

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 21, 2023
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for February 21, 2023 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: Tom Loonan, Eckberg Lammers, Robb Linwood, City Administrator, Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator, Mark Erichson-WSB and Neil Bauer - Public Safety Director

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 February 7, 2023

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 FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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.

2. To consider authorizing the payment of recommended bills, payroll and journal entries for the period of February 8, 2023 to February 21, 2023
3. To consider authorization for the advertisement of two seasonal Public Works employees
4. To consider approving payment to the League of Minnesota Cities for Workers Compensation Insurance for February 2023 to February 2024 in the amount of \$140,070
5. To consider **Resolution 23-02-22** a resolution declaring certain vehicles as surplus property for disposal and authorizing the Police Department to dispose of the vehicles through on-line auction
6. To consider **Resolution 23-02-23** a resolution requesting Municipal State Aid Street Funds for SAP Projects, 248-108-003, 248-110-004, and 248-106-001.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6 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:

7. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for February 17, 2023
8. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for February 17, 2023
9. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for February 17, 2023
10. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for February 17, 2023
11. Report of Acting Public Works Superintendent Joe Keding for February 21, 2023

Mayor Iverson – Asked for clarification on item #7, Public Safety Director Bauer's report related to the story by Channel 5 and whether they were planning to do something with one of the City's trucks.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that Channel 5 wanted to touch on the relationship the City has with Rosenbauer and how they service our vehicles and to show the local connection.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

12. To consider **Resolution 23-02-24** a resolution contracting with Hylden Advocacy and Law as a Lobbyist for the City of Wyoming in the amount of \$30,000

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the Council has been working through a needs assessment for the Public Safety building for the last few years. He noted that they have worked with local legislators in order to try to secure funding for this project which has, thus far, been unsuccessful. He stated that the City was not part of the Governor's 2023 capital recommendations, but noted that Lindstrom and Chisago City were included and explained that both of those cities have been utilizing the services of a lobbyist. He stated that the use of a lobbyist does increase the probability of receiving funding at both the State and Federal level. He reviewed the 6 lobbyist groups that the City reached out to for these services. He reviewed general terms from the various proposals and explained that staff was recommending contracting with Hylden Advocacy and Law with the funds coming from the Capital Revolving Fund.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the lobbying activities would be limited to the Public Safety building appropriation bill that was introduced by Senator Koran last week.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that it would be for the state level for the public safety building and for help with congressionally directed spending at the federal level.

Brian McDaniel, Hylden Advocacy and Law - He stated that would be their intent from the beginning, but they have a fair amount of latitude to work with clients to address other issues that pop up. .

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that the legislature adjourns in May and asked what they would be doing for the remainder of the year.

Alysen Nesse, Hylden Advocacy and Law – Explained that in odd numbered years such as 2023, the Department of Management and Budget has a process for local units of government to submit local project requests for vetting through the agency. She explained that this is the list that the Governor uses to compile his bonding bill which comes out in January of even years.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the lobbyists services would be needed beyond 2023.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that he would suspect that they would be needed into the 2024 session.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked how many hours per month Hylden Advocacy would be spending on the City's requests.

Ms. Nesse – Explained that it is hard to quantify and explained that if they were billing the City hourly, the funding would run out within a week.

Mr. McDaniel – Explained that one of the things that the City is 'buying' is to have someone that will obsess over this all day long. He noted that it is especially important for them to remember that this is real money when they are working with small communities.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked if the City would have a dedicated lobbyist.

Ms. Nesse – Explained that she would be the lead for the City and shared some background information on her experience.

Mr. McDaniel – Noted that it is very rare were just one individual is working on an issue because they like to have balance in both experience and political outlook.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Asked about the firms success rate.

Ms. Nesse – Stated that she has been successful with every bonding request she has moved forward on the public infrastructure side, which means her success rate would be 5 out of 5. She noted that bonding is political and dynamic which means nothing can be guaranteed.

Council Member Schilling – Noted that he wishes this was something that the City would have done a bit sooner.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that last year the City spend a lot of time working with Senator Koran and Representative Neu Brindley. She stated that City staff does not have the time to always be 'on' the elected officials.

City Administrator Linwood – Shared some of the activities that he undertook last year in these efforts.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that the City had also put in a request for money for the Veteran's Memorial which also did not happen. She stated that through her involvement with the Minnesota Mayor's Association, she knows that many cities have decided that they need to go with some type of lobbyist group in order to make more noise and be heard. She asked if this proposal was approved, when Hylden Advocacy would begin working on the City's issues.

Mr. McDaniel – Stated that they would begin work on the ride home or by tomorrow morning.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-02-24 A RESOLUTION CONTRACTING WITH HYLDEN ADVOCACY AND LAW AS A LOBBYIST FOR THE CITY OF WYOMING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

13. To consider selecting a facilitator for Strategic Planning Services

Assistant City Administrator Saxe – Noted that for the past 10 years, the Council has held an annual goal setting session with staff. He explained that in order to keep this process ‘fresh’, staff is recommending a facilitator for strategic planning for this year. He stated that staff had reached out to 9 facilitators and received proposals from 3 which staff has evaluated. He explained that they were not making an official recommendation to the Council because they felt all 3 individuals would provide value to the process.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that after reviewing the 3 proposals, she is leaning towards Sara Peterson because she is not involved with a city or a vendor that the City is already using. She stated that because she has no ‘ties’ to the City she thinks she may be able to take a look at things with a totally fresh set of eyes.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Questioned what type of new ideas staff thinks a facilitator will bring to the City.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe – Stated that many times what has happened is that they tend to go over what was accomplished, what they want to see accomplished and explained that he is not sure that the Council ends up getting much out of this discussion. He stated that the thought was that somebody who doesn’t know the organization could help create some new ideas that may be lacking with the current approach.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that using a neutral entity for this for this planning session will give the opportunity to take a look at the strategic planning process who facilitates for a living. He noted that he did not feel an outside facilitator would need to be brought in every year. Stated that he thinks the idea is that this would be to the benefit of both the minority and the majority of the Council. He stated that some of the proposals indicated that they would spend time individually with staff and the Council prior to the group session and try to work some of those components.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Explained that she was present the last time the City used a facilitator and noted that she did not feel it was the greatest experience. She stated that it was essentially without substance and felt that it was being guided to accept a predetermined outcome.

City Administrator Linwood – Stated that the City would not be using the same facilitator that was used the last time. He stated that he is hopeful that one of the new consultants that responded will be strong facilitators and do an excellent job for the City. He reiterated that he can lead the discussion every year, but believes bringing in a neutral party may be a good idea.

Council Member Luger – Noted that she feels every organization can benefit from strategic planning and stated that she would support bringing in a neutral party to lead discussion. She stated that she also liked Sara Peterson’s resume and proposal.

Council Member Schilling – Stated that he also was leaning towards Sara Peterson because she has no affiliation with the City.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE SELECTION OF SARA PETERSON TO SERVE AS THE FACILITATOR FOR THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SERVICES.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Luger, Iverson

Voting Nay: Nanko Yeager

Abstain: None

Absent: Ohnstad

COMMUNICATIONS:

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Nanko Yeager – No report

Council Member Luger – No report

Council Member Schilling – No report

Mayor Iverson – Attended the HRA/EDA Summit meeting last week which she felt went very well. She congratulated Councilmember Schilling for recently being awarded the Code Official of the Year for 2022 from the Minnesota Association of Building Officials.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 17, 2023 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:45 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:

MARCH 7, 2023

7:00PM