

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
July 18, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

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; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Chris Hearden, Fire Chief; Phillip Lundquist, Deputy Clerk; and Caroline Beckman, City Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-07-103 "RESOLVED that the July 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented."

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular Workshop Meeting of June 20, 2023

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-07-104 "RESOLVED that the Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023, be approved"

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

Resolution was accepted.

B. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 20, 2023

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Rogers, it was

#23-07-105 "RESOLVED that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023, be approved"

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

Resolution was accepted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-07-106 “Resolved that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7H for the July 18, 2023, meeting as follows:

- A. Consider Approving Claims #83760 Through #83890 and Electronic Claims #1891 Through #1897 for Payment
 - B. Approve Hiring of Part-time/Paid-on-Call Firefighter Pavelka
 - C. Accept and Acknowledge Donations for the 2023 Ice Cream Social
 - D. Approve Public Outdoor Event Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament July 27-30, Old Clover co-sponsor
 - E. Approve Temporary Liquor License for Big Wood Brewery for September 29-October 1 Oktoberfest Event
 - F. Approve Off-site Gambling Permit for Merrick for BINGO at Heritage Days
 - G. Approve Purchase of Emergency Generators for Wells
 - H. Approve Hiring Fire Technician-Training Officer Stenstrom
- Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Krachmer opened the meeting to the public at 7:07 p.m. Mayor Krachmer clarified that this period is for the public to speak on topics not on the agenda, and there would be a time for the public to provide input on the ordinances in the Public Hearings part of the agenda.

Dick Ottmun, of 1260 East County Road E, spoke on behalf of residents of Gable Pines. Ottmun brought a petition regarding Judson Road and County Road E and crosswalk safety. Several people in building are concerned about using the crosswalk for fear of being struck. Ottmun stated City Administrator Watson has been very helpful in coming up with solution to make the crosswalk safer. People in the building are talking about driving to dentist office across the street because drivers turn onto Judson from County Road E. Memo provided to Council. Second topic he wished to speak on was for sidewalks. Resident Ottmun referenced campaign material for walkability and greater sidewalks in the City. Encouraging Council to make a policy for high traffic streets. Contact information provided.

Ron Pierson, of 4015 Alpine Avenue, represents Pine Meadow HOA near street project. Residents are supportive of the street improvement project. Concern about water bill. Showed report of reading date and consumption. Turned on irrigation system on May 18 and report shows consumption began thereafter. System was programmed to be off on Sunday but it shows up on Monday. Report shows use on days that the irrigation system was off there was still consumption. The amount billed is out of line with past consumption. Request to Council is to have someone look into Pine Meadow water use because the recent bill is outside the norm. Asking for a response with a reasonable answer. Leaving a copy of their bills.

Erinn Robovsky, of 515 Bear Avenue North, discussed concerns of trail safety. Has sent letters in the past week. Bluebird Grove emergency trail is wide enough for emergency vehicles but other vehicles and 4-wheelers using the road going fast. Goal was to allow emergency access or water main maintenance but it is allowing traffic through. One idea at the time was for an automatic sensor for the gate. Is looking for follow-through to find a solution for trail safety.

There being no one else that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Night to Unite Proclamation was read by Administrator Watson.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance #766 Park Hours

Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details.

Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:29 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the hearing at 7:29 p.m.

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

#23-07-107 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopts Ordinance No. 766 establishing seasonal exceptions to park hours for Bridgewood Park pickleball courts and Kohler Meadows sledding hill, approves resolution for summary publication.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Ordinance #767 Amended Fee Schedule

Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details.

Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:31 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the hearing at 7:29 p.m.

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

#23-07-108 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Ordinance No. 767 which updates the Fee Schedule to align with M.S. 461.12 subd. 2, and approves resolution for summary publication of the ordinance.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Ordinance #768 Cannabis Business Study and Moratorium

Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details. Creates a pause on the business sales within the City and cannabis use within the city.

Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:33pm.

Alan Hodges of 171 Woodridge Drive, spoke on the topic of the amount of time allowed to study, some cities already have rules in place. If the City is doing it, the concern is sales as the quicker it gets going the sooner the City would receive benefits, as people may shop at the first stores available.

Jason Medvec, of Big Wood Brewing at 3429 Centerville Road, had a question of how this affects the current cannabinoid use. It was clarified that the ordinance does not affect the previously legalized hemp products, only the newly legalized cannabis products defined in Chapter 63.

Erinn Robosky spoke and would like the tax proceeds from the sales to go to sustainable Park funding. Goebel asked about public spaces. Attorney Bell Beckman cited 342.17 with the new law with the locations it is allowed and 144.414 prohibits smoking in public places. Goebel asked what the consequence would be and Attorney Bell Beckman responded that it would be a misdemeanor. Council Member Rogers asked about the timeline for the moratorium. Attorney Bell Beckman clarified that the moratorium can be rescinded as soon as the ordinance is ready. Council Member Doll Kanne indicated the January 1, 2025 could be moved based on the legislature and it behooves the Council to set the policy quickly.

Goebel ask to amend to clarify use in public spaces is not allowed, and moved to amend the ordinance to explicitly prohibit use in public spaces and asked the City Attorney to prosecute violations as a petty misdemeanor.

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

#23-07-109 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Ordinance No. 768 as amended which authorizes a study to be conducted by City staff and the Health and Public Safety Commission to determine whether amendments need to be made to the City’s official controls as they relate to public use and sales of cannabinoids in the City and; pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 462.355, the sale and public use of adult use cannabis products and concentrate as defined in Minn. Stat. Sec. 342.01 is hereby prohibited in the City of Vadnais Heights until such time as this interim ordinance expires or is terminated by action of the City Council and; instructs the City Attorney to prosecute violations of this ordinance as a petty misdemeanor.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Many Faces of White Bear Lake Agreement

Asst Administrator Clement explained the process of entering agreement, and asked Council Member Jozwowski to read the resolution. Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was

#23-07-110 “RESOLVED, that the Council accepts a resolution solidifying the City of Vadnais Heights’ membership to the Many Faces of White Bear Lake

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Tubman Agreement

City Attorney Bell Beckman introduced the topic and provided background of what Tubman provides that the City is legally required to support. Attorney Bell Beckman affirmed and endorsed the services of Tubman. Council Member Goebel thanked Tubman for the services Tubman provides. Council Member Rogers added how this provides safety to residents and that the Council feels this is important, as well as the equity and diversity programming Many Faces Provides. Jennifer Dickinson, from Tubman, spoke to the past meetings with Council and the relationship with law enforcement and prosecution.

Upon motion by Rogers and seconded by Goebel, it was:

#23-07-111 “RESOLVED, that the Council authorizes City Administrator to sign agreement with Tubman for consultant services assisting domestic abuse victims for 2024 not to exceed \$14,000.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

B. Adoption of an Emergency Management Plan

Chief Hearden presented the plan crafted by Ramsey County to be accepted by cities that meet state and federal regulations. Plan provides process for major emergencies and disasters. Council Member Rogers shared experience from being on the Health and Public Safety Commission and meeting with the county representative for these plans. Rogers noted the supplies needed are provided from the county, and that this plan meets a requirement to receive FEMA funding in case of disaster.

Upon motion by Jozwowski and seconded by Rogers, it was:

#23-07-112 “RESOLVED, adopts a resolution adopting and supporting the 2023 Ramsey County Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP).

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

C. Planning Case 23-004: Time Cheesebrow – Variance and Conditional Use Permit at 3871 Stockdale Drive

City Planner/Community Director Wall presented the variance request and conditional use request. Code does not allow accessory buildings in front of the home. Request materials provided allowed Wall to show the location and placement of the accessory building. Staff recommends approval of variance.

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

#23-07-113 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves a variance and conditional use permit to construct an accessory building on the subject property.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

D. Approve Public Outdoor Event License for Big Wood Brewery for September 29-October 1 Oktoberfest Event

Big Wood looking to hold Oktoberfest in Vadnais Heights from White Bear Lake. Jason Medvec and Jamey Worley answered questions from the Council. Medvec and Worley met with neighbors and the outreach was well received. Event has 12 year history in White Bear Lake without a noise complaint.

Upon motion by Jozwowski and seconded by Goebel, it was:

#23-07-114 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Public Outdoor Event permit POE-23-5 and an exemption to the normal outdoor event hours permitted within the City Code, for Big Wood Brewery’s proposed Oktoberfest celebration.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

E. Accept Bids and Award Contract for Sewer Televising

Ousky presented the project context, as part of 2024 Street Improvement Project. When the street is already torn up it is an opportunity for homeowners to get their connections to city sewer televised in case repair is needed. Staff recommends approval. Watson added that residents will receive a letter recommending residents televise their own lateral connections in case repairs are needed. Goebel asked if the City tracks which sewer lines have been checked so there is record similar to the pavement quality map.

Upon motion by Rogers and seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

#23-07-115 “RESOLVED, that the Council accepts the quote received for 2024 sewer televising and awards the project to Pipe Services at a cost of \$10,808.57.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

F. Accept Bids and Award Contract for Well 4 Pump Inspection and Maintenance

Ousky presented the project and answered questions about the inspection and maintenance project for the wells.

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

#23-07-116 “RESOLVED, that the Council authorizes Accept Bid and Approve the pump inspection and maintenance of Well # 4 to Keys Well Drilling Company at a cost of \$55,910 with work paid from water utility fund.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

G. New Ladder Truck

Chief Hearden presented the topic of signing the purchase agreement for a new ladder truck. Expected delivery of late 2025 or early 2026. By signing purchasing agreement before the end of the month it avoids a 2%-3% increase in cost.

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

#23-07-117 “RESOLVED, that the Council Consider authorizes staff to sign a purchase agreement for a new Pierce Aerial Ladder Platform from MacQueen Emergency Group and purchase replacement firefighting equipment, as included in the 2025 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) budget, for a total cost not to exceed \$1,850,000.00.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

CITY COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Deputy Clerk Lundquist – nothing to report

Fire Chief Hearden – thanks council for support. Fire Dept looks forward to Night to Unite and offered rides with FD.

Asst. Administrator Clement – Friday July 21 is Park and Rec Professional Appreciation and wanted to recognize that staff.

Engineering Technician Ousky - street project starts 7-19 on Alpine and Harwood after issue with subcontractor. Westfield bioswale project is complete.

City Planner/Community Development Director Wall – Planning Commission meeting 7-25-23. Reminds residents that this is construction season and asks for caution with workers outside and on-site. Residents can ask questions of staff.

City Attorney Bell Beckman – nothing to report

Council Member Doll Kanne – Legislature set definitions for native plantings, and a future ordinance will be required. Public Works Director starts 7-31-23 and acknowledges added work load on Watson and Ousky. Ousky shared praise to members of Public Works Ken LaCasse and Jim Hamann and Wall.

Council Member Rogers – noted donations for Ice Cream Social and thanked Katie Everett and staff.

Council Member Jozwowski – thanked City staff and advertised the Green Team to the members of the public. Also thanked the City Parks and Recreation.

Council Member Goebel – thanked staff for all the work putting agendas put together.

Mayor Krachmer – shared experience networking at the League of Minnesota Cities. Thanked Council Members and City staff. Mayor invited the public to Music in the Park citing the success of the previous week. Also advertised the Walk with the Mayor prior to the Music in the Park, and mentioned the montly Breakfast with the Mayor. Will be present for Night to Unite and encouraged participation.

Administrator Watson provided an update to the watershed mediation, and more will be forthcoming, and noted appreciation for Council’s gratitude and praised the work of Ousky in the absence of a Public Works Director.

ADJOURN MEETING

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Doll Kanne the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Watson, City Administrator

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JULY 18, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 5:30 p.m.

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

The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator, Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator, Kaylin Clement; Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Engineering Technician, Nick Ousky; Fire Chief, Chris Hearden; Recreation & Facilities Manager, Katie Everett.

Other Staff Items

No new items were added by staff.

DNR Grant Next Steps -Parks Master Plan Tie-in (Asst. Administrator Clement)

City did not get the grant that would be used to replace a park pavillion. ARPA funding has very specific requirements – other uses are outlined in the memo. Three of five proposals have come back from potential bidders. Future of the pavilion area may be determined by the Master Plan. Future resolution likely to be forthcoming to plan where the funds will be reallocated.

Green Team Update (Asst. Administrator Clement)

Gold Leaf program was pursued, so far 6 people have signed up for the Green Team. Initial event with VLAWMO and maintaining native plantings was the direction to be pursued. August 3rd at 5pm is the event. The Westfield Bio-swale event will follow up and Master Gardeners will be present. A future event hosted by Mayor Krachmer to have a meet-and-greet type event for them to meet and set expectations for their work going forward.

Heritage Days (Administrator Watson)

Interest in Council having a formal role in participating in Heritage Days, ideas were given. Parade participation and walking the route as well as tabling near bounce houses with a suggestion box, two hour shifts.

Ladder Truck (Chief Hearden)

Process was underway for spec-ing and taking initial step to determine ladder truck possibilities. There is a 2%-3% price increase after July 31. Chosen item \$1.85 million for truck. Manufacturing will be a few months after selection, time frame is 20-36 months once it starts. Early payment option available. The truck type planned is an appropriate height for the buildings in the area. A new truck would allow for rearranging the deployment plan. Mini-engine may be a future plan to reduce road wear-and-tear..

White Bear Lake Work Group (Administrator Watson)

Administrator Watson described the workgroup and one item that is part of court order is for cities within 5 miles to meet and come up with a water plan. MetCouncil is aiding the process. Some cities

are choosing staff, one chose a city council member. Possibly 4 meetings this year, 16 in total and report to be done in 2027. Administrator Watson will take point, Council Member Doll Kanne as secondary.

Future Council Requests

Council Member Goebel would like to see an ordinance to make it a petty misdemeanor for using cannabis on public property and in parks.

Mayor Krachmer statement on council meetings for feedback from Council Members. Also would like to work on plan to stay grounded in goals, and would like folks to share passion areas to be point people on certain topics.

Many Faces discussion between Council Member Jozwowski and Mayor Krachmer.

Council Member Doll Kanne requested a point person for concerns with Kohler Road trail. Engineering Technician Ousky volunteered to be that person.

Council Member Rogers brought up goal setting document and assessing progress. New Brighton was cited as a good example for tracking information about the goals and priorities. Council Member Rogers also asked about a debrief from the League of Minnesota Cities conference.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Kevin Watson, City Administrator