

# St. Stephen City Council Agenda – April 6, 2022



2 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
St. Stephen, MN 56375  
320-251-0964

## **CITY OFFICIALS**

Lisa Marvin  
Mayor

Gene Skaj  
Council Member

Danita Traut  
Council Member

Steve Trobec  
Council Member

Tom Vouk  
Council Member

Kurt Niemeyer  
Treasurer

Julie Jacobs  
City Clerk

Website:  
[cityofststephen.com](http://cityofststephen.com)

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Finances

Reading of Claims  
Reading of Receipts  
Treasurer's Report

Petitions, Requests and Communication

Ray or Dave Trobec – Half Street Closing for Annual Chicken Fry, June 3, 2022  
Greg Supan – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions  
Loren Traut – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions  
Joe Lahr w/Joe's Excavating Inc. – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions

St. Stephen Fire & Rescue

Emergency Management

Reports

Road & Bridge  
Planning Commission  
Park  
Stearns Electric Operation Round Up Grant  
Bids for Smoley Field Driveway  
Personnel

Sheriff's Report

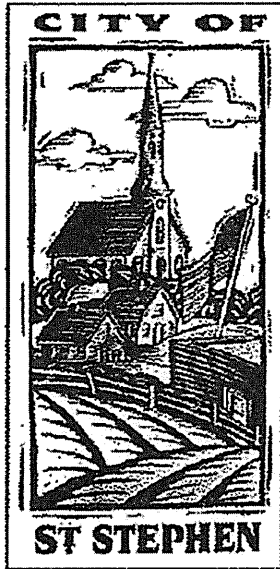
Health Committee

Unfinished Business

Permit Application/Form work performed in the Public Street Right of Way  
Rodenwald Developer Agreement  
Egg Hunt, Smoley Fields: April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.  
National Night Out: August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Update

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### New Business

- Lawn Mowing Bid Process
- Air BNB or VRBO
- Drone Usage
- Pan Handling Ordinance
- Summer Rec Programs at Smoley Fields
- Gas Meter by City Well/Generator
- Astech Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation, sweeping estimate
- Brush and Ditch Cutting
- Granite Pest Control

### Miscellaneous Announcements

Newsleaders Publication: *April 15 & 29, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, Aug. 5 & 19, Sept. 2, 16 & 30, Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 & 25, and Dec. 9 & 23.*

Meeting Adjourned

**MINUTES**  
**ST. STEPHEN CITY COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 6, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Lisa Marvin

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Marvin – Mayor, Gene Skaj, Danita Traut, Steve Trobec, and Thomas Vouk

ALSO PRESENT: Kurt Niemeyer, Treasurer, and Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

GUESTS: Liz Halet, City Attorney, Randy Sabart, City Engineer, Tony Bruemmer, John Huls, Joe Lahr, Dan Schultz, Jerome and Dolores Supan, Greg Supan, Loren Traut, Ray Trobec, plus other guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Gene Skaj, seconded by Danita Traut, to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING: March City Council Meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Gene Skaj, seconded by Danita Traut, to approve the amended March 1, 2022, minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

READING OF THE CLAIMS: A motion was made by Steve Trobec, seconded by Danita Traut, to approve the claims. All in favor, motion carried.

READING OF RECEIPTS: February receipts were reviewed. A motion was made by Danita Traut, seconded by Gene Skaj, to accept the receipts. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: For the period: 2/1/2022 to 2/28/2022

Beginning Balance	\$1,567,027.18
Total Receipts	\$483.13
Total Disbursed	\$29,827.66
Ending Balance	\$1,537,682.65
Less Deposits in Transit	\$0.00
Plus Outstanding Checks	\$12,341.05
<b>Total Per Bank Statement</b>	<b>\$1,550,023.70</b>

Treasurer’s report was reviewed. Kurt Niemeyer stated the Relief Association funds of \$27,603.68 were received. Kurt spoke with the Brockway Clerk and the amount for fire protection is on their agenda this month, will be receiving this shortly. Falcon Bank Business Savings Interest received was \$63.21. Received letter from the IRS wanting another 60 days to respond. Financials were submitted. State auditor requested some changes to be made for the future. Kurt explained some fund numbers needed to be changed, such as ones coded 900 were move to 700, and some other fund numbers were changed too. One example was for Road and Bridge funds were coded with 900 numbers and moved to 700 numbers. Council member inquired about code numbers if this is the same for all cities. Yes, and some fund numbers are set by the State. A motion was made by Gene Skaj, seconded by Steve Trobec, to approve the treasurer’s report. All in favor, motion carried.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Lisa Marvin stated there are several individuals on the agenda tonight and went through reminders for Petitions, Requests and Communication:

- 1) Remind everyone the City has adopted a Code of Conduct, if you are unaware of this there are extra copies in the back of the room. Please feel free to pick one up and please always follow this in Council Chamber for meetings.

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- 2) If your asked to speak to take two to three minutes only to be respectful of everyone's time. Also, we ask if individuals are going to talk about the same subject not to repeat the same thing.

**Ray Trobec – Half Street Closing for Annual Chicken Fry, June 3, 2022.** Ray Trobec is requesting to close Half Street on June 3, 2022, for Trobec's Bar Annual Chicken Dinner. Shared this request is not new to the council members. A motion was made by Danita Traut, seconded by Gene Skaj, to allow the closing of Half Street on June 3, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

**Greg Supan – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions.** Greg Supan requested to give his time to Joe Lahr, and he would follow up after him. Lisa Marvin stated typically we would like to go in order of who signed up. The City Council will allow Joe Lahr to go first.

**Joe Lahr with Joe's Excavating Inc. – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions.** Joe Lahr introduced himself as the Joseph Michael Lahr, at 1229 Pinecone Road, Sartell. He's the CEO of Joe's Excavating, Inc. while presenting a handout to the council members. Joe stated there's the Minnesota Statutes 2021, and The City of St. Stephen City Code, also a handout of his notes of what he is going to share with council. Lisa asked Joe to explain the reason he came to council before he explains the handouts. Joe is here in reference to managing the roads in St. Stephen. This started with him working on a project at Greg Supan's residence and involvement his company had with the Stearns County Sheriff's Department.

- The optional powers the City of St. Stephen has been granted with the 169.87 Seasonal Load Restrictions; to reduce their road restrictions on streets and highways. It offers specific reasons and four categories of conditions, and one specific condition. Joe went on to read parts of the handout's council members received. Subdivision 1, a. and b., and Subdivision 2, a. and b.
- Joe stated from the St. Stephen City Code, Subd. 3
- Joe went on to read his full typed two pages of his meeting notes for tonight.

These documents are attached to the original minutes. After the reading of one page, which took 10 minutes of council's time, Lisa Marvin reminded Joe that she asked for two or three minutes and asked him to sum it up. Joe continues to read the second page for another two minutes, when Lisa asked him to stop. Joe stated he hasn't had his time. Lisa stated one more minute. Joe continued to read the document. After one minute Joe was stopped and Lisa stated she wanted to give council time to ask questions.

Danita Traut inquired when working on this road, Randy Sabart, City Engineer, was working with authorities of what the City could sign this road at. She was unable to find this information. Randy Sabart, City Engineer, also looked for this information with the discussion he had with the County Engineers. He was unable to find this information. Randy shared that the discussion at the time was the City was obligated first to design and build a 9-ton road. The answer was yes, it was a condition to the local road improvement funds the City received to design the road to a 9-ton standard. It was designed and constructed as a 9-ton road. The follow-up at that time was does the City have the authority to post a lower structural road. That was the dialogue with the County Engineer at that time. The answer was yes. The authority was stated by Joe Lahr.

Lisa Marvin commented to Joe that she appreciated their 40-minute call today, Joe was very respectful and very knowledgeable as they shared industry discussions as someone who does development, and he is very aware of the road restrictions. Lisa appreciates Joe stating he took the word of a customer, which he should not have done. Great dialogue. Lisa shared the City has received complaints about hauling on this road last year. This road was an unpleasant discussion with the planning of this road. A lot of information went around that was untrue. March 18 is when the Seasonal Weight restriction went into place, many trips occurred after this time. It was not the City's intent to give tickets, but it was a violation. Lisa spoke of the legislature and how wording can cause confusion. Lisa

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asked Randy for his comments. Randy stated there isn't a debate, from his perspective of the integrity of the road, it was designed and built as a 9-ton road. He believes there's a difference of opinion with the terms of the statues. And what the statue allows the City to do. Randy stated one statue Joe didn't mention was Subdivision 1, c. Municipalities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may also, by ordinance, prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles, or may impose limitations as to the weight thereof, on designated highways, which prohibitions and limitations shall be designated by appropriate signs placed on such highways. This doesn't reference anything about climate effects. Randy shared up to this point and with other communities he works with it has been the City who has that discretion. Randy also shared that this road has not been finalized with the Contractor. Liz Halet, City Attorney, was asked her input. Liz stated Subd. a. and b. go together, they have the sub text referencing about the damage, without knowing the exact conversation about why that was listed, they are very clear and could have been justified at that time. Liz doesn't feel the same justification is necessarily needed for Subd. c. It is unquestionable the City has the authority to operate through Subd. c. Liz stated beyond the statues the City has a legal obligation to maintain their infrastructures. Liz reiterated the City has the authority to decide on road restrictions, but also has the legal obligation. Lisa stated this will be placed on the agenda again. Joe mentioned important things that need to be discussed, and more documents need to be prepared. The city is committed to the farming. Joe inquired if there is an ordinance that these things happen. Randy restated Subd. c. the City has options by ordinance, or prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles, or may impose limitations as to the weight, etc.

**Greg Supan – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions.** Greg Supan inquired when the City asked residents to sign lien waivers for Sixth Avenue why wasn't it discussed at preplanning meetings the City was building a 9-ton road, taxpayers were paying for a 9-ton road, but it was being posted at a 5-ton road. Lisa Marvin answered that Randy Sabart confirmed this was discussed at a City Council meeting. Greg stated a lot of us here never heard this wasn't going to be a 9-ton road. Lisa stated it must have happened at a different meeting. Greg asked again why this wasn't discussed when there are four council members here tonight that were at those meetings. Greg asked if the 5-ton road is year-round. Answer was yes. Greg stated right now we can't shingle our houses, the way this road is marked. Greg stated you can't haul shingles, propane, etc. on this road with this road allocation. Greg asked how we are supposed to take care of our houses, do any type of construction, and take care of our farms.

Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch shared that agriculture has exceptions. Tom Vouk commented once again when the council tries to do good, it backfires. He doesn't remember who suggested a 5-ton road. Tom referenced a gambling decision made in the past as an example. Tom stated this was posted as a 5-ton road, to protect the road. The City spent more money on this road than the City has ever spent. Tom doesn't understand why this issue became heated so quickly. Tom doesn't haul, he hires a contractor for this, maybe it should be 7-ton road. Danita Traut remembered when reviewing the maps, she inquired why the City was paying for a 9-ton road. She was told the City had to make it a 9-ton due to the grant the City was receiving. Gene Skaj reiterated what Danita stated. Steve Trobec reiterated what Tom said, when the project started the three big concerns were, First the cost, which was spread out through the entire city, not just residents on this road; Second the speed, complaints of excess speed and we did what we could with the statues to reduce the speed at least on a section of it, and Third the heavy truck traffic, that's why the City went with a 5-ton signs. Steve also isn't into hauling, but the reason the City did this was to reduce the wear and tear on the road. If there is an issue don't ignore the signs or break the laws and wonder, why there's a problem. If they would have come to the council, the members would have gone to the City Attorney and City Engineer to see how this can be addressed and some adjustments could have been made. Steve commented the road isn't even paid for and people are abusing the rules. Lisa Marvin shared the biggest thing that upsets her the most is the understanding of the road and understanding when the frost is coming out. Joe and her both know what happens to these roads and the damage of the water coming up with that kind of load on this road. The timing of this couldn't have been worse, in her opinion. Significantly the reason for the

restrictions are that the frost is coming out of the road and its literally going to crack the road. Lisa stated we need to hear all people complaints and deal with them in the best possible way. Greg asked if garbage trucks can run on this road. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch stated they are exempted. Discussion of what companies can and cannot drive on this road. Lisa stated before anyone states something is true, please be sure it's true! Greg stated this was not told to the public, during the whole time this road was being constructed we heard nothing but 9-ton. Nobody looked at the signage until there was trouble with Stearns County. Greg stated just put the signage on the road for what the road was built for. Lisa asked why Greg made a call to Danita to get this permission, which she gave you permission, which she shared she did not give you permission. Lisa asked Greg why he would make the call if you thought it was legal already. Greg stated at no time did I know this was not a 9-ton road. Asked again why he made the call. Greg shared there was equipment already down there when they discovered the 5-ton signage. So, Greg called her and understood at taxpayers they could use this road. I told Joe to start hauling dirt because I talked with her. Lisa reiterated she did not say that. Greg said he has dementia and didn't hear that. All he wants is a 9-ton road so we can use this road. Joe asked if the Sheriff can be asked what agriculture exemption there is, because Joe reads the statues that there is exemption for milk haulers, but not agriculture. Lisa stated the City will get back to him with all the exceptions at another point in time.

**Loren Traut – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Weight Restrictions.** Loren Traut introduced himself. Stated he purchased a piece of property on the left side of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He too is concerned with the road posting of 5-ton. This affects his operation to the point of coming in and out half loaded as he markets his cattle to Green Bay. He understood this road to be a 9-ton road and would like to utilize the road this way.

Lisa Marvin explained this is going to go on the agenda for a different time. Also stated there will not be a decision or outcome tonight. Gene Skaj shared remembering the discussion about making the road a 7-ton road, but couldn't get the funding, so it became a 9-ton road. Danita Traut stated the talk of hauling cattle, she knows on County roads there are restrictions. Danita asked Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch if he know the restrictions for County and City roads. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch stated he will need to be refreshed with these restrictions. He shared with cattle hauling some haul the cattle to a bigger road. With semis they need a permit for size, weight, length etc. Some excavators are overweight all the time and they need to pull a permit. Lisa shared she is looking for guidance from the council. Every time people choose to call the City's exports there is a cost to the City and would like to control this a bit and have good discussions. Tom Vouk recalled when building this road there was an option for a 10-ton road, and he was in favor of this, but the extra cost prohibited this at the time. Tom shared the idea here was not to build a bad road, but hopefully something that will last longer. He understands what they are saying and should be able to discuss this. Lisa is looking at the Council for direction on items of putting this on the agenda for further discussion and to gather good packets of facts, so we know what can and cannot go on a 5-ton road. We need true facts. Not all of us is experts on roads. This packet needs to have exemptions, restrictions, and facts. How we can most serve the residents and be fiscally responsible. Is next month's agenda a reasonable time for the City Engineer and City Attorney to gather the information for the packet. Consensus is to put it on next month's agenda and all information prepared to discuss this.

Loren Traut asked if he needs to continue to operate in the time being without having a verdict, how does he go about this. Lisa stated the road restrictions are in place and Loren needs to understand these. There are permit options as Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch has stated. Lisa said the City wants to do the right thing and make things better. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch recommended that Loren calls the Stearns County highway and check on this permit. Kellan inquired from Loren if he is only agriculture or commercial. Loren is both. Kellan stated agriculture is exempt but commercial is not but wants Loren to talk with the Right a Way specialist. Lisa asked Liz to also contact this individual for the information, so the City has this information. Please follow up with the clerk what Loren finds out. Information should be funneled through the clerk, so there is one source who will funnels

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information to the council members, and all can be on one page. Tom Vouk stated about Joe's suggestion of doing other work in town. Tom stated the reason this road is so much different is it's the only road that goes anywhere, every other road in the city is a dead end. So, we don't see a lot of truck traffic and semis going through. That's probably why the City hasn't addressed placing signage on other roads. Lisa stated rhetorical across 5 it would be a 10-ton road because of the way they wrote it. This will be part of our dialogue and if a sign needs to go up, the City will put one up. The City isn't going to order a thousand signs, it was a terrible decision at our legislature level. It will be addressed and surely a great point to us. Joe Lahr stated there are no signs on the Brockway or LeSauk roads and technically there are 10-ton now. Go all the way to County Road 4. Discussion of postings of signs. Lisa stated we are moving on to St. Stephen Fire and Rescue and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ST. STEPHEN FIRE & RESCUE: Gene Skaj reported there were 17 calls in March, totaling 39 calls in 2022. Training this month will be on weather spotting. Al Vouk will be serving 50 years of service and Ralph Barnhorst serving 49 years of service to the Fire Department. Congratulations to Al and Ralph!

RELIEF ASSOCIATION: Gene Skaj shared the audit is in. Two percent funds were received. Nothing new to report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Paul Ritter shared this month is Severe Weather Awareness Week. Sirens will sound again tomorrow, and they worked today. Quarterly meeting at the end of the month, the topic will be on Hazardous Mitigation. Paul and Lisa submitted a report on items for this topic.

### REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

- Road and Bridge:** Jerome Supan suggested locking the Plow Garage gate, this time of year residents will dump leaves, branches, etc. back there. Steve Trobec will take care of locking the gate. Jerome reminded there are two city streets that are bladed every spring and asking if he has the authority to contact Burski when the roads are ready to be bladed. Yes, the authority is his to contact Burski for this.
- Planning Commission:** Dan Schultz inquired about the status of the two developments. This topic will be discussed on the agenda later. Dan shared with training being done with site permits, how should billing be handled. Typically, he bills the city. Recommended Dan will expense out this site permit visit to Amanda when doing his month's billing. No meeting this month.
- Park:** Julie Jacobs reported for Ken Lahr that \$250 was received from the Operation Roundup Grant which will be used for the Smoley Field driveway and ice rink. The new city signs will be picked up shortly. Gene Skaj will help Ken put up these signs. The porta potty for the three parks will be order next week in time for the egg hunt. Ken has two business signs to install at the upper Smoley Field. Ken needs to replace 2 x 4 boards on picnic table and benches at the lower Smoley Field. Danita Traut inquired if all three parks should receive the porta potties now. Consensus was to order for all three parks at the same time.

Bids to Smoley Field Driveway. Ken Lahr received two bids for the Smoley Fields driveway which were placed in the council members packets. One from Traut Grading and Excavating and seconded from Town and Country Excavating. Randy Sabart reviewed the bids, commented both looked good. Discussion held. A motion was made by Steve Trobec, no second to motion received, to use Town and Country Excavating for the Smoley Fields driveway. Motion dies. A motion was made by Gene Skaj, seconded by Tom Vouk, to use Traut Grading and Excavating for the Smoley Fields driveway. All in favor, motion carried.

- Personnel:** Nothing

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SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch reported 35 hours of service for March. A hazard in the roadway, a deer which was taken care of, property damage/trespassing complaint from kids being disruptive which could result in some charges, and two suspicious vehicles, delivery vehicles one sleeping and one pulled over waiting on a shipment, and six traffic stops and citations. Speeding throughout the state is a problem, and they are being more aggressive with this. Lisa Marvin inquired about a billing question, which was found to be correct, City Council was held on Tuesday instead of Wednesday in March. The new Sheriff Deputy was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to an illness, will plan to attend next month.

HEALTH COMMITTEE: Lisa Marvin shared the Loss Control Report received from League of Minnesota Cities will need a meeting with Steve Trobec and he to go through this. There are some concerns, which Lisa learned from the mayor's meeting today. Discussion held about cats and dogs running loose. Any hazards in the roadway the Sheriff's Office will take care of.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Permit Application/Form work performed in the Public Street Right of Way.** Liz Halet completed the first-round edits. Dan Schultz will review the updated form and let Liz know of any changes. Randy Sabart shared Century Link asked for a permit last week. Lisa Marvin requested Liz to bring this updated form with Dan's changes to next month's council meeting. Dan expressed concerned how staff are identified in this document and feels this needs to be identified more. Liz commented the permit application states this will go to the Clerk and then the City Engineer. The final application and a final document will be available at next month's meeting for council's review.

**Rodenwald Developer Agreement.** Liz Halet shared there's been no communication from Rodenwald or his attorney. Noted no escrow amount has been received. Commented a sign's posted with a number and they are actively selling lots. Stated the sign has been there for a year. Randy Sabart commented if they're behind on the escrow the City shouldn't be taking any further action until the developer agreement is final, no selling of property should be taking place.

**12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Update.** Randy Sabart shared talking with Jason Ferche, Randy believes the City and Jason have different understandings of what the decision was regarding 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the outcome would be to schedule a special meeting to discuss this. Jason understands he agreed to widen and pave but did not agree to the grading of the subgrade soil. This was unknown at the time of the developer's agreement. Discussion held. Council agreed to the special meeting. Randy will solicit some dates with Jason for a 6 p.m. meeting. More discussion held. Dan Schultz suggested to have Planning Commission minutes available at this meeting.

**Egg Hunt, Smoley Fields: April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.** A reminder for council members to come early to help prepare the field, 8:30 a.m. was decided the time to arrive at the field. Lisa Marvin stated it was suggested to use one field for the egg hunt and to divide the field into three age groups and let everyone find eggs at the same time.

**National Night Out.** Danita Traut shared the American Legion will be using the bigger space and having a flag demonstration. The Sportsmen Club will also be at National Night Out. The Lions are trying to reserve the helicopter again this year.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Lawn Mowing Bid Process.** Two lawn mowing bids were received this year from J & A Lawn Care and Huls Lawn Service. Noted there were no complaints received regarding the lawn company last year. Council members reviewed the bids. A motion was made by Gene Skaj, to accept Huls Lawn Care bid for lawn mowing this year.



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Noted questions can be asked if both businesses are in attendance, which they were. Lisa Marvin asked J & A if spraying of the fence was included. J & A stated yes, this is done once a year. No second received to the motion. A motion was made by Danita Traut, seconded by Steve Trobec, to accept J & A Lawn Care bid for lawn mowing this year. All in favor, one opposed. Motion carried.

**Air VNB or VRBO.** Danita Traut stated the City has no ordinance on Air BNB or VRBO. Inquired if the City wanted to look at letting residents do this when there are big events in town. Lisa Marvin shared other cities have offered this, but there have been some problems within smaller cities. There will be no decision this evening. Liz Halet investigated this and shared this is very diverse among cities. Liz shared some cities adopt restrictions where these can be, others have minimal stay requirements, cities consider this like lodging, some councils require individuals to come before council for approval. Liz asked how proactive does the City want to be. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch stated due to the county lake properties and residential areas people can rent for a week. Asked what sanctions such as noise violations, etc. Discussion held. Council consensus that it's not a bad idea to have something in an ordinance. Questioned if the City allows this it could possibly be under a conditional use. Council asked Liz to further investigate this, and this will be back on the agenda next month.

**Drone Usage.** Danita Traut stated the City has no drone usage ordinance and this was mentioned at a Community Education class. Commented some owners' liability insurance doesn't cover damage from a drone. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch shared drones have changed significantly over the years, and now they are violating people's privacy. The drones are not to be flown under 400 feet, not flown over private property or events, only so many laws can be enforced with drones. The FFA sanctions the drones. Kellan feels the City doesn't need to recreate the State and FFA requirements. Drones could fall under public nuisances.

**Pan Handling Ordinance.** Danita Traut shared there was a guy standing on the corner by the bank in St. Stephen holding a cup. The Sheriff's Office was contacted, and they came to see if the guy was okay. Eventually, he left. Sheriff Deputy Kellan Hemmesch stated individuals make more money in St. Cloud doing this than working at a job. Kellan suggested to address this when it happens, this may be the only time it happens. Call the Sheriff's Office and they will handle this.

**Summer Rec. Programs at Smoley Fields.** Kris O'Brien, from the Sartell/St. Stephen Community Education Program, shared the catalog has been published and registrations are being taken. Kris shared last year's summer recreation program was held four nights a week and started with plenty of staff and then dwindled. She's limited this year to two nights a week, so the program is good, but staff will not get burned out. There were 140 kids at last year's program, overall, a successful program. Flag football and a sport sample will be offered this year. Total registrations over 3,000, community education partnerships with City of Sartell, City of St. Stephen and LeSauk will be offering this program again. Kris inquired if the City would donate \$2,000 again this year. Danita Traut asked how many kids are participating that are from St. Stephen. Kris does not know this number; she will gather this information and share. Discussion held. Money is used for staffing and upgrading equipment when needed. Kris noted they are needing staff, 15 years and older. The City will place this in the Newsleader. Tom Vouk commented it good to keep up the fields and having them being used. More discussion held. A motion was made by Tom Vouk, seconded by Steve Trobec, to support the Sartell/St. Stephen Community Education Program with a \$2,000 donation. All in favor, motion carried.

**Gas Meter by City Well/Generator.** Kurt Niemeyer shared the Xcel gas usage by the city well has decreased from past bills. Paul Ritter stated it should be running twice a month and inquired if there's a meter on it. Discussion held. Consensus this seems fine. Tom Vouk commented the one at the school property was disconnected.

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**Astech Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation.** City Clerk inquired if the City would be hiring Astech Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation for sweeping this year, or if there would be another bid received. Discussion held. A motion was made by Tom Vouk, seconded Steve Trobec, to hire Astech Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation for sweeping the City. All in Favor, motion carried. Julie Jacobs will call now to have them sweep in mid-May per the council's recommendation.

**Brush and Ditch Cutting.** City Clerk inquired about Brush and Ditch Cutting for this summer and if the City should receive two bids. Noted there were some complaints last year about internet boxes being hit while ditches were cut. Council suggested contacting Chuck's Brush and Ditch Cleaning for a quote, and if others know of someone else to let Julie know. Bids are due by April 29.

**Granite Pest Control.** Lisa Marvin shared a bid was received from Granite Pest Control for spraying of the City Hall for insects. This is included with your papers for this meeting. The bid was for \$249 - \$299 per time and will be done twice a year. A motion was made by Steve Trobec, seconded by Gene Skaj, to approve Granite Pest Control for spraying of City Hall. All in favor, motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**County of Stearns Property Services Division, Property Assessment Services.** Julie Jacobs shared the County of Stearns Property Services Division, Property Assessment Services information was included in the council packets for their review. Lisa Marvin stated this is old and is aware of several properties that were sold and are not in this packet. Lisa will reach out to Stearns County for a more updated packet of properties sold.

**League of Minnesota Cities Information Memo Meetings of City Councils.** Julie Jacobs shared this was printed for the council members information only to share. Julie shared she was unfamiliar with the open meeting law and thought this may be beneficial to council members.

Tony Breummer inquired how often the council wants the Plow Garage area mowed. The council stated to use his discretion.

Gene Skaj commented there was an incorrect fire fighter name in the Newsleader insert. This was brought to the clerk's attention.

Tom Vouk shared someone called him about the 55-speed limit and 35-speed limit on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. This has been discussed and cannot be done unless there's a speed study completed.

Frank Vouk shared there were 54 bird houses made this past Sunday with the St. Stephen Sportsmen Club.

**Newsleaders deadline dates for 2022:** April 15 & 29, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, Aug. 5 & 19, Sept. 2, 16 & 30, Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 & 25, and Dec. 9 & 23.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Gene Skaj, seconded by Tom Vouk, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

  
Lisa Marvin, City Mayor