

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 7, 2025
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for January 7, 2025 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:

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

City Administrator Linwood administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Nanko Yeager; Council Member Ohnstad; and Mayor Iverson.

There was a round of applause for each individual.

ANNUAL MEETING:

1. Designate Official Newspaper for 2025

City Administrator Linwood – Outlined the recommendation by staff to designate the *Chisago County Press* as the City's official newspaper for 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01-01, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CHISAGO COUNTY PRESS AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CIT OF WYOMING FOR THE YEAR 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Set Annual Fees for City Services in 2025

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Gave a brief overview of the changes found in the City's proposed fee schedule for 2025.

Council Member Nanko Yeager - Asked about the Fire Department Special Events fee and if the City would have to pay the fee if the Fire Department was at one of the City's events.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Clarified that if was a City event, the Fire Department would not charge the special events fee and shared examples of the type of event that would be expected to pay this fee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01-02, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL FEES FOR THE CITY SERVICES FOR 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Designate Electronic Fund Transfers and Payments for Claims

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Explained that this was something that the City's auditor has asked them to do on an annual basis.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01-03, A RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO MAKE ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS PRIOR TO BOARD APPROVAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND THEIR DESIGNEES FOR 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Review Council Appointments to Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Board of Trustees of Fire Department Volunteer Relief Association

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01-04, A RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION FOR 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Designate Official Depository for City Funds for 2025

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01-05, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR THE CITY OF WYOMING FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Elect an Acting Mayor to Serve in the Absence of the Mayor during 2025 (Minn. Stat. 412-121)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER LUGER TO SERVE AS ACTING MAYOR IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MAYOR DURING 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. Establishing 2025 regular meeting nights for the City Council of the City of Wyoming and Budget Calendar for 2026 Budget

Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane – Reviewed the budget calendar and the proposed meeting dates for the Council as the first and third Tuesday of each month and the adjustments necessary due to holidays or events.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE 2025 REGULAR MEETING NIGHTS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WYOMING AND THE BUDGET CALENDAR FOR THE 2026 BUDGET PROCESS.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

OPEN FORUM: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

8. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for December 17, 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 DECEMBER 17, 2024 AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. Consider Approval of the minutes of the “Work Session” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for December 17, 2024

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “WORK SESSION” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR DECEMBER 17, 2024

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.

10. Consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period from December 18, 2024 to January 7, 2025
11. To consider **Resolution 25-01-09** a resolution accepting a donation from Splitrocks to the City of Wyoming
12. To consider **Resolution 25-01-06** a resolution approving Final Pay Voucher to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the 2023 Fallbrook Avenue and 264th Street Improvements Project in the amount of \$32,873.71
13. To consider **Resolution 25-01-07** a resolution authorizing payment to Visu-Sewer for Fallbrook Avenue Sewer Lining Project in the amount of \$17,950.00
14. To consider **Resolution 25-01-08** a resolution authorizing payment to Ferguson Waterworks for a Spin Doctor Valve Turner in the amount of \$19,275.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE #10, #11, #12, #13, AND #14 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:

15. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for January 7, 2025
16. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for January 3, 2025
17. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for January 2, 2025
18. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for January 3, 2025
19. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for January 2, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

20. To consider the hiring of Rebekah Peterson for the Police Officer position with a tentative start date of January 12, 2025

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that through the hiring process, Rebekah Peterson has been identified as an excellent candidate for this position. He outlined some of her background, education, and experience, including volunteering her services as a volunteer Reserve Officer in the City.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how long Ms. Peterson had been with the City as a volunteer.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that he believed she had been with the City a little over 2 years as part of the Cadet program and also as a Reserve Officer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF REBEKAH PETERSON FOR THE POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF JANUARY 12, 2025

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

21. To consider the hiring of Joseph Vang for the Police Cadet Temporary Position with a tentative start date of January 13, 2025

Public Safety Director Bauer – Clarified that an update had gone out on this item and explained that they were now requesting that Joseph Vang fill the open Police Officer position. He briefly reviewed his background, education, and experience and explained that Mr. Vang would be taking his final certification test tomorrow.

Council Member Luger – Asked if the Department would be fully staffed by filling this position.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Confirmed that the Department would be fully staffed if the Council approves this candidate.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked what the City would do about the candidate that had been hired as a Cadet with the expectation of making that individual a Police Officer on April 1, 2025.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that the City would be pre-hiring for one of the upcoming expected retirements within the Department.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Expressed concern that the City did not have anything in writing stating that there will actually be retirements within the Department and explained that she was not comfortable offering Mr. Vang this position when they should have the existing Cadet take this position. She reiterated that she was not comfortable hiring another officer when the City doesn't know if there would actually be a vacancy.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Clarified that the Cadet position was hired with the understanding that they would be hired for upcoming retirements. Added that this was a topic that was discussed with council in the 2025 budget work sessions.

Council Member Schilling – He noted that he would be comfortable moving forward with this action even though there is not a specific date for retirement because the Department has not been fully staffed for some time and they have budgeted for these officers.

Council Member Ohnstad – Stated that he assumed that there would be a training period for the new officers and would not be going out on the streets immediately.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that was correct and explained that they would not be ready to be on their own until June. He gave an overview of the 5-month training process that takes place with the existing senior officers.

City Attorney Loonan – Suggested that the motion include language that the hiring would be contingent upon Mr. Vang passing the licensing examination.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF JOSEPH VANG FOR THE POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF JANUARY 13, 2025, CONTINGENT

UPON RECEIVING CERTIFICATION BY PASSING THE MINNESOTA PEACE OFFICER LICENSING EXAMINATION.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: None

22. To Consider the Hiring of Vincent Schilling for the Building Inspector position with a tentative start date of January 27, 2025

Building Official Weck – Gave a brief overview of the background, experience, and various certifications of Vincent Schilling and explained that he was the top candidate for the Building Inspector position.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if Vincent Schilling was related to Council Member Schilling.

Council Member Schilling – Confirmed that Vincent Schilling was his son and explained that he would be abstaining from voting on this item.

City Attorney Loonan – Explained that Minnesota law allowed the City to make this hire as long as the interested family member, who in this case would be Council Member Schilling, discloses the relationship and recused themselves from the discussion and vote. He outlined examples of other types of votes related to employment that Council Member Schilling would have to abstain from while his son was an employee of the City.

Mayor Iverson – Asked how long this position had been open and how many interviews had been conducted.

Building Official Weck – Stated that the position had been open since August and that they had conducted 6 or 7 interviews this time around.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF VINCENT SCHILLING FOR THE BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF JANUARY 27, 2025

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: Schilling

Absent: None

23. To Consider a City Council Work Session on January 21, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Administrator Linwood – Explained the recommendation to hold a City Council Work Session meeting in order to discuss the latest information related to cannabis legislation and how it may effect the City.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that it was possible that he may not be able to attend the Work Session because he has a jury trial that same day, but would keep them posted on the day.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON JANUARY 21, 2025 AT 5:30 PM.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the Park Advisory Commission meeting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – No report.

Council Member Luger – No report.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Meetings with the State elected officials began earlier today which she and City Administrator Linwood attended and focused on how important the City's Public Safety building is for the City.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 7, 2025 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:37 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:
JANUARY 21, 2025
7:00PM