

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019
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, Dan Jones, Kevin Edberg and Bill Walsh were present. Councilmember Steven Engstran was excused absence. Staff members present were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Finance Director Don Rambow, Community Development Director Anne Kane, City Engineer/PW Director Paul Kauppi, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 8, 2019.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 8, 2019.

Motion carried. Councilmember Walsh abstained.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Emerson moved the Closed Session up to item 13 and the Adjournment was pushed down to item 14.

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the agenda as amended.

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 the Mayor and City Manager to execute a joint powers agreement between the City of White Bear Lake and White Bear Township to enter into an engineering services contract with Short Elliot Hendrickson for trail design work.

Ms. Hiniker reported that the 2017 legislation set aside \$22,000 to fund a concept design of the Lake Links trail segment along Trunk Highway 96. She explained that Trunk Highway 96 is a MN DOT road going through both the City and Township. Ms. Hiniker stated that the Township's consulting engineer, Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH), provided a proposal for higher level design work that could be completed within the limits of a \$22,000 budget.

Ms. Hiniker forwarded a recommendation to enter into a Joint Power Agreement setting the Town of White Bear as the lead agent working with SEH to identify public and utility right of way, analyze alternative alignments and perform preliminary design work that could be used for general project cost estimates. Ms. Hiniker hoped to bring the results of the study before Council in a few months.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12337** authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute a joint powers agreement between the City of White Bear Lake and White Bear Township to enter into an engineering services contract with Short Elliot Hendrickson for trail design work.

Motion carried unanimously

- B. Resolution establishing the City Manager's Salary effective January 1, 2019

Mayor Emerson forwarded a recommendation the City Manager's overall compensation including vehicle allowance be adjusted 3.00%, which adheres to the City's 2019 compensation plan.

Councilmember Jones thanked Mayor Emerson for following the process of collecting evaluations.

Councilmember Edberg also expressed gratitude and wanted to ensure the combined evaluation results be placed in the City Manager's file so that the aggregate could be accessed by a future Council request.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12338** establishing the City Manager's Salary effective January 1, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of minutes of the October, November, December Environmental Advisory Commission, November Parks Advisory Commission.
- B. Resolution correcting the insurance contribution amounts of the 2019-2020 LELS – Police Sergeants labor agreement. **Resolution No. 12339**
- C. Resolution authorizing temporary liquor licenses for Church of St. Pius X. **Resolution No. 12340**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

- A. Refuse and recycling contract, expiring August 30, 2019.

City Manager Hiniker recapped that in 2014 the City went through an extensive RFP process resulting in the refuse contract being awarded to Troje's Trash. In 2016, Troje's filed for bankruptcy, resulting in the refuse contract going to Vermillion Bank, and ultimately being sold to Republic Services. The refuse contract with Republic Services will expire August 30, 2019.

Ms. Hiniker stated that from a staff standpoint, Republic Services has done a great job being responsive to questions and concerns. She reported there have been some issues with the call center, which emerged about one year ago when it was relocated to a more centralized location out of state. The confusion being that the Township also uses Republic Services, but provides a different level of service than the City.

Ms. Hiniker reported that staff has been meeting with Republic Services since last fall to review the contract and possibility of an extension. Republic Services has reported it is actually losing money under the Troje's contract, which was bid very low comparatively. She felt confident that Republic Services was providing their best rate proposal; however, staff was unable to bring forward a recommendation for an extension based on rates paid in surrounding communities.

Ms. Hiniker informed Council that Edina is in the process of seeking RFPs for refuse service and the responses they get will be informative as the City considers the same.

Councilmember Biehn inquired if there was a strategic advantage to seeking an RFP at a certain time, and would there be an option for a short-term extension with Republic Services to take advantage of a more competitive bidding process. Ms. Hiniker replied, not for us, explaining the City is unique because recycling is brought to Eureka. If both recycling and refuse were bundled into one contract, there would be an advantage.

Councilmember Edberg asked who would oversee the RFP, City Manager Hiniker stated Assistant City Manager Juba would oversee the RFP and she would provide oversight.

Councilmember Walsh mentioned there are other options than going out for RFP for a single hauler. He would like to add this to a future work session.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Update on Rush Line Station Area Planning Process

City Manager Hiniker reported that the Rush Line Project Team developed additional options for a downtown station location for consideration by the Council after significant public feedback in the fall. These options were presented at two pop-up meetings, one at the YMCA and one at the Library, and again at an Open House held at City Hall on January 10, 2019, which had over 130 attendees. The Rush Line Project Team also developed an online survey, which includes descriptions of the six downtown station location options; the survey will remain open through the end of January. Ms. Hiniker stated the process going forward will include a review of a detailed compilation of the on-line survey results, which will be presented at the February 12th City Council meeting. The City Council will then be asked to identify a preferred station location for the downtown area at its February 26th meeting. The preferred station location will be forwarded to the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for its consideration at its February 28th meeting. Once the location for all station platforms planned along the future BRT corridor have been approved by the PAC, the Rush Line Project Team will move forward with a comprehensive environmental assessment of each location.

Councilmember Jones pointed out that ridership numbers and funding have not been set forth on the project website (Rushline.org) and these are questions he hears, but is unable to answer. He asked for clarification as to what exactly the Council will be asked to vote on during the February 26th Council meeting.

Ms. Hiniker stated that Council will be asked to identify a station location for the downtown area. The Rushline Policy Advisory Committee will consider that selection for approval at its meeting on February 28th. While the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee has the authority to move forward with further study of a downtown site of its choice, the objective is that a majority of Council recommend a preferred site.

Councilmember Walsh shared that he thinks of Rush Line as an application or proposal that has no funding. He explained that the State set aside money to create this proposal in order to ask the federal government for funding. With this proposal, all the cities along this route are expected to provide resolutions and letters of support for the best chance of being considered for federal funding. Councilmember Walsh explained there is a state match component, which is now being supported as a County match through a tax implemented by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority.

Councilmember Walsh stated he does not like this process because cities are asked to “pick out the wallpaper” before even being asked if they want this project. He said since Council is asked to pick the best location now, he will do that, but he will continue to push for a broader conversation with public as to whether this is even needed or wanted in White Bear Lake. He also wanted a broader conversation about ridership, stating the current 265C Express bus hauls 196 people daily. This is not many people and if there is a route every 10 minutes, he wondered what that ridership look like.

Councilmember Biehn stated that the west side of the Twin Cities has gotten all of the federal funding for transit, while the east side has none of this infrastructure. He said we need this transit service, which he strongly supports. He understands that people

are afraid, but once it is established, the fear does dissipate. He reaffirmed strong unwavering support of mass transit.

B. Update on 2019 ClimateSmart Exchange

City Manager Hiniker stated that at the December meeting, Council authorized participation in the 2019 ClimateSmart Exchange, a program funded by the Federal Republic of Germany and administered through the University of Minnesota. She explained that White Bear Lake will be the sixth city to join the exchange among Duluth, Elk River, Morris, Rochester and Warren.

Ms. Hiniker stated she would be sending an email to remind Council that the German delegation from Ludenscheid will be here June 8 – 15th and a contingency from White Bear Lake will be going to Germany on Sept 20 – 28. Through this grant opportunity, all of the costs of this delegation, except airfare, are covered. The City of White Bear Lake will pay the airfare for Councilmembers who wish to attend.

Ms. Hiniker added that as part of this programs, a German university student will arrive in April to work as an intern for three months at the City. Space has been identified to house him in the Engineering Department while he works on environmental initiatives. The City will provide housing and a stipend of approximately \$2,500 - \$3,000.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Emerson read, "Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(c)(3), it is proposed for the City Council to move into a closed session to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property. The property that is subject to the closed session consists of the following parcel identification numbers: 273022140016, 273022140015, 273022140014, 273022140005. A motion and a second is required to go into closed session."


(It was noted after the meeting that the parcel identification numbers according to Ramsey County should have been 27.30.22.11.0039, 27.30.22.11.0036, 27.30.22.11.038, 27.30.22.11.0010).

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to move into closed session.


Motion carried unanimously.

14. 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 8:24 p.m.


Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kara Coustry, City Clerk