

**Minneola City Council
Minutes
May 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Minneola City Hall**

The City of Minneola Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley. Also present were Vice Mayor Pam Serviss, Councilor Kelly Price, Councilor Joe Saunders, Scott Gerken (City Attorney), Mark Johnson (City Manager), and Barbara Hollerand (City Clerk). Councilor Lisa Jones was absent. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all present were practicing “social distancing” by remaining at least six feet apart in the council chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Serviss.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Price, to excuse Councilor Jones.

AYE: Serviss, Kelley, Price, Saunders

NAY: None

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Kelley asked for public comments.

Mayor Kelley acknowledged that there were residents in attendance to speak about the extension of South Avenue, and he asked Mark Johnson to provide some background on the road project.

Mark Johnson provided an overview, saying the road was planned in the 1990s along with the Eastridge and Skyridge Valley subdivisions. He said the intent was always to have South Avenue connect to Hancock Road, but it was never completed. He said the extension is a needed public safety improvement for both the school and the subdivision.

46 **Adam Miller**, 903 Parrish Drive, spoke regarding increased traffic in his neighborhood as
47 South Avenue becomes a through street. He requested consideration of speed tables to slow
48 speeding and increased law enforcement presence. He recommended multiple drop-off
49 locations at the school to disperse the traffic. He said the posted speed limit is 20 m.p.h. and
50 suggested reducing it to 15 m.p.h.

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52 **Mayor Kelley** suggested additional Council discussions with the neighbors to consider
53 strategies to improve safety.

54

55 **Mark Murray**, 801 Scenic View Circle, spoke regarding existing speeding and car stereo
56 noise in his neighborhood. He asked for more law enforcement presence to enforce the
57 speed limit and stopping at stop signs.

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59 **Mayor Kelley** said the project engineers indicated that the South Avenue extension was
60 expected to be completed by the end of summer or the beginning of fall.

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62 **Janet Santucci**, 936 Scenic View Circle, spoke regarding roundabouts, law enforcement
63 presence, and speed tables. She explained that she worked at the Minneola Charter School,
64 discussed the traffic problems there with motorists blocking driveways, and expressed her
65 opposition to the extension of South Avenue.

66

67 **Mayor Kelley** spoke regarding the liability of installing speed tables.

68

69 **Scott Gerken** spoke regarding traffic studies. He said the developer agreement required
70 Pinecrest Lakes Academy to extend the road within a five-year timeframe as a condition of
71 development approval. He said that when the school applies for approval to expand, it will
72 require public hearings to amend the developer agreement and to approve the site plan.

73

74 **Mark Johnson** spoke regarding the expiration of the five-year timeframe for completing
75 the road, the performance bond, and the plans for the school's expansion. He said the road
76 plans were approved at the time the school was initially approved.

77

78 **Paul Giacalone**, 625 Arbor Pointe Avenue, spoke regarding speeding in the Reserve at
79 Minneola. He complimented the sheriff's deputies for their effective speed enforcement in
80 the City. He requested "no parking" signs be placed on the other side of Jorhagen Drive at
81 Woods Landing Drive and Arbor Pointe Avenue. He advised against narrowing South
82 Avenue to reduce speeds.

83

84 **Brian Rebel**, 944 Scenic View Circle, spoke regarding a prior citizen petition against the
85 extension of South Avenue. He spoke regarding traffic backups and asked about gating the
86 Eastridge subdivision.

87

88 **Mayor Kelley** spoke regarding the history of the public hearings on the road extension and
89 the notification process. He spoke regarding gated communities, assuming road
90 maintenance, and the role of H.O.A.s.

91

92 **Scott Gerken** spoke regarding the challenges inherent in gating an existing subdivision.

Doug Hotaling, 314 E. Madison Street, thanked the Council for the Trailhead Park improvements including the exercise equipment, skate park, and the new sidewalk. He asked for consideration for extending the sidewalk and for increasing the parking area. He voiced his support for narrowing South Avenue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item 1: City Council Meeting Minutes May 5, 2020

Item 2: Purchase Request – Boom Bucket Truck – Budgeted

Item 3: Contract – Professional Services – Budgeted

Scott Gerken stated that there had been minor revisions made to the May 5, 2020 meeting minutes.

Mayor Kelley asked for public comments. There were no comments.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Price, to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYE: Serviss, Kelley, Price, Saunders

NAY: None

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Item 4: Ordinance 2020-06 – Duke Energy Franchise Agreement – First Reading

Scott Gerken read the ordinance in title only. He reminded council that there would be no vote taken on first reading and that the second reading would be June 2, 2020.

Mark Johnson stated that Duke Energy representatives were in attendance. He provided background on the prior agreements from 1970 with Florida Power and from 2000 with Florida Power/Progress Energy/Duke Energy. He stated that much of the agreement is the same with some minor modifications proposed in anticipation of legislative changes.

Scott Gerken stated that a few minor changes would be made to the ordinance for its second reading, but he did not view them as controversial.

Mayor Kelley asked for public comments. There were no comments.

Item 5: Discussion – Annual Fire Protection Special Assessment

Mayor Kelley provided a brief introduction. He confirmed that there was an opportunity to leave the residential fees unchanged from last year and to begin assessing vacant land.

141 **Mark Johnson** stated that commercial properties will have a small reduction under the
142 proposed new formula. He clarified that the City cannot change the rates for any individual
143 category because rates are factored based on an analysis of the call data. The most recent
144 study of call data has shown a shift in responses from prior years, with fewer calls to
145 commercial properties, resulting in a rate reduction in that category. He said that should the
146 council continue to assess 25 percent of the full rate as it has done in the past, then based on
147 the updated call data, the rate for each zoning category changes. He said that by adding
148 vacant land and keeping residential rates at \$59, commercial rates decrease,
149 industrial/warehouse rates remain the same and institutional rates increase. He said that
150 while the City will lose approximately \$11,000 the first year, that amount will be made up
151 in future years by the vacant land assessments.

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153 **Council consensus** was to move forward with the new formula as presented.

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155 **FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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157 **Mayor Kelley** asked for final public comments. There were no comments.

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159 **REPORTS**

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161 **Mark Johnson:**

- 162 • Briefed council that several groups including WXW have approached the City about
163 resuming events. He said that the City had intended to follow the state's lead on
164 reopening but asked council members to contact him with their thoughts.
- 165 • Reported that someone is expected to request approval to convert the former Surf
166 Restaurant into a church use and to construct a daycare where the miniature golf course
167 is located.
- 168 • Spoke regarding a food drop event planned for Friday, June 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 169 • Asked for council input on the trail landscaping. He stated that one option being
170 evaluated would replace landscaping in the median islands with durable pavers or
171 stamped concrete and asked for council feedback on that concept.
- 172 • Asked for council support to add a deputy position on July 1 instead of waiting for the
173 new fiscal year October 1. He said the annual cost for the new position, a corporal,
174 would be approximately \$119,000 and there would be a one-time \$53,000 cost for a
175 vehicle and equipment. He said the position would be added to the contract at its next
176 renewal.
 - 177 ○ **Mayor Kelley** confirmed the cost for the position from July 1st to September 30th.
- 178 • **Mark Johnson** explained the cost was for a fiscal year, but the labor costs would be
179 prorated for the remainder of this fiscal year and the capital costs would be paid in full
180 if we start the new deputy July 1st.

181 **Councilor Price:**

- 182 • Commented that the park was looking great.

183

184 **Councilor Saunders:**

- 185 • Requested that an agenda item on the cemetery be added to the first council meeting in
186 June. He said he will have a thumb drive of the report for council and then present an
187 overview for discussion.

- 188 ○ **Mayor Kelley** asked if Councilor Saunders preferred a workshop or an agenda item
189 at a regular meeting.
190 ○ **Consensus** was to place the cemetery discussion on the June 2 meeting agenda.

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192 **Mayor Kelley:**

- 193 • Spoke regarding Duke Energy and the retention pond in the Reserve at Minneola.
194 ○ **Mark Johnson** reported that Duke Energy representatives had provided the City
195 with a contact for discussing what enhancements could be made in the retention area
196 under the transmission lines.

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198 **Mayor Kelley** asked for a motion to adjourn.

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200 **MOTION by Councilor Price, SECONDED by Vice Mayor Serviss, to adjourn.**

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202 **AYE:** Serviss, Kelley, Price, Saunders

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204 **NAY:** None

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206 **MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

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208 *(Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.)*

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216 **ATTEST:**

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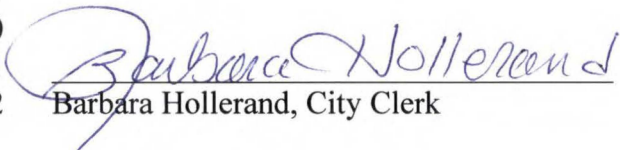
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Pat Kelley, Mayor


Barbara Hollerand, City Clerk