

CITY OF ST. CLOUD CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, December 17, 2018
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES**
3. **ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Present:** Carol Lewis, John Libert, Jeff Johnson, George Hontos, Steve Laraway Jeff Goerger, Dave Masters

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
5. **AMENDING THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL UNITS IN THE ST. CLOUD URBAN AND URBANIZING AREA (APO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT)**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
6. **MAYOR KLEIS' APPOINTMENT OF MALIK STEWART TO THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD WITH A TERM TO COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON 6/30/2021.**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
7. **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ST. CLOUD TIMES AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD FOR THE YEAR 2019.**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-178
8. **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR AN ALTERNATE DISSEMINATION FOR BIDS WEBSITE ADVERTISEMENT FOR 2019 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT BIDS**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-179
9. **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES FOR 2019.**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-180
10. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHARITABLE GAMBLING PREMISE PERMIT FOR THE ROCKVILLE LIONS CLUB TO CONDUCT GAMBLING AT BEST WESTERN KELLY INN 100 4TH AVENUE SOUTH.**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-181
11. **AN APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD JANUARY 10, 2019.**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0

12. **AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO SELL TOBACCO FOR THREE STAR, LLC 9TH AVE. X-PRESS, 429 9TH AVE NORTH**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
13. **AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO SELL TOBACCO FOR G AND R, INC. DBA AL'S WESTSIDE SERVICE, 301 22ND AVENUE NORTH**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
14. **AN APPLICATION FOR A SUNDAY GROWLER OFF-SALE LICENSE FOR PANTOWN BREWING COMPANY, INC. DBA PANTOWN BREWING COMPANY, 408 37TH AVENUE NORTH**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JANUARY 7, 2019
15. **GREAT RIVER GREENING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
16. **NUTRIENT RECOVERY AND REUSE PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER #5**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
17. **PUBLIC SERVICES EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – GRAFFITI REMOVAL EQUIPMENT**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
18. **OAK HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL SIDEWALK/BICYCLE TRAIL FACILITIES:**
 - A. **RESOLUTION OF SPONSORSHIP FOR OAK HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AREA SIDEWALK/BICYCLES FACILITIES**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-182
 - B. **RESOLUTION AGREEING TO MAINTAIN PROPOSED OAK HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AREA SIDEWALK/BICYCLE FACILITIES**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-183
19. **APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL PARKING ZONE PERMIT AT 29 – 21ST AVENUE SOUTH**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
20. **RESOLUTION REGARDING CLASSIFICATION OF TAX FORFEITED LAND**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-184
21. **A. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE QUARRY WOOD PUD TO ALLOW 20 SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED LOTS AND A MULTIPLE-FAMILY BUILDING ON OUTLOT 1 (LOCATION: 3350 COUNTY ROAD 136)**
 - B. **PRELIMINARY PLAT OF QUARRY WOODS OUTLOT I**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JANUARY 7, 2019

OLD BUSINESS

22. RESOLUTION APPROVING DESIGN AND BUDGET OPTION #1 AS THE PREFERRED OPTION FOR THE ST CLOUD CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO RELOCATE AND REBUILD A NEW SKATEBOARD PLAZA WITHIN HERITAGE PARK

ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/GOERGER/APPROVED 7-0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-185

Park Director Scott Zlotnik introduced item. Offering three design options, requesting Council approve option #1 as the design plan for the park. Defines how the city will move forward with the project. Provides direction only. Option #1 is largest option (22,018 sq ft) approx. cost \$1.10 million (plus option to add \$300,000 in additional amenities); Option #2 (15,000 sq ft) – approx. cost \$755,200 (excludes additional amenities); Option #3 (19,004 sq ft) – approx. cost \$956,300 (excludes additional amenities). Additional amenities include restrooms, lighting, and shaded gathering area.

Survey conducted, 93 answered, 86.02% recommended Option #1. Goal to have park completed by mid-September.

Councilmember Goerger inquired on construction schedule. Zlotnik commented that since a decision has not been made on design, he cannot comment on the exact time frame. Councilmember Masters inquired on if a notification was mailed to businesses near the relocated park to seek their opinion on what option to build. Zlotnik commented that a mailing did not occur, but notification was sent via Social Media and neighboring businesses did attend the Public Hearings. Councilmember Masters inquired on what type of funds may be used to support project. Zlotnik commented that reserve funds and local option sales tax will be used for the project and will officially be requested from Council once project is formally bid. These costs are estimates only.

Councilmember Laraway inquired on popularity of the skate park on social media. Understood this is 2nd most commonly searched. Zlotnik commented that although not aware of the research Laraway is referencing, it is the 2nd most popular St. Cloud attraction. Councilmember Laraway also inquired on if proceeds from the Costco project will help fund the park and the difference made up from reserve funds. Zlotnik confirmed but also added sales tax as another option.

Councilmember Goerger commented that the Council received two letters from Northland Capital and Stearns History Museum requesting a delay in voting. Zlotnik commented that their concerns are valued. Mayor Kleis commented that he has personally met with Northland Capital and Stearns History Museum. Council should move this vote forward and ensure we include the two entities into the design discussion.

Councilmember Johnson commented that he wishes to hear from some of the users of the park and get their input.

Mayor Kleis commented that the proposals before the Council came from the Skateboard community. The timeline is tight.

Councilmember Hontos very frustrated with the process. A large supporter of the Skatepark. Original skatepark built in 2010 for \$550,000 (\$150,000 in donations received). Commented on Costco proceeds. The city has expended almost \$4.5 million dollars for the Costco project. Skatepark was to be built for \$700,000 with the proceeds. The \$3.5 million proceeds from the Costco sale is not sufficient to cover all expenses. This is a disservice to the taxpayers. Requested the item to be tabled for 30 days, that administration go back to the drawing board, go back to the original size, and budget as initially proposed.

Council President Lewis commented on the letters received and the timeline of the project. Would like to get the park opened as soon as possible.

Mayor Kleis responded to Councilmember Hontos' comments. All recommendations have been public and open. Administration is providing a skate park option that coincides with the preliminary numbers. On Costco – Mayor Kleis commented that he did not vote on the project, the Council did. Costco is the largest retail project for St. Cloud in over 20 years. Costco is a financial benefit for the city. Recommends Option #1 for the Skatepark, but ultimately is the council's decision.

Councilmember Goerger commented on Councilmember Hontos' comments. This is not a tough decision.

Councilmember Johnson commented that Councilmember Hontos' proposal to delay for 30 days is reasonable. It was moved by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Hontos to table the motion for 30 days to allow public input, a public hearing on the matter, and Administration to come up with a design that works within allotted \$700,000 budget, utilizing private funds. Motion failed with Councilmember Lewis, Masters, Laraway, Goerger and Libert opposed.

It was moved by Councilmember Goerger, seconded by Councilmember Libert to approve Option #1.

Councilmember Hontos provided additional input, commenting that he has nothing against Costco, just on how the sale to Costco has been handled. Councilmember Johnson inquired that if passed, the Council is approving the cost overruns. The Council has a responsibility to the taxpayers. Mayor Kleis commented that all discussions have been public. The sales and property taxes alone will benefit the city and its taxpayers. Funds are coming from a fund established from proceeds from land sales.

Councilmember Masters commented on the reserve funds. Councilmember Johnson inquired on how much money is available in the permanent improvement fund. City Administrator Matthew Staehling commented that there is approximately \$2 million in the fund. Option #1 will be funded through the permanent improvement fund.

Councilmember Hontos provided additional comments on the matter. Mayor Kleis responded that only estimates were provided. 100% confident that if the city was not being sued by an anonymous group, the city would be receiving a significant contribution from Costco toward the skatepark. Furthermore, Mayor Kleis has asked people to contribute to the project. This is part of infrastructure. This is what is before Council now.

Councilmember Goerger called to question. Motion on call to question passed 5-2 with Councilmember Hontos and Councilmember Johnson opposed.

Motion to approve Option #1 passed 5-2 with Councilmember Hontos and Councilmember Johnson opposed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

23. A. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2019 ENTERPRISE FUNDS BUDGET

ACTION TAKEN: GOERGER/JOHNSON/APPROVED 7-0

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-186

B. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AMENDING SECTION 575 OF THE 2007 CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT FEES"

ACTION TAKEN: LIBERT/GOERGER/APPROVED 6-1 WITH HONTOS OPPOSED

ORDINANCE ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2767

Mayor Kleis recognized Ruth Wipper and her team for receiving an award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Also commented on property valuations and when the time is to dispute/appeal those valuations.

Finance Director Ruth Wipper introduced item A. Enterprise Funds consists of 9 funds. Self-supported sale of goods or services to the public through fees and do not rely on property taxes for operation. Total 2019 Budget is \$48,711,300 with majority (60%) in water and wastewater utility.

Public Services Director Pat Shea introduced item B. Rate adjustments help city comply with unfunded state mandates. DNR Conservation Rate Structure Compliance, Water Quality Compliance, and St. Cloud's Growing Service Area. Rate increases recommended in WAC (water access charge)/SAC (sewer access charge) and water/wastewater/storm water rates.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing. It was moved by Councilmember Goerger, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve Item A.

Councilmember Johnson inquired on how much of the storm water charges are sent to the state. Wipper indicated that no money is sent directly to the state. Councilmember Johnson also inquired on why there is storm water charges. This utility is mandated by the state and the expenses are shared by all residents. The storm water utility funds various expenses the city incurs to prevent pollution in the Mississippi River. Storm water utility is a separate budget.

Councilmember Hontos requested clarification on how the increase of SAC/WAC charges and users are allocated. Shea clarified – user fee increases are for compliance and SAC/WAC charges are to comply with growth. Growth projections used are from comprehensive plan which anticipate 2,500 new homes on the South side in the next 20-30 years. Councilmember Hontos commented that he does not feel that the rate increases now are justified for projections 20-30 years out. Shea

commented that SAC/WAC increases is a phased approach specific to future growth.

Mayor Kleis commented that the costs are in the next decade alone. Council was given three options. This option is a gradual increase. Also helps with east side development.

Motion to approve Item A passed unanimously.

It was moved by Councilmember Libert, seconded by Councilmember Goerger to approve Item B. Motion to approve Item B passed 6-1 with Councilmember Hontos opposed.

24. AMBLEWOOD DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

ACTION TAKEN: HONTOS/MASTERS/FAILED 3-4 WITH LEWIS, JOHNSON, LARAWAY AND HONTOS OPPOSED

City Engineer Steve Foss commented on improvements and concerns of the affected assessed property owners. Petition process is valid. Need for construction is valid. The vast majority of properties that petitioned for improvements are not directly assessed for the improvements. A single property, not requesting the improvements, will be assessed.

Council President Carol Lewis opened the Public Hearing.

Lee Hanson, Member of Abounding Joy Lutheran Church – church is not opposed to the improvements, it is opposed to the assessment which doubles the cost the church paid for the land.

Robert Lorenz, 1825 Amblewood Dr, St Cloud, MN – commented on the improvements needed

Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Hontos, seconded by Councilmember Masters to approve. Councilmember Masters inquired on letter received from Mr. Lorenz and statutes cited valid. Foss commented that they are valid. But, we have a challenge here and the Council needs to determine if this is the appropriate project to move forward with.

Councilmember Laraway will not support the project as the assessments are not equitable. Council President Lewis inquired on how other improvements similar to this were handled. Foss commented that the city is paying its fair share. Councilmember Hontos commented that although this seems like a legitimate project to complete, but assessment against one property needs to be re-looked at. The church will benefit from the improvement. Councilmember Goerger commented that the Council should approve the project and the property owner assessed may appeal the assessment. Foss commented that the process is valid and it comes down to priorities. This is a bituminous road. President Lewis would like additional information.

It was moved by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Council President Lewis to table. Motion to table failed with Councilmembers Hontos, Laraway, Masters, Liberty and Goerger opposed.

Councilmember Johnson commented that he will not support this project. Motion to approve failed 3-4 with Councilmembers Lewis, Johnson, Laraway and Hontos opposed.

25. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ORDERING ROLLING RIDGE ROAD FROM CYPRESS ROAD TO CSAH 4 BITUMINOUS RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS

ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/JOHNSON/APPROVED 7-0 VIA ROLL CALL VOTE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-188

City Engineer Steve Foss introduced item. Initiated city staff. Approximate cost is \$500,000 to be paid by bond proceeds. No assessments on improvement.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Masters, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve. City Clerk Seth Kauffman conducted Roll Call. Motion unanimously approved.

26. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ORDERING 4TH/5TH AVENUE SOUTH FROM UNIVERSITY DRIVE TO CLEARWATER ROAD BITUMINOUS RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS

ACTION TAKEN: GOERGER/LARAWAY/APPROVED 7-0 VIA ROLL CALL VOTE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-189

City Engineer Steve Foss introduced item. Initiated city staff. Includes mill overlay and improvements to ramps accessing sidewalks. State aid dollars will fund project. No assessments on improvement.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Goerger, seconded by Councilmember Laraway to approve. City Clerk Seth Kauffman conducted Roll Call. Motion unanimously approved.

Councilmember Hontos stepped away from dias

27. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO RENEW THE CURRENCY EXCHANGE LICENSE FOR SAMCO FINANCIAL SERVICES CORP. LOCATED AT 900 COOPER AVE SOUTH.

ACTION TAKEN: LARAWAY/MASTERS/APPROVED 6-0 (HONTOS NOT PRESENT TO VOTE)
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-190

City Clerk Seth Kauffman introduced item. City does not issue license. Purpose tonight is to hear from public on any questions or concerns.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Laraway, seconded by Councilmember Masters to approve. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

28. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2015 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT THE TECH HIGH SCHOOL CATALYST SITE PLAN

ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/LARAWAY/APPROVED 7-0

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2018-12-191

City Development Director Matt Glaesman introduced item. Purpose of plan as a vision on what the future use of Tech High School should be. No effect on land use, just setting a direction.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing.

Mike Conway, St. Cloud – concerns that the ideas that is unrealistic to the neighborhood. Is the vision we are presenting going to be acceptable to the community? Are we doing the vision justice? Are we presenting something that is viable and true?

Jason Hemphill, St. Cloud – lives in the Lake George neighborhood. It is the heart of St. Cloud. Vision is not acceptable. Commented on desired outcomes listed in vision plan. Plan does not represent desired outcomes. Also, traffic concerns that should be considered.

Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Masters, seconded by Councilmember Laraway to approve.

Councilmember Masters requested Glaesman speak to the concerns raised. Glaesman commented that the multi-story building both speakers addressed concerns about is the lone point of contention. This is just a vision. We need to consider all options as single family detached is not marketable in this area. Councilmember Masters inquired on how parking will be addressed. Glaesman commented that the RFQs sent will address the viability of parking. Councilmember Masters requested clarification on the Artists' Lofts. Glaesman commented that it is an architectural term that will allow for artists to live in the space or utilize just for their work.

Councilmember Laraway commented on process and desire from developers. Requested clarification on process. RFQ is first. Then, full site plans developed by those qualified in RFQ. Then, brought to Council for vote. Councilmember Laraway inquired on if it is likely to have one developer or two plus developers. Height of buildings should be reasonable in relation to the neighborhood.

Councilmember Libert commented that the vision should not be too specific. We want creativity. This is an opportunity for the Council to listen. The city needs to paint a broad picture to gain interest.

Councilmember Hontos inquired on if this impacts zoning at this time. Glaesman commented that we are not. Councilmember Hontos that this is a dream and we need to start somewhere.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 29. A. ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY ROUGHLY 215 FEET IN LENGTH AND 14 FEET IN WIDTH LOCATED BETWEEN LOTS 1 THROUGH 9, BLOCK 6, LAKE PARK ADDITION AND THE VACATION OF A 5,500 SQUARE FOOT PORTION OF 12TH AVENUE SOUTH (A.K.A. LAKE BOULEVARD) LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF LOTS 1 THROUGH 5, BLOCK 6, LAKE PARK ADDITION (LOCATION: 205 12TH AVENUE SOUTH)**
ACTION TAKEN: MASTERS/LARAWAY/APPROVED 7-0
ORDINANCE ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2768

- B. PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT OF EASTMAN PARK ADDITION. (LOCATION: 201, 205 AND 233 12TH AVENUE SOUTH; 1100 7TH STREET SOUTH; 1300 2ND STREET SOUTH; AND 115 13TH AVENUE SOUTH)**
ACTION TAKEN: GOERGER/LIBERT/APPROVED 7-0

City Development Director Matt Glaesman introduced item. This item "sets the table" for the RFQ approved in Item 28.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Masters, seconded by Councilmember Laraway to approve Item A. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Goerger, seconded by Councilmember Libert to approve Item B. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

- 30. ORDINANCE REZONING PORTIONS OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 121, 127 AND 129 7TH AVENUE SOUTHEAST FROM C5, HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO R5, GENERAL MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (LOCATION: 121, 127 AND 129 7TH AVENUE SOUTHEAST)**
ACTION TAKEN: LARAWAY/JOHNSON/APPROVED 7-0
ORDINANCE ADOPTED AND ASSIGNED 2769

City Development Director Matt Glaesman introduced item. Proposal to clean up zoning of a number of older parcels subdivided over time.

Council President Lewis opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke. Council President Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Councilmember Laraway, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Lewis introduced a group that will speak to the Highway 23 Coalition. Aaron Backman spoke on behalf of the group. Mayor Kleis spoke with Bob Mathieson on Friday of previous week. Differs on philosophical aspect of city funds being used to lobby against another tax entity. Further discussion by Council. Councilmember Hontos commented that even if all councilmembers approved, the Mayor ultimately authorizes the expenditure. Backman encourages the city of St. Cloud to have representation on the board. It was moved by Council President Lewis, seconded by Councilmember Laraway to add this item to January 7, 2019 agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

Council President Lewis commented on the quarterly meeting with Lutheran Social Services. Since May 2018, the city has had no refugees resettled in the St. Cloud area.

Mayor Dave Kleis inquired on the HRA and the per diem allocated to the board members. He would like this practice eliminated. Per diem is designed to use for extraordinary expenses. Per diem is paid by the HRA per meeting, even if the meeting is 3 minutes. Public record supports this claim. Elected officials that are paid by the government should not be paid per diem to attend a meeting they should attend as an elected official. Inquired on if the per diem was discussed at the HRA Retreat. If not, formal request that board members of the HRA not collect per diem.

Councilmember Hontos commented on Mayor's request. The City Council does not have authorization over approving per diem at the HRA. Furthermore, the members do not get paid on per meeting basis as the Mayor indicated; but rather they are paid on a per day basis. Councilmember Hontos requested that the Mayor bring his request to the HRA. The HRA is not the same as other commissions and requests that the Mayor not compare as there is no comparison in terms of the responsibility and the Mayor needs to acknowledge that.

Councilmember Masters commented that he currently serves on the HRA Board and as of October he declined to accept any further per diem. Requested a clarification on if the Council has the say with regard to the per diem on the HRA board. Mayor Kleis commented that all he would like to know is if the per diem was discussed at the HRA Retreat. Per diem was never designed as a salary, it was designed to reimburse for costs and expenditures. Public service should not be something a person requires a paycheck for. The Mayor appoints the HRA board members. The Council does have oversight over the HRA. The HRA doesn't exist unless the City allows it to exist. This is a misappropriation of funds that the Council has the ability to correct. Mayor Kleis believes the per diem is wrong. Councilmember Hontos commented that the HRA doesn't have a per diem, that was changed. Also requested that if the Mayor wants him off the HRA board, just take him off and commented that the Mayor's threats don't scare anyone. Mayor Kleis commented that he is not asking to eliminate anyone and that if not getting per diem will make Hontos quit, then that is exactly why per diem is wrong.

At this point, Councilmember Hontos got up from his chair and began to leave the dais. Although, Councilmember Hontos continued to attempt to talk over Mayor Kleis, his exact comments could not be heard as he was not speaking into the microphone. Councilmember Hontos then left the Council Chambers entirely.

Mayor Kleis commented that it is not a game when public dollars are spent. This is public information, something that has been asked in the past, and is about public dollars expended for people who are in a volunteer position. Mayor Kleis is not threatening to remove anybody and in fact, wouldn't remove anybody from the HRA board. Just believes from a philosophical aspect that getting paid \$75 for a 3-minute meeting, as an elected official, is wrong.

Councilmember Masters commented that it is a demanding position. But, is in favor of eliminating the per diem, if council has the ability to do so. Councilmember Goerger commented that adding per diem to the agenda for the HRA Retreat was requested but ultimately not added and not discussed at the retreat. Councilmember Goerger also declined the per diem, commenting that HRA Board members do not incur expenses and the per diem should not be paid. There is no cost associated with being a board member of the HRA and he cannot accept per diem when no cost is incurred. Council President Lewis commented that she too is against per diem.

OPEN FORUM

John Post, St. Cloud – commented that a judge kidnapped his son because he taught him to protest and requested Council to protect him and help him.

Moira Walsh, St. Cloud – spoke on refugee issues and that we all should realize how wealthy and how pampered we are. It is important we realize this when we look at other people who don't have any of that. We must keep in mind our duty to those people.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Masters, seconded by Councilmember Laraway to adjourn. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.



Seth Kauffman, Recording Secretary



Jeff Goerger, Council President