



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM OR TELEPHONE**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Jo Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development Director Anne Kane, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Closed City Council meeting on January 12, 2021

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the Minutes of the Closed City Council Meeting on January 12, 2021.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes of the Council Work Session on January 12, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Council Work Session on January 12, 2021.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 12, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 12, 2021.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Minutes of the Council Work Session on January 19, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the Minutes of the Council Work Session on January 19, 2021.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Abstained
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh 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 authorizing City Manager to execute contract with Wold Architects for design development services for the Public Safety Building project.

City Manager Hiniker provided a timeline for the Public Safety Building project, starting with its identification by Council as a strategic priority in January, 2017. She recapped that Council awarded a contract to Wold Architects for a Space Needs Study and Master Site Plan, which was reviewed in February 2020, then placed on hold due to the pandemic. Picking back up, Ms. Hiniker provided justification for this project, reviewed preliminary cost estimates, and forwarded staff's recommendation to enter into the design phase of the Public Safety Building project with Wold Architects.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12710**, authorizing City Manager to execute contract with Wold Architects for design development services for the Public Safety Building project.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution adopting White Bear Lake City Council's 2021 Legislative Agenda.

City Manager Hiniker presented the following proposed legislative agenda, which had been discussed at recent work session and asked for formal adoption by the Council for the purposes of providing it to the City's Legislators for the 2021 Legislative Session.

- Increase the Deputy Register filing fees that reimburse offices for costs to provide customer services

- Identify 35% of funding needed to proceed with Public Safety Building project
- Seek legislative relief for cities impacted by District Court’s order for a residential watering ban
- Identify a funding mechanism for management of contaminated stormwater pond dredging materials
- Seek expansion of opportunities for homeownership and wealth building opportunities
- Support statewide licensure of Massage Therapists
- Support legislation to allow Chief Law Enforcement Officers access to the National Criminal History database

With regard to stormwater pond management, Councilmember Walsh had thought the stance was to ask the MPCA to allow dredging similar to the experiment conducted by the City on its contaminated pond. He did not necessarily support the funding ask.

While not opposed to asking for money to manage stormwater ponds, Councilmember Edberg agreed this summary did not capture issues of policy.

Councilmember Walsh requested a change to the wording of, “Seek expansion of opportunities for homeownership and wealth building opportunities”.

Councilmember Jones echoed Councilmember Walsh and Edberg, and from the perspective of the Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), mentioned cities need tools to effectively manage contaminated ponds.

Further conversation among the Council led to agreement that the stormwater pond legislative agenda item introduces the topic of concern to legislators and support of its adoption.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12711**, adopting White Bear Lake City Council’s 2021 Legislative Agenda.

Biehn Ayes
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Resolution receiving feasibility reports and ordering Public Hearings for the 2021 Mill and Overlay Project, City Project Nos. 21-01, 21-06 & 21-13

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi reviewed the scope of proposed 2021 pavement rehabilitation projects noting this year communications were made available online rather than hosting neighborhood meetings. He mentioned the alley downtown between 5th and 6th Streets and Cook and Stewart Streets will be reconstructed, with all other roads this year undergoing mill and overlay in order to keep assessments low and bank savings toward future pavement reconstruction downtown. Finally, he mentioned pavement rehabilitation of parking lots at Matoska Park and Lakewood Hills Park will be also be contemplated if bids are favorable.

Mr. Kauppi stated the feasibility report indicates proposed projects are necessary, cost effective and feasible. He forwarded staff's recommendation to accept the 2021 Pavement Rehabilitation Project and order public hearing on such improvements for February 23, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12712**, receiving feasibility reports and ordering Public Hearings for the 2021 Mill and Overlay Project, City Project Nos. 21-01, 21-06 & 21-13.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution authorizing the City to seek bids for the Water Meter Replacement Project.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi reported that since 2014, 1,600 water meters have been replaced by Water Department staff with Neptune meters containing radio read technology. He explained the City's meter reading company will no longer read the City's wide variety of old meters to the tune of \$70,000/year. He said there are a total of 7,700 residential meters in the system, leaving approximately 6,100 meters to be replaced with this project. Mr. Kauppi explained there are 400 commercial meters needing replacement, which are paid for by the customer and staff will continue to directly coordinate these replacements.

Mr. Kauppi reported the estimated cost of the residential meter replacement project is \$2,500,000 or approximately \$400 per meter and would be funded through bonding in which the debt service would be paid for by the water enterprise fund. He explained that meters lose accuracy over time and have a life span of 17 years – many of the city's meters are 20 plus year old.

Mr. Kauppi asked for authorization to advertisement for bids for the 2021 Water Meter Replacement Project.

City Manager Hiniker reminded Council that the \$1 of the new \$5/quarter residential water infrastructure fee will raise revenues to support the debt service for this project.

Councilmember Edberg noted that residents' bills will go up with more accurate meter readings, and mentioned a critical need to communicate past under-reporting so that residents recognize they have been getting a deal all these years. Mr. Kauppi explained the average resident will not see much of an increase in usage, however, multiplied over 7,700, that impact will be noticeable. With more accurate reads, he said commercial meters will reflect usage more notably.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to approve **Resolution No. 12713**, authorizing the City to seek bids for the Water Meter Replacement Project.

Biehn Ayes
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Resolution authorizing AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan – Consultant Selection.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi reported that the Safe Water Drinking Act as administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently amended as the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). He explained that any community of at least 3,000 residents with a water system is required to complete a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan. Mr. Kauppi cited a quick turn-around in which the risk assessment is due by June and the resulting response plan is due by the end of 2021.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a consultant for this work was sent to three qualified consultants. Based on responses, he forwarded staff's recommendation to enter into a contract with Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S) in the amount of \$9,800 to complete the work as detailed in the RFP.

There was general discussion about this new, unfunded mandate – a blanket federal response as a result of the Flint Michigan water issue. Mr. Kauppi mentioned there are other changes to the EPA's lead and copper mandates for 2021, which could have additional impacts to the City.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12714**, authorizing AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan – Consultant Selection.

Biehn Ayes
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: November Environmental Advisory Commission
- B. Resolution approving a summary resolution of the fee schedule ordinance. **Resolution No. 12715**
- C. Resolution approving a special event for Tally's Dockside to have music on Sunday, July 4, 2020. **Resolution No. 12716**
- D. Resolution approving a special event request for use of Railroad Park by Liberty Classic Academy. **Resolution No. 12717**
- E. Resolution approving an extension of Non-profit CARES funding to Cerenity Senior Care. **Resolution No. 12718**
- F. Resolution revising Farmers' Market Purpose and Regulations document. **Resolution No. 12719**
- G. Resolution authorizing a T-Mobile Lease Amendment for Centerville Road Water Tower. **Resolution No. 12720**
- H. Resolution authorizing the modification and incorporation of financial policies in the City Policy Manual. **Resolution No. 12721**

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

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Ramsey County holding a City/County Summit on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 to roll out the County's 2021 Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Vision Plan


- MICAH Zoom annual legislative breakfast meeting invitation, Friday, February 5 at 8:00 a.m.
- Rainbow Tree Care summary of Emerald Ash Borer efforts
- Environmental Updates – as noted in the report, the City’s contaminant waste in recyclable containers has surpassed a 13% threshold – a point at which public education is needed to avoid recycling of plastic bags, batteries, electronics, scrap metal, etc.
- Explore White Bear asked to use Railroad Park in February to show case “The Great Ice Sculpture Expedition” from Stillwater to White Bear Lake in which the sponsoring company would sell maps, Feb 19 – 28, 2021. Staff to continue working with the event.
- Assistant City Manager Rick Juba
 - Racquetball Court Space discussions continue with the White Bear Lake Hockey Association. They propose to pay for remodeling of that space into a dry land training facility. The City would be responsible for the capital expense needs of the space including the roof, HVAC and fire suppression system. A final agreement expected in a month’s time. The Hockey Association would pay for these improvements upfront while continuing to pay down the twenty-year loan to the City for the Sports Center Renovation Project.
- Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi
 - Ramsey County is leading the So. Shore Blvd Trail project, for which a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the turn back agreement of South Shore Blvd. between McKnight and Bellaire is under staff and attorney review. The MOU expected before the Council on February 9, 2021. Ramsey County is working on an RFP for the consultant final design for a 2022 project. The County Road F Mill and Overlay project starts 2021, which will hopefully address the sidewalk, which may need to be finished in 2022.
- Community Development Director Anne Kane
 - Announced the Housing Task Force will launch this spring with a video introduction of the survey and application. She asked for Council’s feedback on the housing survey and mentioned advertising in the White Bear Press.

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 8:27 p.m.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk