

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Mike Krachmer and Council Members Steve Rogers, Erik Goebel, Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne.

The following Council members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Kaylin Clement, Assistant City Administrator; Jesse Farrell, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Chris Hearnden, Fire Chief; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Peggy Aho, Deputy Clerk; and Caroline Beckman, City Attorney.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Rogers, it was

#23-02-023 “RESOLVED that the February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 17, 2023 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-02-024 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the January 17, 2023 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-02-025 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was

#23-02-026 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7J for the February 7, 2023 meeting as amended as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #83134 Through #83205 and Electronic Claims #1847 Through #1850 for Payment
- B. Consider Approving an Outdoor Event Permit for Half Fast Marathon – February 18, 2023
- C. Consider Approving an Agreement with Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation
- D. Consider Advisory Commission Appointment Recommendations
- E. Consider Approving Tenth Rider to Agreement with the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul (Saint Paul Regional Water Services)
- F. Consider Approving Loan Administrator Agreement with Community Neighborhood Housing Services (NeighborWorks Home Partners)
- G. Consider Approving a LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Church of St. Odilia to Conduct a Raffle at their Event on April 15, 2023 at the Vadnais Heights Commons
- H. Consider Accepting Quote from Nystrom Publishing for Printing the Quarterly Newsletters
- I. Consider Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute the Site Lease Agreement with DISH Wireless, L.L.C. for a Communications Facility Installation at the Commerce Court Water Tower
- J. Consider Adopting a Resolution Establishing Parking Restrictions on Rice Street.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Krachmer opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS) Presentation

Angie Lewis Mills, Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS), gave a PowerPoint presentation, recapping the history of NYFS, and their mental health programs, community service programs, and fiscal picture, etc.

Council Member Jozwowski asked what the City/Council can do to help NYFS. Mills responded that the adjustment of insurance reimbursement rates needs to be adjusted at the legislative level and try to help reduce the stigma of mental health, not everyone knows what NYFS does.

Council Member Rogers thanked Mills for her presentation and for the value of services that NYFS provides to the area and region.

Mayor Krachmer said NYFS doesn't turn anyone away and the need is endless, so where do the referrals come from. Mills responded from school partners, law enforcement partners, city, etc. They are the only nonprofit in the area and that sector is struggling as a whole.

Mills said they are doing tours every two months this summer to get people informed. All are invited.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2023 Fee Schedule Amendment – Ordinance No. 764

Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that the 2023 Fee Schedule previously approved, did not have cancellation policies in place for Parks and Rec and staff would like to add those fees to the Fee Schedule.

City Administrator Watson noted that fees have to be approved after the public is engaged.

Mayor Krachmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm. Krachmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-02-027 “RESOLVED, that the Council approved the amended 2023 Fee Schedule (Ordinance No. 764) be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Park Pavilion

Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that at the first Workshop this year, the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission was asked to revisit the options for a new pavilion at Community Park. Clement noted that after Parks, Rec and Trails Commission discussion, they recommended three options to the Council. Recommendation from the Parks Commission is to go with Option #1. She said that staff are looking for direction to figure out the gap in funding and noted that there are some grant opportunities.

Council Member Rogers said he has been struggling with this because there is a big number and there are competing interests. He said he feels we are at a moment where the current pavilion is unsustainable, so it is on the current Council to figure out what to do with it, and said we can't keep going on with what we have. Rogers said he would vote to go with Option #1 knowing it is expensive, it will be there a long time and brand the City.

Council Member Doll Kanne said she doesn't like Option #1, and that she likes the smaller one. She said that the City should look at applying for a DNR grant.

Council Member Kelly said she is in favor of Option #1 and that size wise it makes sense and agreed the City should apply for grants to help pay for it.

Council Member Goebel echoed what Jozwowski said.

Mayor Krachmer said he too likes Option #1 and that we need something that would meet our current needs and be attractive. He said we have been talking about doing a Parks Master Plan and as part of the Plan we need to look into the future, but at this time we need a short term fix.

Goebel said that perhaps the City could check into grant funds to help pay for soil mitigation.

City Administrator Watson said staff are looking for confirmation that we want to pursue Option #1 and grants to help support that.

Upon motion by Doll Kanne, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-02-028 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves proceeding with Option #1 pavilion design, which means finding the funds to gap the difference in cost budgeted vs. actual cost to construction. The Council also directed staff to apply for a Minnesota DNR Outdoor Recreation grant.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Planning Case 22-018: City of Vadnais Heights – City Code Amendments
Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that this item revisits previous discussions on this topic. He said that the Planning Commission recommends that the Council approve Ordinance No. 763. Wall briefly summarized the proposed City Code changes and noted why they are needed. He said these amendments clean up the Planning Commission duties, and the power of City Council was duplicative of another section, Board of Adjustments and Appeals standards, applicability, filing, notice of hearings and decisions by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, and judicial appeals.

Wall said two actions are needed by the Council: approval of the draft Ordinance and approval of the summary publication of the Ordinance.

Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-02-029 “RESOLVED, that the Council to adopt Ordinance 763 and approves the resolution for summary publication.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted

- B. Twin Lake Boulevard Feasibility Report
City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell this item is for our 2023 Twin Lake Blvd Project in partnership with Little Canada. Farrell gave a presentation on the history of the project and reviewed action items requested. He reviewed the current condition of the road and the project schedule. He said if all goes according to plan, bid opening will be on March 9 and the project work could begin in May.

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-02-030 “RESOLVED, that the Council hereby adopts the resolution setting the assessment amounts, accepts the Feasibility Report and sets the public hearing and assessment hearing for March 7.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

- C. Apply for a MPCA Grant for Level 2 Charging Station

City Administrator Watson noted that this item is a discussion about whether the City wants to authorize staff to pursue a grant from the MPCA for EV duo charging stations to

be incorporated with the resurfacing of the Fire Station parking lot. Watson said he thinks the project would run between \$50 and \$60,000. He said that the City could potentially do the project in 2024 if it were to receive a grant. He said the question for the Council is does it want to install the chargers in collaboration with the parking lot resurfacing, and do we want to work with Xcel to get this done. He noted that staff are meeting with private parties in town to see what their interest is in installing chargers. He said he feels that with the Governors announcement there may be more funding to do this.

Council Member Doll Kanne said she listened to the presentation by the MPCA on this grant. She said what is interesting about this is that the math doesn't work out for the 80% match and that it seems like it may be 50/50 for us. Doll Kanne said she is trying to think what location might be good for people to use. She said she was excited about the 80% match, but after additional discussion with staff about the City not having EV vehicles at this time, she doesn't think there would be much use. Not sure this is the time for the City to move but she believes it good to have this discussion now because at some time the City will want EV chargers.

Council Member Jozwowski said that she thinks the location at the Fire Station is not a good idea.

Council Member Goebel said he is not as enthused because of the math. He said he's not sure how much use there will be from the public. Probably makes more sense to work with private businesses in the City.

Council Member Rogers agreed and that you need to meet the consumer where they are. He said he doesn't think it would get used enough in the Fire Department parking lot.

Mayor Krachmer said it appears rather clear to him that in order to make use of infrastructure you have to value and convenience, and this doesn't seem to him that it would stick out.

The Council decided to not apply for a grant at this time.

D. Gold Leaf Program

Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that at the last meeting, the Council approved a resolution directing staff to formally enter the Gold Leaf program. She said prior to this meeting, the Council was provided 44 options and asked to come with their top two or three initiatives that they think Vadnais Heights could achieve taking into account financial and staffing issues.

Council Member Kanne said her top three would be a combined green team, community restoration, and tree steward committee.

Council Member Goebel said his top ones would be the combined green team, tree steward community, green living streets and the active living campaign.

Council Member Jozwowski said her top three would be the combined green team, community restoration, and the active living campaign.

Council Member Rogers said his top ones would be the community restoration, accessible green spaces, tree steward program and community visioning.

Mayor Krachmer said that it seems important that we engage the community and that it be as much a bottom up agenda. His top three are green team, tree steward program and the active living campaign.

Administrator Watson said the Council should decide which ones they want staff to pursue, then staff can do a deeper dive and come back to the Council for direction.

Upon motion by Doll Kanne, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-02-31 “RESOLVED, that the Council pursue Green Team (CA1) and Community Restoration (CC5) as the two initiatives the Council would like to pursue in Gold Leaf Program in 2023.”

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell gave an update on the 2023 Street Improvement project. He said that the recent estimate that SEH provided shows that the estimates may come in higher than projected and so high that we are unlikely to do the parking lot and the trail piece will be bid out as an alternate. He said that the Council may need to prioritize other projects. Farrell noted that construction has begun on the Bear Park Boardwalk. We are now in the season of cutting trees down. The City has completed an ash tree survey that says that the City has approximately 500 ash trees that are accessible. He said that right now we have \$100,000 in our 2023 budget for tree removal. Cost of removal is about \$1,000 a tree. Farrell said that City Administrator Watson has authorized replacement of lighting at one of our wells, outside City Hall and a location in one of our parks. He also authorized repainting of the fire hydrants. Public Works staff all attended a salt program that the City is looking at implementing. Farrell noted that VLAWMO’s technical committee meets once a week and they will be meeting tomorrow.

Council Member Kanne said that the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission did an activity to look at the City parks. She said it was a great activity. She said she is curious to hear more

about what came out of the activity. Kanne will be hosting a winter sowing workshop with VLAWMO. Interested parties can register on VLAWMO's website.

Council Members Rogers noted that on the meetings Consent Agenda, the Council approved new commissioners for three commissions. He thanked all the new commissioners for investing time in the City and taking part. He noted that he had a conversation with Metro I-net, and found out that they also do mobile for safety personnel and first responders. He also met with the Health and Public Safety Commission. Take away is that Allina and the Fire Department were on almost 3000 calls in 2022. He said they both provide a great service to the City.

Mayor Krachmer said he is trying to spend more time with citizens of the City. He is planning on hosting a breakfast the 4th Monday of every month. He said he will be putting together other opportunities to increase the engagement.

City Administrator Watson said that the City made a request that people sign up before the breakfasts with the Mayor so that they can let Perkins know how many people will be attending.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator