



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022  
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Dan Louismet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The City Clerk took attendance for Councilmembers Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Heidi Hughes, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh. Staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Public Works Director / City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Community Development Director Jason Lindahl, Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek, 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 May 12, 2022

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2022 City Council meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Resolution authorizing the Second Annual Block Party event at Manitou Grill, Saturday July 2, 2022. **Resolution No. 12988**
- B. Resolution approving on-sale and Sunday liquor license transfer for Manitou Grill & Event Center. **Resolution No. 12989**
- C. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a water efficiency grant contract with Metropolitan Council. **Resolution No. 12990**
- D. Resolution approving a food truck for Keegan's 5K for Craniosynostosis Awareness at West Park. **Resolution No. 12991**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. VISITORS AND PRESENTATION

### A. Ramsey County Attorney John Choi

Attorney Choi gave a presentation on the activities of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. He displayed charts showing an estimated 60% direct correlation between cases referred and cases charged for as follows: adults, youth, theft, robbery, ammo/firearm and 5<sup>th</sup> Degrees. Attorney Choi reviewed critical issues including increases in violent crime, carjackings, the pandemic, civil unrest and decreased trust, policing challenges and a proliferation of guns. Other issues he reviewed were Rule 20 "Gap" Cases, Cash Bail and limited options for Youth Placement.

Mayor Louismet expressed concern for the Attorney's Office not charging non-public safety traffic stops, noting these are criminal infractions and should be charged as such. Attorney Choi explained, that these types of stops have the tendency for disparate impact against people of color, a practice he did not want to encourage. Mayor Louismet stated that this policy has stifled pro-active law enforcement and as a corollary, crime is increasing. Councilmember Walsh added, this is more of a blanket policy not to charge non-public safety stops, rather than an exercise in discretion. Attorney Choi stated that he does exercise a public safety exception.

Mayor Louismet explained that he understands the spirit behind reasonable sentencing and restorative justice, but he expressed concern for victims' rights while criminals are back on the street. Attorney Choi noted there are many variables to be considered and welcomed deeper conversations to further desirable outcomes for all involved.

Mayor Louismet noted conversations with community and business members and the frustration they experience with repeat offenders. Specifically in the context of theft, these sentences run concurrently and incentivize repeat offenders. Attorney Choi mentioned the judge must consider bail versus possible lengthy jail time while awaiting a case to be tried.

Councilmember Jones stated that an influential role model is needed to raise the children of today. He noted that government agencies, police, prosecutors and teachers are having to step into this function in the absence of hands-on parenting. He also called out the increasing issue of mental health not being addressed affectively.

Councilmember Walsh mentioned the need for more conversation at a future Work Session, but pushed for tougher crack-down on crime in order to catch up to the lawlessness. Mayor Louismet welcomed continuing the conversation with Ramsey County Attorney Choi.

### B. Climate-Smart Municipalities German Delegation visit recap

Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Shimek reported that the Climate-Smart Municipalities German Delegation began their visit to White Bear Lake on May 3 at Lakewood Hills Park by reciprocating the Lüdenscheid tree planting. Guests visiting from Lüdenscheid included Mayor Sebastian Wagemeyer, Councilmember Jens Holzrichter, Chair Building & Transportation Committee Hans-Juergen Badziura, Board Chair Heesfeldr Muhle (non-profit) and Ulrike Badziura, Head of Environmental & Climate Protection for the City of Iserlohn. Shimek explained that Mayor Sebastian Wagemeyer was a former school principal so he had an interest in education and the potential for collaborative projects between students in

Lüdenscheid and White Bear Lake. The White Bear Lake School District hosted a breakfast with German language students, while providing presentations on green initiatives in the schools including building efficiency upgrades, solar initiatives, and a farm to school program. Thereafter, the group toured the North Campus school project and learned about the Early Childhood learning program, a partnership with Tamarack Nature Center.

Shimek reported the group then learned about the Century College Solar and Renewable Energy Program, a job market which is in high demand. Shimek thanked Mayor Louismet and Councilmember Jones for hosting the delegation. Councilmember Jones and VLAWMO representatives participated in a walking tour from the Boatworks Commons to Goose Lake to learn about water management and innovative stormwater features at the boardwalk. Mayor Louismet attended a cross-sector E/V panel discussing the challenges and opportunities of electric vehicle adoption and increasing the infrastructure related to them, and a panel about the upcoming automated shuttle project and the cross-sector collaboration, including work force development opportunities.

Shimek thanked the many community partners and members who showed gracious hospitality in participating in the visit including site hosts and panelists. She thanked the White Bear Lake Area Schools, Century College, VLAWMO, Ramsey County, White Bear Mitsubishi, Great Plains Institute, Xcel Energy, White Bear Area Historical Society, members of Council, Mayor, and other City staff.

Councilmember Edberg stated he would be interested in following up on past action plans pertaining to sustainable initiatives, which were identified as a result of past Climate-Smart Municipalities work.

Assistant City Manager Rick Juba expressed appreciation for Shimek's work in organizing this along with assistance from Sam Crosby and Connie Taillon.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Nothing scheduled

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing scheduled

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution authorizing construction of a fence around the Water Treatment Plant**

City Engineer Kauppi stated that the idea for a fence at the water treatment plant was initiated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. A recent amendment to this Act known as the America's Water Infrastructure Act, required the City to conduct a Risk and Reliance Assessment. He said, one of the outcomes of that study revealed a deficiency in security with old manual gates and no control of access. Mr. Kauppi stated that water is one of the most important infrastructure needs and proposed security measures to protect it include automated gates, keycard-controlled access and a better fence around the structure.

Kauppi explained that in planning for a fence, it was determined that the existing fence was approximately 10 feet into the property line, which effectively extended the rear yards of adjacent property owners. He explained that a search of these properties uncovered one 1987 agreement in place with 3368 Ebba Street, which allowed them to build a fence on the City's property as long as that property was not needed. He explained there were no other agreements found to be in place with other neighbors. Kauppi stated that the City would need to vacate its easement of 3368 Ebba Street and require that neighbor to move its fence back to its property line.

Kauppi stated that the City proposes to construct the new fence on the property line to better open up the entrance to the facility and provide the ability to maintain grass to the edge of the City's property line. He stated the fence there today was built in 1979. Kauppi said that if this were approved by the Council, notices would go out to the neighbors around June 1, 2022, with 60 days' notice of the City's plan to construct the fence in August 2022.

Mayor Louismet received confirmation from Kauppi that the fence was necessary to secure the facility and perform the logistics of snow plowing and facilitate trucks entering and leaving the facility. He also received confirmation from the City Attorney that contained in the agreement with 3368 Ebba Street, is a clause whereby the City may use its property as it sees fit upon 60 days' notice. He recognized the impact of this decision on neighbors and as such, provided them with an opportunity to address the City Council.

Robert Scherrer, who lives along the northern edge of the property inquired as to two large trees. Kauppi explained that unless the trees are in the way or considered to be unhealthy, they would not be removed as part of this project. Kauppi stated that once the fence is constructed, there may be the opportunity to plant more trees to provide a noise and site buffer.

Steve Scherrer of 3416 Ebba Street mentioned that when they constructed their fence, he was told that the City would move their fence back to the property line. Kauppi stated that the City will cut each of the side yard fences down 10 feet and relocate this fence back as well, however, there are some damaged posts that will need to be discussed with the property owner.

Pat Callahan of 3408 Ebba Street asked for documentation of the 10 feet. Kauppi stated that the City surveyor did locate the property pins and staked them with wooden lathe. She expressed concern that the distance seems more than 10 feet. Kauppi noted that was an estimate and confirmed that the fence would be constructed just inches off the property line for maintenance purposes.

An Ebba Street resident stated he has lived there since the late 1960s and has never seen an issue with snow plow operations, nor are the gates closed for security. He stated the residents have been maintaining that property all these years. He hoped the gate was quiet as it will be opening and closing night and day. He threatened to put his place up for sale.

Councilmember Edberg noted that the City has not taken care of its property for 40-50 years, rather it has relied on the neighbors to do so. He did not dispute the City's need for the use of its property. He expressed appreciation that the City will do whatever is reasonable to ensure a smooth transition for the residents who have maintained this property through the years. He

asked about the fence line at Orchard School, which is infested with buckthorn. Kauppi stated that the entire fence will be replaced and invasive species removed during that process. Kauppi agreed to look into noise from an automated fence and stated the majority of traffic occurs during regular business hours at the facility.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12992** authorizing construction of a fence around the Water Treatment Plant.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

### A. Quarterly Sports Center Report

Assistant City Manager Juba reported that the Skate Show just wrapped up. He presented pictures of the new Olympia Ice Resurfacer, and the Hockey Association's conversion of the racquetball facility into a hockey training space with weights, two Rapid Shot puck practice lanes and a skating treadmill. Mr. Juba confirmed the Sports Center operates annually with a deficit.

B. Assistant City Manager Juba wished City Clerk Kara Coustry well in pursuit of a new opportunity with another organization.

## 11. 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 8:47 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.



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Dan Louismet, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Lindy Crawford, City Manager



**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Work Session Opened: 8:55 PM**

**In Attendance:** Mayor Louismet, Councilmembers Walsh, Hughes, Jones, Edberg, and Engstran. Assistant City Manager Juba, Public Works Director/ City Engineer Kauppi, City Attorney Gilchrist, and City Clerk Coustry.

Staff shared an update with the Council regarding the potential transfer of the Armory. The White Bear Lake Historical Society is exploring concepts for converting the Armory into a museum. Staff held preliminary discussions with the Historical Society about the potential to transfer the Armory to the Historical Society. City Staff was directed not to spend money and time seeking an appraisal of the Armory due to its designation as an historical property rather than a commercial property of any significant value. Council discussed the pending elevator repair of the facility and asked staff to research its ability to stop the repair work so the property could be transferred as is to the Historical Society sooner rather than later. Council discussed a Right of First Refusal being attached to the transfer of the Armory for \$1.00 plus the cost of the elevator repair to the Historical Society. Council discussed mechanisms for ensuring good stewardship of the property such as seeking a verification of funds, letter of intent, or asking for a maintenance and operations plan from the Historical Society.

Staff and the Council discussed the Public Safety building project in which there had been no update from the Legislature regarding funding for the project. Krause-Anderson had reported a hold in the construction market with the price of steel actually coming down, however, there was still large lead times for supplies. The Council generally discussed holding off just two more weeks for word about funding from the Legislature, but agreed to plug away on the original plan without cutting any square footage, regardless of the Legislature.

**Work Session Adjourned: 9:44 PM**