

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for December 7, 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, Dennis Schilling, Claire Luger. Participating remotely: Councilmember Brett Ohnstad (from 355 South Ocean Drive, Hollywood, FL)

ABSENT: None

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, Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent, and Finance Director Victoria Holthaus

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for November 16, 2021

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 NOVEMBER 16, 2021, AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Consider approving the minutes of the "Special Meeting" of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for November 17, 2021

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE "SPECIAL MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2021, AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Consider **Resolution 21-12-117** a resolution certifying the 2021 Tax Levy collectible in 2022
4. Consider **Resolution 21-12-118** a resolution approving the proposed 2022 expenditures budget by department

Finance Director Victoria Holthaus, AEM – Gave an overview of the proposed 2022 Tax Levy and Budget and the proposed 2022 expenditures budget by department. She noted that the 2022 tax levy is proposed to increase to 7.85% from 2021, but noted that because there was a growth in tax capacity, the tax rate only grew from 43.3% to 45%. She reviewed examples of the impact of the proposed 2022 tax levy and tax rate to various valued homes in the City. She reviewed and highlighted various items in the General Fund budget and how they have changed from 2021. She noted that Public Safety accounts for 50.5% of the General Fund budget, followed by Streets and Roads at 21.2% with the remainder taken up by other administrative functions.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if Public Safety accounting for 50.5% of the budget was common for other communities.

Finance Director Holthaus – Stated that the provision of Public Safety is the number one expenditure in all of the communities that she works with.

Mayor Iverson – Asked for an explanation of the 2009 A Bond increase.

Finance Director Holthaus – Gave a brief overview of the 2009 A Bond and noted that the increase was as a result of the debt management analysis evaluation which determined additional resources were needed to cover that debt service.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she has gotten some questions about the increase in the workmen's compensation and general liability insurance. She stated that she has been asked if the City goes out and gets bids or if it is confident that the League of Minnesota Cities offers the best rate.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that all the city municipalities utilize the League of Minnesota Cities insurance trust, which is a significant value to the City because a private insurer could not offer the type of rates that are received through that. He agreed that there has been some significant increases in the workmen's compensation and the property and liability this year. He stated that the workmen's compensation increase is due to some of the things being seen in Public Safety and were related to things like PTSD claims. He reiterated that despite the increase, there is really no better option than through the League of Minnesota Cities.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she has also gotten questions about the Street Replacement Fund. She noted that this is new and asked for a brief explanation of why the City has started this fund.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that in the past, the City had done all street work with general obligation bonds. He stated that after analysis, they found that the debt levy kept increasing and the City would be unable to keep that same pace to keep doing the projects by bonding for them. He stated that the City created a long term plan and the City is trying to transition to a pay-as-you-go option, which is the reason for the significant increase in the Street Replacement Fund. He stated that this is a starting point and will continue to be evaluated year after year.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that she believes the City has done 17 miles of road and has 68 miles within the City. She asked if she was correct in saying that if the City continued to bond for

roadways that the City's credit rating could go down and asked how much money the City has put into its roads over the last 8 years.

City Administrator Linwood – Confirmed that the credit rating could be adversely affected and noted that he would estimate the amount spent on roads to be around \$20 million.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that he would estimate it to be a bit over \$20 million as a very rough number.

Council Member Ohnstad – Confirmed that the increase in the property tax level indicated is per year. He asked about the City's tax rate and noted that it appears that it is still lower than what it was in 2019.

Finance Director Holthaus – Stated that was correct and noted that the tax rate has been falling for the last several years.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

There were no public comments.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-12-117 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE 2021 TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2022.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-12-118 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2022 EXPENDITURES BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: 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.

5. To consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period of November 17, 2021 to December 7, 2021.
6. To consider adopting **Resolution 21-12-119** a resolution approving the issuance of various On-Sale, Off-Sale, and Combination Liquor Licenses in the City of Wyoming for the year 2022

7. To consider adopting **Resolution 21-12-120** a resolution approving the issuance of various Tobacco, Waste haulers, and Massage Occupancy Licenses in the City of Wyoming for the year 2022.
8. To consider **Resolution 21-12-121** a resolution accepting a donation to the City from WSB Engineering for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021.
9. To consider **Resolution 21-12-122** a resolution accepting a donation to the City from Xcel Energy for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021.
10. To consider **Resolution 21-12-123** a resolution accepting a donation to the City from Big Apple Bagels, Forest Lake, for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021
11. To consider **Resolution 21-12-124** a resolution accepting a donation to the City from Pinehaven Farms, Forest Lake, for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021.
12. To consider **Resolution 21-12-125** a resolution accepting donation to the City from Jeanine Sachs for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021.
13. To consider **Resolution 21-12-126** a resolution accepting a donation to the City from Sunrise Apple Farms for a donation to the 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at Railroad Park on December 4, 2021.
14. To consider **Resolution 21-12-127** a resolution approving payment to Minnesota Wisconsin Playground for the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Swenson Park in the amount of \$46,272.60 - **Pulled for discussion**
15. To consider **Resolution 21-12-128** a resolution approving the purchase of water meters from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$25,200.00 – **Pulled for discussion**
16. To consider **Resolution 21-12-129** a resolution approving payment for pay voucher #5 to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Improvement Project (WSB Project 017084-000) in the amount of \$116,003.29 – **Pulled for discussion**
17. To consider **Resolution 21-12-130** a resolution approving payment to Interstate Companies Co. for the blacktop overlay of the rink at Swenson Park in the amount of \$23,375.00
18. To consider the resignation of Paul Hoppe as Public Safety Director for the City of Wyoming effective January 3, 2021 – **Pulled for discussion**

Mayor Iverson – Asked to pull items #14, #15, and #16.

Council Member Schilling – Asked to pull item #18

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, and #17 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

#14. To consider **Resolution 21-12-127** a resolution approving payment to Minnesota Wisconsin Playground for the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Swenson Park in the amount of \$46,272.60

Mayor Iverson – Asked for an explanation of Swenson Park and why the City is proceeding in this manner.

City Administrator Linwood – Gave an overview of the Minnesota DNR grant that the City received for Swenson Park. He noted that it will be the City's first ADA compliant park and gave an overview of the work that has been completed. He noted that the hockey boards had been delayed on a cargo ship but arrived a few weeks ago and have now been installed.

#15. To consider **Resolution 21-12-128** a resolution approving the purchase of water meters from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$25,200.00

Mayor Iverson – Asked for an explanation on why it is important to purchase new water meters.

Public Works Director Almhjeld – Stated that a water meter's average life span is around 20 years and most of the current meters are not readable from City Hall. He stated that the City has already replaced 22 commercial meters thus far this year and noted that the new meters have been working well.

#16. To consider **Resolution 21-12-129** a resolution approving payment for pay voucher #5 to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Improvement Project (WSB Project 017084-000) in the amount of \$116,003.29

Mayor Iverson – Noted that there are still some things that still need to be completed and stated that she wanted to make sure that until those are taken care of, the City will not be paying the full amount.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that the City will not pay the full amount until all punch list items are completed. He stated that the City holds onto 'retainage' funds until the full work has been completed. He stated that the City has a very good contractor and has not had any problems with them so he does not expect any issues.

#18. To consider the resignation of Paul Hoppe as Public Safety Director for the City of Wyoming effective January 3, 2021

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he wanted to say that he has worked with Public Safety Director Hoppe for the last 13 years as he has served on various Boards, Commission, and the Council. He stated that it has been a real pleasure and noted that Public Safety Director Hoppe has done a lot of good things for the community and is also well recognized throughout the Twin Cities and other law enforcement agencies. He stated that he has always valued Public Safety Director Hoppe's opinion, his professionalism, and has been able to handle every situation that has presented itself. He expressed his appreciation to Public Safety Director Hoppe for everything he has done for the City and explained that he would be greatly missed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #14, #15, #16, and #18.

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:

19. Report of the Public Safety Director, Paul Hoppe for December 1, 2021

20. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for December 3, 2021

21. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for December 3, 2021

22. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for December 3, 2021

23. Report of Public Works Superintendent Chuck Almhjeld for December 1, 2021

Mayor Iverson – Asked to pull item #19 for further discussion. She asked for an explanation of the report and why this information is important.

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Explained that earlier this year there was a report by the City of Rogers that the Wyoming's crime clearance rate was at 20%. He stated was an extremely low number and when it was brought to his attention, he tasked the Crime Analyst to dive into the analytics and explain why the clearance rate was being reported at 20%. He stated that they looked at every single call which is about 24,000 calls over the last two years. He stated that the City, in August of 2020, switched from MOC reporting to National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) which was very different. He stated that in that analysis they found 'operator errors' where some of the reports were not properly classified. He stated that have made the appropriate changes and done some re-training amongst the staff to ensure those errors do not happen again. He stated that they also found some problems in clearance by arrest. He stated that in 2020 the court systems essentially shut down so people were not being processed and the County Attorney's office delayed what would normally be a more expedited process for charging people and was essentially halted. He stated that the jail was also shut down and was only taking the worst of the worst violent criminals and did not accept normal arrestees which forced a number of the normal arrest procedures into citations. He stated that there is an error in the State's system that does not properly convert the citation dispositions to clearance rates. He stated that there is kind of a trifecta thing that happened in 2020 from the court system and jail being shut down to delayed charges being reported and processed post-reporting deadline which drove the statistics downward. He stated that they manually looked at every single case in the City in the last 24 months and reported the actual clearance rate and compared it to the past 4 years. He noted that in 2017 the clearance rate was 91%, 2018 – 89%, 2019 - 87%, and in 2020 – 76%. He stated that these clearance rates are still about 30-40% higher than the State average. He explained the importance of clearance rates and correcting this information. He expressed appreciation to Council Member Nanko Yeager for bringing this to his attention and noted that it was a good thing because the analysis identified some important issues that were inside and outside of their control that have now been addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

24. Retirement Send-off for Public Safety Director Hoppe – December 22, 2021 – Wyoming City Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

City Administrator Linwood – Gave an overview of the plans for a retirement send-off for the community to be able to wish Public Safety Director Hoppe well and say their goodbyes.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the pet friendly Tree Lighting Ceremony and noted that, in his opinion, just keeps getting better every year.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the budget work session and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Council Member Luger – Attended the Park Advisory Commission meeting and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. She expressed her appreciation to the community businesses, organizations, and City staff that pitched in to make it a successful event.

Council Member Schilling – Attended the budget work session. He stated that he got a lot of positive feedback on the Tree Lighting Ceremony and expressed his appreciation to the Public

Works Department because he knows they worked very hard on setting it up, as well as the business and entities that contributed.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the budget workshop, the Park Advisory Commission, and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. She stated that she wanted to publicly thank WSB Engineering, Xcel Energy, Big Apple Bagels, Pinehaven Farms, Jeanine Sachs, Sunrise Apple Farm, and City staff for their work to make this a successful event. She thanked the fire department for driving Santa around the community and to the residents for their donations. She thanked Public Safety Director Hoppe for the positive impact he has had on the community and explained that the City has been extremely lucky to have him for 13 years. She reminded people of the celebration in his honor on December 22, 2021.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 7, 2021 “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:
DECEMBER 21, 2021
7:00PM