



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF STACY IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO
AND THE STATE OF MINNESOTA PURSUANT TO DUE
CALL AND NOTICE THEREOF
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 2, 2022, 7:00p.m.
30955 FOREST BOULEVARD, STACY MN 55079**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Utecht at 7:00p.m.

Present

Stacy Present: Mark Utecht, Mark Ness, Tim Sawatzky, Marie Lawrence, and Jennie Carlson

Lent Present: Rick Keller, Troy Nelson, Brian Seekon, Jess Eischens, and Carolyn Cagle

Absent: None

Others Present: Peter Tiede (Lent Township Attorney); and James Mongé (Stacy's Attorney); and public from both the township and the city.

Purpose of the Special Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the annexation of the Township of Lent into the City of Stacy.

Discussion

Chisago City's Petition for Annexation

Rick Keller said that Chisago City has expressed intent on annexing seven sections of the township into Chisago City. These are sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36. Chair Keller indicated that they would like to remove section 13 from the proposal. Chair Keller then said that he can't argue against what Chisago City is proposing; they included plans for these sections since their 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Keller wanted to state for the record that he wanted Lent Township to become its own city; however, this was not an option. Annexation by the City of Stacy is the next best option.

Lent Township has begun their discussion with the City of Chisago; a copy of the orderly annexation agreement will be provided to the City of Stacy for their information.



**City of North Branch –
Properties Desiring
Annexation into the City
of North Branch**

City Administrator, Renae Fry, indicated that North Branch had been approached by several property owners expressing interest in being annexed into their city. She presented the following map:



She said that the city will consider annexation of those properties; she then went on to say that North Branch may be interested in the properties between County Road 14 and County Road 30 from County Road 17 to 360th Street. This would make sense as there would be no jointly maintained roads. They are not interested in a contested case annexation.

Ms. Fry will have the North Branch attorney contact the attorneys for the township and the city.

**Orderly Annexation
Agreement Discussion**

The intent of the Lent Town Board and the Stacy City Council is to assure that the citizens of each entity are represented; and that the Orderly Annexation Agreement is equitable to all involved.

Dates in the Agreement

The dates in the agreement will be adjusted at a later date; they are just place holders at this time.

Land to be Annexed

The description of the land to be annexed will also be adjusted at a later date.

Requisite Election

An election will be held within 45-60 days after the annexation is approved by the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings – Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit (MBAU).

The number of council members will remain at five.

It was determined that wards would be developed; two representatives to be elected from the former township area, and two from the original city area; the mayor will be elected at large. The length of having the wards was discussed and per



the city attorney's comment a 4/5ths majority of the council can remove the wards at any time in the future.

Article IV Property Taxes

This section will be removed in its entirety.

Financial Analysis

The city clerk was directed to contact the auditor of both the township and the city, Dennis Oberloh, to see if he would be able to give a 30,000-foot view of the finances of the entities and provide a report. He should provide a quote of what this service would be; the members can then provide direction to move forward.

Storm Sewer Utility Fee

The storm sewer utility fee was discussed; the fee is to support the fund that is used to maintain the storm sewer systems throughout the city. It was determined that this fee would be removed and a line item added to the annual budget for these costs. This was not a formal action to remove these fees at this time but will require an action of the council at a later date.

Employees – Future Employment

The future employment of the current township and city employees was discussed:

- Concern regarding the keeping of employees; their length of service and knowledge.
- The ability to hire employees at this time; should employees leave.
- The current departments in either the city or the township are not overstaffed.

It was decided that the employees would remain in their positions for at least a year after the MBAU has approved the annexation. This does not impact the city's ability to terminate employment for performance issues.

Next Meeting

At the May 19, 2022, meeting the board and council will continue the review of the orderly annexation agreement at line 182 (Article VI, Item 3, Building Permits).

Adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Motion by Ness to adjourn. Second by Lawrence. Members Ness, Utecht, Lawrence, Sawatzky, and Carlson voted yes. Mayor Utecht declared the motion carried.

Motion by Seekon to adjourn. Second by Nelson. Members Seekon, Nelson, Keller, Eischens, and Cagle voted yes. Chair Keller declared the motion carried.

Sharon MT Payne, City Clerk



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