MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 24, 2021

Mayor Shawn Reinke opened the Public Forum at 5:45 p.m. Bill Fuchs was in attendance and relayed that he thought the process for the Shoreland Overlay Variance, in which a public hearing and final discussions were held later during the council meeting, was cumbersome and difficult to understand. Council Member Jean Soine stated that she is positive that the restrictions are implemented by the DNR.

Mayor Shawn Reinke called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Jean Soine, Megan Brick, Paul Thielen, and Neil Herzberg. Others present were Tariq Al-Rifai, City Administrator (via Zoom); Ron Mergen, Public Works Director/Airport Manager; Bill Spooner, City Attorney with Spooner & Glenz; Chuck DeWolf, City Engineer with Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Paul Wegner, Police Chief; Kristin Leither, Social Media Specialist; Bill Fuchs, Lance Louis, Logan Louis, Brian Savage, Doreen Miller, and Dennis LacQuay (via Zoom).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council members gave verbal activity reports.

Mergen gave a Public Works Department report that included:

- Paynesville High School's Landscaping class volunteered to help plant flowers in the planters downtown
- The splash pad, fishing pier, and RV dump are all open
- FAA did their 503 inspection at the airport
- On Thursday, Jay Thompson will bring a few of his classes for a tour of the water and waste treatment facilities
- Several manholes downtown need mending and bypass pumping is necessary which will leave some hoses laying around the area starting around the second week of June
- The irrigation system has been started for getting rid of waste water due to the dry weather conditions

Wegner gave a Police Department report that included:

- Some residents have expressed concern about semi-trailers being kept in residential districts; there is an ordinance against it and the individual has until August 1st to remove it. Wegner and the other officers have been working with the individual and nearby property owners for the past week to resolve the situation.
- Some complaints have come in about parking on sidewalks; Wegner reminded everyone that vehicles need to be off the sidewalk even when in your driveway
- There has been an increase in mental health and chemical dependency cases in town; Wegner has been in contact with Stearns County and CentraCare and will be reaching out to state and federal representatives to start a conversation about this issue
- The golf tournament has been cancelled this year; however, rest of the programs should happen as scheduled
- Starting next Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the chief will have bi-monthly meetings at Firehouse Coffee were people can come and ask questions and discuss issues in an informal setting

Al-Rifai discussed the meetings he attended since the last Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the minutes from the following meetings: February 10, 2021 Policies & Procedures Board, April 12, 2021 Public Works Board, April 20, 2021 Special City Council Community Working Session, and April 20, 2021 Special City Council Working Session.

Motion to approve the following vouchers:

5/12/2021	Voucher	102892	$ 5,000.00
5/20/2021	Payroll Checks	102893-102897	$ 4,446.72
5/20/2021	Payroll Direct Deposit		$ 27,396.83
5/20/2021	Payroll Taxes	102898-102900	$ 2,172.72
5/20/2021	Payroll - Fed		$ 8,616.75
5/20/2021	Payroll - State		$ 1,724.84
5/20/2021	Payroll - TASC		$ 226.90
5/20/2021	Payroll - PERA		$ 8,388.90
5/20/2021	Payroll - Further		$ 2,217.68
5/20/2021	Payroll - Health Partners		$ 5,147.46
5/20/2021	Payroll - AFLAC		$ 245.06
5/20/2021	Payroll - Delta Dental		$ 203.40
5/20/2021	Payroll - Lincoln		$ 948.59
5/24/2021	Vouchers	102901-102971	$ 392,719.92
		Total	$ 459,455.77

Motion to approve the resignation of Tom Fread, Police Officer effective close of business May 31, 2021 according to the terms of the agreement between Tom Fread and the City of Paynesville and authorizing the City Administrator to sign the agreement.

Motion to approve the sale of K9 Jerry to Tom Fread in the amount of $4,000.00.

Motion was made by Soine to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Herzberg and unanimously carried.

VARIANCE REQUEST – LOUIS PROPERTIES LLC & QUAD-L PARTNERSHIP

The City has received a Variance Application from Louis Properties, LLC and Quad-L Partnership to allow the construction of a building which would pass over lot lines, therefore, not meeting lot line setbacks and requiring a Variance from the requirements of City Code Chapter 36, Section 36-48 and applicable to this particular property; specifically, Section 36-48 which provides front, side and rear setback requirements in a Light Industrial District.
Louis Properties, LLC, is currently the owner of Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, Quad-L Partnership is currently the owner of Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, Louis Properties, LLC, is currently the owner of Outlet A, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, all of the described parcels are located at 222 Industrial Loop West, Paynesville, MN. The properties are more particularly described as:

Parcel Number 70.39242.0026, which parcel is legally described as:

Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Louis Properties, LLC;
Parcel Number 70.39242.0029, which parcel is legally described as:
Lot 11, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Quad-L Partnership;
Parcel Number 70.39242.0030, which parcel is legally described as:
Lot 12, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Quad-L Partnership;
Parcel Number 70.39242.0031, which parcel is legally described as:
Lot 13, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Quad-L Partnership;
Parcel Number 70.39242.0024 which parcel is legally described as:
Lot 6, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Louis Properties, LLC; and
Parcel Number 70.39242.0047 which is legally described as:
Out Lot A, Block 1, Pay-Del-Co, and titled presently in Louis Properties, LLC.

The intention of the owner is to ultimately combine all of the lots and the portion of Outlot A, lying between said lots, into a single lot for real estate tax purposes. That combination cannot be completed presently without negatively impacting a tax increment financing district currently in effect on Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co. It is currently possible for the ownership of all of these lots to be brought into a single ownership so that all parcels are owned by Louis Properties, LLC. There are currently structures that cross the boundary lines between Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, which the applicant agrees to combine into a single tax parcel, if that can be done without negatively affecting the applicant's existing tax increment financing district or any tax abatement received. The applicant has agreed that all of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, and that portion of Outlet A, in Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, lying between Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, on the West, and Lots 11, 12 and 13 on the East, will be combined into a single tax parcel upon the expiration or decertification of the tax increment financing district currently in effect on Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co, and tax abatement received, if any, on Lots 11, 12 & 13, Block 2, Pay-Del-Co.

The Council has reviewed the application, Report & Recommendation and Variance Determination. The Planning Board has reviewed this and recommends approval. All other zoning requirements will be met.

VARIANCE REQUEST – LOUIS PROPERTIES LLC & QUAD-L PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

Reinke opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. Lance Louis and Logan Louis were in attendance to answer questions. There were no questions or comments so Reinke closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. and re-opened the Council meeting.

VARIANCE REQUEST – LOUIS PROPERTIES LLC & QUAD-L PARTNERSHIP CONTINUED

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve the Louis Properties LLC and Quad-L Partnership Variance. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – ORDINANCE NO. 21, 3RD SERIES – C1-CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT – CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Dennis LacQuay, DKL Limited, LLC has requested that the City consider an ordinance amendment to allow for a child care facility in the C2-Highway Commercial District; more specifically at 810 Diekmann Drive, Paynesville (former Shopko building). Please see Mr. LacQuay's request and $100.00 fee for a Special Planning Board meeting. He has asked that

this be expedited due to the timeline to purchase, close, remodel and have the business up and running by September, 2021.

This type of business is currently not allowed in the C1-Central Business or C2-Highway Commercial Districts nor by a Conditional Use Permit.

Council has reviewed the proposed Ordinance No. 21, 3rd Series amending the C1-Central Business District to allow for child care facilities and summary for such. This amendment will also allow child care facilities as a permitted use in C2-Highway Commercial District.
The Planning Board has reviewed this and recommends approval.

LacQuay gave a verbal report via Zoom. He discussed his plans for the building and new child care center. Soine confirmed that the only change to the ordinance would be including child care as a business that would be allowed in those districts.

Brick asked LacQuay what the tuition for the child care facility would be. LacQuay said that he did not know yet, but it would be at least what the county maximum allows. He also said that his facility would accept children on government assistance. He went on to say that their other locations are rated four stars and their prices are competitive in St Cloud.

Motion was made by Soine to approve Ordinance No. 21, 3rd Series. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve the Official Summary of Ordinance No. 21, 3rd Series. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

PARADE PERMIT – PAYNESVILLE AREA SCHOOLS – GRADUATION PARADE

A Parade Permit Application has been submitted by the Paynesville Area Schools for a Graduation Parade on Sunday, June 6, 2021 from 12:45 p.m. -1:15 p.m. with staging to begin at 12:15 p.m. Paul Wegner has the parade route. In addition, the school is requesting to use the grassy area of 605 Lake Ave. (City owned property) to be used for parade staging.
The Police Chief has reviewed this and recommends approval with the understanding that the parade will be escorted by the police department.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve the Paynesville Area Schools Parade Permit and allow them to use 605 Lake Ave. for staging. Seconded by Brick and unanimously carried.

LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE

Tariq Al-Rifai gave a verbal report. The cost to increase the current life insurance policy through Lincoln Financial Group for the full-time employees from $25,000 to $50,000 in coverage is:

- Currently the City pays $9.13 for a married employee and $7.43 for single coverage
- The new premium would be $15 a month or less per employee; or a maximum of $6.00 a month per employee x 17 eligible employees would be $100 a month or $1,200 a year for double the coverage

Al-Rifai stated that there is room in the budget to support the increase and that multiple neighboring and comparable cities have the $50,000 coverage for their employees.

Motion was made by Soine to approve the increase in life insurance coverage for full-time employees from $25,000 to $50,000 in coverage through Lincoln Financial Group. Seconded by Herzberg and passed 4:0 (Reinke, yes; Thielen, yes; Soine, yes; Herzberg, yes; and Brick, abstained).

VARIANCE REQUEST – BILL & HANCY FUCHS

The City has received a Variance Application from William and Haney Fuchs to allow two additions to the existing structure at 201 Minnie Street, Paynesville, Minnesota; particularly described as Tax Parcel No. 70.38751.0010, and is legally described as:

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3) and Four (4), of Gale's Addition to the Village (now City) of Paynesville, according to the plat and survey thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Stearns County, Minnesota.

The property is zoned "C-1" - Central Business District, but which also lies within the Shoreland Overlay District. The proposed additions to the structure will exceed the maximum lot coverage of 30% within the Shoreland Overlay District, specifically, after the completion of the proposed addition, the lot coverage on the lot would be 33.37%. The proposed new structures would be 50' x 80' and 10' x 32' respectively, and the total lot coverage, including buildings and eave overhangs, after the addition of these structures, would be 14,290 square feet on a property totaling 42,400 square feet, representing 33.37% lot coverage. In addition, the Variance application asks that if the expansion is permitted, the Variance specifically allow for dirt work within the Shoreland Overlay District on such conditions as the Board of Adjustment may deem proper.
If the Variance is granted, the Variance shall be conditioned on the requirement that any dirt work or grading required in connection with the proposed additions be done subject to the following:

a. That the grading and filling involve the smallest amount of bare ground being exposed for the shortest amount of time feasible;
b. That temporary ground cover such as mulch be used, and permanent ground cover such as sod or seeding, is planted as soon as practical;
c. Methods to prevent erosion and trap sediment are employed; and
d. Fill is stabilized to acceptable engineering standards.

Council has reviewed the application, Report & Recommendation and Variance Determination. The Planning Board has reviewed this and recommends approval. All other zoning requirements will be met.

VARIANCE REQUEST – BILL & HANCY FUCHS PUBLIC HEARING

Reinke opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Doreen Miller asked Bill Fuchs what the new building would be for. Fuchs answered that his company expanded from just repairs to fabrication. The new building would become used for fabrication while the old buildings will be used for shipping. There were no other questions or comment so Reinke closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m. and re-opened the Council meeting.

VARIANCE REQUEST – BILL & HANCY FUCHS CONTINUED

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve the Fuchs Variance. Seconded by Brick and unanimously carried.

LIBRARY – LIGHTING ANALYSIS

Mergen gave a verbal report. An excerpt of the May 10, 2021 Public Works Board meeting minutes are as follows:

LIBRARY LIGHTING

A proposal to update the lighting at the library to LED was presented. This proposal was presented two years ago, but was put on the shelf due to the possible sale of the library. The total cost is $4,542.31 with an Xcel Energy rebate of $856.22 and a final cost of $3,686.09. The pay back on the upgrade would be 5.5 years.

Motion was made by Peschong to upgrade the library lighting to LEDs in the amount of $3,686.09, after the rebate and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Freilinger and unanimously carried.

The Public Works Board has reviewed this and recommends approval. Funding for this project would come out of the Municipal Building CIP fund. Haines Electric will be doing all of the wiring and their labor costs are included in the above price.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve upgrading the library lighting to LED's in the amount of $3,686.09, after the rebate. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

COMMUNITY PARK SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS

Mergen gave a verbal report. An excerpt of the May 6, 2021 Park & Tree Board meeting minutes are as follows:

COMMUNITY PARK SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS

It was noted that the small shelter at Community Park was donated to the City about 10 years ago. At this time, it needs a new roof, soffit, and liner steel inside to prevent birds from building nests inside. Two quotes were reviewed:

JP Evans	$5,778.79
Jason Vanderpool Construction	$6,568.57

Motion was made by Truwe to accept the quote from JP Evans in the amount of $5,778.79 and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Serna and unanimously carried.

The Park & Tree Board as reviewed this and recommends approval. Funding would come from the Park CIP fund.

Motion was made by Soine to accept the quote from JP Evans in the amount of $5,778.79. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.

VETERANS PARK – BOAT TRAILER PARKING

Mergen gave a verbal report. An excerpt of the May 6, 2021 Park & Tree Board meeting minutes are as follows:

> Boat Trailer Parking - Members reviewed the proposed sign, map, and Attorney Spooner's comments noting that the City does have the authority to post signage with Council approval. Members all agreed this is a good first step.
>
> > Motion was made by Truwe to post at Veterans Park "No Boat Trailer Parking Beyond This Point" and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Wimmer and unanimously carried.

The Park & Tree Board has reviewed this and recommends approval. Boat traffic has increased recently and is causing parking issues when the shelter is reserved. The signs would be posted on the days when the park shelter is reserved. Mergen suggested also adding "Violators Will Be Towed" to the sign. People at the park would need to call to report violators and the police could tow if they notice a violator on their rounds.

> **Motion was made by Herzberg to approve posting "No Boat Trailer Parking Beyond This Point, Violators Will Be Towed" signage at the Veterans Park Shelter parking lot. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.**

BOAT LANDING SIGNAGE

Mergen gave a verbal report. An excerpt of the May 6, 2021 Park & Tree Board meeting minutes are as follows:

> Boat Landing - Members heard concerns about users utilizing the amenity being very loud, obnoxious, and rude during the nighttime hours. Members reviewed the park ordinance, rules and the agreement with the DNR. It was noted the City currently does not have any posted hours but the City does have the authority to impose set hours as per the DNR agreement; however, the City needs to keep the landing open 16 hours per day, between 4:00 a.m. and midnight.
>
> It was suggested to post a warning sign noting "This landing is in a residential area, be respectful or restricted hours will be imposed. No bright lights, loud noise, or vulgar language will be tolerated".

The Park & Tree Board has reviewed this and recommends posting signage. Mergen confirmed with the Council that it does have the authority to restrict hours if problems persist.

> **Motion was made by Herzberg to post signage at the Veterans Park boat landing warning users "This landing is in a residential area, be respectful or restricted hours will be imposed. No bright lights, loud noise, or vulgar language will be tolerated". Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.**

GAZEBO PARK – WELCOME GARDEN

Mergen gave a verbal report. An excerpt of the May 6, 2021 Park & Tree Board meeting minutes are as follows:

> GAZEBO PARK SIGNAGE AND WELCOME GARDEN

Members reviewed the design of the Welcome Garden and said that the more the City improves a park's appearance, the less vandalism the park will have. It also makes the park more welcoming, professional looking, and it makes it look like the City cares.

Motion was made by Michalski to approve $1,875.00 for the Gazebo Welcome Garden and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Feigum and unanimously carried (Wimmer abstained).

The Park & Tree Board has reviewed this and recommends approval. Funding would come from the Park CIP fund.

Motion was made by Soine to approve the quote from Wimmer Landscaping in the amount of $1,875.00 for the Welcome Garden at Gazebo Park. Seconded by Herzberg and unanimously carried.

HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER

Chief Wegner gave a verbal report. Officer Fread has tendered his resignation effective May 31, 2021. With the resignation, the police department will be down an officer. The police department would like to start the hiring process immediately with the following tentative timeline:

- Internal Posting - Completed no later than June 4, 2021
- Accept applications until position is filled
- Cut off for 1st Round of application will be June 30, 2021
- Round 1 of Interviews- July 6th, 7th, or 8th, 2021- Interview Panel to consist of Wegner, Al-Rifai, Haakonson, and one neighboring Chief
- Round 2 of Interviews-Week of July 21, 2021- Interview Panel to consist of Wegner and the Policies and Procedures Board. Background checks to be started immediately on the top candidate
- Background Investigation- Tentatively set for End of July & Early August
- Psychological and Physical Exam- Following successful background investigation
- Recommendation to council-August 23rd or September 13, 2021

Wegner stated that hiring a full-time officer would be more cost effective and more stable than hiring a unit of part-time officers to fill in. Wegner also stated that with the current culture of policing there would likely be high turnover with part-time officers and the department would be in a constant state of training officers.

Thielen asked about the current and prospective turn around rate of officers and if other cities were having the same problem. Wegner confirmed that Paynesville is not the only City that has this problem. Paynesville and similar agencies have become a training ground for new officers to get experience and then move on to other opportunities. With the current climate of law enforcement this problem is only getting worse. Wegner said that it is extremely hard to hire officers currently, but that at this time of the year colleges have just finished and there will be a group of fresh graduates looking for jobs.

Soine and Reinke expressed concerns about the Emergency Services Director position and the future of the K-9 Program. Both wondered if the City should wait and try to hire an officer to fill those positions as well. Thielen is in favor of starting the hiring process right away due to

concerns with increased crime rates in Paynesville and the consequences of an understaffed police department.

Herzberg asked whether it was worth it to continue the K-9 Program. Wegner stated that when the K-9 Program started, there were very few K-9s in the area. Now there are a multitude of K-9s within the county that the department could rely on if need be.

Wegner stated his concerns about the additional work load the remaining officers will have to take on. One of the officers will also be taking paternal leave later this year which will cause even more stress on the remaining officers. If the hiring process starts now, the new officer would be done with training by December when that officer will be taking leave.

Reinke suggested having a conversation about the future of the K-9 Program at the next Council meeting, which Soine agreed with. Wegner reaffirmed that starting the hiring process now does not lock the City into hiring someone right away. Discussion can still be had and hiring can still be postponed after the process has started.

The position of the Emergency Service Director will be discussed more at a later time. Wegner said that traditionally the position goes to a full-time fire or police chief. In the interim, Wegner suggested using Stearns County's Emergency Management Director, who has already been in contact with Wegner and will be contacting him with emergency alerts.

Motion was made by Thielen to approve starting the hiring process for a full-time Police Officer with the above tentative hiring process and to allow the police department and administration to continue with the process until a recommendation may be made to council. Seconded by Brick and passed 4:1 (Thielen, yes; Herzberg, yes; Reinke, yes; Brick, yes; and Soine, no).

WWTF IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Chuck DeWolf gave a verbal report. Council reviewed Payment Estimate No. 1 in the amount of $222,129.95; payable to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for work completed through April 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve Payment Estimate No. 1 in the amount of $222,129.95; payable to Kuechle Underground, Inc. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

AIRPORT – CORONAVIRUS GRANT

Mergen gave a verbal report. Council reviewed the Resolution 2021-11 Authorization To Execute MnDOT Grant Agreement For Federal Airport Expenses Reimbursement and State of Minnesota Agency Agreement For Federal Airport Expenses Reimbursement between the City of Paynesville and MnDOT. Mergen stated that the FAA inspectors would like to see the money used for crack sealing on the runway if it qualifies.

Motion was made by Soine to approve Resolution 2021-11 Authorization To Execute MnDOT Grant Agreement For Federal Airport Expenses Reimbursement and State of Minnesota Agency Agreement For Federal Airport Expenses

Reimbursement between the City of Paynesville and MnDOT and authorize the necessary signatures. Seconded by Brick and unanimously carried.

FINAL PLAT – PAY-DEL-CO PLAT 2

Bill Spooner gave a verbal report. The City has received a Final Plat Application submitted by Lance Louis, Louis Industries to re-plat Outlet A of Pay Del Co (current railroad bed). Council reviewed the application, Development Agreement, request to waive the parkland dedication fees, Title Commitment, and Resolution 2021-12 Approving Final Plat Of Pay-Del-Co Plat 2. The plat name has changed from the Preliminary Plat (Subdivision Of Outlot A Pay-Del-Co) per the County's request. The Planning Board has reviewed this and recommends approval.

Spooner recommended approving the plat but waiting to sign until it is confirmed that Louis Industries has signed the development agreement.

Motion was made by Soine to waive the park land dedication fee. Seconded by Herzberg and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Soine to approve the Pay-Del-Co Plat 2 Development Agreement between the City of Paynesville and Louis Properties, LLC. Seconded by Brick and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve Resolution 2021-12 Approving Final Plat of Pay-Del-Co Plat 2 with the City not singing the document until Louis Industries has signed the Development Agreement. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.

HIRING OF LIQUOR STORE CLERKS

The City received two applications for the Part-Time Seasonal Liquor Store Clerk position and one application for the Part-Time Liquor Store Clerk position. The Policies & Procedures Board interviewed one Part-Time Seasonal applicant, as the other applicant had already accepted another position, and one Part-Time applicant.

The Policies & Procedures recommends hiring Shaelyn Desm for the Seasonal (67-day) Part-Time Liquor Store Clerk position up to 28 hours per week at Grade 1/Step 1, $10.77 per hour. A background check has been completed. Due to the immediate need; City Administrator, Tariq Al-Rifai had temporarily appointed her to start on May 14, 2021.
The Policies & Procedures recommends not hiring for the Part-Time Liquor Store Clerk position at this time.

Motion was made by Soine to hire Shaelyn Desm for the Seasonal (67-day) Part-Time Liquor Store Clerk position up to 28 hours per week at Grade 1/Step 1, $10.77 per hour. Seconded by Thielen and passed 4:0 (Reinke, yes; Thielen, yes; Soine, yes; Herzberg, yes; and Brick, abstained).

HIRING OF PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST – DMV

The City received two applications for the Part-Time Customer Service Specialist - DMV position; however, one application was unreachable for an interview. The Policies & Procedures Board interviewed one applicant. The Policies & Procedures recommends not hiring for this position at this time and reposting for this position.

Al-Rifai stated that they would still like to find someone in the community or close to the community for the positions and will focus on those areas for the reposting. Reinke suggested expanding the search pool and possibly contact Lamb Labor Services to see if they have anyone available.

> **Motion was made by Soine to repost for the Part-Time Customer Service Specialist – DMV position up to 30 hours per week at Grade 4/Step 1, $17.10 per hour. Seconded by Herzberg.**

Wegner asked to also repost the Police Secretary position at the same time as the Part-Time Customer Service Specialist position. Reinke noted that Policies & Procedures did not do any interviews for that position.

> **Motion was made by Soine to amend the motion to include reposting for the Police Secretary position. Seconded by Herzberg and unanimously carried. Motion to repost the Part-Time Customer Service Specialist – DMV position and the Police Secretary position was unanimously carried.**

COVID-19

The Public Safety Board met on May 18, 2021 and discussed the COVID-19 regulations/preparedness plans. They are recommending that the masks become optional for employees and customers in all City buildings provided there are no symptoms of illness. Wegner confirmed that if an employee tests positive that they will still follow CDC quarantine guidelines.

Reinke discussed continuing with COVID-19 Sick Leave to employees and outdoor dining guidelines. Reinke also discussed that masks will be encourage when showing signs of illness, including colds, to prevent spread to other employees and customers.

> **Motion was made by Soine to approve masks becoming optional for staff and customers in all City buildings provided there are no symptoms of illness. Masks are encouraged for any staff or customer that feels more comfortable wearing them. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.**

> **Motion was made by Soine to continue to allow staff up to 2 weeks of COVID-19 sick leave for COVID-19 as needed for full time employees and a prorated amount for part time employees. Seconded by Herzberg and passed 4:0 (Thielen, yes; Soine, yes; Reinke, yes; Herzberg, yes; and Brick, abstained).**

The Council discussed whether to continue to allow temporary outdoor dining for the On-Sale Liquor establishments within Paynesville as per Ordinance No. 13, 3rd Series. The ordinance allowed restaurants to expand their outdoor seating into the parking lots and/or sidewalks for a chance to make up revenue that would be lost due to state Covid-19 restrictions. Soine wondered if it was still needed due to state restrictions being lifted on indoor dining. Reinke asked if there was a sunset date in the ordinance. The Council did not have the ordinance present to look at thus decided to table this action to the next meeting to allow the Council time to review the ordinance again.

The Public Safety Board also discussed removing the Emergency Declaration and preparedness plans. Reinke expressed concerns on whether the City would be eligible for future funding if the Emergency Declaration was removed. Wegner reached out to the offices of Representative Fischbach and Senator Howe with this question and he did not receive a clear answer.

Motion was made by Herzberg to continue with the Emergency Declaration. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.

Reinke stated that the Public Safety Board recommends to continually revise the preparedness plans to reflect current CDC and state guidelines. The board also suggested that department heads can work with Tariq Al-Rifai, City Administrator, on drafting plans to operate under without needing Council approval.

Motion was made by Herzberg to allow the department heads and the City Administrator to amend and revisit the preparedness plans in accordance with the CDC and MDH guidelines. Seconded by Thielen and unanimously carried.

INFORMATIONAL

Reinke reviewed the following: April Police Reports, Stearns County Environmental Services Public Hearing Notices, and June & July Meeting Schedules.

There being no further business, Reinke adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.