

EAST BETHEL TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 23, 2015

The East Bethel City Council met on April 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. for the Town Hall Meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Voss Ron Koller Tim Harrington
Brian Mundle Tom Ronning

ALSO PRESENT: Jack Davis, City Administrator
Mike Jeziorski, Financial Director
Nate Ayshford, Public Works Director
Craig Jochum, City Engineer
Nick Schmitz, Building Official
Colleen Winter, Community Development Director
Karen White, Receptionist
Michelle Orlando, Anoka County Sheriff's Department Liaison
Mark DuCharme, Fire Chief

1.0 The April 23, 2015, City Council Town Hall Meeting was called to order by Mayor Voss
Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 **Harrington stated I'll make a motion to approve the agenda. Mundle stated I'll**
Adopt Agenda **second.** Voss stated any discussion? All in favor say aye?" **All in favor.** Voss stated
opposed? Hearing none motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

3.0 It was noted that the Council and staff had introduced themselves to those in attendance.

4.0 It was noted the Council and staff had met with members of the community in the Community
Center to hold individual discussions.

5.0 Voss stated I want to thank everyone for being here tonight on such a gorgeous night
Council outside. This is a nice crowd for our Town Hall meeting, particularly the last couple of
Chambers years. Thank you everyone for being here. My name is Steve Voss. I am your Mayor.
Question & All four of our Councilmembers are here as well as Jack Davis at the table.
Answers

Welcome Voss stated I know a lot of you have been to a few of these in the past. A lot of familiar
faces and a couple new ones. We started Town Hall Meetings over ten years ago now for
the purpose of trying to reach out to the public and giving you an opportunity to come to
us in a less formal environment than our City Council meetings to talk on a more loose
basis in terms of any issues you have, questions you have, what's going on. It gives us an
opportunity to talk about a few of the things that are going on in the City.

Voss stated this is really meant to be your time. So, again, thank you all for being here.
What I'd like to do first is really just open it up to questions or comments. We'd like you
to come up to the microphone. Like I said, it's pretty informal. But, what we're also
doing this time, probably for the first time, it's being broadcast live right now. Davis
stated correct.

Welcome Voss stated not to make you nervous. I'm not sure how many people know it's on live. If

you're watching now, great. Ronning stated there are millions of people watching everyone. Voss stated now I'm nervous. And it will be taped too so you can tell your friends and neighbors that the Town Hall Meeting was on. But, this is one way that as a City, as a City Council, to reach out. I'll tell you for the years I've been involved with the City, it's been 20 years now, the hardest thing for this City and any city is really to communicate with the residents. And, I think more importantly, is to hear back. Get the feedback from the residents because we truly, truly want to hear what's on your mind.

Voss stated with that, is there anyone that would like to come up first and ask a question? Or comment? Anything you want to talk about? I'll pick on Diane because Diane's usually the first one. She's not here tonight so maybe she's watching. If not, no we're not leaving. You can leave any time you want but, you know, the City has been working on a few things lately.

221st Avenue Improvement Project

Voss stated maybe one thing, actually the City's not doing it but I know we've gotten questions on and maybe you did as you drove up. You saw 221st here, now it's been cleared, cleared of quite a few trees in many places. The first question I had to Jack was, 'I guess we're getting shoulders on the road.' But that's not it. It's just a simple overlay. Where's the overlay going? Davis responded the overlay will go from 65 east to Luan Drive all the way down to 213th Avenue.

Voss stated okay, good. That stretch of road definitely needs it. And that's starting soon, right? Davis stated we anticipate the paving could start some time in the next two to three weeks. Voss stated okay, and the road will be open at all times? Davis stated correct, there will be no detours. Voss stated it's a County project because it's basically, we're getting a new pavement surface on it and I think it's kind of a shame they cleared out so many trees in some of the places but that's part of the County policy. So, if you're curious about that.

Voss stated as long as we're on that subject, does anyone have any questions about our roads? That's one of the big things the City provides is road maintenance. Nate Ayshford is in the back of the audience. He's our Maintenance Supervisor. He can definitely answer direct questions.

Mundle asked any comments about the roads? Not necessarily questions?

County Road 22 Safety Improvements

Leon Mager stated I heard there was going to be three lights put in on the intersection along County Road 22. Voss stated oh, yeah, the safety improvement is, Jack you can probably explain it better than I can.

Davis stated that's going to happen some time this spring or this summer. There'll be lights at seven locations. Voss clarified streetlights. Davis stated streetlights, yes, not traffic lights. They'll be located at Breezy Point Drive, Sportsman Lane, Thielen Boulevard, 195th Avenue, Tri Oak Circle, Rochester Street and Rendova.

Voss asked and they're also restriping Viking? Davis stated they will be restriping Viking Boulevard with a highly-reflective surface, which will make visibility of the road much better at night. Voss stated especially on the concrete surface. Anyone that drives it, it gets kind of tough.

County Road 22

Voss stated I think, isn't that an off-shoot of Council's concern a couple years ago and

asking them to look at Viking? Davis stated that's a part of it. The Council had asked the Anoka County Highway Department to conduct a speed study that was a result of the six traffic deaths that occurred there over an 18 month period. As a part of the follow-up to this, they were able to get some Highway Safety Improvement money, which will fund these lights that will be totally paid for by the grant. The only cost the City will have is to pay the electrical bill on them.

Proposed
40-Unit
Housing
Development

Ronning stated there is, to me it's significant, there's the housing development being, it's in progress I guess. Jack and Colleen, I just volunteered, you're drafted. Jack and Coleen probably have the most recent information on 22 at Jackson. A little bit east of Jackson, about a 40-unit housing. Their preparing it for platting out. That's big.

An audience member asked by the water tower? Davis responded yes, just south of the water tower. The developer, hopefully, will be submitting his final plat within the next month or so. The Council's approved a few preliminary activities where he can do some grading work but we hope a final plat will be submitted here within the next three or four months and that we'll see some activity there in 2016.

Ronning stated I think this guy has run up against 'stone walls' every time he turns around, almost. He was planning initially, like 62 units. He had his plans in. He was ready for approval and the Corps of Engineers says, 'No, you didn't talk to us enough.' So that swamp land is navigable waters for the Corps of Engineers. I don't think a frog could navigate it. But he has a lot of expense and it's been platted at least twice I can think of, maybe three times. And he's still interested. That's very fortunate.

Highway 65
Service Road
Proposal

Voss stated he's committed to it, it's just a matter of time. Along that subject and the subject of roads too and it's right in that area, you may have seen the poster board in the Community Center. The Council's been discussing it for a while and now we're getting to the point we're kind of looking at more plans of a service road, which one of the main purposes is a reliever to the Classic Commercial Park where the theater is and the bank because there's only one outlet there. So Council's actively looking at a service road in that area and there are a few options that we're looking at. But, it's part of a, start of a service road system in that area of the City to relieve, not only relieve traffic off 65 in that area but give our residents options of not having to drive 65 to get to some of these places. And, to make traffic flow a little bit better through that area. That's one of the things we're looking at. It's slowly moving forward. That's one of the things Council will be tackling over the next couple of months for sure.

Harrington stated to add onto that too, that service road, because there's lots of safety concerns there on 185th. We've had a couple serious accidents, we're trying to reduce that a little bit. So, that's why that service road would be put in.

Voss stated we've actually had meetings, multi-agency meetings, with Mn/DOT, with the County Commissioner, with the County Highway Department, Met Council, City of Ham Lake's been involved too. From an agency government standpoint, everyone's kind of pointing in one direction, which is not common when you start projects. It looks like we're even going to get funding from the State for safety improvements to the tune of a half million dollars. Davis confirmed a half a million dollars for Phase 1 and a half a million dollars for Phase 2. Voss stated and that's money from the State so this is all going to be done without any City tax dollars.

Highway 65

Ronning asked can you explain what the phases are? Davis stated the current phase, the first segment we're considering, is to go north from 187th Lane along Buchanan Street to Viking Boulevard. We have three different alignments that we are looking at. The second phase would go south out of the Classic Commercial Park from Buchanan Street south to 181st Avenue. Phases 3 and 4 would be on the east side of Highway 65 and their order hasn't really been determined. It will probably be based on developmental needs. But that will give a direct route from 181st Avenue behind the businesses on the east service road up by, hopefully, the golf course and come out at the old Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Lexington &
Viking
Wayfinding
Signage
Request

Harriett Olsen stated this is probably a County thing but Lexington and Viking, everybody misses that road and comes in and turns around in my driveway (*inaudible*). Is there better signage or whatever that can be put up? It's probably the County, right? Davis stated we can certainly address that issue with the County.

Voss stated I think, for everyone's benefit and on TV, Harriett's question was that your section of Lexington, which is County Road 17 and Viking Boulevard. Harriett stated they're always missing it and I know (*inaudible*). This is all the time. Voss agreed this is tough. We've been living there for 20 years and I miss it sometimes too. So, it's a tough intersection so the question is if something can be done to improve it. It is a County road, both roads.

Davis stated one of the things that the City did in 2009 when Wild Rice Drive was reconstructed is we realigned that road and met with the County so it would tie in the future plans so that would be a four-way intersection instead of an off-set intersection. Whenever the County is going to get to their part is probably still several years down the road. But the reconstruction of Wild Rice Drive was designed to coincide with the alignment of the new intersection at County Road 17. So at some point, that will be a four-way intersection but we can let the County know that there are issues with identification of that intersection and see what they'll do with signage.

Voss agreed we could pass it on to the County, so good comment. I'm going to switch subjects a little bit because Troy is in the back. One of the things that the City's doing, and actually our volunteer Fire Department is heading this up, is called the HeartSafe Program. The goal is to make the City of East Bethel certified as a HeartSafe City and rather than me struggle through it, Troy can you come up to the mic and kind of explain? This is Troy Lachinski, a long time fire fighter of our City.

HeartSafe
Program &
Training
Opportunities

Troy Lachinski, 22286 Vermillion, stated what Steve's trying to say is we have started a HeartSafe initiative. We're backed by the City Council and it's a grass roots effort run by a bunch of volunteers. Basically, we want to make the community HeartSafe. We all live here, our neighbors are here, our friends are here, our family is here. We want this to be a safe community because the people we care about live here. The way that we're doing that is we're raising awareness on what sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is and what to do if you see somebody that suffers from sudden cardiac arrest. So we're training people on by-stander CPR and how to use an AED if an AED is available.

Lachinski stated the other thing we're doing is meeting with local businesses and local groups so that we can get AEDs installed in public places so they're available to people in case there is a sudden cardiac arrest emergency. And that's what we're doing.

HeartSafe

Lachinski stated we're doing a lot of training classes. We've got ten scheduled this month including an open house tonight at the Station. We're training the boy scouts. We're training the Chamber of Commerce. We've trained City Council. We're training the City groups, the Planning Commission, and the Roads Commission. We're going to be doing all those. We're going to be training the Lions. We're going to be training the seniors. So anybody that has a group that they're involved with, let us know. You can contact me through the City. You can call me on my cell phone: 763 350-9060. We've got a great group of people that will come out and will train you at your business. We can do the training at City Hall. We can do the training at the Fire Station or whatever works best for you guys.

Lachinski stated that's really what we're doing and I want to thank you for your time and thanks for listening. I am doing free training in the other room after this is over. I would like to get four more people trained to get to 12. Our goal this year is to train 10% of the entire population of the City, which is 1,200 people. Every time I train 12 people, that's 1%. Thanks for your time.

Voss stated Troy, don't sit, if you could for the public and for the TV audience, the thing that impressed me most about your presentation before was just some of the statistics behind, well the difference between a heart attack and what you're training for and the survival statistics.

Lachinski stated yup, that's a great point Steve. So, everybody knows what a heart attack is. Everybody's heard of a heart attack. Not everybody's heard of sudden cardiac arrest and there's one big difference. I'm going to use blunt terms. I'm going to tell you the way that it is. Basically, somebody that had a heart attack, they're alive. They can walk in the house and they can call 911. They can tell their wife or their spouse, 'I'm not feeling well.' They're alive. Somebody that has sudden cardiac arrest, they're dead. They've hit the ground. They are not alive any more. If you think about the way that a heart beats, everybody kind of knows, they've seen the heart beat. Your know, your heart kind of goes klump-klump, klump-klump. With at sudden cardiac arrest you heart's doing this (*rapidly moved his fingers to demonstrate*). It's so out of rhythm that it's not beating properly and it's not getting blood through the body. When blood doesn't go through your body, blood doesn't go to your brain and your brain will die. In three minutes you'll have permanent brain damage.

Lachinski stated every day in America, 1,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest. 1,000 people die. It's the #1 killer in the work place. It's the #1 killer at home. So, if you run across somebody that's suffering from a sudden cardiac arrest, it's unfortunate. It's going to be a coworker. It's going to be a family member. It's going to be somebody that you care about and know very well.

Lachinski stated 97% of those people today, they die while they're waiting for the ambulance to arrive. 97%. These people are savable. If somebody starts doing CPR within 1 minute or 2 minutes, they have an 85% chance to survive. 85%. People are afraid. There's a loved one that's on the ground that are not alive. They're dead. People are afraid. It cripples you. But what we want people to do is we want them to feel the confidence, to have the confidence, to do something before the help arrives. We don't want people to wait for the help. We want people to be the help. That's the essence of our whole program. Thank you.

Voss stated again, the Fire Department puts these on quite often. They're on our website. You can always call the City or call Troy's number and find out. The training, like tonight you said, is at the Fire Station. It's for anyone. You don't need to make an appointment, you just show up.

Mundle asked what kind of numbers have you been getting at those training sessions? Lachinski stated you know, this is our third open house. I know the first one we had five people. At the second one we had ten people. So through word of mouth it's going to spread. Our training classes that we've done in the community are anywhere from five people to the biggest one we've done is 45 people. So it really ranges depending on the group we go out to meet with. And you know what, to be honest with you, I don't care if we train only one person. That's one more person that's trained in the community. This is a team effort here saving people's lives. We can all do this together. It doesn't take one person or two people. Everybody has the power. We all have the tools right here, two hands, to do CPR.

Ronning stated this is somewhat of a community action as well. There are other cities that are either in the process. Lachinski stated yeah, I got involved with this program because a friend of mine from growing up in Coon Rapids, he started the Coon Rapids HeartSafe Program. And he's a guy that I grew up with. Coon Rapids is obviously a much bigger city than we have. They've already trained 8,000 people in Coon Rapids through this program. And, he's very passionate about it and he got me very interested in it. What really got me interested in it is I saw some stories he was sharing on Facebook and I've seen them on the news. People that actually came back to life. It's one thing to see it on TV and in the movies and news with somebody you don't know. But, this was a guy that I know that actually, literally, brought people back to life. And, I've met these people. I've met these people that have come to our trainings here. I've seen them in other places. These are people that if nobody did the CPR, they'd be dead. They've been given a second chance at life. They have time to be with their families and loved ones and they really inspired me to bring this to work.

Voss stated I'm one who's always apprehensive about training like that and I went through it. But if you keep in your mind, that little bit of time that it takes you to train, and you're in that situation, it only takes ten minutes for that person not to come back. What a little help you can provide, it's a good investment for your family, your friends. I'd encourage everyone to try it out.

Bob Jacobsen asked how many AEDs are in the City right now? Lachinski stated when we started this program back in July of last year, at that time I knew there were some out there but I didn't know where they were. We didn't know exactly where they were. The Fire Department has three. We have one in each of our rescue vehicles and we have one in our duty truck. All the Sheriff's have them in the Sheriff vehicles. The ambulances all carry them. So, the emergency people have them. As far as where they are in the community, we so far have identified ten in the community. We have one at the Senior Center. We have one at the Coon Lake Beach Senior Center.

Lachinski stated the Coon Lake Beach Senior Center also just very generously donated an AED to the Coon Lake Market across the street. They paid for that. They actually also donated \$2,000 to the Fire Department for our HeartSafe Program to help us purchase training aids and do some other things as well. So, that's very generous and there'll be an

article written where we thank them profusely. So if you see anybody, tell them how much we really appreciate that. We also, Cedar Creek Nature Center has two of them there, one in each one of their labs. Hidden Haven has one. Our Savior's Church has one. St. Andrews Church has one. The Ice Arena has one. We were actually able to take advantage of a grant, the NHL Alumni Association actually donated an AED to our Ice Arena. Brad Maxwell, former Minnesota Northstar, came out and presented that to us. That's what I can think of so far. I know that each one of the schools has one but I haven't been able to get out there and talk to them and help them train the staff yet. But, I have reached out to them. So that's what we know of so far.

Lachinski stated I've also talked to a whole bunch of the business owners in town about putting them in and we're working with them. I'm sure that this number will be at least double in the next coming year. Any other questions?

Ronning stated this is mostly an awareness thing as far as knowing how to do? Lachinski stated awareness is a big key of it. We want people to be aware of how to identify sudden cardiac arrest but we also want them to know what to do in the case that they see sudden cardiac arrest. So, awareness is one thing. Training is another thing. Then making sure that the AEDs are out there and available to the public is another key piece of it. Not only that the AEDs are out there, but they're also being maintained. I'm also working with the local businesses to make sure that they maintain those AEDs. There is a battery in the AED and also the electrodes only have a certain shelf life. It's three years but still it has to be checked from time to time because three years goes by just like that.

Ronning stated you almost can't say too much about this sort of thing. It's worth having him just do the demonstration himself or something. It's really simple. Takes about, if the equipment is there, you can do it in a minute. Lachinski stated that's right. And, it's one of those things that's easy to be passionate about because you don't talk to anybody about this program and they say, 'Well, I don't really think that's a good idea.' I mean how do you not feel good about helping people save each other?

Voss stated that's the definition of our Fire Department. Lachinski stated that's right. Well, thank you very much. Voss stated thanks Troy. Did that spark any questions from the audience?

Voss stated the other thing, the City over the past several years has been focused on, and I think probably over the last year, two years, is economic development. We do have an Economic Development Authority, which is a board of five citizens and two Councilmembers. Basically with a goal of help strengthening our business community in the City and to encourage it and to spark growth. There are two EDA members in our front row here and it's very active group. We also have an East Bethel Chamber of Commerce. I think 20 some years ago it used to be the East Bethel Chamber of Commerce that's been resurrected over the past two years. That is growing as well with a lot of the same goals of helping spark our growth in our City.

Voss stated there's a little bit of crossover between the EDA, the Chamber of Commerce, and City Council right now in that the EDA is embarking on a new program that's entitled Business Retention and Expansion Program. The whole idea behind it is when we talk about growth in the City, most everyone thinks about new businesses coming in and new jobs, and new entities coming in. But, at the same time, we don't want to forget about who's here in terms of businesses that have been here that are established. So, Council

EDA
Activities

Business

had that concern and then this program came up. Doug, why don't you explain it? You can explain it better than I can. Doug Welter is a part of our Economic Development Authority.

Doug Welter stated the Business Retention and Expansion is, we're going to do a partnership with the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota set this program up to help communities build better environments, stronger environments, to support business, retain and expand business. The retention being first. So what the University provides us is the expertise in how to build surveys and how to analyze the data from those surveys. What we do as a community is we take that data, we understand the data, we actually do the interviews too with the businesses. We'll try to interview between 50 and 100 East Bethel businesses to get information on what's working well, what things could be done differently, what are the challenges. With the goal of building stronger communication and creating a stronger environment for businesses in East Bethel. So, when we get done with the surveys, the interviews, the analysis, then what we're going to do as a group, we're going to decide what do we need to do. What projects do we need to undertake in order to make improvements for businesses in East Bethel. That's the summary.

Welter stated what we need are volunteers. So, we have a leadership team and a leadership team will put in between 70 and 100 hours each on this project. Then we're going to need a task force of an additional 10 or 15 people. All of us are going to do interviews and we're going to get a group of people that just help with interviews. The task force will do interviews and also help determine, from the analysis, what projects we're going to take on for the City. So they'll have an additional, maybe 16 hours beyond the interviews. Interviewing and training is probably going to take 12 hours, give or take.

Welter stated then we have the group of volunteers that the only thing they want to do is help with the interviews. So, they'll have two two-hour interviews including travel time and probably a couple hours of training of how to do the interview. The timeline, we haven't got it completely nailed down, but the timeline we want to do the interviews the last half of September. So, we would like to have everything in place as far as all of the volunteers that can help with it in place and trained around the first half of September.

Welter stated so just in case that didn't make sense, what questions do you have? Ronning stated you mentioned participation by the U of M. Does that include 'warm bodies' and what would they be doing? Welter stated no, the University provides us with the framework in how to conduct this project. It provides a consultant that will help us walk through the steps and make sure we're not missing any. They have template surveys that they will provide us that we can slightly customize for our needs in East Bethel. They provide all the data analysis and they provide a series of experts that help us understand that data and help us decide what to do with it. They run one or two of the big meetings, like training us on how to do interviews. They'll run those for us. So that's their involvement but the rest of it is ours.

An audience member asked what kind of businesses are you looking for then? Welter stated the only businesses we wouldn't be looking for are completely home-based businesses. Anybody that has employees, basically, would qualify. Because their survey is designed for businesses that have employees. It's not designed for home-based businesses like a consultant.

Voss stated a big part of this program for Council is just what I said. One of the more difficult things for us is to get feedback from residents. It's even more difficult to get feedback from the business community to the Council on how they feel the City is treating them, what issues they may have. And, a lot of it's because many times the businesses aren't necessarily residents. So part of this program is to get that feedback so we have a better understanding of what we can do better as a City for existing business that we have. Because our existing business is the core that we need to maintain if we're going to grow as a City. So I think we're all excited about this program, the potential, the outcomes. One thing I'll say, I don't think it's nearly as intimidating as it may sound in terms of the program looking for volunteers. It's really just someone willing to sit down and talk one-on-one with someone else in the community. We need those 'feet on the ground' in order to make this work. So we need quite a few people but it's not necessarily a huge commitment of time either. So, if someone is community minded out there, here tonight, or in the audience, Doug, how do they reach you?

Welter stated probably the easiest way without having to write anything down would be to contact Colleen Winter because she is right here and you can get her information off the East Bethel website right now. Voss stated our Community Development Director. You can just call City Hall and ask for Colleen.

Welter stated otherwise, there's an orange brochure in the other room that has phone numbers on it too and you can take a look at that. Voss stated there's probably a pen and a pad if you want to leave your name and number. Welter stated I can make sure of that. Anything else? Voss asked any questions for Doug on our program? Okay, thanks Doug.

Voss stated we talked about, again, the communication, which I keep emphasizing, it's a big thing for our community to have that communication. One of the things we do is our City newsletter. Everybody should be getting a City newsletter. If you're not, call City Hall because it's mailed to every address. Correct? Davis replied correct.

City
Newsletter

Voss stated the newsletter is a means for the City to communicate back to the residents primarily about things going on in the City. Our Fire Chief has an article every month. Our Community Development Director, Public Works, so we're trying to communicate. One of the things I know staff would like to hear back from the public is how's that newsletter doing in terms of the communications. Are there things in the newsletter that aren't there that you'd like to see? News items? Whether it be more technical items? Is there anything there you'd like to see in the newsletter that's not there now? That's the question I'm asking all of you. Who reads the newsletter? (*Most of those in the audience raised their hands*). Voss stated that's encouraging. I like that.

Voss stated if there's any suggestions or any suggestions from people watching, I know staff really would like to know of ways to improve it. I think over the past 15 years it's made improvements but, again, having that feedback from more than just a few people is good. That had to spark some questions? Come on.

Harrington stated I just have one little thing. The City Council, in the last month, refinanced the 2010A bond, the \$11,800,000 bond, and will probably save about \$1.2 million on this bond so it was a good deal for the City. The City took advantage of good interest rates.

Bond
Refinancing
Bond

Ronning stated it's important to note there was no City investment in refinancing that and

the term expires the same as the previous one. So, it's not a refinance with a longer 'tail.' That's a win-win. Voss agreed it's a flat out savings.

Harrington stated there's no news on 22 and 65. So, don't get your hopes up for a store yet. Voss stated I'm surprised someone hasn't asked about that.

CR 22 &
TH 65

Voss stated we are working on one right now, ordinances, that have been brought up a few times, a rental ordinance. In fact, we talked about it last night at a Work Meeting. We're working quite a bit with Nick, our Building Inspector, on developing an ordinance on rental properties in our City. It's primarily meant as a safety measure so that those folks in our City that are renters are living in safe homes. We've had a few issues over the past several years of some rental properties that have not been nearly 'up to snuff' in terms of Code and in terms of safety issues. So, this is one tool that the City's developing to help us address that. I think along those lines, we'll probably get to, eventually, is to allow the City the ability to actually make corrections that just don't get fixed. Right now we don't have that ability as a City. Correct? Davis stated we have the ability if they're identified but we don't have the means of identification at this time. This will enable us to further identify those properties and have those people register so we'll know exactly what the conditions are.

Proposed
Rental
Ordinance

Voss stated also then when there are the derelict properties, abandoned homes, and stuff that we've all seen through the City, I think every City has them. We don't have the means to go in there and actually clean them up just so they look, the appearance is better and the safety things are taken care of, broken windows and things like that. So, we'll probably be looking at that eventually too. It's just another tool to help us improve the City. And, that improves all our neighborhoods too.

Animal
Ordinance

Voss stated another new ordinance that's going to come up that's been discussed before is the small winged animal ordinance. Hey, somebody said it, the Chicken Ordinance. We've actually had residents come in and ask about that so I think that's on Planning & Zoning's 'plate' next month. So, they'll be looking at that. It's not a high priority item for Council but something that we've had residents have concerns about it and want to do something. That's how we make changes to our ordinance, when someone wants a change we consider it and address it.

Ronning stated to add to what Steve said, there was a person who came in within the last couple of meetings and was asking questions about these things and what his ability was that he can do, what the limits were and such. The fact of the matter is most people don't ask. So, this guy was, if we're able to modify in a proactive way, it will make a lot of people legal.

Voss stated I actually had a call last night from somebody about horses and they've got small animals too. They realized that they probably shouldn't have so many small animals in their yard. So, she was a little embarrassed. She didn't know but I said I didn't worry about them, I liked them. So, I don't think too many people have a problem with ducks in people's yards but our ordinances have an issue with it sometimes.

Ronning stated it was kind of nice to see somebody come forward and ask permission instead of forgiveness. Voss stated definitely.

Animal

Voss asked what other news do we got going on? Harrington stated I've just got, go

ahead Ken if you want to.

Ice Arena

Ken Langmade asked about the Ice Arena. Voss stated they're still playing hockey. We haven't gotten rid of it. Right now we're looking at the contract for the management is up. So right now we're considering the next term of contract on that. I think it has been utilized, for the ice time, it's pretty well, this last winter. Was there something specific on the Ice Arena Ken?

Langmade asked about the improvement of it. Davis stated we've made gradual improvements on that facility over the last couple of years. We've replaced exterior doors, replaced some deteriorated sidewalks on the outside. We're in the process of developing a Capital Improvements Plan to identify other internal improvements that need to be done there. Some of the things we're looking at are improvements to the lobby to brighten its appearance and to do some restroom renovation within the facility itself. Those are the two major things that we're doing.

Davis stated also, the Council approved the replacement of the dasher boards. Those are the boards that surround the rink. A gentleman with the St. Francis Booster Club and Youth Hockey Association actually found a set of used boards that we're going to purchase. These boards are five years old. To buy them new would cost over \$100,000. We're going to be able to purchase them for \$54,000. We'll be able to sell the existing ones for about \$10,000. And, the Youth Hockey Association and the Booster Clubs would raise approximately half that money so the City will pay approximately \$22,000 for a value that's over \$100,000. That \$22,000 will come out of the Arena Fund and it won't come out of a City levy. The Arena Fund is generated by the users of the facility so that will be done before the next hockey season.

Voss stated with that, it's striking and I'm just impressed with the fact that this was brought to us by a resident. By a user of the Arena. It wasn't instigated by the City. So, someone with some great foresight and planning and ideas came to the City with this and worked with us and it's going to help everyone. It's a win-win for everyone. So, it's one of those stories where it's great and residents can actually make an impact to the City, no pun intended, on hockey words. It's a great safety improvement. It helps them as a Hockey Association and the investment on our part is rather small but for a great return.

Davis stated the boards that we're replacing, the City installed those in 1997 and they were purchased used at the time so we're replacing something that's 25 to 30 years old. It was a replacement that would have to have been done regardless and we were fortunate enough to be able to do this and have it at an extreme cost savings.

Voss stated one of the other things too with the Arena, we've had some preliminary discussions on, I think we're going to have some discussions on, is replacing the sign. Right now we've got just a regular sign where someone has to physically go out there and put the letters on. We're looking into whether it's feasible to put a reader sign there that's electronic. It improves the safety of having somebody walk up there. We can change the sign more often. We can put community messages on there. That's one of the things we're looking at from both the benefit and the cost standpoint.

Mundle asked is there going to be a warming house built for the exterior? Davis stated there are improvements planned for the outdoor rink. There's going to be new boards put up, the surface will be leveled so it will be easier to install the ice and maintain it, also

there's going to be some improvements to the lights out there. Part of the Park's submission, what Nate our Public Works Director is looking into, is alternatives for a warming house. We're looking at several different options so, hopefully, we'll have something to replace the old trailer that was destroyed in the wind storm two years ago.

Volunteerism

Ronning stated it's nice to see the involvement that a community has. There are Commissions and Authorities. What is there, maybe close to 50 people on the different? Davis stated probably so when you count up the total. Ronning stated they dedicate their time. There's no pay so you get all the overtime you want. This guy that came up with the boards found them in Canada. Toronto wasn't it? Mundle stated Ontario. Ronning stated for somebody to go to that kind of effort and personal expense.

Ronning stated the Lions are very active in the community. It's nice to see a community, this is 48 square miles, but it's really more like a small town. We've been here a little over ten years and plan on staying here a lot longer. You have a reason or a right to be proud about the place you live, I think.

Voss stated along those lines, Jack, we have several of our City staff members who are in the audience too. Would you mind introducing? Davis stated I'd be more than happy to.

City Staff
Introductions

Davis stated we have Craig Jochum our City Engineer. Voss encouraged stand up, stand up. There we go. Davis stated we have Michelle Orlando. She is our Police Liaison with the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. Colleen Winter our Community Development Director; Nick Schmitz our Building Official; Nate Ayshford our Public Works Director; Mark DuCharme our Fire Chief; and, Mike Jeziorski our Financial Director. We also have Karen White our Receptionist/Recycle Coordinator.

Voss stated so we're ready to answer all your questions. Davis stated I'd like to recognize one other person too. We also have Dan Butler here who is the President of the EDA. Voss stated front row and he can't even stand up. Ronning stated take a bow, please.

Chamber of
Commerce

Dan Butler stated as unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, I want to give a shout-out to the Chamber of Commerce. The East Bethel Chamber of Commerce is just a little under two years old and we're about 60 members strong. So, this is also to the people who are watching this tonight. If you have a small business and you want to, for a small investment, get a chance to network and expand your business with other businesses in the community, it's a great opportunity. I also want to mention that on May 14th, Troy is going to be doing training for the Chamber of Commerce, right here at the Senior Center, for the HeartSafe City training. Even if you're not a member of the Chamber of Commerce certainly you're always invited to attend any one of our meetings. That's the first point.

Chamber Golf
Outing

Butler stated as far as Chamber events, the second one is Tim Harrington is leading our event in July, July 17th. We're going to have a golf outing over at Viking Meadows so we'll have a Chamber golf outing starting at, I think it's, 12:30. Harrington corrected 11 o'clock. Butler stated 11 o'clock, okay, and there'll be food after golf and a good chance get some exercise and to meet some other business owners. Again, thanks for heading that up.

Chamber Golf

Butler stated Steven and Brian are on the EDA as well so appreciate all your support. Thank you.

A lady asked is that on the same day the (*inaudible*). Butler stated it's the Friday of Friday afternoon. We're going to try to get a little golf in coordination with Booster Days so that's good. You've got your calendar running there. So, are you going to be at the golf outing then? A lady answered no. Butler stated okay, just checking.

Ronning asked is everybody aware of who's entitled to or invited to play in the outing? Is it the Chamber of Commerce? Butler replied everyone is invited. There's flyers that are going to be going up. They've been previewed, reviewed, and we'll be putting flyers throughout the City. So, look for that. We're looking for preregistration on that because we are going to be having a hole-in-one contest. I forgot to mention that. You might want to rethink your position on this. Northway Sports, in conjunction with Butler & Associates Insurance, is going to be offering a motorcycle, a snowmobile, and a 1-up ATV as the hole-in-one prize. All one prize.

Harrington stated valued at \$35,000. Butler repeated a \$35,000 prize. Harrington stated winner takes all. Butler stated even if you're not a golfer, you might want to just try for the hole-in-one. Voss stated probably the easiest way is just to contact Councilmember Harrington. Harrington stated yeah either that or the flyers or City Hall. But, I mean for \$45 for 18 holes of golf, a cart, and a meal, you can't go wrong.

Davis stated one other thing I'd like to add in relation to what Tom says about the citizen participation that we have here. There's a member of our Parks Commission, Tim Hoffmann who's with us tonight and also our citizen representative on the Sunrise River WMO, Leon Mager. Thank you for attending and thank you for all you do. Voss stated and Ken. Davis stated and Ken Langmade too. Ken's our Parks Commission Chair.

Commissioners
Volunteers
Thanked

Ronning stated when you make a comment like I did, you have to make the goof of not including, you intend to do everybody but somebody like Troy sees an opening, a need for something, he can fill a space that there really wasn't a need for or we didn't know about. So you have that sort of thing. The Fire Department guys I've met before, absolutely top shelf. My son-in-law was one over at Oak Grove and they're so conscientious about what they do. It's one thing to see something that needs to be done and do it and it's another thing that ignore it. There's a lot of people here that see something that can be done and pitch in and do it.

Mundle stated or finding something to be done, finding something new. Ronning agreed stating yeah.

Voss stated one thing we do have coming up, as you mentioned, is Booster Day. Summer will be here sooner, hopefully, so it's an annual celebration we've done for at least 20 years. It's on July 18. The 17th there are activities. The movie in the park for sure. Then there's a whole slate of activities on Saturday. We want to get the word out to the community, particularly to those who may be new to the community. We always want to try to encourage involvement and to build our celebration.

Booster Day

Davis stated one thing, if you've never seen on a Friday night, the Fire Department puts on a waterball exhibition and it's worth your while to come out and watch that. So I would encourage anybody that hasn't seen it, please come out Friday night, July the 17th, at approximately 6 or 7 o'clock and watch that demonstration. It's very, very interesting.

Mundle stated if you've ever wondered what that ball on that cable out in Booster East is for, you'll find out.

Voss stated if you ever want to be involved with the Booster Day, the planning, and the Committee, we do have a Committee and Troy's wife actually heads that up. They're always looking for more volunteers to help out. Davis stated that Committee does meet next Wednesday at 6:30 here at City Hall. So if anybody's interested, please drop on by.

Fire Chief
DuCharme
Comments

Voss asked Mark, you want to say anything at all? Fire Chief DuCharme asked who's this guy Troy? So, anyway, we still have burning restrictions on. We've been getting a lot of calls. Basically, this is how the DNR figures when to pull the burning restrictions off. That's when the green stuff gets as high as the brown stuff. Okay? So, we've got a ways to go yet as far as the tall brush and things like that. So, you can't get a burning permit right now but you can have recreational fires. You don't need a permit for a rec fire.

DuCharme stated but let's think about what a recreational fire is. It's for recreation. It's for maybe campfire cooking or something like that. It's not to burn your leaves. It's not to burn your brush and things like that. And, my advice is, if you're going to have a rec fire, take the five minutes and talk to your neighbors. Let them know you're going to have a rec fire. Maybe they can close their windows if the smoke bothers them or something like that. But, try to be considerate of that. We've been going on a lot of calls as far as illegal burnings this past week. Over the weekend, coming up here, it doesn't look like the restrictions are going to be pulled off quite yet. I think we're close but as of now, we're not issuing burning permits. Any questions? Any questions about Fire Department stuff? I don't know why trucks are red. Voss added why our trucks are red. DuCharme stated thank you. Voss stated thanks Mark.

Fire Fighters
Thanked

Voss stated I'll say one thing about our Fire Department. Over the years, I've been involved in the City, I'm impressed over and over again of the commitment that our fire fighters have, 34-35 firefighters roughly. They're all residents of the City and all provide time, do a lot of training. I think quite often we think of as a Fire Department but the vast majority of their responses are actually medical calls. They're usually the first ones there. A lot of times even before the Sheriff is there. So, it's an important service to the community. It's a group that, you know, we're in front of the cameras twice a month, the Commissions are in front, but I think the fire fighters are the ones who are in the background all the time. I think as residents, we just don't really recognize them enough. So, it's a very dedicated group of people.

Mundle stated you never get to see them unless you have to call him. Voss stated right, that's true. DuCharme stated or you can come to the games. Voss stated which is the night of Booster Day at Booster West. That's our weekend of celebrations. Anything else?

Harrington one of the road projects, too, I think Lincoln and Laurel, I'm hoping that should be done this year. I think we've got one more individual to deal with and then hopefully get that going later this spring or early summer. That should be done around the Beach.

Lincoln &

Voss asked any questions? Mundle stated there's another EDA related. East Bethel did

Open for
Business
Program

get, well helping to promote the Open for Business Program. I believe the Program's put on through Anoka County at no cost for East Bethel for this first year. Essentially it's a business consultant that if you have a business or if you're an entrepreneur and you have questions, you would like some help, you want to know, maybe how to finance your projects, or something like that. You can contact this individual and sit down with her and she will assist you in any way that she can. If you have any interest in that, contact City Hall and they can get you in touch with her. Voss stated and it's a free service. Mundle agreed.

Senior Housing
Proposal

A lady asked is there any plan in the works for senior housing in the City? Voss stated plans for senior housing. We've had a lot of discussion about senior housing. Our Savior's has had discussions. Jack's talked, probably more recently than I have. Ronning stated Our Savior's has met with the Presbyterians. Apparently they build and maintain, run, a number of senior housing locations. They're very interested.

Voss stated it's kind of grouped, in discussions I've had with Pastor Dan just a few years ago. They're looking to see when the grocery store is going to come. Which, my guess is they're looking to see when the housing development's going to come in down on Viking. So it's all kind of tied together. It's not to say what, if one starts the rest are going to start to follow. But, I think that's part of it. The service road that we've talked about earlier, that's kind of related because that is the area that's been talked about over by Our Savior's Church. So, they have that transportation means. It's an ongoing discussion. I think it's a little optimistic this time. We've had these discussions for 20 years, right? At least? But this one seems to have a little more 'legs' this time. I think like with any business, they have a measure of what works for them as a senior home. I had heard that they're looking at a larger type senior home than discussed in the past. A larger, with more units. So, it's something that's on our radar for sure.

Davis stated in addition for the other comments, the City is also in position to be able to extend and furnish utilities to expedite and facilitate the decision making process on this project. So, we have a great deal of flexibility in that so we stand ready to react whenever we get some decision from them.

Ronning stated all that stuff, I don't mean to burn up your time, but here to burn up your time. All that stuff is private investment. We all know that but we sometimes forget that and what's the City doing to get this. What's the City doing. What Jack just mentioned is one of the few things that we can try to do. The City staff and the Council's trying to cooperate in any way we can. Voss stated we're facilitators and we can make things happen. We can certainly try to help and assist.

Davis stated again echoing on that, I think that we do have a few more 'tools' in the 'toolbox' now to help make some of those things happen. I think, as Steve had mentioned, there's a group of people and everybody's sitting back to wait to see who goes first. We think that we're nearing a time where somebody will actually 'pull the trigger' and we think that there will, hopefully, be some domino effect that will come from the first development decision.

Voss stated before we retire this session, and particularly since it's being broadcast and going to be rebroadcast, again, I think all five of us are accessible as we can be. If there's ever any question, our e-mails are on the website. Our personal phone numbers are on the

Residents
Encouraged to
Communicate
with Council
& Staff

website. You can always come to Council meetings if you want direct contact with us. City staff is always willing to listen to resident's concerns or questions. Again, we encourage that. The last thing you should do as a resident, if you have a grievance, is not to share it. Really, truly. If there's an issue you have, please share it.

Mundle stated share it with us and preferably not to your neighbors and all over the neighborhood first before you come to us to address it.

6.0
Closing
Comments

Voss stated last call. All right, then we'll end this session. We are going to go back next door and you're welcome back next door to talk more one-on-one if you like. There's coffee and cookies remaining too. If not, thank you all for being here. On behalf of Council, we all really appreciate it. Thank you.

7.0
Adjourn

Koller stated I'll make a motion to adjourn. Mundle stated I'll second. Voss stated any discussion? All in favor say aye?" **All in favor.** Voss stated opposed? Hearing none motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:
Carla Wirth
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.