

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for November 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: Eric Larson, 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:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for October 15, 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 OCTOBER 15, 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 from October 16, 2024 to November 6, 2024
3. To consider the retirement of J.J. Hastings from the Wyoming Fire Department
4. To consider the resignation of Jeremy Peltier from the Police Officer position with the Wyoming Police Department
5. ~~To consider Swenson’s Lawncare for the 2025-2027 Lawn Mowing Contract (pulled for separate discussion)~~

6. To consider advertising for seasonal ice Rink and Warming House Attendants at a wage of \$15 - \$17/hr
7. To consider **Resolution 24-11-101** a resolution accepting a donation from Xcel Energy for the 2024 Wyoming Tree Lighting
8. To consider **Resolution 24-11-102** a resolution accepting a donation from Forest Lake Area High School for the 2024 Wyoming Tree Lighting
9. To consider **Resolution 24-11-103** a resolution accepting a donation from Polaris for the 2024 Wyoming Tree Lighting
10. To consider **Resolution 24-11-104** a resolution accepting a donation from the Wyoming Lions Club for the 2024 Wyoming Tree Lighting
11. To consider **Resolution 24-11-105** a resolution certifying the 2024 General Election results for the City of Wyoming
12. To consider **Resolution 24-11-106** a resolution authorizing payment to Hugo's Tree Care for tree removal, stump grinding, and tree planting in the amount of \$26,500

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked to pull item #5 for separate discussion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE #2, #3, #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, AND #12 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

#5 - To consider Swenson's Lawncare for the 2025-2027 Lawn Mowing Contract

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that this item appeared to show about a 37% increase in the fees and asked if staff knew the reason for the increase.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the increase in fees may be from inflation from the last contract that started in 2022 and that the previous contract had been very cheap. The 2nd lowest bid for the contract in 2022 was almost \$74,000 a year, which was still more expensive than the lowest bid this year. Cost of the equipment, labor, and fuel prices may also contribute to the increase. He stated that the City could look at bringing this service in-house, but that would require hiring additional employees and purchasing additional equipment.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Explained that she had wondered if perhaps the increase in the fees was because the City was increasing the mower's duties.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that an RFP had gone out and was essentially the same duties/areas as the last time. He reiterated that the previous contract was very low and that staff did not anticipate we would see the same prices on this RFP.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how many City parks there are and what the cost may be to bring this service in-house.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that the City had 17 parks and that the City used to do this work in-house with one full-time employee that was dedicated solely to mowing. Added that the City also had seasonal workers to assist with the hand mowing and weed whipping. He stated that it would also require buying the equipment. He stated that he had not actually run the numbers, but believes it would be more initially than what this contract would cost the City.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #5 APPROVING SWENSON'S LAWN CARE FOR THE 2025-2027 LAWN MOWING CONTRACT.

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:

13. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for November 1 , 2024

Council Member Luger – Stated that Public Safety Director Bauer had mentioned in his report that October was a busy month for accidents and asked if he knew what contributed to this.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that it was not just accidents, but calls for service, in general, that reflected one of their busiest months. He stated that he did not have a specific reason, but did know that they received a lot of medical calls in October. He noted that around Halloween they also had a busy day with numerous trees down and a few accidents that bumped up their numbers as well.

14. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for October 31, 2024

15. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for October 30, 2024

16. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for October 31, 2024

17. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for October 29, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS:

18. Wyoming Tree Lighting Ceremony

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane - Stated that the City would hold their 8th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7, 2024 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Railroad Park. He noted that staff was still finalizing donors and entertainment, but so far, they know that The Dance Factory, Sunrise Apple Farm, Chisago County Anonymous Santa Program, the clogging group, and Lions Club would be participating. He noted that they were also expecting a special appearance from Santa himself.

19. Scout Project Update – Troop #57731 Little Library

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that Troop #57731 had completed their work on the Little Library project in Ashton Park on October 23, 2024, so it had been operational for a few weeks.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how many Little Libraries were located in the City.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Stated that, to his knowledge, he believed that there were 3 Little Libraries in the City that were done as Scout projects in Lions Park, Goodview Park, and now Ashton Park.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that number did not include the other libraries that have been popping up in people's yards.

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Agreed and noted that he had also seen some of those when he has been out for walks.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

20. To consider **Ordinance No. 2024-01** an Ordinance Amending the City of Wyoming Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12, Businesses: Creating Article VII, establishing regulations for Cannabis Businesses and amending Chapter 40, Article IV, Definition of Terms; Article VI, Divisions 2, and 9 – 13 Amending Zoning District Allowed Uses for Licensed Cannabis Businesses

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Noted that he had distributed a lot of information to the Council within the packet and suggested that the best approach would be to answer any questions they may have about what he had included.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if this ordinance was designed to be on par with a liquor store, gas station selling tobacco, or adult entertainment, with things like buffer zones.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he felt an argument could be made that it would be similar to any of the items listed by Council Member Nanko Yeager. He explained that the ordinance identified certain areas and usages for the sale of cannabis within the City, similar to a liquor store and also a district, like adult uses, where they were only allowed in certain areas and have to be a certain distance from schools.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Stated that this was what the City can and cannot do, based on the statutes that were recently passed by the legislature.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that she had seen in the Planning Commission minutes that liquor stores or tobacco sellers do not have buffer zones. She stated that this ordinance has buffer zones and thought that adult entertainment had similar buffer zones in the City, but wasn't sure how this had been designed.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Stated that it would be up to the community to decide how they viewed the use of cannabis. He stated that if they look at it the same as drinking beer and liquor, it could be exactly like those ordinances. He stated that Planning Commission felt that having these buffers would be a good starting place which is what they were recommending.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if this was more restrictive than what the City had in place for liquor and tobacco.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Stated that it was more restrictive.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if liquor and tobacco sellers also required a new registration fee, if they, for example, wanted to move to the strip mall across the street.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Stated that, in that scenario, liquor and tobacco sellers would also have to redo their license.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the proposed fees were similar to what the City charged for liquor and tobacco.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Explained that they had only set the penalties, but not set the fees yet. He noted that they set the penalties using the maximums and minimums that the State has allowed, but noted that the City Council would set the fees when they discuss the fee schedule in January.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY MAYOR IVERSON, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WYOMING CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12, BUSINESSES: CREATING ARTICLE VII, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR CANNABIS BUSINESSES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 40, ARTICLE IV, DEFINITION OF TERMS; ARTICLE VI, DIVISIONS 2, AND 9 – 13 AMENDING ZONING DISTRICT ALLOWED USES FOR LICENSED CANNABIS BUSINESSES

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 21. To consider Resolution 24-11-107 a resolution approving the Summary Publication of the Adult Cannabis Ordinance**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-11-107 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF THE ADULT CANNABIS ORDINANCE

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 22. To consider the hiring of Lucas Harvey in the Building Inspector position**

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Shared information on Mr. Harvey's background and experience and explained that staff was recommending hiring him at Step 1 at \$31.18/hour with a 6 month probation period.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if Mr. Harvey would try to expand his knowledge while he was with the City and receive other certifications.

Zoning Administrator/Building Official Weck – Stated that he would seek other certifications, for example in septic, but that he would also expect other certifications as well.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF LUCAS HARVEY IN THE BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the Council Work Session meeting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the Council Work Session meeting.

Council Member Luger – No report.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Council Work Session meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 6, 2024 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:24PM

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:
NOVEMBER 19, 2024
7:00PM