



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 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. 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 for Councilmembers: Doug Biehn, Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh. Staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development Director Anne Kane, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on June 9, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on June 9, 2020.

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Assistant City Manager Juba added 9D, a resolution suspending solicitor’s permits for door-to-door sales.

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Agenda as amended.

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nothing scheduled

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution accepting White Bear Lions Club donation for an All Abilities Park

Assistant City Manager Juba reported that the White Bear Lions Club donated \$25,000 toward an All Abilities Park. He added, they had donated \$25,000 in 2019, so this is the second donation for a total of \$50,000. Mr. Juba said the All Abilities Park is being planned at Lakewood Hills Park for an estimated cost of \$200,000 to \$300,000. He mentioned that staff, the Parks Commission and the White Bear Lions Club continue to seek funding and grant opportunities for this project.

Councilmember Edberg expressed gratitude for the gift but asked how Lakewood Hills was selected as a tentative location for the All Abilities Park. City Engineer Kauppi said the initial thought was this site contains ample parking with the ability to stripe more handicapped stalls. Parking is also close to an open area large enough to hold specialize playground equipment and next to an existing playground area, so children can play together.

Mayor Emerson expressed support for the All Abilities Park and thanked the White Bear Lions Club for their donation.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Edberg** to adopt **Resolution No. 12600** accepting White Bear Lions Club donation for an All Abilities Park.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye

Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2020 Miscellaneous Concrete Project, City Project No. 20-05

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi forwarded the Engineering Department's recommendation to fix miscellaneous concrete repairs such as sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, snowplow damage, freeze/thaw damage, curb repairs, areas holding water, etc. Mr. Kauppi noted repairs to the concrete apron at Fire Station 2 and its adjacent sidewalk will be charged to the Municipal Building fund. He reported, five quotes were received on June 17, 2020 for the 2020 Miscellaneous Concrete Project, with L'Allier Concrete Inc. of Hugo, MN submitting the lowest quote of \$58,744.00.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Edberg** to adopt **Resolution No. 12601** accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2020 Miscellaneous Concrete Project, City Project No. 20-05.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution approving a General Obligation Bond Sale

Finance Director Kindsvater provided the following report:

City Council approved the sale of \$4,880,000 at the May 12, 2020 Council meeting, to finance the 2020 Street Improvement Projects, the improvements to the north water tower, a ladder truck purchase for the fire department and a Public Works dump truck purchase.

Staff has been working through the bond sale process with Ehlers and Associates. During this process, S&P Global Ratings affirmed the City's bond rating at AA+ for the current issue and all outstanding bond issues based on their review of the City's budget, annual financial report, long range planning document and the capital improvement plan.

These strong ratings are attributable to the City Council's accomplishments in implementing long-range plans through the Financial Management Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan in recent years.

S&P also stated they believe the city maintains sufficient reserves to mitigate immediate pressures associated with the uncertainty of the pandemic and subsequent recession due

to consecutive years of surplus operating results. The positive operating results are due to the commitment to strong financial policies and conservative budgeting.

The AA+ rating is one-step below AAA, the highest rating available. In order to achieve an AAA rating from S&P, the City would need to add tax capacity and increase their reserve balances.

Five investment firms bid on the City's bond sale today, with the top three bids being competitive within .0140% variance between true interest costs. The lowest bid came from BAIRD in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a true interest cost of 1.4007%. This rate is 96 basis points lower than original financial projections created by Ehlers and Associates. Incidentally, BAIRD is the firm who purchased our 2019 issue.

The bid included a premium component in which the City could choose to retain the original \$4.880 million sale, or reduce the bond issue by the premium amount to keep the true interest cost lower. Staff chose to reduce the bond sale issue by the premium to make the new issue \$4,440 million. This bond reduction decreased the total principal and interest amount due over the life of the bond by \$598,135, which in turn reduces the average annual levy requirement.

The timing of our bond sale worked well with where the market is right now. The volatility in the stock market has investors seeking general obligation municipal bonds. Our good bond rating paired with the high demand for municipal bonds and low volume of bond sales this week really helped us receive a competitive bid.

Councilmember Biehn received clarification from Ms. Kindsvater that 97 basis points less than projected amounted to about 1%.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12602** approving a General Obligation Bond Sale.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution suspending door-to-door solicitor's permits

Assistant City Manager Juba reported that staff received an application for door to door solicitation, which is an activity that requires a city-issued permit. He explained it was unclear from the governor's order whether door to door sales is allowed. Mr. Juba relayed staff's concern over a poor perception of city-issued door to door sales permits during a pandemic. He mentioned other cities have suspended this activity during their local emergency and forwarded staff's recommendation to temporarily suspend issuance of door to door sales permits.

Councilmember Edberg stated there is an aspect of personal responsibility and those who do not wish to receive solicitors do not have to open their doors. He mentioned being home when one of the last solicitors came by and noted they were respectful and maintained proper distance.

Councilmember Walsh agreed, mentioning that as a political consultant assisting with thousands of door knocks in June, he reported overwhelmingly receptive people who were ready to talk and very few people who were unwilling to talk. He did not support the resolution and took issue with staff's suggestion that door to door solicitors can telework when their job is to knock on doors.

Councilmember Jones stated he sees both sides and expressed concern that his parents would open the door. He clarified that the purpose for this proposed suspension is out of respect, not fear.

Councilmember Biehn was conflicted, but added that during a recent door to door encounter, the solicitor was respectful and did step back from the door.

Mayor Emerson does not answer the door, but relayed that some of her neighbors have been extremely uncomfortable with this and do not want strangers on their doorsteps at this time.

City Attorney Gilchrist mentioned the City's Ordinance does provide that if a 'no solicitor's sign is posted at the residence, solicitors are not permitted to knock.

No action was taken by the Council.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of April Minutes of the White Bear Lake Conservation District
- B. Resolution accepting the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR). **Resolution No. 12603**
- C. Resolution accepting work and authorizing final payment to Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. for the completion of the 2018 Street Reconstruction Project, City Project No; 17-04, 18-01 & 18-06. **Resolution No. 12604**

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

11. DISCUSSION

A. Manitou Days

Assistant City Manager Juba explained that summer events are starting to be cancelled despite the work of many dedicated people putting forth great effort organizing them. He said Marketfest announced it was cancelling and the Manitou Days Parade has also been cancelled after first attempting to restructure it as a stationary drive-by parade. The Fireworks Committee announced postponement of the fireworks to August 21st.

Mr. Juba attributed these decisions to several factors including concern over COVID-19, the need for social distancing and permitted crowd sizes at any given point in time, civil unrest and the availability of City resources. He explained there will still be some virtual Manitou Days events, as well as the medallion hunt and kids fishing contest.

Councilmember Walsh questioned why reliance on City resources was a factor in decisions by these volunteer committees to cancel events. Mr. Juba explained that throughout the pandemic, there continues to be an emphasis for Police and Fire operations to maintain, when possible, separation from people in an effort to avoid a rapid spread. He added, if someone were to become sick in these small departments, it would quickly disable limited staff resources in public safety. He noted the importance of keeping public safety staff healthy so they can continue to perform their core functions.

Councilmember Jones said he would cancel the fireworks too, noting that public safety staff are out in the community exposing themselves already and there is no need to create more reasons for increasing their exposure. He appreciated all the efforts that volunteers have given toward planning these events to date, but these are burning staff time at this point.

Mayor Emerson appreciated the work done by these committees, but noted that public safety and public works are stretched thin already and should not be going out into the community unnecessarily. She mentioned other cities have cancelled their festivals and we can look forward to these events next year.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

➤ License Bureau Services

Regarding ongoing challenges with the economics of continuing to provide driver's license services, appointments have been limited to reduce the losses incurred for providing these services. There continues to be a large demand for these services because most area DMV's are accepting limited in-person services for driver's license transactions in order to mitigate losses.

Staff does not recommend going to a limited driver's license service model at this time. Once more profitable dealer work returns, more driver's license services can be provided as the costs would be offset. The breakeven for driver's license services amounts to \$19.00/transaction compared to state reimbursement of \$8.00/transaction. Prior to mid-March the City was processing 100 driver's license transactions per day, but now has limited the number of these appointments to 10-20/day.


There was discussion about notifying the legislators of this issue.

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 7:56 p.m.

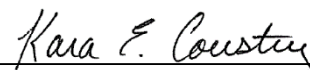
Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk