



Special City Council Meeting Draft Minutes
June 30, 2021 at 5:30pm
City Council Chambers | 315 Main Street South

In attendance: Mayor Carl Pederson, Councilor Steve Ovick, Councilor Mary Kay Sloan, Councilor Gina Pettie, and Councilor Kyler Palmer.

Staff in Attendance: Safety Inspector Andy Luedtke, Contract Building Official Andy Schreder, Interim City Administrator Lynda Woulfe and Administrative Assistant Carissa Kranz (remotely)

Others in attendance: Troy Haug, Terry Peterson, and Chris Campbell

Call to order: Mayor Pederson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation by Contracted Building Official, Rum River Construction Consultants: Andy Schreder gave an overview of Rum River and the City of Pine City's Collaborative Partnership since 2018, noting Rum River's 14 team members, and 17 municipalities in which they serve. Andy highlighted permitting figures from 2018-2021 with 749 permits being closed to date. A customer satisfaction survey was implemented in October 2020 and with 160 responses company wide they received a 4.7 star rating.

Open Forum: An open discussion was had on questions and concerns on the building permitting and inspection process. Troy Haug questioned why the City charged him and the State for the Pine Technical College remodelling permit. Woulfe stated this is an issue that needs to be addressed through an official appeal to the City Council. Haug asked why the City's permit cost was more than the State's permit fee. Woulfe responded that the City's fee schedule is set by City Council to be reflective of covering building inspection costs.

Campbell indicated there should be a reduction in the building permit fee when the contractor is sending pictures to the inspectors instead of having them on-site. Schreder indicated that on-site inspections are always available if the contractor prefers them; the contractor simply needs to schedule an on-site inspection. Campbell felt building permit fees are too high and that costs need to come down for Pine City to be competitive in the building world.

Terry from Jones Construction stated he didn't care for video inspections and preferred on-site inspections as well. Schreder stated that on-site inspections are available if requested but also felt that video inspections for certain projects were just as efficient when done properly and it allows contractors to proceed quickly on the project because they do not have to wait to have an on-site inspection.

Motion by Ovick to adjourn meeting, seconded by Pederson. Verbal vote, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:02pm

Carl Pederson, Mayor

Linda J. Woulfe, Interim City Administrator

Minutes taken by Carissa Kranz Administrative Assistant