

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
APRIL 1, 2025
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for April 1, 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:

OPEN FORUM:

Chris Ortwerth, 25730 Granford Avenue – Stated that some tree trimming was done at Verges Memorial Park and that some equipment appeared to have ripped up the trail.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she had also noticed it when she was out on a walk the other day. She asked if this damage may have been done from the road project and if they were using this area as a staging area.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that he was not aware of them using this area as a staging area for the road project.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that he was not aware of the tree trimming, but noted that included in part of the road improvement contract was new trails. He asked if this work had been done by the City crews.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that he was not aware of it unless it happened yesterday.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that she believed it had happened sometime last week.

Mr. Ortwerth – Explained that he was not aware that the trails were going to be part of the road project.

City Engineer Erichson – Reiterated that this area was on the list to do some tree trimming in advance of the paving, which is what he assumed had happened in this instance, but assured Mr. Ortwerth that the trails would be repaved as part of the road project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for March 18, 2025

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 MARCH 18, 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 March 18, 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 MARCH 18, 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 March 19, 2025, to April 1, 2025
4. To consider **Resolution 25-04-28**, a resolution declaring certain items as surplus property and authorizing the Public Works Department to dispose of the items
5. To consider **Resolution 25-04-29**, a resolution accepting a donation from Polaris for the 2025 Bike Rodeo
6. ~~Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Radium Correspondence – Well #3 (pulled for separate discussion)~~

Council Member Nanko Yeager asked to pull item #6 for a separate discussion.

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

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

#6 - Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Radium Correspondence – Well #3

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that the radium levels have dropped in Well #3.

City Administrator Linwood–. Explained that radium levels had gone down this year and that

the well could now pump 22% of their total annual volume. He noted that the City continues to watch this well fluctuate. He stated that they had sent this information to WSB to continue to spotlight this information.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if they had any idea on why the radium levels have decreased or whether it may be a more permanent reduction.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that the reason was unknown but noted that it would be fantastic if it was a permanent reduction. He explained that Public Works did not utilize this well at all, other than flushing.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO YEAGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH) RADIUM CORRESPONDENCE – WELL #3.

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:

7. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for March 26, 2025

8. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for March 26, 2025

Mayor Iverson – Asked about the continued references to Fairview Hospital in his reports and what they were actually doing.

Building Official Weck – Explained that the hospital was still operating, so the contractors needed to find time to conduct the work, which was why the project was taking so long. He gave a brief overview of the projects and phases and noted that they were doing a lot of remodeling, which was why it seemed like it was taking them a long time.

9. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for March 27, 2025

10. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Steve Reeves for March 25, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

11. To consider hiring Logan Strang for the Police Officer position with a tentative start date of April 7, 2025

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that they were looking to bring on Logan Strang this year as an officer and reminded the Council that he was selected last year for the ICPOET grant. He stated that Mr. Strang had completed his training, taken and completed the State licensing exam. He explained that part of their desire to bring him on as an officer was in anticipation of planned retirements in 2025. He outlined the planned starting wage rate beginning on April 7, 2025.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked when Public Safety Director Bauer anticipated the retirements and noted that the report had indicated July.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that the report was accurate.

Council Member Ohnstad – Noted that Mr. Strang had already been a cadet with the Department and asked if his field training period would be shorter because of that.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that they usually schedule it for the full extent, but if things are moving along well, they would be able to cut some of the training period off towards the end.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that Representative Rymer had reached out to the City on the success they have had with this program and asked if continued support went through whether Public Safety Director Bauer felt that the City may use this program again in the future.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that there has been another offering, and he was hoping that the State will continue to fund it but noted that they would need to have a vacancy that they can plan for because it was a month's long process to get them ready to go. He clarified that this was a long-term strategy and not a quick fix.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE HIRING LOGAN STRANG FOR THE POLICE OFFICER POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF APRIL 7, 2025

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

12. To consider an update to the City of Wyoming Street Assessment Policy

City Administrator Linwood – Reminded the Council that they held a Work Session discussion on this topic a few weeks ago, and staff was recommending an addition to the Assessment Policy with a new section for Mill and Overlay. He gave a brief overview of the proposed recommendations.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that the City had a policy for complete reconstruction projects to be paid off, typically in 10-15 years. She asked if it could be paid off sooner for the mill and overlay projects.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that it could be paid off sooner and would be something that the Council could discuss and explained that usually these kinds of projects were not as expensive.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Expressed concern for the potential of back-to-back assessments and the length of time that a mill and overlay is effective. She noted that she was also concerned about cracks reflecting through before the assessment was paid off, which was something that she felt did not look good.

City Engineer Erichson – Noted that cracks can reflect through a mill and overlay before an assessment is paid off, but that this was natural in non-reconstruction projects. Stated that the Council would discuss the City's CIP following the Road Tour.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that a few years ago, the City put in franchise fees and earmarked them for road projects and asked how much they currently had.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that it was around \$300,000/year and confirmed that those funds go right into the road fund, which are what will be used for these projects.

Council Member Luger – Noted that she was consistently impressed by the detailed information that City Engineer Erichson had included in his reports and that he included the ‘why’ behind different mechanisms and actions. She asked if the presentation that he gave last week at the Work Session was available to be viewed on the City website. She asked City Engineer Erichson to explain why cracks start to show on new roads and whether it was common across the State.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that it was common across the State because of Minnesota’s extreme weather patterns throughout the year.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that human eyes can make mistakes, but she thought that WSB used AI technology now to assess the roads.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that the equipment they utilize is a truck-mounted camera that maps all the distressing, so they can go back and look at the progression of the cracks and try to develop a CIP based on their predictions from that data. He stated that he felt the use of AI equipment for this data was a huge improvement because it takes away much of the human errors.

He noted that once the City gets caught up, in his mind, that will change this situation because it will ease the burden. He explained that he believed that with the City’s long-term planning and the things they were doing as a Council, once this is caught up, they will on the basic maintenance items that will make the roads last a lot longer than the normal anticipated length. He stated that he felt the City was moving in a positive direction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO UPDATE THE CITY OF WYOMING STREET ASSESSMENT POLICY, AS DISCUSSED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: None

13. To consider Resolution 25-04-29, a resolution receiving the Feasibility Report and setting the Public Hearing for the 2025 Street Improvement Project

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that this item was a summary of the feasibility study that was authorized by the Council and clarified that they were not asking for any action from the Council regarding moving forward with the project tonight. He stated that they were being asked to receive the feasibility study and consider setting the public hearing. He gave a brief presentation regarding details within the feasibility report for the 2025 Street Improvement Project and noted that they would like to set a neighborhood informational meeting on April 16, 2025, and the public hearing at the May 6, 2025, Council meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-04-29, A RESOLUTION RECEIVING THE FEASIBILITY REPORT AND SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2025 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

14. To discuss the Audubon Society property located near Hawk Meadows

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that this was something that had recently come to City staff's attention. He stated that the Hawk Meadows trail area was currently owned by the Audubon Society. He noted that the City had recently met with the Audubon Society, who indicated that they were no longer in a position to own or manage this piece of land and would like to formally donate it, possibly to the City and possibly to the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District. He explained that a part of the donation would be that the property would need to remain in its natural state and be dedicated as public parkland. He noted that the Council did not need to make any final decisions tonight, but staff would like the Council to have some initial conversations about this land. He explained that the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District has indicated that they would be interested in this property if the City were not interested in it.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she believed that City staff had been working on the trail already.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that there was minimal maintenance that has taken place out there by City staff with mowing and grooming.

Mayor Iverson – Explained that she did not have a significant preference if it was donated to the City or to the watershed district but would like to see the trail continue to be maintained.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he would have no objections to the donation of this property to either the City or the watershed district.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that she wouldn't mind seeing the watershed district take it over as long as the trail remained.

Council Member Ohnstad – Stated that for whoever takes over this parcel, he would hope that the transfer would be invisible to the public and nothing would really change. He explained that he used this trail quite a bit and felt it was a nice trail, year-round.

Mayor Iverson – Asked City Attorney Loonan what the cleanest way would be for this donation to ensure that it stays in the condition that was intended.

City Attorney Loonan – Noted that the most secure way would be that there would be a deed restriction on the property that it would remain undeveloped, and for the trail portion, they may want to record an easement in order to have it documented.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if there would be a cost to those actions.

City Attorney Loonan – Confirmed that there would be a cost to those actions.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if the Park Commission may be able to use some of their funds to pay for those things.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated he felt that there would have to be a conversation with the parties involved in the donation and would plan to keep the Council updated as they continue to have these discussions.

15. To consider a City Council Work Session for April 15, 2025

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that staff would like to schedule a Council Work Session meeting on April 15, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in order to continue discussions surrounding retail cannabis.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR APRIL 15, 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 – 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. She noted that she wanted to thank Representative Rymer for asking the City to come and testify regarding the City's Public Safety building.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 1, 2025, "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 8:09 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:
APRIL 15, 2025
7:00PM