

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for September 3, 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, Steve Reeves, Public Works Superintendent, and Jessie Sturtz, Abdo Financial Solutions

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Work Session Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for August 20, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE "WORK SESSION MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 20, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for August 20, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 20, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: 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 from August 21, 2024 to September 3, 2024
4. To consider **Resolution 24-09-82** a resolution accepting a donation from Alexander Kabalan to Railroad Park Project in the amount of \$1,000.00
5. To consider **Resolution 24-09-83** a resolution approving payment to Astelford International for Vac Con Truck Repairs in the amount of \$14,502.23
6. To consider **Resolution 24-09-94** a resolution declaring certain property as surplus property for disposal and authorizing the Pubic Works Department to dispose of the property through online auction
7. To consider **Resolution 24-09-85** a resolution declaring certain items as surplus property and authorizing the Wyoming Police Department to donate the items to Bikes4Kids
8. To consider **Resolution 24-09-86** a resolution approving payment to Guardian Fleet Safety for the outfitting of squad 2405 in the amount of \$22,704.82
9. To consider **Resolution 24-09-87** a resolution approving the 2024 Street Maintenance Project/Crack Filling from Gopher State Sealcoat, Inc. in the amount of \$31,156.
10. To consider an inspections services agreement with the City of Ramsey
11. To consider the resignation of Garrett Heins from the Building Inspector position and begin the hiring process for the Building Inspector position

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10 and #11 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:

12. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for August 29, 2024
13. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for August 29, 2024
14. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for August 30, 2024
15. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for August 29, 2024
16. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for August 28, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS:

17. Update on Age-Friendly Grant/Community Garden

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Referenced a recent article published by M Health Fairview Lakes Medical Center regarding the newly expanded community garden space at M Health Fairview Lakes Medical Center that was made possible through the Age-Friendly Grant that was received. He stated that the gardens were officially open with plots available, including accessible plots.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she felt it was important to acknowledge everyone who was out there working on this, which were mostly City staff along with Planning Commissioners Iverson and Holl.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Noted that there were also numerous Public Works employees out there setting up and hauling materials.

18. Railroad Park Phase 2 – Update

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that construction started on Phase 2 on August 28, 2024 and that it was moving along quickly.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

19. To consider Resolution 24-09-88 a resolution approving a Preliminary Tax Levy for 2025 and setting a Public Hearing for Truth and Taxation at the December 3, 2024 Wyoming City Council meeting

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that Jessie from Abdo Financial Solutions would be joining the meeting electronically. Reminded the Council that once the Preliminary Tax Levy was set, it cannot be increased. He noted that the 2025 Preliminary Tax Levy needed to be certified to the County by September 30, 2024, but noted that the final levy is due at the end of December 2024.

Jessie Sturtz, Abdo Financial Solutions – She reviewed details within the proposed 2025 Preliminary Tax Levy as well as the General Fund revenues and expenditures.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how often the City is close between what they budget and what they spend. Stated that she felt the City ran pretty lean and asked what the average increased cost, in general for goods and services has been.

Ms. Sturtz - Answered that she felt that the City did a pretty good job of budgeting. Stated that over the last few years prices had skyrocketed and gone up over 50% from what they used to be. She noted that fuel prices have been decreasing a bit so they had taken that into consideration in putting together these numbers. She stated that many other cities are in alignment with what is being proposed for the City this year as well.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if it was true that because of how well the City has budgeted that they had increased their bond rating to AA2.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that the City's overall bond rating was set at AA2 this year when Moody's did an analysis, which was a result of the work the Council had done in setting their budgets and working through their policies that allowed that upgrade in their rating.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that her understanding is that rating will end up saving the City money because they would be able to get lower interest rates.

Council Member Luger – Stated that the City was not isolated from the market or the economy and needed to incorporate things like health insurance increases and COLA into their budgeting. She stated that she would like to know how the proposed increases for streets and capital equipment had been calculated.

Ms. Sturtz - Explained that the City had done a long-term plan and that was what she followed in putting together the budget.

Council Member Luger – Asked what would happen if, for example, the Council felt that a \$100,000 increase for streets was too large.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that following the long-term plan the Council has made streets a priority and without that, they would end up having a compounding effect, because there

will always be streets than need to be maintained or reconstructed and streets CIP is tied to those increases

Council Member Ohnstad – Asked about the City's tax rate over the last 6 years and noted that it went up about 3%, but appeared to still be below the average of the previous 5 years.

Ms. Sturtz - Stated that was correct.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that she did not have any questions, but did feel the proposed levy was still a bit high.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-09-88 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY FOR 2025 AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR TRUTH AND TAXATION AT THE DECEMBER 3, 2024 WYOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: None

20. To consider a Compensation Study from David Drown Associates

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the purpose of the proposed Compensation Study was for the City's 11 non-union positions and noted that it had previously been done in 2018 in order to ensure that their compensation packages were competitive and aligned with current standards.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the City had looked at any other firms for this study.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that he had reached out to both Abdo and BakerTilly and found that both would be significantly more than the cost of David Drown Associates.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked which comparable cities would be used as part of this study.

City Administrator Linwood – The same list that have been used for all of the city's contract negotiations and in prior studies which had been approved by the council and used through negotiations with the council.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked for staff to provide that list to the council. She asked if the Administrator and Department Heads should be included in this study.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that both he and the Department Heads were currently included as city employees and that it was standard practice of a comp study that they be included.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Explained that she was not completely comfortable with the Administrator and Department Heads being included in the study. She noted that she was also concerned about the possible ramifications that may arise if this report does not match what they City had already settled the union contracts.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated there may be compensation impacts that come from a compensation study, but explained that if the city wants to retain and attract employees, this was something that every city does as a normal exercise.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he liked keeping things at market rate and comparable and noted that there was an item earlier on the agenda for the replacement of the Building Inspector. He stated that he would like the City to be able to hang on to good people that are dedicated to the community and one of the ways that he thinks they can do that is by keeping them at market rate and comparable to the surrounding areas.

Council Member Ohnstad – Stated that he agreed with Council Member Schilling and felt the City needed to be ahead of this and not behind as a way to treat the City's employees with the respect that they deserve.

Council Member Luger – Stated that she felt the City had incredibly hard-working and talented staff and was in favor of this study because everyone should be paid appropriately whether they are union or non-union employees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE A COMPENSATION STUDY FROM DAVID DROWN ASSOCIATES

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

21. Dog Park Naming Contest

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Explained that the dog park in the City has been opened for about 4 months and has had heavy usage. He stated that staff is proposing that they conduct a dog park naming contest in the City as part of the upcoming Stagecoach Day event and gave an overview of how the contest would run.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that there was not going to be an age limit for participation so someone who was 5 years old or 100 years old could win.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE A DOG PARK NAMING CONTEST, AS PROPOSED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

22. Mayor for a Day Contest

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Explained that Mayor for a Day contests have been very popular throughout the State and staff was recommending that this be something that the City also begin. He noted that they were proposing the contest be for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades with a winner being chosen for each grade level. He stated that they would also plan to submit the local essay submissions to the League of Minnesota Cities for their contest as well and reviewed the available recognition and prizes for both contests.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that before Covid, the City had gone into the schools and met the kids and discussed general City-related topics. She asked if they could do that again and also promote this contest.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that he felt that was a possibility, but that he had not looked into that with the school.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MAYOR FOR A DAY CONTEST, AS PROPOSED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

23. To consider a City Council Work Session on September 17, 2024

City Administrator Linwood – Explained the request from staff to hold a Work Session on September 17, 2024 in order to discuss the potential extension of the Wyoming Library hours, rezoning initiative to align with the Comprehensive Plan, and the Wyoming Fire Department performance measures.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2024.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – No report.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – No report.

Council Member Luger – No report.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Planning Commission meeting and the Hallberg for the Arts roundtable discussion regarding the impact of the arts on the community. She thanked Public Works Superintendent Reeves and the Public Works Department for painting the City crosswalks and explained that she had gotten lots of feedback from residents that they appreciated it as well.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:49 PM

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: SEPTEMBER 17, 2024: 7:00PM