



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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 7:00 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: Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh. Councilmember Doug Biehn was excused (later arriving at 7:20 p.m.). 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, Environmental Specialist Connie Taillon, 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 January 26, 2021

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 26, 2021.

Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Hiniker moved 10B to 9C.

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

Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of 2021 Council legislative priorities to State legislators representing White Bear Lake

Mayor Emerson greeted Senator Chamberlain who made himself available to answer any questions of the White Bear Lake City Council related to the issues the City is experiencing. Senator Chuck Wiger, Representative Peter Fischer and Representative Ami Wazlawik followed by highlighting their committee roles. Mayor Emerson described the City's legislative priorities for 2021 as adopted by the White Bear Lake City Council at its January 26, 2021 regular City Council meeting and answered clarifying questions from Legislators.

Councilmember Jones especially emphasized the need to address License Bureau transaction fees, stating that the city is not providing this service to subsidize the state. As a board member on the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), he listed off numerous agencies that oversee water management in Minnesota, making the point there are too many for effective and affordable management of clean water.

Mayor Emerson thanked all four City of White Bear Lake Legislators for attending and listening to the City's 2021 Legislative priorities.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

- A. Consent

- 1. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by Dan Guidinger for a variance at 4955 Johnson Avenue. **Resolution No. 12727**

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to approve **Resolution No. 12727** the Land Use Consent Agenda

Biehn Aye (arrived 7:20 p.m.)
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Non-Consent

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution establishing a Zero Waste Events Policy

City Manager Hiniker introduced an Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) recommendation for a Zero Waste Events Policy, noting the impact on the Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the Employee Recognition Luncheon and other City sponsored events is minimal but sets an important example. She noted that this policy does not require community events to be zero waste, but does articulate the City's commitment to work with event organizers toward developing zero waste events. From the EAC, she invited Gary Schroeder and staff liaison Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist, to speak about the recommended policy.

Mr. Schroeder thanked the Council for consideration of the EAC's proposed Zero Waste Events Policy. He said the purpose of this policy is to reduce waste by utilizing reusable, recyclable and compostable products for City sponsored events and noted the policy aligns with the City's identified waste reduction and recycling goals. He mentioned Ramsey County's free organics recycling program and the local availability of a compostable dumpster at the Public Works site, means that with little planning the City can host zero waste events.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve **Resolution No. 12722**, establishing a Zero Waste Events Policy.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution approving Memorandum of Understanding between Ramsey County and the City of White Bear Lake for the South Shore Boulevard project - 2022

Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi reported the next step in the South Shore Blvd, Lakes Links Trail project is to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the jurisdictional turn back of a portion of South Shore Blvd from McKnight Road to Bellaire from Ramsey County. He said the MOU spells out funding mechanisms and responsibilities in accordance with Ramsey County's cost participation policy, in addition to the County's commitment to fund a future mill and overlay of the segment, which would extend the pavement life cycle to 25-30 years.

Mr. Kauppi relayed steps upon execution of this MOU in which the County may then proceed with the final design phase of the project, anticipated to be completed in 2021 and construction in 2022. Mr. Kauppi reported, the final costs and cost splits will be reviewed throughout the design process and brought forward to council as they are developed prior to moving forward with bids.

Mr. Kauppi added, that the County hopes to proceed with the County Road F sidewalk between Gisella and McKnight Road in 2021 street reconstruction projects, depending on bids received by Ramsey County.

Councilmember Jones received confirmation from Mr. Kauppi that input related to trail design comes at a later date.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve **Resolution No. 12723**, approving Memorandum of Understanding between Ramsey County and the City of White Bear Lake for the So Shore Boulevard project - 2022

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution authorizing food trucks at Podvin Park

City Manager Hiniker noted this item was pulled from the Consent Agenda simply to correct the date. Explaining that, due to extreme cold temperatures, the Hockey Association is pushing their Hockey Tournament scheduled at Podvin Park from February 13-14, back to February 20-21 for a bit more favorable weather.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve **Resolution No. 12724**, authorizing food trucks at Podvin Park.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of Minutes: November Park Advisory Commission, December Environmental Advisory Commission, January Planning Advisory Commission Meeting
- B. Resolution approving the 2021 Pay Equity Compliance Report. **Resolution No. 12725**
- C. Resolution authorizing the use of Railroad Park by Explore White Bear Lake for an ice sculpture event. **Resolution No. 12726**

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

Biehn Aye
 Edberg Aye
 Engstran Aye
 Jones Aye
 Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

A. Sidewalk snow removal policy

Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi stated that every year the City receives calls, both complementary and critical of the City's sidewalk policy, which is why this has been placed under discussion tonight. Mr. Kauppi reviewed the City's snow removal policy, which states that the City is responsible for snow removal from sidewalks and trails. Because of joints and cracks in city sidewalks, plow blades must be slightly lifted, which leaves behind a layer of snow. Melting and freezing cycles can make this problematic at times. This winter has been particularly challenging. Trails, on the other hand, can be plowed to grade as they are typically bituminous.

Councilmember Edberg agreed that the sidewalks are an issue in the City, however, he did not have a solution to convey. He observed the sidewalks are not walkable for 3-4 months of the year and mentioned he walks residential streets as result.

Councilmember Jones agreed, however, he opposed adopting an ordinance requiring residents to shovel, which he believes punishes 20% of the residents who have a sidewalk component to take care of while 80% of the residents do not have this responsibility. He suggested forming a sub-committee to discuss way to improve the walkability of the City's sidewalks and trails and noted that this activity is here to stay.

City Manager Hiniker asked residents, to the extent possible, to shovel their sidewalks when taking care of the driveways, when possible; the City prioritizes streets over sidewalks and cannot clear them to the pavement with the equipment and staff time available.

Councilmember Edberg wanted the cost of alternatives for consideration. He felt it would be useful in providing more solid justification to residents moving forward.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Environmental updates include information about a Goose Lake survey from VLAWMO, which the City Manager will email to Council, in addition to posting on Facebook and the website.
- Welcoming and Inclusive Community Task Force applications are being reviewed by the Mayor. The first meeting will begin in March, rather than February.
- Public Works Director Kauppi reiterated the Mayor's call for keeping cars off the roads during snow events and welcomed any assistance residents can provide related to clearing snow from sidewalks.

➤ Updates from Community Development Director, Anne Kane

- Kane provided an update on a proposal being made by a developer, T.E. Miller, for a development at the corner of 3rd and Cook. This 40-unit apartment development would require acquisition of the city’s municipal parking lot, along with the purchase of the house at the corner. The developer will introduce this concept at a neighborhood meeting scheduled next Tuesday evening. They are sending out a notice of this meeting to all property owners within 500 feet of the site. Staff has met with the Main Street board to let them know that there is a developer interested in that site, and that a neighborhood meeting was forthcoming. Staff plans to hold a similar meeting with downtown property owners on Thursday and will request that the developer present to downtown property owners in advance of submitting an application for formal review.

If the developer chooses to move forward, staff would expect to receive a detailed application late spring/early summer for formal review by staff and consideration by the Planning Commission and Council. To be financially feasible, the project would require tax increment financing to recover the cost of structured public parking to replace the loss of parking from use of the lot, along with successful application for funding through a competitive Metropolitan Council grant.

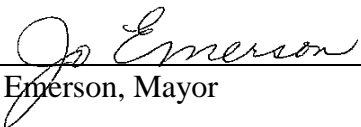
- The Housing Task Force application is now available. A short video was created to summarize findings from the Maxfield Housing Study and invite community members to get involved in planning for future housing opportunities in White Bear Lake. A housing survey has also been launched, which is referenced at the end of the video and included on the website. The hope is for the Task Force to formulate recommended policy and goals for the City Council to consider related to housing and development proposals in the City of White Bear Lake.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Biehn Aye
 Edberg Aye
 Engstran Aye
 Jones Aye
 Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.



 Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Kara Coustry, City Clerk