

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 19, 2021
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for October 19, 2021 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, Brett Ohnstad, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: Council Member Dennis Schilling

Also Present: Tom Loonan, Eckberg Lammers, Robb Linwood, City Administrator, Kelly Dumais, Assistant City Administrator, Mark Erichson-WSB, Paul Hoppe - Public Safety Director, Fred Weck, Zoning Administrator/Building Official and Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

Gary Sykes, 5710 East Viking Boulevard – Stated that he has lived in Wyoming for 35 years and explained that he wanted to address an issue from the October 5, 2021 Council meeting. He stated that the Council discussed some proposals for East Viking Boulevard. He noted that everyone wants to see East Viking Boulevard repaired. There was a meeting on July 21, 2021 where there was discussion about what would be done on East Viking Boulevard and residents were told that there would be a second informational meeting which was supposed to take place in September, but that did not happen. He stated that most of the neighbors would like to see the road stay as is, but be repaired. He stated that they would like to see the street stay with parking on both sides. For safety reasons, they would like to be able to back into their driveways and noted that two mailboxes have been wiped out just this summer along East Viking Boulevard. He stated that if they make the change they are proposing, it will be taking away the safety of the individuals that live along there. He stated that they would like to see a trail but not through their neighborhood and noted that transient people will live at the apartment complex and they do not care about the neighborhood. He asked why the second neighborhood meeting did not take place. He stated that recommendations were brought to the Council on October 5, 2021 and his concern is that they will only look to service Polaris' interest with the bridge. He stated that the majority of the people he has talked to would like it to stay as is, with parking along both sides to offer a safety zone. He asked why the schedule he was given in July has not been followed because it created an expectation.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that the schedule given in July was very tentative at that point and they still intend to have additional public engagement. He stated that there was some discussion at the October 5, 2021 meeting about the grant because there is timing and detail relating to the grant that has to be considered. He stated that they could do feasibility studies for both options, but noted that will slow the process down. He reiterated that they fully intend to have additional public engagement on the project before the feasibility study is finalized.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that they received input from some of the apartment owners and one business that there was a necessity to still have parking on the roadway. He noted that they also heard about pedestrian movements and discussion that narrowing the road would decrease the speed that traffic travels. He stated that the Council could still direct staff to

take another look at this project.

Mayor Iverson – Asked about the amount of the grant.

City Engineer Erichson – Explained that it was a 50% matching grant and noted that there have been a lot of curve balls with it because it is an EDA grant and not a transportation grant.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she attended the meeting in July and thought the consensus was parking along one side and narrowing the roadway with the hope that people would drive more slowly. She stated that they have also heard about walkability on a regular basis. She stated that she would like to apologize on behalf of the Council and staff that the second meeting has not yet happened.

Mr. Sykes – Stated that if the second meeting would have been held he feels like the residents would have told the City that they want parking along both sides. He stated that he feels like the system was short circuited by going to the Council on October 5, 2021 and staff presenting a recommendation. He noted that he understood the project was not finalized, but it seemed like it just bypassed the citizens.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that there will be another meeting and explained how the City needs to watch how it spends money and stressed the importance of the matching grant.

Renee Roehrick, 5761 E Viking Blvd – Asked if someone would give her a synopsis of what the hybrid plan would be.

City Engineer Erichson – Reviewed the details of the hybrid option that would allow parking along the south side and assured the residents that there will be another meeting. He noted that attendance was pretty light at the first meeting and suggested that perhaps a Zoom option could be given if people were still uncertain about attending a meeting in person. He stated that the planned second meeting was not eliminated it has just been delayed. He gave an overview explanation and description of a feasibility study.

Ms. Roehrick, –Asked if Polaris was paying taxes yet.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that Polaris is the largest taxpayer in the City and has been for quite some time. He explained that they have always paid taxes, but originally only paid them on the land and noted that during the first phase of construction there was an abatement on the property. He stated that as of this year, they pay approximately \$700,000 in taxes.

Councilmember Luger – Stated that she thinks it is reasonable to take a step back and take a closer look, but does not want to lose the opportunity to mitigate some of the financial burden with the grant money.

Councilmember Ohnstad – Stated that he feels the same way and wants to make sure that the City gets the right finished project that will be beneficial to most people at a reasonable cost.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager – Stated that she would like to see another public meeting be held and would prefer to see it within the timeline so the City can get the grant and construction going next year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for October 5, 2021**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY

COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR OCTOBER 5, 2021 AS SUBMITTED

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling

2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for October 5, 2021

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “WORK SESSION MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR OCTOBER 5, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling

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.** Consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period of October 6, 2021 through October 19, 2021
- 4.** To consider **Resolution 21-10-103** a resolution approving the payment for pay voucher #3 to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Improvement Project (WSB Project 017084-00) in the amount of \$336,099.77
- 5.** To consider **Resolution 21-10-104** a resolution approving a purchase of water meters in the amount of \$10,026.56 from Ferguson Waterworks.
- 6.** To consider **Resolution 21-10-105** a resolution declaring certain administration department items as surplus property and authorizing the administration department to dispose of items through on-line auction or disposal process
- 7.** Accept the resignation of Tom DeBilzan and approve the posting of the Building Inspector position

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked to pull item #7.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE #3, #4, #5, and #6 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling

#7 - Accept the resignation of Tom DeBilzan and approve the posting of the Building Inspector position

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that she was sad to see Tom DeBilzan leave, however, this was a position that she questioned whether it was needed back in a prior work session. She

stated that if the Council would like a suggestion of places to cut the budget, this is one place where she thinks it could be done.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he thinks it comes down to levels of service the council wants to be offered to residents and builders. Permits are currently out 2 weeks, but being down one staff member that could go out further. Currently the building department will be having one of the highest revenue years on record.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #7 ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF TOM DEBILZAN AND APPROVE THE POSTING OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION.

Voting Aye: Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling

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

8. Report of the Public Safety Director, Paul Hoppe for October 13, 2021
9. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for October 15, 2021
10. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for October 15, 2021
11. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for October 15, 2021
12. Report of Public Works Superintendent Chuck Almhjeld for October 14, 2021

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS:

13. 2020 Annual Report

Assistant City Administrator Dumais – Noted that the annual report outlines the accomplishments and work that the City provided the residents in 2020 as well as budget information from 2021. She stated that the annual report helps residents and community partners to better understand the work of the City and what their tax dollars are used for.

Mayor Iverson – Highlighted a few things from the report including: the temporary and part-time employees; the ranking of the City on the Star Tribune Hot Housing index at 22nd out of 115 cities; property taxes in the middle of the pack; and the population estimated at 8,237.

Council Member Ohnstad – Extended his appreciation to all the people who volunteer for the City because it could not be run properly without their help.

Council Member Luger – Stated that she would echo that sentiment and asked that this report be posted on-line.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended Lions Club bingo at Lions Park, the Planning Commission meeting, and the Intercultural Development and Inclusivity training.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the Sewer Commission and thanked everyone for coming.

Council Member Luger – Attended the Intercultural Development and Inclusivity training.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Planning Commission meeting, the EDA meeting, the Joint Sewer Commission meeting, and the Intercultural Development and Inclusivity training. She stated that she did a podcast with the League of Minnesota Cities on the importance of words which is available at the League of Minnesota website. She thanked Assistant City Administrator Dumais for her work in the City and noted that this would be her last meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 19, 2021 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:53 PM

Voting Aye: Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schilling

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 3, 2021
7:00PM