

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 15, 2023
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Tom Loonan, Eckberg Lammers, Soren Mattick, Labor Attorney, Robb Linwood, City Administrator, Mark Erichson-WSB, Neil Bauer - Public Safety Director, Fred Weck, Zoning Administrator/Building Official and Joe Keding, Acting Public Works Superintendent

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 August 2, 2023

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 AUGUST 2, 2023 AS SUBMITTED.

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. To consider **Ordinance 2023-04** an Interim Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium on the Operations of Cannabis Businesses with the City of Wyoming

City Administrator Linwood – Introduced the proposed ordinance authorizing a moratorium on cannabis businesses in the City. He explained that staff continues to work with City Attorney Loonan reviewing the new laws and reminded the Council of their recent actions related to adoption of **Ordinance 2023-02** and **Ordinance 2023-03**. He explained that the latest proposed ordinance is a moratorium on the operations of cannabis businesses through January 1, 2025.

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

Jeanine Sachs 25723 Kettle River Blvd – Explained that she had grown up in Smith County and one of her and her siblings jobs was to bring the cows in from the back forty. She stated that one of her father’s rules was not to let the cows stop by the ‘crazy weed’ because there was marijuana growing along their fence line. She stated that she does not want the ‘crazy weed’ to be brought into the State, County, or City.

Gloria Martin 21547 Volga St. – Asked what the City was trying to do with the moratorium and asked whether the City would be able to say that they do not want this product to be sold here.

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the City did not have the ability to say ‘no’ and the purpose of the moratorium was to establish local ordinances within the State guidelines, for example for it to be allowed in certain zoning areas.

City Attorney Loonan – Stated that this subject was a hot debate when the law was being passed amongst cities that were pushing for more local controls. He stated that the State won that battle so there is not a lot of local control other than zoning authority, which means they can restrict where these businesses can be located. He noted that the City also has the authority, if Council chooses, to limit the amount of this type of businesses in the City. He explained that many cities are adopting this same type of moratorium to allow them time to study the situation and the new law. He stated that the Office of Cannabis Management should be up and running within the timeframe of this moratorium and will hopefully promulgate some rules and set up a licensing scheme for the businesses. He noted that he feels it is likely that this law will be revisited by the legislature at the next session that may provide some clarity on issues where there has been confusion.

Ms. Martin – Stated that she was definitely opposed to this legislation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, 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 OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-04 AN INTERIM ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STUDY AND IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATIONS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITH THE CITY OF WYOMING

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Ohnstad, Iverson
Voting Nay: None
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.

3. To consider authorizing payment of recommended bills, payroll, and journal entries for the period of August 3, 2023 to August 15, 2023
4. To consider the separation of employment of Probationary firefighter Dustin Jante from the Wyoming Fire Department

5. To consider **Resolution 23-08-75** a resolution accepting a donation to the City of Wyoming from Holiday Station Store #3550 Kettle River Blvd. for Night to Unite at an estimated value of \$400.00 (pulled for separate discussion)
6. To consider **Resolution 23-08-76** a resolution accepting a donation to the City of Wyoming from Cub Foods Forest Lake for Night to Unit for \$50.00.- (pulled for separate discussion)
7. To consider **Resolution 23-08-77** a resolution approving payment for pay voucher #3 to Dresel Contracting for the 2023 East Viking Boulevard improvement project (WSB project 018553-000) in the amount of \$265,598.86.
8. To consider **Resolution 23-08-78** a resolution approving payment for Pay Voucher #2 to Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$24,565.00.

Mayor Iverson – Asked to pull items #5 and #6 for discussion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE #3, #4, #7, and #8 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mayor Iverson – Explained that she wanted to acknowledge the \$400.00 donation from Holiday Station Store #3550 and also the \$50 donation from Cub Foods Forest Lake for the Night to Unite event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #5 RESOLUTION 23-08-75 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF WYOMING FROM HOLIDAY STATION STORE #3550 KETTLE RIVER BLVD. FOR NIGHT TO UNITE AT AN ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$400.00 AND #6, TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION 23-08-76 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF WYOMING FROM CUB FOODS FOREST LAKE FOR NIGHT TO UNIT FOR \$50.00.

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:

9. Report of the Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer for August 10, 2023
10. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for August 10, 2023
11. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for August 10, 2023
12. Report of Acting Public Works Superintendent Joe Keding for August 11, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS:

13. Minnesota Management and Budget Project Tour – Wyoming Public Safety Building

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that the City's current Public Works facilities have been added to the Senate tour scheduled for September 5-7, 2023. He stated that they have not gotten definitive feedback about being part of the House tour, but the initial feedback has been positive.

Councilmember Schilling – Stated that he feels that the Senate tour being able to see the facilities will strength our case with them because he feels the current facilities are almost embarrassing.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

14. To consider **Resolution 23-08-79** a resolution approving the purchase of the Axon Fleet 3 in-car system for seven police vehicles, for a 60-month contract in the amount of \$86,121.00

Public Safety Director Bauer – Gave an overview of the City’s body worn cameras and noted that they had selected the Axon system which has functioned well. He noted that the partner technology for in-car camera systems can also be helpful and will also help the reduce complaints and liability for the City. He gave an overview of the Axon Fleet 3 system and explained that it will work seamlessly with the current body warn camera system. He noted that there will be a 10 month delay until delivery and no charges would be processed until they received the equipment. He stated that would he would plan to updated the existing in car camera policy prior to installation of the equipment.

Mayor Iverson – Asked about Hubbard Foundation funding possibilities.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that he and City Administrator Linwood have been reaching out and there is still the possibility for some additional funding.

Councilmember Schilling – Asked what the costs would be after the initial 60 month period.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that those costs are estimated at about \$18,000/year for all the vehicles.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager – Asked if after the contract period of this equipment would be considered out dated.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Answered that part of the contract costs were upgrades, similar to the body worn cameras, where they get new cameras every two years.

Councilmember Ohnstad – Stated that they are able to tie in each camera from each officer and they are time stamped, so you can look at the same event from different angles and the in car camera will tie into that as well. He stated that he feels these cameras are really needed and will be a valuable asset to the City.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-08-79 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF THE AXON FLEET 3 IN-CAR SYSTEM FOR SEVEN POLICE VEHICLES, FOR A 60-MONTH CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,121.00

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

15. To consider approving the creation of the Reserve Cadet Officer (RCO) for the Wyoming Public Safety Department

Public Safety Director Bauer – Explained that the City has been struggling to find applicants for their police officer positions. He noted that one opening has been posted since December of

2022 and there was an additional vacancy created this summer and explained that low applicant numbers is a State-wide issue. He stated that what they have found as that the majority of students in school already have job offers waiting on the table for them during their last year of school through programs such as community service officers or reserve programs that is a pathway to enter into these departments. He stated that the traditional recruiting efforts over the last 8 months have not been effective and he feels the City needs to get more creative in order to be competitive. He noted that one strategy they have discussed is the Reserve Cadet Officer program and gave a brief overview of the proposed program.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager – Asked if this position would be discontinued after the current hiring problems have abated.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that he was not sure and explained that everything he has been hearing and seeing is that this is not a short term issue and will last a while.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager – Stated that she did not have a problem with this approach as temporary solution but was uncomfortable if it was to be used as a permanent solution, given the unknown about how the City will pay for it in the long term.

Councilmember Ohnstad – Confirmed that these individuals would be able to work more than 12 hours.

Councilmember Schilling – Stated that there has been an opening in the Department for about 8 months and the City had budgeted for that expense, which means there is plenty of money to offer bonuses. He noted that he understood that was something that would need to be discussed at another meeting, but wanted to at least pass along the idea and asked that staff bring this topic back for discussion at the appropriate time.

Mayor Iverson – Asked where the money for this program would initially come from.

Public Safety Director Bauer – Stated that it would be from State Aid funding and noted that there is no timeline to the use of those funds. He explained that continuation of this program would be an annual decision by the Council.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER IVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF THE RESERVE CADET OFFICER (RCO) FOR THE WYOMING PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Ohnstad – Attended the Park Advisory Commission meeting last week.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – No report.

Council Member Luger – No report.

Council Member Schilling – Attended the EDA meeting.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the EDA meeting. She extended her appreciation to Pinehaven Farms; Wyoming Lions Club; Friends of the Giese Memorial Library; Hallberg Center for the Arts; Chisago County Public Health; Chisago Age Well Coalition; Forest Lake Sportsmen's Club; LifeLink Medical Flight; Carly Nelson – Keller Williams; MHealth Ambulance; Mix It Up Sewing; Boy Scouts; Girl Scouts; Polaris; Lundt Pumpkin Patch; Rosenbauer; Sunrise River Farms;

Chisago County Sheriff's Office Canine and S.W.A.T.; and Rise for their support of the Night to Unite events. She reminded everyone that Stomp Out Suicide event was coming up on August 19, 2023 at Goodview Park and Stagecoach Days will be held next month.

Mayor Iverson recessed the meeting at 7:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

16. To consider entering a closed session under MN State Statute 13D.03 to discuss labor negotiation strategies for a contract with the bargaining units of Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Group 507 and 365.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION UNDER MN STATE STATUTE 13D.03 TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES FOR A CONTRACT WITH THE BARGAINING UNITS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES (LELS) GROUP 507 AND 365 AT 7:49PM

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION UNDER MN STATE STATUTE 13D.03 TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES FOR A CONTRACT WITH THE BARGAINING UNITS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES (LELS) GROUP 507 AND 365 AT 9:50PM

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

City Administrator Linwood gave a summation of the closed session

The closed meeting was relative to the matters for bargaining purposes and contract negotiations between the City of Wyoming and bargaining unit of Law Enforcement Labor Services groups 507 and 365. The meeting was closed under MN State Statute 13D.03. The closed meeting was attended by Mayor Lisa Iverson and City Council Members Dennis Schilling, Linda Nanko Yeager, Claire Luger and Brett Ohnstad. Also, in attendance was City Administrator, Robb Linwood, Public Safety Director, Neil Bauer and Labor Attorney, Soren Mattick. The council reviewed the proposed contract from the bargaining units. The city council provided advice and direction to legal and city staff but made no formal votes or motions

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER OHNSTAD TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 15, 2023 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 9:51PM

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:
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
7:00PM