



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
7 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Dan Louismet called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The City Clerk took attendance for Councilmembers Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Heidi Hughes, Bill Walsh, and Andrea West. Staff in attendance were City Manager Lindy Crawford, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, Fire Chief Greg Peterson, Police Chief Dale Hager, City Clerk Caley Longendyke, and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 12, 2024

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept minutes: February Park Advisory Commission, February Environmental Advisory Commission, February White Bear Lake Conservation District, March Planning Commission
- B. Resolution approving tobacco, 3.2% malt liquor, and edible cannabinoid products licenses for CAPL Retail LLC **Res. No. 13334**
- C. Resolution approving a temporary liquor license for Lakeshore Players Theatre **Res. No. 13335**
- D. Resolution authorizing a special event application for the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society **Res. No. 13336**
- E. Resolution authorizing a special event application for Main Street Inc. **Res. No. 13337**
- F. Resolution ordering the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program public hearing **Res. No. 13338**
- G. Resolution accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2024 Pavement Rehabilitation Project **Res. No. 13339**
- H. Resolution authorizing MN Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Grant Application for Lakewood Hills Park Trails **Res. No. 13340**
- I. Resolutions authorizing MN Department of Employee and Economic Development Contamination Cleanup Grant and Metropolitan Council Tax Base Revitalization Account Cleanup Grant on behalf of 2502 County Road E **Res. Nos. 13341 and 13342**
- J. Resolution approving Cooperative Agreement with Ramsey County for Otter Lake Road Improvements **Res. No. 13343**

- K. Resolutions approving Joint Powers Agreement with ISD 624 and Cooperative Construction Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation and ISD 624 for North Campus Roadway Improvements **Res. Nos. 13344 and 13345**
- L. Resolution authorizing support for Minnesota Commercial Railway Locomotive Emission Reduction Project federal funding request **Res. No. 13346**

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Louismet read a proclamation recognizing May 16, 2024 as Arbor Day in the City of White Bear Lake. Public Works Director/City Engineer Kauppi reported the Park Advisory Commission will be planting trees during their May meeting. He provided an update on a grant the City received through the Shade Tree Grant Program by the Department of Natural Resources and said it would help support replanting. More updates will be provided about tree removal and replacement during future Council meetings.

B. Manitou Days presentation and resolution granting support

Manitou Days Chair Paul Carlson presented information about Manitou Days. He shared about his involvement and the background of the events. This year's theme is "All Bears Unite", in honor of the high schools reconnecting. He encouraged members of the community to learn more about Manitou Days and get involved in the various events. More information can be found at www.manitoudays.com. The resolution presented asked for resources from the City to support the events. Mayor Louismet thanked Mr. Carlson for his leadership and acknowledged the hard work of volunteers who make these events possible.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve **Res. No. 13347** authorizing allocation of staff time and other public resources for Manitou Days 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Marketfest presentation and resolution granting support

Event Director Lisa Beecroft shared information about Marketfest, a festival that takes place in Downtown White Bear Lake over seven consecutive Thursdays between June 13 and July 25. Marketfest, which brings in 4,000-5,000 people per week, has various components, including food, music, vendors, and family activities. She highlighted the groups of people who support Marketfest, including City staff, Main Street, Inc., individual businesses, and volunteers. More than 200 vendors attend each Thursday, varying in categories like food, arts and crafts, merchants, non-profits, and downtown businesses. Each week has a different theme, bringing unique activities for each of them. Ms. Beecroft presented a budget outlining expenditures and revenues, and commented on being able to recover from the cancelled events during the pandemic. The City was asked to provide financial support of \$7,000 and to provide staff support from various departments. Ms. Beecroft thanked the City for their part in contributing

to the event. More information can be found at www.marketfestwbl.com. Mayor Louismet thanked Ms. Beecroft for her work and involvement.

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to approve **Res. No. 13348** authorizing financial support and other public resources for Marketfest 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Fire Department Biannual Report

Fire Chief Peterson presented the Fire Department's biannual update. The Department provides service in an area covering 35 square miles, including five municipalities. He shared that call volume has increased steadily over time, but saw a slight decrease in 2023 due to not regularly sending out the last ambulance outside the service area and a decrease in repeat callers. The categorical breakdown of calls typically remains steady at an 80-20 ratio for medical- and fire-related calls, respectively, but recently shifted to 72-28. For EMS Mutual Aid, the Department was called out 290 times, and the department called others 71 times. He explained that this ratio of giving services to receiving services is typically 5-1, but it has shifted to 3-1 for the decrease in giving services. Chief Peterson reported data for mutual aid is balanced, with the Department being called 21 times and the department calling for aid 20 times, a typical trend. He reported that Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays are the busiest days for the Department. Almost identical to last year, the top five types of calls, in order, are: sick person, fall, breathing problem, unconscious and psychiatric. Chief Peterson was proud to share that the Department received a Certificate of Clinical Excellence in 2023 from the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB).

Chief Peterson shared the success of the Department's new LUCAS device, which provides mechanical CPR, and said that portable ultrasounds will be incorporated into their toolkits. He provided a staffing update and shared a new assistant chief/fire marshal was recently hired, and said additional staff have been trained as inspectors to support the work of the fire marshal. There are currently 18 full-time and 14 part-time employees. He provided information about training provided to staff and shared about specialized operation teams. He shared about the various medical supplies in City buildings and emergency vehicles, such as AEDs, fire extinguishers, and medical supplies. Lastly, he displayed a list of community outreach events which the Department participates in.

Mayor Louismet asked if the reduction in providing EMS mutual aid calls has impacted surrounding communities. Chief Peterson confirmed it has impacted them, and that they're having to respond more to mutual aid calls. Mayor Louismet reminded the public that the decision to hold back at least one ambulance and not sending it outside our service area was to ensure the City's residents have prioritized access to emergency services. When asked about the ultrasound devices, Chief Peterson shared about the innovative technology, which is new to fire departments. Regarding the new fire boat, Chief Peterson shared that it's almost finished being built. Councilmember Edberg asked for an update on the wellbeing and workload on staff compared to how it's been in previous years. Chief Peterson confirmed the work environment has gotten better, which helps retention, but there could still be improvements. He talked more about retention and factors impacting it. Councilmember

Walsh asked how payment is handled when the City transports a patient on a mutual aid call, and Chief Peterson confirmed that the City receives reimbursement if we transport a patient.

E. Police Department Biannual Report

Police Chief Hager presented a biannual Police Department report. He provided an overview of the staffing structure and the number of staff, and noted that the Department has 27 sworn police officers, but is authorized for 31. He shared information about the different shifts for patrol officers and shared about the various roles of investigative staff and their schedules. Chief Hager provided an update and pictures about the ongoing construction of the public safety facility. The facility has undergone major construction and renovation with the temperature-control squad garage being a crucial addition for the technology-heavy fleet. In addition to basic amenities, like offices and bathrooms, the workout space for staff was also renovated. The Department obtained two drones to help with responding to emergency calls. Chief Hager spoke about the success thus far and the training for officers who became drone pilots. The Department is updating graphics on squad cars. Chief Hager spoke about recruitment efforts, which include visits to multiple universities and technical colleges, to attract and provide information to aspiring officers.

The City partners with several agencies and organizations to support public safety and provided a list of partners. Chief Hager gave general information about the role of the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board) and summarized new rules related to school resource officers (SRO), training, and licensure. Chief Hager shared information about police volunteers, explaining that they are an integral part of the Department. He shared a list of community engagement events and talked about the new community engagement team, who seeks opportunities to get the Department involved or opportunities to connect with certain groups of our community.

Mayor Louismet ask if the legislative adjustments to the use of force policy for SROs alleviated the issues that were caused when the law first changed and impacted SROs' duties. Chief Hager said the amendments eliminated the concerns. When asked how SROs are utilized during the summer months, Chief Hager said they are used primarily as investigators and provide additional patrol coverage as needed.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Issuance of General Obligation Improvement Bonds for 2024 Pavement Rehabilitation Project

Finance Director Kindsvater explained that the City will issue General Obligation (GO) Improvement bonds to fund the City's portion of the 2024 Pavement Rehabilitation Project costs. The 2024A bond issue is for a par amount of \$2.5 million with a 15-year term. The bids received were lower than anticipated, so Ehlers, the City's financial advisor, reran the pre-sale

report for more accuracy. Director Kindsvater said the preliminary debt service schedule uses an estimated true interest cost of 3.4889%, which includes the current market rate of 2.9889% plus an additional 0.5% to include a cushion for any market changes between the pre-sale report run date and the actual bond sale in May.

Director Kindsvater summarized previous interest rates the City has received pre-pandemic through 2023. The estimated annual debt service payment on the bonds range between \$212,000 and \$237,000 for the 15-year term. Funding for the debt service will be a combination of tax levy and special assessments collected from benefitting property owners of the project. The annual tax levy will range between \$175,000 and \$181,000.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve **Res. No. 13349** providing for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2024A, in the proposed aggregate principal amount of \$2,505,000, and setting May 14, 2024 as the date that the Council will award the bond sale issue. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Police Union Memorandums of Understanding for Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Assistant City Manager Juba presented two memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the Police Sergeants and Patrol Unions regarding hiring and recruitment incentives. As part of the Public Safety Local Government Aid (LGA) provided to cities, funds can be used towards recruitment, retention, and equipment costs for the police and fire departments. Of the \$1.1 million received by the City, there was about \$148,000 that was unallocated. At a work session on January 23, 2024, staff and the City Council discussed allocating \$36,000 of the remaining unallocated funds towards police hiring incentives. Staff met with both unions to establish parameters, which include hiring and referral incentives. Assistant City Manager Juba explained that these types of incentives are not uncommon for police departments and said there are currently 193 openings for police officers throughout the state. He said the City's police roster hasn't been full since mid-2022.

Mayor Louismet recognized this could be a helpful tool as a short-term measure. He shared his conflictions about the idea of paying a candidate a sum of money to attract them to the City of White Bear Lake, when they should want to work for the City in the first place. He's concerned that it may not resolve the staffing issue, but understands the need for a near-term solution to provide relief. Councilmember Walsh commended the fast turnaround between the Council discussion, union meetings, and creation of the MOUs.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to approve **Res. No. 13350** authorizing memorandums of understanding for policing hiring and recruitment incentives. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Safety Local Government Aid Allocation

During the 2024 budget adoption, the Council allocated the majority of Public Safety Local Government Aid (LGA), received by the state, to various uses approved between the police and fire departments. Police Chief Hager explained there is a remaining \$148,439 of unallocated LGA, which was intentional to allow time for the Police Chief and City Manager to

analyze potential uses for these funds. Chief Hager reviewed the proposed items to be funded by the LGA, with the largest allocation to go towards recruitment and retention incentives, and other items including in-squad radar units, evidence room renovation, field training software and iPads, officer training, uniforms, and more. Chief Hager provided an explanation for each of the proposed items. In addition to LGA funds, the Department applied for a grant through the Department of Public Safety for Pathways to Policing.

Mayor Louismet pointed out the \$7,000 expense for new badges, which is needed due to a change in the state seal. He expressed frustration and used it as an example of when the state makes changes and it financially impacts individual cities. Councilmember Edberg responded and pointed out that the state is providing funds to cities through LGA funds. Councilmember Walsh recommended evaluating the amount of paperwork done by field training officers, and if they felt it unnecessary and doesn't improve safety, that topic should be added to the City's Legislative Priorities as cutting down unfunded mandates. Chief Hager shared information about the paperwork, spoke to its value, and shared that it is necessary for training new officers.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve **Res. No. 13351** allocating Public Safety Local Government Aid funds to the Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Crawford acknowledged the work and diligence of the Fire and Police Departments when responding to the truck collision into a local dentist office, and shared that representatives from both departments and she attended a re-grand opening for the dentist office now that rebuilding was complete. She shared about the ribbon cutting for 4 Deuces Saloon, which opened where Big Wood Brewery was formerly located. An upcoming ribbon cutting is scheduled for Young's Korean BBQ. She shared information about spring cleanup day, the first annual Public Works open house, and she encouraged members of the community to follow the City's various Facebook pages for notification of various upcoming events.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Louismet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caley Longendyke, City Clerk