

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- City Council, 7 p.m. Oct. 14
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. Oct. 22
- Arts & Culture Commission, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 24
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Oct. 24
- Grandview Community Advisory Team, 7 p.m. Oct. 29

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We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Technology Services Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.EdinaMN.gov.



A summary of the Oct. 1 Edina City Council meetings

City hires Barr to help with flood map appeals

The Council authorized an engineering agreement with Barr Engineering to appeal new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-proposed flood hazard designations in three Edina areas: Nine Mile Village, Morning-side and Rolling Green.

Using hydrologic models and more accurate elevation information than was available in 2004 when the flood plain maps were last revised, FEMA has been working to revise the maps throughout Hennepin County. They issued a set of Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the accompanying Flood Insurance Study for Hennepin County and started a 90-day review period on April 5, 2013.

During the official 90-day appeal period, City staff notified more than 800 residents of the proposed changes and identified three areas where appeals appear to be justified. On June 4, the Council approved a proposal for Barr Engineering to perform a technical evaluation of the three areas to determine if they warrant appeal. Barr's evaluation identified issues significant enough to warrant appeals in each of the three areas. City staff worked with Barr to prepare the appeals and submitted them to FEMA on July 3, 2013. The technical evaluation, preparation of appeals and subsequent correspondence with FEMA has concluded the work included in the prior contract with Barr Engineering.

The issues identified, particularly in the Rolling Green area, are complex and require additional technical support as City staff pursues the appeals. Under a new contract for professional services, Barr will continue the technical work required to pursue the appeals, which may progress through a number of stages over a period of time.

Council gives preliminary approval of subdivision

The Council granted preliminary approval of a subdivision in the Rolling Green Neighborhood.

John Adams, on behalf of property owner Ted Warner, is proposing to subdivide the property at 5 Merilane into three lots. The existing home is located in the middle of the property and would remain. A new driveway would be constructed to serve the existing home. The current driveway would be located on one of the two new lots.

Council approves medical office expansion

The Council approved the expansion of the Southdale Medical Office.

The City Council approved a 60,000-square-foot expansion of the Southdale Medical Office building at 6525 to 6545 France Ave. The four-story addition would be located on the south side of the existing building and west of the existing parking ramp.

The Council approved a site plan for the project and vari-

ances for parking ramp setback and parking stalls.

Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Council hears reports on hydro-seeding

The City's Director of Engineering reported that his department is evaluating its use of hydro-seed in areas where it is trying to establish turf.

In the past, sod was used to restore areas disturbed by construction. The sod was guaranteed for six weeks.

Last year, residents and staff noticed that portions of sod installed during the 2011 construction season were not healthy. With drought conditions much of the year, most of the new sod turned brown, reflecting poorly on the construction project even though continued maintenance of the sod is the responsibility of the homeowner.

This year, the City used hydro-seed on its projects and extended the maintenance period to 90 days.

Director of Engineering Wayne Houle reported to the Council that the hydro-seeding process has been successful in most project areas. Even with the dry conditions in August, most of the turf created by hydro-seeding met or exceeded staff's expectations. Areas that did not meet staff's expectations are being fertilized or re-seeded.