

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF STAPLES, MINNESOTA**

**August 17, 2020**

The special meeting of the Staples City Council was called to order by Mayor Etzler at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2020 at City Hall. Present were Mayor Etzler, City Council Members Case, Johnson, Miles and Murray. Councilmember Theurer arrived at 5:25 p.m. Councilmember Toepper was absent. Also present were City Administrator Nelsen, Police Chief Birkholtz, Public Works Director Grabe and other interested parties.

City Administrator Nelsen reviewed changes in revenue for the proposed 2021 budget, budget impacts for existing services and one time proposals.

Councilmember Murray stated the Dower Lake Grant for the storm shelter will not cover the entire cost. City Administrator Nelsen replied the match amount will be partly covered with in kind services in 2020.

Councilmember Johnson asked what the budget includes for the Community Center. City Administrator Nelsen stated the Community Center will be the topic of another meeting. Councilmember Johnson would like to bring the key stakeholders to the table.

City Administrator Nelsen reviewed the 2021 proposed budget document. The preliminary draft includes a 2% tax levy increase.

Councilmember Theurer asked if there is a correlation between removal of diseased trees and tree replacement. She doesn't see the trees that are removed being replaced. City Administrator Nelsen will report back on the status of tree replacements.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the Police received what they needed for the interview room soundproofing. Police Chief Birkholtz responded the improvements were made.

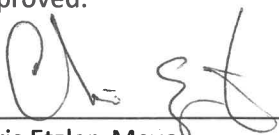
Councilmember Johnson asked if there were new Police costs required due to State laws. Police Chief Birkholtz reviewed the additional staff time and costs required if body cameras are required by the State Legislature.

Councilmember Murray asked if sidewalk repair falls under the permanent improvement fund sidewalk line item. City Administrator Nelsen stated it would be if the sidewalk is the responsibility of the City, but most sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner.


Councilmember Case stated he thinks the City should be responsible for sidewalk repair.

It was moved by Miles and seconded by Murray to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Case, Etzler, Johnson, Miles, Murray and Theurer voted yes. None voted no. Carried.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Etzler, Mayor  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Archer, City Clerk  
City Administrator