



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Jo Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Doug Biehn, Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh were present. Staff members present were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Community Development Director Anne Kane, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 14, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 14, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Hiniker pulled the Housing Market Analysis presentation from 4A and replaced it with a presentation by Trane.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Trane Presentation

City Manager Hiniker reported that Trane Companies has completed a preliminary assessment of energy performance of the Sports Center and other City buildings. She explained this is one of Trane Company's services, but through the Climate-Smart collaboration Trane worked with the City to assess its building efficiencies as a demonstration project to show what kind of work can be done to make buildings more efficient. Ms. Hiniker wished to highlight this work along with Trane's partnership with Century College and the White Bear Lake Area School District.

Thomas Huberty, Account Executive with Trane introduced Sophie Davis, an intern with Trane and a junior from the White Bear Lake School District. He also introduced Jeff Seewald, Senior Engineer with Trane. Mr. Huberty explained that Trane has taken on some initiatives including student internships and the development of a manufacturing career pathway with Century College.

Mr. Seewald explained that Trane, being locally based, sees opportunities for community outreach through student internships with the High School and development of a manufacturing career pathway with Century College. Mr. Seewald stated that Sophie is highly involved with Race2Reduce, where she expanded the focus from water conservation to include energy reduction and other resources as well.

Mr. Seewald mentioned Trane did a preliminary assessment of all City buildings and found opportunities for energy improvements. He compiled all findings and highlighted potential projects that could be implemented amounting in a cost of \$490K - \$612K and an annual energy savings indicating a break even after approximately ten years.

He provided a more detailed assessment of the White Bear Lake Sports Center, which revealed the electric preheat operation, which heats incoming air, was on continuously and ventilation was not optimized to occupancy. He reviewed the methods used to identify these findings, which included visualization of electric interval data (every 15 minutes) and data logging of equipment to measure CO2 and electric currents. Sophie explained the assessed data using each of these methods.

Mr. Seewald provided some key takeaways as a result of this assessment. He noted that some of the equipment in the Sports Center was not set up properly. He suggested applying controls and data collection to ensure continued ongoing optimized performance of the Sports Center and other municipal buildings.

In response to Councilmember Walsh both Ms. Hiniker and Mr. Kauppi explained there is no blame to place regarding the Sports Center as commissioning is not always established up front for projects due to its cost component. Instead, once projects are completed and if performance is still not realized, commissioning might then be employed as was conducted by Trane in this case.

In response to Councilmember Edberg, Mr. Seewald stated that \$7,000 in annual savings were identified at the Sports Center, just in the electric preheat operation of the building. He noted more savings could be realized, but this had the largest impact.

Mayor Emerson thanked Trane and Sophie for their report.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution receiving feasibility report and ordering a public hearing for 2020 Street Reconstruction Project 2020 Mill and Overlay Project, City Projects Nos. 20-01, 20-04, 20-06 & 20-13

City Engineer Kauppi stated that neighborhood meetings for proposed 2020 street projects were conducted in November. He explained that 1.2 miles of road are proposed for reconstruction this year, which will result in 93% of the streets in White Bear Lake being reconstructed with an urban street section, curb and gutter and full pavement replacement. He reported all but six miles of roads in the City are completed with full system completion anticipated within 5-10 years working through the CIP.

Mr. Kauppi said this year's street reconstruction is estimated to cost \$1.8 million in the feasibility study and will cover Cottage Park and Bellaire Avenue areas. The mill and overlay portion covers 3.3 miles and is estimated to cost \$2.2 million. He explained the trend moving forward will be more to maintain the roads rather than to reconstruct.

Mr. Kauppi explained that the feasibility reports revealed both projects are necessary, cost effective and feasible for 2020. For this reason, he asked Council to adopt the resolution to receive the feasibility reports and set the public improvement hearing for February 26, 2020.

Councilmember Jones asked for as much information as possible about the sidewalk improvements as constituents have already contacted him. Mr. Kauppi stated the sidewalks on Elm, Highland and Bellaire are in the Comprehensive Plan as part of the network the City hopes to someday achieve. Mr. Kauppi noted only 10 out of 70 people showed up to the Elm Street neighborhood meeting with only a handful against that sidewalk. He added that specific notices were mailed containing maps locating the new sidewalk in an effort to provide a head-up to residents.

Councilmember Edberg asked; should the sidewalks be completed and why? Mr. Kauppi stated the Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document that staff references to ask whether it makes sense. He stated the Bellaire sidewalk makes sense as it is a major roadway connecting County Road E and already contains intermittent sidewalk segments. He reviewed the Elm Street sidewalk and identified a school and park to the west, as well as a major north/south corridor along White Bear Avenue, so it makes sense to connect those. He said, the Highland Avenue sidewalk does not make sense unless Elm Street gets the sidewalk.

Councilmember Engstran said he is hearing both sides from his constituents.

Mayor Emerson mentioned that Elm Street residents have asked why sidewalks are being added to the side of the street with shorter yards. Mr. Kauppi stated this area is a newer development with generally the same sized yards and setbacks. He mentioned the south side was not chosen for sidewalk primarily due to utility power lines that could go nowhere else, and the slopes of the driveways given the topography. Mr. Kauppi added that generally the people getting the sidewalk are opposed to it, but the benefit to the neighborhood as a whole and the connectivity also needs to be considered.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn** to adopt **Resolution No. 12528** receiving feasibility report and ordering a public hearing for 2020 Street Reconstruction Project 2020 Mill and Overlay Project, City Projects Nos. 20-01, 20-04, 20-06 & 20-13

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Emerson pointed out that the Public Hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

10. CONSENT

Nothing scheduled

11. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Strategic Planning 2019 – 2020 provided for the City’s Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Initiatives, also on the website.
- Mark Meyer was promoted to Public Works Superintendent.
- Climate-Smart Municipalities, a program significantly funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, is hosting delates in Germany on June 13th. The steering committee represents a multitude of community members who will be providing a presentation of action items to the Council on February 26th. Century College will be hosting a climate action event on April 8th and the Mayor and City Manager will speak about Climate-Smart at noon and 5:00 p.m.
- While snow plow events will require more communication with between the Police Department and Ramsey County to identify illegally parked cars, increased coordination between Police and Public Works is paying off. There were over 200 tickets issued to vehicles parked on streets needing plowed and Public Works crews are seeing a notable difference.

- The Water Efficiency Rebate program is available again. Replacement of high flow toilets with WaterSense toilets that flush 1.28 gallons per flush or less may qualify for up to \$200 in rebates. Residents may complete the webform available on the website (whitebearlake.org/rebate).
- In February there will likely be two resolutions before Council regarding Comcast. One to preliminarily deny Comcast's franchise proposal and the other to extend the franchise agreement to allow more time for discussions. The Cable Commission reviewed Comcast's formal proposal utilizing criteria defined in the Federal Cable Act and will be voting on Thursday to preliminarily deny the proposal as recommended by Cable Commission staff and attorneys. Remaining member municipalities are committed to this franchise renewal process, with intentions to reassess the Joint Powers Agreement upon reaching a franchise renewal agreement with Comcast.
- There will be a Town Hall meeting in White Bear Lake City Hall on Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 a.m. at which local legislators will be available for questions regarding the upcoming legislative session.
- Current Charter Section 4.13 states the election of the Council Chair occur every two years following an election year. Staff will forward the Council's request to consider whether to move election of the Chair to an election year. This request would likely be added to the next Charter Commission agenda in September.
- A regular review of compensation for Mayor and Council will be brought forward at a future meeting. Any implementation would not go into effect until 2022.
- LED upgrades have been completed at Public Works, Public Safety and are in process at City Hall. The City received \$11,000 in rebates for implementing the LED program and the payoff to operational costs will be realized in two years. Other environmental related updates were provided by Connie Taillon.
- The organics collection site at the Public Works building is live and being utilized more than expected. The City received an incentive of \$5,600 from Ramsey County for providing the dumpster location.
- Federal Tobacco 21 Law is now in effect, which restricts sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.
- Community Development Director Kane reported receiving \$425,000 in CDBG funding from Ramsey County for window replacement at Pioneer Manor and project management by Walker Methodist. Bids will be opened next week and staff anticipates consideration of an award of the contract at the February 11th City Council agenda to meet a condensed May 1st timeline for completion.
- Community Development Director Kane reported the City was awarded \$25,000 in grant funding from Ramsey County for the County Road E corridor planning initiative with Vadnais Heights and Gem Lake, which requires matching funds. Planning should kick off this spring. Tracy Shimek, the City's Housing and Economic Development Coordinator, was instrumental in


writing this grant, which Ramsey County reported was by far the best received. Shimek also wrote the grant for CDBG funding for Pioneer Manor.

In response to Councilmember Edberg regarding sidewalks, Mr. Kauppi explained that Public Works staff balances the clearing of sidewalks to the best of their ability and the City is doing what it can within reasonable means to keep sidewalks usable. He noted that other cities who require residents to keep sidewalks clear are fraught with managing the enforcement of this kind of program.

13. ADJOURNMENT

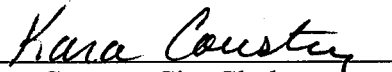
There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adjourn the regular meeting at **8:19** p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk