

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
JUNE 4, 2024
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for June 4, 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, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: Councilmember Brett Ohnstad

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for May 21, 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 MAY 21, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS:

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. To consider **Resolution 24-06-50** a resolution ordering the project and authorizing the preparation of plans and specifications for the 2024 Street Improvement Project

City Engineer Erichson – Reviewed details of the proposed 2024 Street Improvement Project, informational meetings that had been held with residents, outlined how the City streets are scored for consideration for improvements, and reviewed the City’s long-standing assessment policy. He noted that if the project moves forward, the City would hold an assessment hearing in the fall and outlined the procedure that would need to be followed if someone wanted to appeal the assessment. He answered Council questions related to details of the proposed street projects.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

Kristin Ortwerth, 25730 Gramford Avenue - Expressed her frustration, stated that they live in what was once the township where they do not have City sewer, water. She explained that they feel like their taxes are high for the services that they actually receive and now the City is asking them to pay even more. She asked if there was a line item in the City budget to pay for the roads.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that they do have a budget, but the City has a long-term plan with a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and noted that they use the lowest possible amount for assessments. He stated that the budget items cover street maintenance and the 5 year CIP are for the projects. He explained that some projects are paid in cash, some with State Aid, and others where they have to do bonding, which is what they were planning for this particular project.

Ms. Ortwerth –She stated that this proposed expense is a large extra expense for the residents. She explained that she had been under the impression that everything would be done using the property taxes that they had already paid.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that many cities have a larger assessment policy than the City. He explained that this assessment was not because the City had not budgeted appropriately. He noted that the Council could choose to put large amounts of money into the CIP for the streets, but residents would essentially see that on their taxes if they raised the levy every year which would result in a significant increase in property taxes for residents. He explained that this type of assessment is standard in most cities, and reiterated that Wyoming's policy assesses the minimum amount possible by state statute.

Ms. Ortwerth – Asked if the City, during their evaluation, only considers the people who live on the roads and not where the traffic comes from and noted that she felt this should be taken into consideration. She asked how long the City expected the new roadway to last.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that this roadway should last about 30 years and explained that there will be other maintenance that occurs over that time period. He stated that property owners would not be assessed for anything within the next 15 years, but roadways will require things like mill & overlay or cracking filling prior to the 30 year mark. He clarified that things like the mill and overlay and crack filling would not be things that residents would be assessed for because they would be done by Public Works.

Ms. Ortwerth – Asked if the improved road would increase their assessment value, which would in turn increase their property taxes.

Mayor Iverson – Clarified that the City did not assess the value of homes and that would be handled by the County.

Ms. Ortwerth – Noted that she had attended the May 7, 2024 meeting where there had been mention of a surplus and asked what would happen with the surplus money and if it could be redirected to road projects.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he believed they were referring to the annual audit.

Councilmember Schilling – Stated that they had brought up a point about surpluses and noted that anytime the City does not use up funds, it is rolled into the City's General Fund and that is applied to next year's budget so they do not have to plan for as much money. He explained that this meant that the City did not have to levy as much if they ended up with a surplus.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that the City, as a government entity, is responsible for running a balanced budget. He noted that the City is required to have a reserve balance, but surplus funds will be turned around and used back in the community.

Ms. Ortwerth - Explained that she believed that the City's goal should be that they do not have to assess and charge residents on top of what they already pay in taxes. She stated that she was frustrated with this situation and that she was glad that they had been given the chance to speak.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 24-06-50, A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PROJECT FOR THE 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

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 payment of recommended bills, payroll and journal entries for the period of May 22, 2024 to June 4, 2024
4. To consider **Resolution 24-06-51** a resolution approving Pay Voucher #1 to Northdale Construction Co., Inc. for the 2024 Trunk Watermain and Forcemain Improvements Project in the amount of \$662,250.74
5. To consider **Resolution 24-05-52** a resolution approving Pay Voucher #3 to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the 2023 Fallbrook Avenue and 264th Street Improvements Project in the amount of \$101,383.05
6. To consider **Resolution 24-06-53** a resolution accepting donation from an Anonymous Donor to the Wyoming Police Department.
7. To consider **Resolution 24-06-54** a resolution declaring certain vehicles as surplus property for disposal and authorizing the Police Department to dispose of the vehicles through online auction.
8. To consider **Resolution 24-06-55** a resolution approving payment for repair work on Marck Plow Truck #902 by Crysteel Truck Equipment for the Wyoming Department of Public Works in the amount of \$10,527.

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

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

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

9. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for May 30, 2024

10. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for May 30, 2024
11. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for May 30, 2024
12. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for May 30, 2024
13. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for May 29, 2024
14. First Quarter Financial Report of Abdo, Eick, and Meyers for March 31, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

15. To consider **Resolution 24-06-56** a resolution governing write-in vote counting

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Gave an overview of new legislation related to write-in vote counting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Shared examples of write-in votes within the City from the last few years and noted that on average there were about 75 write-in votes and asked how much time would be saved in not tabulating those votes.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Clarified that he could not speak specifically to the amount of time saved and noted that this information was shared with all the municipalities within Chisago County.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that this was something that the Chisago County auditors office had asked them to bring to City Councils within the County.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked how voters would be informed that their write-in votes would not be individually tabulated. She stated that when people come to vote, people expect their vote to be tabulated.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Clarified that the write-in votes would still show up in the final election results but that specific write-in votes would not be reported. For example, 10 votes for Ronald McDonald would just be indicated by total number of write-in votes.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that if a person cared enough to write-in a candidate for the election, she felt that vote should be individually tabulated and noted that what one person considers 'frivolous' may be a someone else's political statement which she deserved to be heard. She stated that she did not feel tabulating these write-in votes would take up so much time that the election results could not still be given on a timely basis.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that this would not just be for local elections, but that it would apply to all of the offices on the ballot and that the vote is still counted.

Council Member Luger – Stated that this appeared to be something that Chisago County wanted the City to pass and asked if other municipalities had already done so.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that they had just heard about this last week so he was not sure if any other cities had taken this action yet, but noted that they were all asked by the County to take this action.

Council Member Luger – Asked what the implications would be if all the other cities in the County passed this, but Wyoming did not.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he believes that they would just have to count them for the Wyoming precincts.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that Wyoming tends to have a high voter turnout and asked how many votes are typically cast.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that there are about 5,550 registered voters in the City and agreed that there is typically strong voter turnout.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-06-56 A RESOLUTION GOVERNING WRITE-IN VOTE COUNTING

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

16. To consider a Council Work Session on June 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the City has received a few different concept plans that have gone before the EDA for multi-family housing that staff would like to review with the Council at this Work Session.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he would not be able to attend because he will be out of town for a work conference.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON JUNE 18, 2024 AT 5:30 PM.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the Touch-A-Truck event.

Council Member Luger – No report.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the EDA meeting and the Touch-A-Truck event. She expressed appreciation to the vendors that participated. She stated that the MS 150 will be held on June 8 and 9, 2024 and will come through the City. She explained that there are usually about 1,000 bikers that participate and the organization was looking for volunteers to assist in various ways. She stated that earlier today she attended graduation for Project Search which provide internships for individuals with disabilities. She extended her congratulations to Robert, Tori, Libby, Emmanuel, Andrew, Maria, and Charlie for graduating this year.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 4, 2024 “REGULAR

**MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT
7:57 PM**

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

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:

JUNE 18, 2024

7:00PM