



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, APRIL 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 7:05 p.m. under MN Statute Section 13D.021, in which the City Council will be conducting its meetings during this emergency by electronic means until further notice. The clerk took roll call attendance: Councilmembers Doug Biehn – Aye, Kevin Edberg - Aye, Steven Engstran – Aye, Dan Jones - Aye and Bill Walsh - Aye. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development Director Anne Kane, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Environmental Specialist Connie Taillon, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, 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 April 14, 2020

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

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Absent

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Walsh requested 10B be moved to 9B for a question.

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

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye

Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Emerson read the Arbor Day Proclamation declaring this as a summer long recognition in the City of White Bear Lake.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

A. Consent

Nothing scheduled

B. Non-Consent

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for Building Permit Plan Review and Commercial Inspections Services

Community Development Director Kane reported that Vadnais Heights has been unable to fill a building inspector position and has asked the City of White Bear Lake for assistance. She stated that staff has a busy work load, but could assist with plan review and commercial building inspection services, while the Town of White Bear agreed to provide residential building inspection services for Vadnais Heights. Ms. Kane said the initial term of the agreement is two months, with an option to extend and a 14-day notice of cancellation in the event staff are unable keep up with the demands of White Bear Lake and the City of Mahtomedi.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12574** authorizing an agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for Building Permit Plan Review and Commercial Inspections Services

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution of Support for Ramsey County Parks' Regional Solicitation Application for funding to extend the Bruce Vento Trail. **Resolution No. 12576**

Community Development Director Kane reported this is a request by Ramsey County Parks and Recreation for a letter of support in the solicitation of grant funding to extend the Bruce Vento Trail. She explained the extension would take the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from its current terminus at Buerkle Road, to the intersection of Hoffman Road and Highway 61. Ms. Kane said this grant is for half of the 6-mile portion that would complete the 13-mile corridor, which is designed to extend from downtown St. Paul (Ramsey County) up to Hugo in Washington County.

In response to Councilmember Walsh, this regional solicitation is for funding is from the federal government.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12576** authorizing a letter of support for the Ramsey County Parks' Regional Solicitation Application for funding to extend the Bruce Vento Trail.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Resolution authorizing distribution of budgeted funds for the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society. **Resolution No. 12575**

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

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye

Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

A. ClimateSmart Municipalities Action Plan – Level One Objectives

City Manager Hiniker stated the since last fall the ClimateSmart Steering Committee has been setting level one objectives for the community. She explained that City staff and a group of business members have developed level one action plans, which broadly define objectives in five categories as follows:

- Efficient energy use
- Efficient energy production
- Efficient transportation
- Waste reduction
- Natural resources

Ms. Hiniker noted progress has slowed due to the pandemic, but stated that the next steps of the Steering Committee will be to define more specific action items for each of these five objectives.

B. South Shore Boulevard – Lake Links Trail update

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi provided an update on the South Shore Boulevard Trail since the 2018 study for a 1.5 mile segment along White Bear Avenue into the east end of White Bear Township. He explained that one option was for a one-way road and \$2.6 million in legislative funding was awarded to Ramsey County for that segment or roadway.

Mr. Kauppi listed representatives on the project advisory team including White Bear Lake, White Bear Township and Ramsey County with engineering by consultant Kimley-Horn. Mr. Kauppi stated the team has reviewed options for cross sections that make sense along South Shore Blvd. He stated that public input for this segment will occur online in May and once ideas are analyzed, any changes to the design would be brought back to the City Council for approval.

Mr. Kauppi stated that 30% plans are expected by the end of 2020, final plans along with any right-of-way or easement acquisition in 2021 and construction beginning in 2022.

Councilmember Jones expressed frustration with slow progress in connecting the south side of White Bear Lake, noting two years since the money was provided and another two years before construction.

Mr. Kauppi explained that in 2019 the County spent significant time on a right-of-way study, the results of which must then be published in the paper, providing property owners with one year's time to contest findings.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Requests to shut vehicle traffic down on Lake Avenue to facilitate pedestrian and bike traffic could be confusing with 21 different access points to address, and no places to U-turn. Councilmember Jones suggested reducing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour. Councilmember Walsh suggested staff rely on science to educate people regarding duration of contact.
- The food truck operating at County Road E and Bellaire was licensed as a temporary peddler in the City and is permitted to operate by the Governor's order. City Attorney Gilchrist stated that if the Council desired and could find a distinguishing reason that food trucks are less safe than curbside or delivery operations, rather than an economic reason, he recommended action by resolution, opposed to by ordinance, to ban food trucks. Councilmember Biehn suggested that food trucks ought to pay sewer and water connection fees. Councilmember Edberg stated he did not see a basis under the City's current regulatory structure to take action against food trucks.
- Social distancing signs have been a hit and the City is going to pursue selling tshirts and signs to raise money for marketing and promotion of White Bear Lake's business community.
- Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek developed a business survey, which was distributed through Main Street, Facebook and the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce. It contained an email opt in for businesses to receive future business related information and surveys Volgistics, handled by Missy Joyce of the Sports Center, is a volunteer software being formatted as a one-stop location to house volunteers for use by the City's nonprofits.
- Food Shelf has been feeding 550 families weekly.
- NewTrax is up to 8,000 delivered meals to YMCA's throughout the area.
- Greater White Bear Lake Community Foundation has raised \$60,000 toward a \$100,000 goal for its Community Reinvestment Fund. This fund will provide grants to nonprofits that support of human services, food and shelter.
- The School District is downsizing its Community Services Division, which could impact senior services. Newtrax, the YMCA, Northeast Youth and Family Services, Greater White Bear Lake Community Foundation and other community members are in conversation about how best to fill identified gaps moving forward.
- Updates from Public Works Director/City Engineer, Kauppi
 - Street reconstruction on Bellaire Avenue has begun, and Cottage Park prep work.
 - Mill and overlay areas are a couple weeks out.
- Updates from Community Development Director Kane
 - Seven planning cases with public comment went very well last night. Only one Cottage Park variance item will be on non-consent at the next City Council meeting
- Reminder, Work Session on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 continuing the CIP and Long Range Financial Plan discussion
- Councilmember Edberg revisited Councilmember Walsh's previous request for an improved mechanism for public meetings. He reported losing wifi and missing part of the meeting. He also noted the meeting was not launched on time or in a professional manner, and there was poor sound quality throughout.

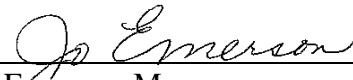
- Councilmember Biehn suggested the clerk send the meeting invite out again prior to the start of the meeting. He said to mute the sound on the application and call in for clear sound.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:21 p.m.

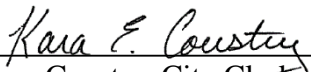
Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk