APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 6, 2024
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for February 6, 2024 to order at 7:00 PM

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Lisa Iverson, Linda Nanko Yeager, Dennis Schilling, Brett Ohnstad, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Tom Loonan, Eckberg Lammers; Robb Linwood, City Administrator; Grant MacFarlane, Assistant City Administrator; Mark Erichson-WSB; and Neil Bauer - Public Safety Director

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

Eric Torgeson, Euclid Avenue – Asked if there was a way to get the speed limit lowered in this area because there isn't much of a shoulder in the area for people who may be walking and the new development will have a lot of children that may be trying to get to one of the City parks.

Mayor Iverson – Asked City staff to research this suggestion.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the State had recently completed some local guidance regarding continuity of speed limits. He stated that there are some necessary procedures that they need to go through.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that previously, the City or County did not have the ability to set speed limits which was the responsibility of the Department of Transportation Commissioner. He stated that recent legislation allows communities to set speed limits for their local roadways but there is some level of study that is necessary. He noted that now that this legislation exists there are a few roadways in the City that they will look into more closely. He stated that he agreed with City Administrator Linwood that there is a process and procedure that they will need to be followed before the City can consider just changing the speed limits.

Neil Rever, 24679 Hale Avenue, Forest Lake – Stated that Gregory Contracting is right next door and has been approved as a commercial property within a rural residential zone. He stated that this is a very dark area because it is still mostly farmland in the area. He invited the Council to come over to this area at night now that they are in operation because there are multiple lights in operation He noted that he had already brought this up with Zoning Administrator Weck and they tried to baffle the floodlights, but noted that has not really helped much. He noted that there had also not been any screening put up other than 6 small trees. He reiterated that this is a dark neighborhood and this is a lot of lighting right next door to them and explained that it is to the point that they may need to put up their own screening if something isn't done.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that he believed that Zoning Administrator Weck has been in communication with Mr. Rever and Ms. Christiansen regarding this issue and explained that they would pass along these concerns to him and have him look into this.

County Commissioner Montzka – Gave an update on Commission discussion, activities and upcoming actions. He asked if the Council had any specific requests for things they would like to see the Commission work on.

Mayor Iverson – Asked that she and City Administrator Linwood were included in communications on the upcoming Armor meetings. She stated that she had received a called from Senator Koran who stated that the County was asking for the bonding money and asked for an explanation from County Commissioner Montzka.

County Commissioner Montzka – Stated that he believed that was a miscommunication by one of his colleagues. He explained that he had also heard that the County was pushing the interchange on Interstate 35 and 400th Street in North Branch, which has not been the position of the County Board and is not a project they are pushing but believe this may have been what Senator Koran was referring to. He stated that he will clarify this issue and find out how this miscommunication had happened and reiterated that this was not something the Board had voted on to prioritize that project.

City Administrator Linwood – Asked that Public Safety Director Bauer also be included in communications regarding the Armor meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for January 16, 2024**

   A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 16, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

   Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
   Voting Nay: None
   Abstain: None
   Absent: None

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the "Consent Agenda" will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

2. To consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period of January 17, 2024 to February 6, 2024
3. To consider the resignation of Christopher Hirsch from the Wyoming Police Department effective January 25, 2024
4. To consider approval a solicitation permit for Cody Strong of Mad City Windows located at 2621 Fairview Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113 for 2024 for the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. To consider an inspection services agreement by and between the City of Wyoming and the City of East Bethel for Advanced Septic Inspections
6. To consider **Resolution 24-02-10** a resolution appointing Election Judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary of 2024
7. To consider **Resolution 24-02-11** a resolution approving the purchase and installation of a new control panel for lift station #11 in the amount of $40,507.00

8. To consider **<u>Resolution 24-02-12</u>** a resolution to approve the purchase of Rescue Air Lifting Bags from Jefferson Fire and Safety for the Wyoming Public Safety Department in the amount of $10,768.56
9. To consider approving payment to the League of Minnesota Cities for Workers Compensation Insurance for February 2024 to February 2025 in the amount of $119,822
10. To consider **<u>Resolution 24-02-13</u>** a resolution declaring certain vehicles as surplus property for disposal and authorizing the police department to dispose of the vehicles through online auction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE #2, #3,#4, #5, #6, #7, #8 and # 10 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA .

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

11. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for February 1, 2024

12. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for January 30, 2024

13. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for February 1, 2024

14. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for February 1, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS:

15. Midcontinent City of Wyoming Compass Lake Boulevard Project Update

City Administrator Linwood – Gave an overview of the Compass Lake Boulevard project and noted that it had been completed. He reviewed the broadband connections throughout the City and noted that there are just a few areas that are not yet served by broadband.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

16. To consider the hiring of Derek Heath for the Police Officer position with a tentative start date of February 26, 2024

Public Safety Director Bauer – Outlined the City's hiring process and reviewed the background, education, and experience of Derek Heath including working as a Reserve Cadet in the City.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked how long Mr. Heath would have to work for the City under the Reserve Cadet program reimbursement in order for him not to have to payback the City.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that Mr. Heath would have to work for the City for 3 years or he would have to pay those funds back.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF DEREK HEATH FOR THE POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF FEBRUARY 26,

2024

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

17. To consider **Resolution 24-02-14** a Resolution to Approve the Purchase of a 2024 Polaris Ranger XP and Mattracks for Wyoming Public Safety in the amount of $57,619.80

Public Safety Director Bauer – Outlined the request for a 2024 Polaris Ranger XP and Mattracks to be used by the Fire Department. He stated they plan to determine what will happen to the existing 2007 Polaris at a later time.

Mayor Iverson – Asked for a more detailed explanation of the difference between the existing 2007 vehicle and the 2024 Polaris Ranger XP

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that a big difference us with the longevity of the devices and the ability to navigate over down trees and muddy areas.

Council Member Schilling – Asked if the Mattracks would stay on this unit permanently.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that they would be capable of swapping them out if necessary, but noted that they would intend to leave them on because it would primarily be used for wildfires.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the Mattracks can be used on a road.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Answered that they can be used to cross a roadway but they would not want to use them for long term navigation on a roadway. He stated that for that situation they would have to trailer it and explained that they are hoping it will fit on the current trailer.

Council Member Luger – Asked how long this equipment was expected to last.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that he would expect it to last at least 15 years and noted that it would not be equipment that is used daily.

Council Member Ohnstad – Asked if there may be a possibility of keeping the 2007 unit and use it in a situation where they would have to remove the Mattracks from the other unit.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that would be possible but explained that they may have a storage issue.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-02-14 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 POLARIS RANGER XP AND MATTRACKS FOR WYOMING PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE AMOUNT OF $57,619.80

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

18. To consider a proposal from WSB Engineering for the Railroad Park Project Phase 2

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that Phase 1 of the Railroad Park Project, the Veteran's Memorial was completed in 2023. He stated that Phase 2 is the History Walk portion of the Park. He reminded the Council that the services of WSB were utilized for Phase 1 and have not put together a proposal for Phase 2 including final design, construction and administration. He noted that the Park Advisory Commission had unanimously recommended approval.

Mayor Iverson – Asked what was planned for Phase 2.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Reviewed the overall plans for Phase 2 of the History Walk.

Council Member Schilling – Asked about the proposed final completion date for Railroad Park.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he believes that they need to gather a bit more funding in order to complete Phase 3. He explained that up to this point, this project has been funding through donations from businesses, residents, and the Minnesota Legacy Fund.

Council Member Nanko Yeager - Asked if the funds for the services of WSB would be coming from the donations.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that it should be strictly the Minnesota Legacy Fund and the donations for this portion of the project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL FROM WSB ENGINEERING FOR THE RAILROAD PARK PROJECT PHASE 2

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

19. To consider **Resolution 24-02-15** a resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for 2024 Trunk Watermain and Forcemain Improvements

City Engineer Erichson – Gave a brief overview of the 2024 project for trunk watermain and forcemain improvements.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-02-15 A RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 2024 TRUNK WATERMAIN AND FORCEMAIN IMPROVEMENTS.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

20. To consider a City Council Work Session on February 20, 2024

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that staff was requesting a City Council Work Session be held prior to the next Council meeting to review 2024 Goals and Initiatives.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, TO APPROVE A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None

Absent: *None*

21. To consider a City Council Special Meeting on February 13, 2024

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that staff was requesting a Special City Council meeting to continue negotiations with both bargaining units of the LELS and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local #49.

Council Member Ohnstad – Noted that he was unavailable for a meeting on February 13, 2024.

Council Member Luger – Stated that she was not sure if she would be able to attend but suggested that the meeting move forward.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE A CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mayor Iverson – Suggested that the Council do their Council Reports prior to moving into a Closed Session for the next agenda item.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the Park Advisory Commission meeting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – No report.

Council Member Luger – Attended the Chisago County Sewer Commission meeting.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Joint Sewer Commission meeting.

Mayor Iverson recessed the meeting at 7:43 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

22. To consider entering a Closed Session under MN State Statute 13D.05.Subd. (2), (3), and (4) for a personnel matter

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION UNDER MN STATE STATUTUE 13.D.05 2(A)(3), AND (4) FOR A PERSONNEL MATTER AT 7:49M

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Schilling and Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION UNDER MN STATE STATUTUE 13.D.05 2(A)(3), AND (4) FOR A PERSONNEL MATTER AT 7:57PM

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Schilling and Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None

Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING TO TERMINATE CHUCK ALMHJELD PENDING THE EXPIRATION OF ANY VETERANS PREFERANCE APPEAL PERIOD

Voting Aye: Luger, Ohnstad, Schilling, Nanko Yeager and Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

23. To consider the hiring of Steve Reeves as Public Works Superintendent for the City of Wyoming

City Administrator Linwood – Mr. Linwood about the candidate and his qualifications for the position and recommended the hiring of Mr. Reeves for the Public Works Superintendent

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF STEVE REEVES AS PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE CITY OF WYOMING

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 6, 2024 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 8:07PM

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

A portion of this public meeting may be closed to discuss "Labor Negotiation Strategies"; "Misconduct allegations or charges"; "Attorney-client privilege"; or "Performance evaluations" as per MN State Statute 13D.01-.05.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
7:00PM