreation and Governmental Buildings & Grounds Manager Tuma: Staff will be trimming trees in Central Park. The Central Park Fountain will be repainted this fall and currently looking at the best way to source this out. Mosquito spraying starts tonight and will cover all of the city within the next few days. The play equipment at Lake Kohlmer will be removed on Tuesday, September 21st during Lowe's Red Vest Volunteer Day. River Spring Water Park was well attended this year and set a new Attendance Record. Previous record was set in 2015 at 30,724 and this year was 35,021. Brooktree Golf Course has also been very busy this year, the number of memberships has gone up, but the number of rounds played has been down this year. The contract for Food and Beverages Services at Brooktree will expire this year, we were recently advised Viz and Cosh, LLC does not plan to renew this contract so we want to thank Tom for his services over the last three years and we will begin reevaluating contract options for these services. The project at Firehall hasn't been progressing as fast as hoped but it is getting done. They have been working on tuck pointing the building, a new roof on the front bell area, and some wooden beams need to be replaced in the bell tower, they hope to have this project complete by October 30th. The roof on the pavilion at Morehouse has been replaced. Staff is building enclosure for dumpsters at the Carpenter Shop, West Hills, and the Social Commons. We just received the Park Foreman's new truck.

Community Development Director Klecker: During 2021, we have issued 25 new single family home permits and two more are pending, last year in September we were at 20 permits issued. We previously had a large inventory of lots available in town; but, that number has decreased and anticipate we will see some requests to annex areas for new housing development. One of our priorities was to use the land we have available which have services to meet this infill to minimize

sprawl as much as possible, so this has been good to see. He gave a brief update on projects currently under construction:

Eastgate Apartments: Working to complete the second and third floors, they hope to have done by the end of October so they can open during the first part of November.

Mound Street Apartments: Also at the finishing stages, hard surface parking lot, will be open in September.

Owatonna Glass: Structure enclosed, plumbing in and concrete floor poured.

Morton Building: All enclosed and interior office framing completed.

Pearl Street Apartments: Underground plumbing in, walls up for the third floor; there is one more floor and roof to add.

Owatonna Bagel: Framing and dry wall complete for interior walls.

Downtown Hotel: Waiting for delivery of steel which should be next week so they can start to frame the structure.

Raven: will be putting on a 30,000 square foot addition to their building in the Industrial Park. Council Member Burbank asked for an update on the former Centre Campesino property; Director Klecker advised the closing was completed last week and staff will begin the process to clean-up the property. There is a lot of work to be done and some things to salvage so anticipate this will be a drawn out process. Will also be working with the neighboring property owner for an easement so it may be late fall/early winter to complete the demolition of the structure.

Council Member Raney asked for a follow-up to prior discussion on property at 124 N Cedar Avenue, Director Klecker responded a Limited Use Agreement is being prepared for Council consideration at the next Council Meeting. City Administrator Busse added Police Chief Hiller advised he did not have any objection to this proposal, so an agreement is being prepared for Council consideration

Finance Director Moen: Finance has been working to finalize the ERP Contract which will also be presented to Council during the next meeting. Staff is trying to keep things in line as we will be busy with implementation of the new ERP over the next nine months.

Council Member Raney asked if staff member could comment on recent Low bridge accidents, what challenges or comments have these drivers made? Police Chief Hiller commented the drivers are always shocked. A recent accident is a good reminder that when operating tall vehicles on the roadway, the drivers need to be attentive to height restrictions. Signs are posted and now there is a huge yellow sign posted on the overhead railroad bridge, the bridges aren't going to move for traffic.

Council Member Dotson asked City Administrator Busse to comment on removal of the stop sign at the intersection of Havana Road and Lincoln Avenue. City Administrator Busse commented several council members received some phone calls about removal of various stop signs. These changes were approved by Council after a Traffic Study was completed and considered. The study recommendation, after policing and a number of factors, was to remove these signs. Mayor Kuntz commented he has also received several calls about the Havana/Lincoln intersection, but the number of calls he received has decreased over the last week and suggested that if calls continue, we may want to rethink the change at this intersection or consider adding a flashing pedestrian crossing sign. Council Member

Burbank added, it might be advisable to consider changing the speed limit to 20 mph on Lincoln Avenue where there are two busy intersections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Annie Granlund, Associate Editor of the Owatonna People's Press commented people have been unhappy the paper merged with Faribault news over the last several years but beginning tomorrow, we will be separating from Faribault and the paper will be back to the Owatonna People's Press. This was a goal she hoped to accomplish when she was promoted to her current position and glad this is being done.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Raney commented he had been disappointed in the direction the paper went and very excited to see the Owatonna Peoples Press will be back. Also, believe there was a lot of good information that we saw/heard at the CGMC Summer Conference.

Mayor Kuntz commented Steele County had a good fair this year, it was nice to see the people, rides, and activities.

Council President Schultz added school is now open and reminded everyone to look out for the little ones out walking.

Adjournment

At 8:26 p.m., Council Member Raney made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Dated: September 20, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist