



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM OR TELEPHONE**

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 City Manager Ellen Hiniker, 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 July 14, 2020

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

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Regrow White Bear Lake Initiative – Lisa Beecroft

City Manager Hiniker reported that the City has engaged the services of Lisa Beecroft to assist with the ReGrow White Bear Lake effort, which stemmed from the weekly roundtable conversations held with representatives from Mainstreet, the Economic Development Corporation and the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce since April in response to COVID-19. She mentioned Councilmember Jones' participation and contribution in time through the creation of graphics for use in promoting and advertising White Bear Lake businesses. Ms. Hiniker explained that the City's Housing and Economic Development Coordinator, Tracy Shimek and Lisa Beecroft have been working on a business promotion campaign to assist with business marketing and retooling in response to the challenges faced in today's pandemic environment. Funding for these efforts qualifies for reimbursement from monies received through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Lisa Beecroft reported on the ReGrow White Bear Lake initiative. She created a website, regrow-wbl.com, which continues to add resources, such as a map of open businesses, and expects it to evolve into a comprehensive directory of all White Bear Lake businesses with tags for products and services.

She reported on the success of picnic tables placed in downtown White Bear Lake (donated by J.L.Schweikers) and flowered pots donated by the community to provide a destination for people to shop and eat on Washington Avenue.

Ms. Beecroft indicated she is working with Ms. Shimek to create "Seeds of Success", a monthly webinar series that will be available to all White Bear Lake businesses. This initiative provides a free resource to business owners to assist them with topics they want to learn more about, such as marketing, branding, mental health, etc. Ms. Beecroft highlighted some modified Manitou Days events and shared information about two upcoming contests: BinGROW and the Bear Decorating Contest.

B. South Shore Blvd Open House - Ramsey County

City Engineer/Public Works Director Kauppi introduced Rachel Broughton and John Mazzitello from Ramsey County, who will report on the virtual neighborhood open house held for the South Shore Boulevard Trail Project. Greg Brown, the project consultant with Kimley Horn, was also present.

Ms. Broughton reported that the Ramsey County led design study of the South Shore Boulevard Trail Project was being done in coordination with the White Bear Township and the City of White Bear Lake. She explained that the proposed trail is 1.5 miles, the southern portion of the planned Lake Links Trail around White Bear Lake, and noted it is heavily used in its current condition, although dangerously narrow and curvy. Ms. Broughton provided a timeline for the project, which shows design plans being finalized next year with construction in 2022, depending upon funding.

Greg Brown described the community outreach effort for the first virtual open house in May. He explained that the open house included three preliminary layout options (2-way, one-way,

modified), a video presentation, an online survey (171 results) and interactive mapping (194 Wikimaps). Mr. Brown noted comments were largely the same as in 2018 with the majority preferring one-way or a hybrid option.

Mr. Brown reported on participant feedback, which included the value placed on this safe trail and its high use, an eagerness to move forward after 20 years of discussion, limited property impact, general roadway maintenance and drainage issues that could be addressed. He mentioned similar outreach for the next open house late spring, or fall. He reported his engineering group has begun to focus more on the hybrid option, which is a two-way segment from White Bear Avenue to McKnight or Bellaire Avenue, and a one-way segment to County Road F, with the east/west direction still under consideration.

In response to Councilmember Jones, Ms. Broughton stated that \$2.6 million from the state would go toward the trail portion of this project, and Ramsey County is looking at a 2-inch mill and overlay, rather than a full reconstruction. Mr. Kauppi added that on the east end of the project, the City will be looking to extend utilities to well and septic tank users. Councilmember Jones supports the project but expressed frustration related to the lack of storm water and drainage control.

Councilmember Jones said he supports his ward residents' choice if they vote for one-way. He did express concern that a one-way design would divert more traffic to County Road F – adding more cars to a road with no sidewalk (between Gisella and McKnight) on route to an elementary school. He asserted this sidewalk should have already been constructed by the County and needs to be considered in this project. Councilmember Jones expressed frustration with Ramsey County's lack of timely response in the past.

John Mazzitello, Deputy Director of Ramsey County Public Works, relayed conversations with Mr. Kauppi regarding planned reconstruction of County Road F from County Line to McKnight, as well as interest by neighbors to have a sidewalk installed from Gisella and County Road F. Mr. John Mazzitello noted the need for grading, retaining walls, and curb realignment in order to fit a sidewalk. He said they would see what could be done to push this project into 2021, but 2023 is more likely the timeline for this project. Mayor Emerson asked them to push for 2021 for this vital project because she believes it should be completed before the So Shore Blvd project begins.

Councilmember Walsh asked whether public safety had weighed in on the east/west direction discussion. He suggested the County follow recommendations of the Fire Chief and the Police Chief. Ms. Hiniker and Mr. Kauppi reported conversations with the Fire Chief and the east-bound direction was preferred.

Councilmember Edberg noted the eastern ends of this project are coordinated with Birchwood, the Township and Washington County and inquired as to any jurisdictional issues the Council should know about. City Manager Hiniker asked Mayor Emerson for a Councilmember to join in conversations regarding turn-back of the one-way road with the Township and Ramsey County and noted bringing back a resolution authorizing staff to negotiate this turn-back.

Councilmember Jones asked Ramsey County to also look at the Hazel intersection, which is basically uncontrolled and will need to be reviewed for safety with an influx as this access point.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

10. CONSENT

Nothing scheduled

11. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12th due to the Primary.
- Relay for Life will be held in the downtown and extend to Vet's Park this year.
- A Council Work Session was set for Tuesday, August 4th to discuss utilization of \$1.9 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds received by White Bear Lake.
- City Engineer/PW Director Paul Kauppi
 - West Park Pavilion improvement will provide upgraded electrical service under a larger 20 X 40 foot pavilion.
 - Severe erosion along the dog beach due to high water levels for an extended period of time. The only viable solution is rip-rap along the eroded area, and quotes have been requested and brought back to Council for consideration.
 - Street reconstruction is nearly complete with minor restoration in some areas. In the Cottage Park area, standing water on the road will be resolved by the final pavement lift. The Mill and Overlay project is also nearly complete.
 - The Centerville Road Water Tower project is moving quickly with the column nearly done and bowl and logo application expected in the next few weeks.

- Thanks to the Lions Club for donating materials to replace a split-rail fence at Lions Park.
 - Councilmember Jones asked Paul to look into resurrecting some fishing stones that are sinking into high water, which were set there to spread out fishing.
- Community Development Director Anne Kane
- The Planning Commission meeting went well and all cases will likely be on the Council's Consent Agenda. As a final step in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission held a public meeting to hear from neighboring jurisdictions.


Councilmember Jones expressed condolences to Mayor Emerson for the loss of her husband, Sam. Mayor Emerson thanked the Council, staff and the community for their support during this time.

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 8:17 p.m.

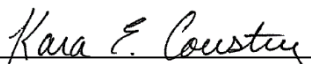
Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk