

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
MARCH 19, 2024
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for March 19, 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, Neil Bauer - Public Safety Director, Fred Weck, Zoning Administrator/Building Official and Steve Reeves, Public Works Superintendent

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he would like to add an agenda item to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Wyoming and Minnesota Department of Health.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she would also like to add an item to consider a Special City Council Meeting on March 27, 2024 for labor negotiations.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE AMENDING AGENDA, AS PROPOSED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

OPEN FORUM:

County Commissioner Montzka – Gave the Council an update on County activities and asked if there were any concerns that the Council had that they would like him to bring back to the Council.

Mayor Iverson – Explained that the City remained concerned with HF#4009 and encouraged the County Commissioners and any interested parties to send a letter to the authors of the bill explained why it is not good for Wyoming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for March 6, 2024**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY

COUNCILMEMBER LUGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR MARCH 6, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

Roll Call Vote:

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 March 7, 2024 to March 19, 2024
3. To consider the resignation of Trevor Minor from the Wyoming Police Department effective April 3, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNTAD, TO APPROVE #2, and #3 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call Vote:

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:

4. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for March 14 2024
5. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for March 14, 2024
6. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for March 14, 2024
7. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for March 13, 2024
8. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for March 14, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS:

9. Communication from Chisago County Assessor announcing Board of Equalization date for the City of Wyoming on April 16, 2024, 6:00 PM at the Wyoming Library

City Administrator Linwood – Reviewed the notice that the Chisago County Assessor’s Office would hold their annual Board of Equalization at the Wyoming Library on April 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

10. Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training Program Grant

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that the City had submitted a grant application in

January and gave an overview of the Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training program. He noted that they had submitted a request for \$50,000 and were notified last week that they were awarded the full request amount. He stated that he will be bringing back a job description for Council approval in the near future and noted that they plan to actively recruit over the next few months. He explained that he is hopeful that this position will line up with 2 of the upcoming retirements within the department.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she thinks it is very exciting that the City was awarded these grant funds.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that this grant was extremely competitive and felt that Public Safety Director Bauer did a great job putting together the City's application.

11. Minnesota BCA Update Regarding SCC Movement Group and Wyoming Public Safety Building

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that the City had been notified by the Minnesota Fusion Center/BCA about a movement called Stop Cop City. He gave a brief overview of what appears to be driving this movement and reviewed its connection to the State. He explained that a website for this movement had listed the future Wyoming Public Safety building, along with Maple Grove Public Safety Training Facility, Chisholm Public Safety, and Rice County Public Safety Center as a potential locations for activity for this group. He explained that because the City is in the process of bonding money for this project that could potentially raise more aware of the proposed facility. He assured the Council that they would be working with their law enforcement partners in the County to develop a plan so they are prepared, but noted that at this point, this item was simply for awareness.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

12. To approve an agreement between the City of Wyoming and Lakes Center for Youth and Families for 2024 – Presentation by Linda Madsen, Community Outreach Coordinator for Lakes Center for Youth and Families

Linda Madsen, Lakes Center for Youth and Families – Thanked the City for the support that they have been given over the years and explained that it is critical to their organization. She shared some background and history of their organization and their recent decision to sell their building and move to the former Central Junior High building. She noted that their three main areas of focus for the last few years have been: Enrichment; Intervention; and Counseling and shared examples from each area and how many areas youths have participated in their various programs.

Council Member Luger – Noted that she was very familiar with Lakes Center for Youth and Families and believes the work they do is invaluable.

Council Member Ohnstad – Stated that he also supported this program and sees how much their preventative efforts help in the long run.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that the data clearly shows that the Lakes Center for Youth and Families has gotten great results.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Noted that he serves on the Board for the Lakes Center for Youth and Families which has given him insight into how challenging it can be to financially maintain this type of program. He stated that he felt that they really do great work for not a lot of money. He noted that just last week they received approval from the County Attorney office to do direct

referrals from Wyoming Police Department on a trial basis in order to help people get the help they need.

Mayor Iverson – Asked what the City had donated in the past to Lakes Center for Youth and Families.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that last year it was \$3,000 out of Fund 208, the Police Supplemental Fund and noted that she would support a similar donation from the same fund this year.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Clarified that it would not be a ‘donation’, but would be a ‘contract’ because they will be invoiced. He explained that he would suggest an increase to \$3,500 for the current contract and noted that there are funds available for this purpose.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WYOMING AND LAKES CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES FOR 2024 – FOR A CONTRACTED AMOUNT OF \$3,500 TO BE TAKEN FROM FUND 208, POLICE SUPPLEMENTAL FUND.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

13. To consider Resolution 24-03-33 a resolution receiving bids and awarding a contract for the 2024 trunk watermain and force main improvements

City Engineer Erichson – Reviewed details from the 3 bids that were received on March 13, 2024. He reminded the Council that this was more of a specialty type project which meant that not as many contractors would bid on it. He explained that the low bidder was Northdale Construction Company and stated that WSB staff has worked with them in other communities. Staff recommends award the contract to Northdale Construction Company.

Mayor Iverson – Asked when the work was likely to begin.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that they have not yet gotten a schedule from the contractor yet and noted that road restrictions are lifted, so the work could happen soon, but was unsure where it fit into their schedule. He explained that as soon as they are aware of the schedule, they will provide an update to the Council.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that this was being paid for form ARPA and asked if there were enough to cover these costs.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that it would be a combination of ARPA funds and Utility Funds and noted that \$450,000 will be from the ARPA funding. The necessary utility funds had been identified in the most recent utility rate study’s capital improvements section.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-03-33 A RESOLUTION RECEIVING BIDS AND AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE 2024 TRUNK WATERMAIN AND FORCEMAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTHDAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

14. To consider **Resolution 24-03-34** a resolution approving an Armer Radio Communications System Use Agreement between the City of Wyoming and Chisago County from 2025-2026

City Administrator Linwood – Gave a general review of the Armer Radio Communications system and its uses for the City. He stated that the agreement being presented to tonight was between Chisago County and the users on the system, which includes, police, fire, EMS, and State Patrol. He outlined changes from this proposed agreement for 2025 and 2026 to agreements from the past. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that she was disappointed at the level of the increase for the system. She stated that in looking through the information about what has already been invested it essentially means that that the City is 'over a barrel' in this situation.

Council Member Luger – Asked how much work had gone into negotiations and working with the County on these costs.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that this time was a bit different than the last time and was more simplistic. He explained that the County Board had looked through this and had identified what they thought was a fair increased based on their operating costs. He agreed that there is a philosophical discussion on this because the County is already taxing residents for it, so why should they be taxed again for this through the City. He stated that is operating under the assumption that there will be increased costs again in 2027.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that the cities had worked on this about 4 years ago and she felt what came out of those discussions was a better understanding from all sides. She stated that her concern will come in 2027, because she feels at that point there will need to be some big conversations about this. She suggested that the cities begin getting together to have conversations in 2025-2026 to begin taking a look at how they will deal with that large amount of money.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-03-34 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ARMER RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WYOMING AND CHISAGO COUNTY FOR 2025-2026

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

15. To consider Memorandum of Agreement PWSID #1130018

City Administrator Linwood – Explained this was a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the Minnesota Department of Health and is essentially states what the City is allowed to pump out of Well #3.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT PWSID #1130018 BETWEEN THE CITY OF WYOMING AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

16. To consider scheduling a Special City Council meeting to discuss labor negotiations

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that this meeting would be for union negotiations between the Operating Engineers 49ers and LELS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS ON MARCH 27, 2024 AT 5:30 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the City Council Work Session. He noted that he was recently in Washington D.C. and met with the City's local State representative to talk about the community funding request.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the City Council Work Session. She noted that she received a call from Neil Reeve recently who asked her to pass something along into the record related to their questions about the nighttime lighting at Gregory Contracting.

Council Member Luger – Attended the Sewer Commission meeting and the City Council Work Session earlier this evening.

Council Member Schilling – Attended the City Council Work Session.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Sewer Commission meeting and the City Council Work Session meeting. She noted that she had also attended the informational meeting about the Grey Wolf population in the State which she found very enlightening. She stated that she wanted to let Officer Minor know how much the City appreciated his dedication to the City and that he would be missed. She stated that on a personal level she understood his decision, but acknowledged that it would be a very large loss for the City.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 19, 2024 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:55 PM

Roll Call Vote:

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:
MARCH 27, 2024
7:00PM