

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 4, 2025
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for February 4, 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, 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 January 21, 2025**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 21, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. **Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for January 21, 2025**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “WORK SESSION MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR JANUARY 21, 2025, 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.

3. To consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period from January 22, 2025 to February 4, 2025
4. To consider approving payment to the League of Minnesota Cities for Workers Compensation Insurance for February 2025 to February 26, 2026 in the amount of \$109,615.00
5. adopting **Resolution 25-02-11** a Resolution declaring certain Administration Department item as Surplus Property and Authorize the Administration Department to dispose of such items through on-line auction of disposal process
6. To consider **Resolution 25-02-12** a resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2025 Chevy Traverse from Saxon Fleet Services in the amount of \$41,963.00
7. To consider **Resolution 25-02-13** a resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2025 Dodge Durango from Dodge of Burnsville in the amount of \$49,099.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE #3, #4, #5, #6 AND #7, 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:

8. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for January 29, 2025
9. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for January 29, 2025
10. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for January 28, 2025
11. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for January 28, 2025
12. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for January 29, 2025

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS:

13. MN Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MNLEAP)

Public Safety Director Bauer – Gave an overview of the intent of the Wyoming Police Department to pursue accreditation through the Minnesota Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MNLEAP), expected costs, possible grant funding, and explained the benefits of becoming accredited.

Council Member Ohnstad – Asked if the initial cost and the ongoing cost for the accreditation were based on the size of the various cities.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Confirmed that the costs were determined by the number of officers.

NEW BUSINESS

14. To consider the addition of an EMS Responder Classification within the Wyoming Fire Department

Public Safety Director Bauer – Outlined his request to reclassify existing positions from firefighter to EMS Responder and explained that the majority of the calls that come in are related to EMS, so this reclassification would fill a huge need for the City. He noted that he was proposing that they start at \$15/hour with an increase to \$18/hour once they have successfully completed their probationary period.

Council Member Ohnstad – Asked how a call currently would go out versus how it would go out with these new classifications.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that they all receive the call via the 'I Am Responding' app so they will be able to look at it and see whether the call will require a medical response or not, and would then respond accordingly. He noted that it would not necessarily change how the Department responds, but would change the make-up of the crew and also give them additional people that would be available, and noted that they were hoping it would open doors for daytime coverage.

Council Member Luger – Asked about the rationale behind the proposed hourly rate during probation and after.

Public Safety Director Bauer - Explained that the pay rates were consistent with the firefighter rates and noted that the Fire Relief Association supported it as well.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Gave the example of someone having a heart attack and one of the EMS Responders responds to the call. She asked what that individual would be able to do for someone having a heart attack.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that the ambulance service in the area were usually staffed with a paramedic and explained that they would respond with a rescue vehicle, just like the Fire Department usually responds now. He stated that they would have the same level of training as the Fire Department but noted that some would be EMTs and some would be EMS Responders. He explained that the EMS Responders have the ability to use the equipment in the rescue vehicle and the EMTs would just have some additional levels of certification. He clarified that the EMS Responders would not take the place of an ambulance responding because the ambulance would still be dispatched but they would just be additional responders that can help provide service. He noted that there are some medical calls that require 5 or 6 responders based on the need and reiterated that when responding to calls, this would just mean that they would have additional people available beyond just their firefighters.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he was in favor of this classification because it was an added body and he felt it was something that would make the response to calls more quickly.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that the EMS Responder would not be attending the firefighter training events or going to fires and would just specifically be for medical calls. She explained that she wanted to make sure that they considered the mental health of the EMS Responders because they may be seeing some pretty hard things.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that they have begun brainstorming ideas of what wellness looked like for their firefighters and EMS personnel.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF AN EMS RESPONDER CLASSIFICATION

WITHIN THE WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

15. To consider advertising for a Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Worker position

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that he was seeking authorization to advertise for a full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker, as was approved through the 2023 Rate Study and within the City's budget process.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked how much time this worker would be spending on utilities.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that they would spend the same amount of time as everybody else in the Department. The new hire would be in the on-call rotation, which is every 7th week. Stated that the new hire would be working in utilities full-time during those instances and that they would sporadically work in utilities during the rest of the time.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Explained that as a utility rate payer, she was not totally comfortable with the employee doing other things and felt that they should be paid out of the General Fund. She noted that she was not comfortable hiring an extra employee because the City was not growing very much and didn't think it was a good idea to expand the Department when they weren't growing very much.

City Administrator Linwood – Reminded Council Member Nanko Yeager that she had approved the rate study that was inclusionary of this position.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that there were a lot of different things that they had to do when the City reached 5,000 residents. Asked City Engineer Erichson if population increases also increase the needs from Public Works.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that the City became an MS4 City when it crossed the 5,000-population threshold that requires them to become one. Added that the MS4 status brought additional, unfunded mandates that the City must now abide by which impact Public Works staff. Impacts include added reporting and infrastructure support requirements.

Council Member Ohnstad – Noted that as the City grows, they will need people working on some of the infrastructure before the population is increased because the roads and sewer systems will need to come before homes can be built.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR A FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE WORKER POSITION.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: None

16. To consider Resolution 25-02-13 a resolution authorizing the preparation of a feasibility study for the 2025 Street Improvement Project

City Engineer Erichson – Reminded the Council that the City had completed street ratings in 2024 using AI, which mapped the roadways and the distressed areas. He explained that staff had developed a CIP using data captured from the street ratings and would bring that information

back to the Council in the future. He gave an overview on how streets are selected for the Street Improvement Projects and which roadways staff was recommending be included in the 2025 Street Improvement Project.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked when the Council would see the Pavement Management Plan.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that the Pavement Management Plan was completed in the fall of 2024 and noted that they were working to verify the information, because it was done with a new AI system. He explained that Public Works had begun the process of comparing the AI data to just verify that it matched reality. He stated that he was hopeful that they would be able to share the results with the Council in the next month or so.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked why the Thurnbeck area was removed from the plans for 2025.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that Thurnbeck had been removed due to its size and the amount of resources the City would need to complete it. He noted that they were hopeful that they may be able to utilize State Aid funding to complete the Thurnbeck area in the future.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that she believed that 259th Street was older than the other streets in the Thurnbeck area and was ‘shot’. Asked what would be done in the meantime regarding 259th in the meantime about the street if it were not to be done with this project.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that 259th Street was already at the point of requiring a complete reconstruction, whether the City waits 1 or 2 years to address it. Added that Hawk Meadows could avoid a complete reconstruction if they addressed it now. He explained that patching and other work would take place in this area while they wait for the Thurnbeck project.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the City was still considering changing the assessment policy for mill & overlays. Noted that would require a change in policy because right now the City only assesses for reclamation or reconstruction and then residents have 20 years where they would not be assessed.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that it was still under consideration.

Council Member Ohnstad – Asked about using AI to identify the deterioration of the roadways and asked if they were able to look at hotspots in order to identify areas that were getting worse in order to determine areas that they may want to do first.

City Engineer Erichson - Stated that was correct and was exactly what it can be used for.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that there was a lot of work that had to be done before this was brought back to the public and noted that the Council would have additional discussions on the possible assessment of the project.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that Thurnbeck was about 22 years old and, in his opinion, has actually held up pretty well for being that age.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-02-13 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE 2025 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

17. To consider a City Council Work Session on February 18, 2025

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the intent for the proposed Work Session would be the Council's annual goal setting discussion to help direct work priorities for the year.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M.

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 – Attended the Joint Sewer Commission meeting last week.

Council Member Schilling – No report.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Joint Sewer Commission meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 4, 2025 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:54 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:
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
7:00PM