

MAPLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2007 – Minutes

The Maple Lake City Council was called to order at 7.04 p.m. by Mayor Messina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geyen, Kelly, Messina, and Northenscold.

ABSENT: Dircks.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Rhonda Pagel, City Engineer Jeremy Mathiason, and Deputy Clerk Lee Ann Yager.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made/seconded/passed, (m/s/p), Kelly/Northenscold, to approve the agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was m/s/p, Kelly/Geyen, to approve the Consent Agenda including Approval of the May 15, 2007 Minutes; Approval of Disbursement List #07-11 and #LS06-05-07.

New Business

2006 Audit

Amy Stahlback of Kern, DeWenter, Viere was present and gave a presentation regarding the 2006 Audited Financial Statements. Stahlback stated that the General Fund increased by 12%. Stahlback also reviewed the enterprise funds. Stahlback reported that some of the recommendations made by her firm are being implemented. Hrubby is working with the State on TIF Districts. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Kelly, to approve the Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

Char Lien – Ramsey Lake Heights – Annexation

Char Lien of Ramsey Lake Heights questioned the council on when they would be able to get sewer service since the city has won the appeal for the new sewer plant. Some residents are questioning if they should be putting in new septic systems or wait for city sewer service. Messina stated annexation takes a petition with 51% approval of the property owners in the subdivision; this would be the starting point, but it is up to the city to approve or disapprove the annexation. It is an advantage to have city sewer & water, but owners must realize their taxes will go up along with the cost of the improvements assessed to them. Our current ordinances states that we don't want to annex if we can't service the property. Mathiasen will look at the costs of projects in other areas to give them a range of costs.

Brad Miller – Stearns Fitness LLC – Sign

Brad Miller addressed the council on a proposed 65 square foot sign for a Snap Fitness which will be utilizing 2 of the units in the Maple Lake Retail Center on Highway 55, next to Subway. The Planning Commission is beginning the process of updating the Sign Ordinance. The sign company recommends that a larger sign be put on 1 unit rather than splitting between the 2 units. Our current ordinance is vague where there are multiple tenants. It could be determined that the entire area is 1 premises which would allow 40 square feet of signage, or 2 premises which would allow 80 square feet of signage. If it is viewed as 1 premise, a variance would be required. Pagel stated there could be an understanding that the city would not enforce the size limitation until the sign ordinance is complete. The sign would

not be grandfathered in because it would be an illegal use. The council took a 5 minute recess and reconvened at 8:13 p.m. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Kelly to view the Snap Fitness site as 2 premises, so no sign variance would be required, Northenscold voted no.

Dick Anderson – Apartment Rentals

Dick Anderson of 516 Oak Avenue South addressed the council about a letter he received from the city on apartment rentals in the R-1 Zoning District, which is a violation of the Zoning Ordinance. Anderson stated he has someone in the basement that he charges \$350 per month room & board. There is no separate entrance or cooking facilities. He has someone living upstairs that does have an outside entrance, but pays no rent. Neither space has legal egress windows. Pagel stated that the city must take action since we are in knowledge of a direct violation. A motion was m/s/p, Messina/Kelly, to have the tenant in the attic vacate the premises and comply with the ordinance for boarding of rooms and meet the building code requirements for egress windows by July 15, 2007.

Hansen Welding

The meeting closed at 8:44 p.m. under the attorney-client privilege exception to the open meeting law to discuss pending litigation regarding Hanson Welding. It reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

Old Business/Directive

None

Administrative Issues

Upcoming council meetings will be July 10, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.; July 31, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., special meeting on August 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., and August 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. We will be eliminating the August 7th meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was m/s/p, Northenscold/Kelly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Attest,

Deputy Clerk