



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Doug Biehn, Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones, Bill Walsh in attendance. Staff members present were City Manager Ellen Richter, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Finance Director Don Rambow, City Engineer Mark Burch, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Andy Pratt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Edberg corrected one of the figures presented in item 12 under the Conservation District from \$2,200 to \$22,000.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on February 13, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At the request of Mayor Emerson, item 10D was moved to 9A.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier

Sheriff Jack Serier was to have been scheduled for March 27, 2018 rather than February 27, 2018.

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 execution of an agreement with Minnesota Public Employers Association – Police Officers

City Manager Richter reported that as outlined in the 2018 Position and Classification Plan approved by Council, an overall 2.75% wage adjustment is proposed. Market adjustments for the first three years of service are also proposed. The market adjustments reflect a more balanced and competitive wage schedule as compared to similar communities.

Ms. Richter explained that both the City and the Union reached these proposed amendments to the contract through good faith negotiations. Staff is forwarding a recommendation for approved of the patrol officer's 2018 labor agreement.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12177** authorizing execution of an agreement with Minnesota Public Employers Association – Police Officers.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Resolution authorizing financial participation in Marketfest 2018. **Resolution No. 12178**
- B. Resolution approving massage therapy and massage therapist establishment licenses. **Resolution No 12179**
- C. Resolution approving temporary liquor licenses for fish fry events at St. Pius X. **Resolution No 12180**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

- A. Development of Emerald Ash Borer Management Policy

City Manager Richter reported that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been spotted in six trees in the southwest corner of White Bear Lake. The city is fortunate to have gained from the experiences of other communities which have already encountered EAB. Staff requested information from bonded tree service providers about their EAB program and pricing, and found Rainbow Tree Care to have the most comprehensive approach to management and lowest prices for treatment.

City Engineer Mark Burch explained that an Emerald Ash Borer infestation was discovered in Ash trees in the wetlands, just north of Buerkle Road. Since then, staff has researched programs offered by several tree companies, and believes that Rainbow Tree Care offers the most outstanding tree care program for the lowest cost.

Mr. Burch shared that Rainbow Tree Care has worked successfully over the past 3-5 years with other metro cities including, Hastings, Chanhassen, St Louis Park and Maple Grove. Staff will bring in Gary Johnson, a University of Minnesota professor and arborist, to provide more information about EAB and management options to Council at its March 27th meeting.

Mr. Burch reported that in the past 15 years, much has been learned about tree care related to EAB. He explained that rather than cutting all trees at once and losing the canopy, staff feels that a combination of treating and cutting would be the best approach. This would allow time for replanting other trees to replace the canopy.

Mr. Burch explained the city would like to take the lead by pulling together a program that may be modeled by homeowners facing the same issue. If the City were to enter into an agreement with Rainbow Tree Care, they would inventory and address the care of trees on public property. They would also provide a certified arborist to respond to residents' calls for service. The city would share the cost with the homeowner of treating or removing trees in the boulevard. Staff would like a policy that outlines which trees to keep, how long to keep them and how to plant around those trees. Once an ash tree inventory has been completed, staff will have a better idea of the overall costs of the EAB program.

City Manager Richter reminded the Council that a fund was established to manage EAB once it reached White Bear Lake. With a mapped inventory of ash trees, it will be easier to identify those areas most effected and tailor a plan for treatment based on the density of trees in the area.

Councilmember Walsh mentioned that staff should be mindful of grant funding, or other funding sources, which could be available to address AEB.

Councilmember Edberg likes the City's stance for creating a policy to deal with EAB. He would be interested in exploring opportunities for group purchasing power so that community members can save as much as possible. In response, City Manager Richter explained that if Council enters into an agreement with Rainbow Tree Care, they would send mailers to residents and offer their services at a significant discount relative to other tree care companies.

Councilmember Edberg asked what constitutes a boulevard tree for residents who may be impacted. City Engineer Burch explained that for purposes of the initial inventory, the boulevard would be assumed to be 12-15 feet. The arborists will use aerials and

property lines from Ramsey County GIS data, which are reasonably accurate. The city will err on the side of the property owner.

City Engineer Burch added that there are other tree services available and that people can use any registered tree care company for this work. Companies are seeing the cost of treatment declining over the years as people are getting better at it and there are more services available.

Councilmember Edberg explained this is a time to consider a broader tree management program to address other pests, while aggregating purchase power and supply to assist with general clean up and maintenance of our urban forest.

B. Draft Capital Improvement Program

City Manager Richter explained that the draft CIP included in the packet shows just the proposed expenditures at this time. Staff is bringing this before Council to provide an opportunity for review prior to the work session on Tuesday, March 6th. The draft CIP expenditures will also be posted on the website for public review and comment. After Council's work session, at which funding will also be discussed, staff will add in more detail and prepare a final CIP.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

➤ Solar power opportunities

City Manager Richter shared that over the past few years staff has been exploring solar power options for municipal buildings. There are unique opportunities made available through a federal tax credit program that provide a 30% tax credit to solar investors. Companies have taken that and created a model whereby the city would provide space on building rooftops for their solar panels. The city would then agree to purchase energy from those companies at a reduced rate over Xcel Energy, and upon conclusion of the agreement, the city would own the solar panels.

City Manager Richter explained that staff continues to discuss options with various companies. The cost of solar panels has been decreasing while technological advances has been improving efficiency. More will come before the Council on this in the near future.

Councilmember Biehn expressed interest in knowing the life expectancy of the equipment. City Manager Richter indicated that panels typically last 25 years, which means the city could have 10-15 years of remaining useful solar panel life at the conclusion of an agreement.

Councilmember Edberg expressed interest in knowing who owns the panels and what the warranties are. He would also like to know the conditions and expectations if the city can sell power back to the grid. This practice can be inefficient for communities if not done well.

➤ Staff Retreat and Work Session

Ms. Richter shared that the Council/staff work session last Saturday was very productive. Ms. Richter thanked Council for their time and reminded them of an upcoming CIP Work Session on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

➤ Community Book report "A Good Time for the Truth"

Ms. Richter reported that a community conversation on the book, "A Good Time for the Truth", is being held at the Boatworks Community room tomorrow, February 28, 2018. The session is full, which was capped out enrollment of 63 people. This is the follow up discussion to the first community conversation held in Mahtomedi. Nickyia Cogshell of Century College will be facilitating the conversation.

➤ Northeast Youth and Family Services

Ms. Richter explained that the annual report from Northeast Youth and Family Services was included in the packet. The city intends to invite Jerry Hromatka to address the Council this spring.

➤ Engineering update

City Engineer Burch shared that staff has been working on street reconstruction in addition to preparing for the Sports Center project. The Ice Show is this weekend, which is earlier than in past years to accommodate the renovation schedule.

➤ High School students' walk-out

Mayor Emerson reported that Councilmember Jones and she had the pleasure of meeting with White Bear Lake Middle and High School students last Friday. They walked out of school in protest of school safety issues related to recent gun violence. Mayor Emerson thanked staff for assisting with the students and making the encounter a positive experience for students.

➤ Mayor Emerson reported that Deb Stender, the Marketfest Director, passed away suddenly on Friday. Her funeral will be on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at St. Pius, and a celebration of life will be at Rudy's on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mayor Emerson conveyed sympathies to her family and friends.

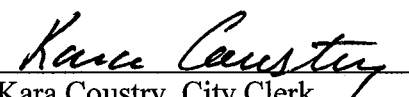
13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk