

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
APRIL 15, 2025
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for April 15, 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, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: Councilmember Brett Ohnstad

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:

Mayor Iverson – Asked to add 2 items to the agenda based on their Work Session discussion: #13 Retail Cannabis Consulting Agreement and #14 Discuss the Retail Cannabis Buffer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND ADD ITEM #13: RETAIL CANNABIS CONSULTING AGREEMENT, AND #14 DISCUSSION OF THE RETAIL CANNABIS BUFFER.

*Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ohnstad*

OPEN FORUM:

1. Swearing in of Officer Logan Strang as a Wyoming Police Officer

Public Safety Director Bauer – Introduced new Wyoming Police Officer Logan Strang and shared some details of his background, experience, history within the Department as an ICPOET, and why he believed that Officer Strang was going to be a great addition to the Department. He noted that Officer Strang's wife, Olivia, would be pinning on his badge this evening. He encouraged the Council to reach out to their elected representatives to express support for the ICPOET program because it was not currently included in the most recent budget proposal for next year.

Mayor Iverson – Administered the Swearing in of Officer Logan Strang as a Wyoming Police Officer.

There was a round of applause for Officer Strang.

Mayor Iverson recessed the meeting at 7:06 PM and reconvened at 7:10 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

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 APRIL 1, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

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 April 2, 2025, to April 15, 2025
4. To consider approving a Mobile Food Unit application for Keegan Hofeld of Evergreen Mobile Roaster
5. To consider **Resolution 25-04-31**, a resolution approving a massage therapist’s license in the City of Wyoming for His & Hers Hair Company for the year 2025

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

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

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

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

11. To consider the hiring of Jim Mager for the Public Works Maintenance Position with a tentative start date of May 19, 2025

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Explained that the City had received 36 applications for this position, interviewed 9 individuals during the first round, 5 in the second round, and 2 for the final round. He shared some background and experience that Mr. Mager will be able to bring to the City and explained that he was excited to have him join their team.

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Works Superintendent Reeves why he felt so many people had applied for this position.

Public Works Superintendent Reeves – Stated that he felt Wyoming brought a competitive package with the variety of work and also the benefits. He noted that he also felt part of the success could be attributed to getting the opening information to the right people by advertising it properly. He explained that Mr. Mager would come in at Step 5, which was \$36.21/hr., with a 6-month probationary period.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that she was a bit uncomfortable expanding City staff numbers in the current economy.

Mayor Iverson – Referenced some of the recent MS4 road projects and the additional work involved for the Public Works Department. She asked City Engineer Erichson how adding a new employee to the Public Works Department would help the City.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that he and Public Works Superintendent Reeves have regular meetings where they discuss the City's infrastructure, planning, and how they will be able to tackle the various road improvement or maintenance projects. He noted that they also spend a lot of time talking about things like the amount of pothole patching that is needed throughout the City. He stated that with this additional staff person, he felt the residents would see additional manpower and effort that would go into maintaining what the City has and keeping it in good condition. He noted that there was an endless amount of work that could be done by the Public Works Department throughout the City and believed that having an additional staff person available would certainly help in those efforts.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF JIM MAGER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE POSITION WITH A TENTATIVE START DATE OF MAY 19, 2025.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

12. To schedule a Work Session for May 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM to conduct the annual Road and Project Tour

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that Meadows on Fairview had once again generously donated the use of their bus and driver for the annual road tour.

Council Member Luger – Stated that she would be unable to attend.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE SCHEDULE A WORK SESSION FOR MAY 14, 2025, AT 5:00 PM TO CONDUCT THE ANNUAL ROAD AND PROJECT TOUR

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Ohnstad

13. Retail Cannabis Consulting Agreement

City Administrator Linwood – Reminded the Council that this item and the next had been discussed during their Work Session. He explained that the proposed consulting agreement has been reviewed by staff as well as the City's legal counsel. He gave a brief overview of what would be included in the consulting agreement for retail cannabis businesses in the City.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Explained that she did not have a problem with having a dispensary in the City and that she did not think a City should be in a retail business because they should not be competing with private businesses. She stated that she was not comfortable with the City getting a net revenue and would prefer part of the gross revenue or a minimum payment.

Mayor Iverson – Asked when the City would decide where the share of the net revenue would go within the City.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that it would be a conversation for the Council, but that the proceeds would likely immediately go into the General Fund. Added that the Council could earmark the proceeds for a specific use, such as parks, streets, or facilities.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that many cities operate municipal liquor stores and asked if this was kind of the same thing.

City Administrator Linwood – Acknowledged that municipal liquor stores are common and that many cities were looking at similar partnership deals or outright owning and operating their own business without a private partner. He noted that for a city the size of Wyoming, it would be extremely difficult to have the resources or up-front costs to take on some of the operations because this was a pretty challenging business. He stated that the consultant has a proven track record and believes that this will allow the City to protect public interest, retain community oversight, and also be able to have a meaningful share of the profits.

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Safety Director Bauer to weigh in on the benefits of having this type of consulting agreement for cannabis businesses.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Noted that this was discussed a bit at the Work Session, but he felt that one benefit would be that the consultant would have a better understanding of what the product is versus what is available currently on the market.

Mayor Iverson – Asked the consultants to briefly address the Council and explain some things to the residents and noted that to her, the benefits of hiring the consultants has having a safe product.

Bill Parker, Consultant – Explained that the benefits of having a dispensary and having the legitimate products in place, but also the education that the dispensary staff would be able to provide. Stated that cannabis was still relatively new to most Minnesotans and that there were not educational opportunities for those accessing cannabis in the black market prior to its legalization. He stated that the dispensary staff would also be able to gear the product to the customer's desired experience and explained that not everyone wanted to get high as there are other reasons to use the product such as pain relief, reducing inflammation, and better sleep. He referenced State requirements for security measures and gave examples of the zone of security around one of their facilities.

Mayor Iverson – Explained that this was a business operating in partnership with the City and that it did not push any other business out of the community.

Council Member Schilling – Noted that the City has to still allow a private retail cannabis business in addition to this dispensary if an application came in.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE THE RETAIL CANNABIS CONSULTING AGREEMENT, AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

14. Discussion of Retail Cannabis Buffer

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that Assistant City Administrator MacFarlane was distributing some resolutions for Council consideration and gave a brief overview of the proposed updated ordinance language related to the removal of the 500-foot buffer to make it the same as the City currently had for liquor and tobacco sales.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that if the City did not have any buffer restrictions on liquor and tobacco, then it seemed silly to her that the City would have restrictions for cannabis, if the stated goal was to mirror what was done in those instances. Stated that she believed the City should keep the buffer zone as it currently stands.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he did not see any reason for a buffer, because cannabis is a legal product, which was not different than tobacco and alcohol. He noted that it was also highly age-regulated and secure, so, in his opinion, there was no point in having a buffer zone.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that during the Planning Commission discussion, they kind of felt the same as Council Member Schilling and asked why the City would put buffers in place that they did not have for the liquor stores.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04-32, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING A SUMMARY PUBLICATION FOR ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WYOMING CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12, BUSINESSES; CREATING ARTICLE VII, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR CANNABIS BUSINESSES AND;

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the Council Work Session

Council Member Luger – Attended the Council Work Session

Council Member Schilling – Attended the Council Work Session

Mayor Iverson – Attended the EDA, the Planning Commission, and the Council Work Session meetings.

City Engineer Erichson – Reminded the Council that on April 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM. there would

be a neighborhood meeting for the 2025 Street Improvement Project and explained that the public hearing for the 2025 Street Improvement Project would take place at the first Council meeting in May. He stated that construction for the 2024 street project that had carried over into 2025 should begin on April 21, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 15, 2025 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:33 PM

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

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:

MAY 6, 2025

7:00PM