

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for May 7, 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, and Brett Ohnstad

ABSENT: Councilmembers Dennis Schilling and Claire Luger

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:

OPEN FORUM:

Brian Benson, 24000 Helium Court – Expressed his appreciation to the Council for the time they had spent with them discussing things, even though it wasn't done with the usual protocol. He stated that they have been talking with staff members but wanted to make sure that everyone on the Council was fully aware of their situation. He explained that they are in the Liberty Ponds neighborhood which has a community well and septic system and explained that while the well is fine, the two septic systems and the drain field are not functioning appropriately. He noted that they have also been talking with the MPCA and are trying to get any and all help that they can at this point. He reiterated that he just wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the situation at Liberty Ponds because they desperately need help with both the logistics and the financial piece of addressing this issue.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that they had a meeting with some members of the Liberty Ponds board recently and will try to work with their maintenance company and engineer to get more details on the issues they are facing.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that they had also reached out to the MPCA and shared examples of some of the possible funding options.

Mr. Benson – Expressed his appreciation to City Engineer Erichson and explained that he was able to get much more information from the MPCA in one phone call than they have been able to get.

Judy Coughlin, 8161 Pioneer Road – Explained that she was here to ask the City to address the speed and safety issues on Pioneer Road. She noted that on April 26, 2024 there was a horrific head-on collision on Pioneer Road near her home. She shared examples of people crossing the center line and ending up in the ditch near her home. They would also like to ask the Council to lower the speed limit to 30 or 35 mph along the entire length of Pioneer Road within the City limits. She referenced Mn Stat. 169.14 and explained that she felt that it made it clear that the City had the authority to lower the speed limit. She explained that she did not see any valid reason for the speed limit to remain at 40 mph along Pioneer Road and asked the Council

to take into consideration the safety of the residents who live on Pioneer Road as well as those that travel through.

Mayor Iverson – Asked City Engineer Erichson and Public Safety Director Bauer to gather information for the Council on the number of crashes since the road has been redone and also more details on the statute referenced by Ms. Coughlin.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that they can gather additional information for the Council and noted that it has been on their radar along with a few other roadways and noted that Public Safety Director Bauer has plans to conduct a speed study with some new equipment he has acquired, so they can more fully understand what is happening out there. He stated that he expects to bring this information back to the Council in the near future at a Work Session meeting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that there were driver response signs out there and asked if they were working to slow things down.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that will be part of the data that they are looking into and explained that he has a new type of device that can gather data on a speed study where people would not know that it is there which will allow them to have an accurate reflection of what is really happening out there. He stated that he would like any decision that they make to be able to be based on accurate information and data.

Greg Coughlin, 8161 Pioneer Road – Explained that he had lived in this location for 35 years and noted that for 31 years he has been a licensed civil engineer and has worked on significant transportation projects. He stated that his background is in road design, traffic engineering, State aid, operations and maintenance and has been involved in the 'Towards Zero Deaths' (TZD) efforts throughout the State. He explained that he takes traffic safety very seriously and also takes traffic fatalities very seriously. He noted that on April 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. he was sitting in his house and heard a large 'bang' of a head-on collision at the end of his driveway. He stated that it is heartbreaking to think of what those families were going through and explained that it was unnecessary because the City and the residents have known there is a problem. He stated that he felt no traffic fatality was acceptable and felt it was the City's responsibility to fix this situation. He asked the City to make what he considered an easy decision and reduce the posted speed limit on Pioneer Road to 30 mph, and enforce it.

Jason Roberts, 24626 Hamlet Avenue – Stated that he had questions on the item later on the agenda related to rezoning a property on Hamlet Avenue from residential to commercial. He stated that he has a list of questions but clarified that he was not expecting them to be answered tonight but would like more information at a future time. He briefly reviewed his questions that he would like the City to answer, including whether the residents would be getting City sewer and water with the restructuring of Highway 8; how far out the rezoning process would be for the area; plans for handling the increased traffic on Hamlet Avenue; visibility of the rezoned property; and whether rezoning would decrease property values or increase taxes.

County Commissioner Montzka – Noted that on May 22, 2024 there will be a meeting at 6:00 p.m. to discuss consideration of changing the County logo and expressed his displeasure at the proposal and encouraged people to give feedback on this choice. He asked if there was anything that the Council would like him to be working on.

Mayor Iverson – Explained that the City could use any help he could give in trying to get the bonding bill through, including speaking to senators and representatives. She stated that they would also like help related to the proposed Housing First bills that take away development rights for the City.

Mr. Roberts – Asked to share one final thought for the Council to consider and explained that he had lived on Hamlet Avenue since 2009 and Mr. Witzel had not been a resident in that home since he had lived there.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for April 16, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR APRIL 16, 2024, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for April 30, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “WORK SESSION MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR APRIL 30, 2024, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

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.

3. To consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period of April 24, 2024 to May 7, 2024
4. To consider hiring two Seasonal Public Works Maintenance Workers
5. To consider the Planning Commission recommendation to Appointment Chris Ortwerth to the Wyoming Planning Commission
6. To consider **Resolution 24-05-40** a resolution appointing Wyoming paid on-call Firefighters to probationary status
7. To consider **Resolution 24-05-41** a resolution declaring certain Public Works items as surplus property and authorizing the Public Works Department to dispose of such items through online auction or disposal process
8. To consider **Resolution 24-05-42** a resolution accepting a donation to the City of Wyoming from Meadows on Fairview-Ebenezer for bus services.

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

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

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

9. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for April 29, 2024
10. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for April 29, 2024
11. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for April 29, 2024
12. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for May 1, 2024
13. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for April 24, 2024

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Works Superintendent Reeves to share details of Arbor Day and other things happening in the City.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that the City had hosted an Arbor Day event on April 26, 2024 which went very well and was well attended. He noted that the watermain project near Regal Machine also started this week.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if there were plans to televise the watermain project because she found the concept of the way they plan to complete the work to be fascinating.

City Engineer Erichson - Agreed that it was a really interesting project but noted that they typically do not televise the watermain.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that when the Council is touring for the street projects next week and that they will go by this site, so Council can see the progress.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Asked if Mayor Iverson was interested in seeing the actual pipe televised or if she just wanted to see video of the actual operation.

Mayor Iverson – Explained that she would like to see video of the operation because she was fascinated by the process involved in doing this work. She stated that she thinks residents may also find it interesting especially because the work is being done without interrupting anything.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that he will explore some possible options for getting video of this operation.

COMMUNICATIONS:

14. Wyoming Touch-A-Truck Event 2024

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that the City would be hosting the 2024 Touch-A-Truck Event on June 1, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Goodview Park and noted that they currently have over 25 vehicles scheduled for the event.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

15. To consider and approve the 2023 City of Wyoming Audit – Presentation by Bergan KDV

City Administrator Linwood – Introduced Aaron Dahl of Bergan KDV

Aaron Dahl, Bergan KDV – Reviewed the 2023 Audit for the City and explained that they had issued an unmodified opinion and found no audit or legal compliance findings for the City. This is the best opinion that the city can receive on an audit. He reviewed details from the General Fund revenues and expenditures and compared results from 2022 to 2023. He reviewed other details from their financial analysis for budget to actual; fund balances; tax capacity; tax capacity rate; tax levy; water; sewer; and surface water fund operations.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how the ARPA funds were taken out when the City uses them and how it affected their budget.

Mr. Dahl – Explained that they were expenditure driven so they do not recognize the revenue until the expenditures related to their use is actually made.

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Safety Director Bauer about the Public Safety Aid program and why the City received it.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that every City received a chunk of money, based on their population, which they got at the end of 2023. He stated that these funds are designed to provide additional assistance for things like recruitment and equipment.

Mr. Dahl – Noted that this situation was actually a bit different than the ARPA funds because it was not expenditure driven so it was recognized as revenue in 2023.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO ACCEPT THE 2023 CITY OF WYOMING AUDIT, AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

16. To consider **Resolution 24-05-43** a resolution approving a rezone: Z-24-001 Rural Residential II (R-2) to Commercial (C) District. Location: Hamlet Avenue at Highway 8, northeast corner. Applicant: Stephen Witzel. Property ID Number: 21.10674.02

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Gave a brief explanation of the request to rezone property at Hamlet Avenue and Highway 8 from R-2 to Commercial. He noted that the intent of the property owner at the present time was for use as a manufactured home sales lot. He explained that the questions asked during the Open Forum related to things like screening, fencing, and trees will be addressed during the site plan and CUP review process. He explained that the item on tonight's agenda was simply for the rezoning of the property and noted that this change would match the land use plan within the Comprehensive Plan. He outlined the history of the rezoning request for this property and noted that the property owner had originally asked to take this action in 2006 while it was still within the Township, but had neglected to follow up and get the property rezoned through the County, so the property had remained zoned as a residential property. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the rezoning request.

Council Member Ohnstad – Stated that he feels that this is a big issue and would like to have the full Council present for a discussion and vote on it. He asked to table this item until the next meeting when they have the full Council present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, TO TABLE CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-05-43 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A REZONE: Z-24-001 RURAL RESIDENTIAL II (R-2) TO COMMERCIAL (C) DISTRICT. LOCATION: HAMLET AVENUE AT HIGHWAY 8,

NORTHEAST CORNER. APPLICANT: STEPHEN WITZEL. PROPERTY ID NUMBER: 21.10674.02, UNTIL THE MAY 21, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

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

- 17.** To consider the hiring of Nicole Fraser for the Police Officer position with a tentative start date of May 13, 2024

Public Safety Director Bauer – Shared some of the background and experience of Nicole Fraser.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF NICOLE FRASER FOR THE POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF MAY 13, 2024

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

- 18.** To consider **Resolution 24-05-44** a resolution receiving the Feasibility Report and setting the Public Hearing for the 2024 Street Improvement Project

City Engineer Erichson– Reviewed details of the findings, proposed locations, proposed project schedule, project details and funding for the 2024 Street Improvement Project. He explained that staff was requesting that the Council accept the feasibility study and set the public hearing for June 4, 2024. He stated that they were hoping to be able to move forward with construction in late-July or early-August timeframe.

Council Member Ohnstad– Asked why 256th was not included in the project plans.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that 256th would be included in a future capital improvement and noted that it would also require a different type of improvement.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if this was full reconstruction rather than reclamation.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that it was a bit unique and was more of a pavement removal and pavement placement project so they do not increase the roadway elevation and potentially cause drainage issues.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that residents are able to pay off their assessments early if they wanted to.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-05-44 A RESOLUTION RECEIVING THE FEASIBILITY REPORT, SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 4, 2024, AND AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

- 19.** To consider a Proclamation Declaring National Public Works Week for May 19 - May 25, 2024

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Explained the request for a proclamation declaring May 19 -25, 2024 as Public Works Week. He reviewed some of the services that Public Works provides for the community to ensure that ‘normal’ happens for the residents.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK FOR MAY 19 - MAY 25, 2024

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

20. To consider a Proclamation Declaring National Police Week as May 12 – May 20, 2024

Public Safety Director Bauer– Explained that this is currently a very difficult time for hiring and recruiting police officers with the ongoing challenges around this profession. He stated that the Department is grateful that Wyoming has been such a supportive community in the past.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AS MAY 12 – MAY 20, 2024

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the Park Advisory Commission meeting and noted that plans for the dog park are moving forward and was hopeful that it will be open soon.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the Council Work session.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Council Work session, the Park Advisory Commission meeting, and visited the State Capital a few times to express how much the City needs its Public Safety building. She expressed appreciation to Troop and Pack #142 for being part of the City’s Arbor Day celebration efforts. She thanked Dave Torma and Sam Geisthardt for giving up their Saturday in order to help plant the trees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 7, 2024 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 8:40 PM

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling and Luger

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:
MAY 21, 2024
7:00PM