



AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on April 14, 2020

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Arbor Day Proclamation

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 an Agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for Building Permit Plan Review and Commercial Inspections Services

10. CONSENT

A. Resolution authorizing distribution of budgeted funds for the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

B. Resolution of Support for Ramsey County Parks' Regional Solicitation Application for funding to extend the Bruce Vento Trail

11. DISCUSSION

A. ClimateSmart Municipalities Action Plan – Level One Objectives

B. So Shore Boulevard – Lake Links Trail update

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

13. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Jo Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: Councilmembers Doug Biehn – Aye, Kevin Edberg - Aye, Steven Engstran - Aye, Dan Jones - Aye and Bill Walsh - Aye. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, Director Anne Kane, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, 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 March 24, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 24, 2020.

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nothing scheduled

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

A. Consent

Nothing scheduled

B. Non-Consent

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolutions approving partial refund of annual liquor license payments to on-sale bars and restaurants closed due to COVID-19 pandemic, and authorizing City staff to negotiate temporary monthly payment deferrals for businesses impacted by the pandemic who lease property from the City, or who have municipal economic development loans.

City Manager Hiniker presented Council with a resolution providing relief for bars and restaurants in the community which were shut down March 17 through May 4, 2020, to protect against the spread of Covid-19. The first resolution proposes to refund two months of liquor license fees to affected restaurants. She noted some seasonal businesses not being recommended a refund because they were not otherwise open.

Councilmember Biehn supported two months but foreshadowed additional refunds and inquired as to a base line liquor license fee for liquor licenses. He also expressed desire to provide the same relief to three seasonal businesses: Admiral D's, Tally's, and Manitou Golf Course.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12562** approving partial refund of annual liquor license payments to on-sale bars and restaurants closed due to COVID-19 pandemic, with the addition of three seasonal businesses.

Councilmember Walsh stated that work goes into licensing these establishments and asked if there was any hope for savings. Ms. Hiniker noted a recent savings in overtime for police who are no longer responding to calls through the week.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hiniker introduced the second resolution proposing to allow staff the ability to negotiation a deferral of payments for up to 90 days on municipal leases and loans. She noted the City has several leases in addition to seven business with revolving loans and two economic development loans. Ms. Hiniker asked for the ability to negotiation the same and similar with lease holders as well. She said she would bring forward the results of staff negotiations for Council's consideration.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn** to adopt **Resolution No. 12563** and authorizing City staff to negotiate temporary monthly payment deferrals for businesses impacted by the pandemic who lease property from the City, or who have municipal economic development loans.

Councilmember Walsh recalled the City's loan to Mizu for \$100,000 and added he did not want to sit in judgement of whether a loan would work or not, especially for a restaurant. He hoped things will rebound and supported the resolution of deferral as reasonable, but cautioned the Council against being in the banking business.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution approving 15% engineering plans for Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit corridor

Ms. Hiniker introduced Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt and Andy Gitzlaf on behalf of the Rush Line Project. The Rush Line Project Team has been developed 15% engineering plans for the Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit corridor. She said this will take the project into the next phase - the environmental assessment phase. She recalled draft 15% plans were presented to Council on October 15th and since then staff attended a meeting with downtown residents to review the 7th and Washington station. She reported this meeting was well attended with many questions regarding traffic related to the School District's plans.

Andy Gitzlaf provided an overview of the Rush Line Project, a 15-mile corridor from downtown St. Paul to downtown White Bear Lake with 21 stations planned and future connections in Hugo and Forest Lake. He stated this would be bus rapid transit (BRT) using electric busses with low sound and emissions. Mr. Gitzlaf mentioned a station design survey will be posted online in about one month to engage the community in what they think are the key elements of a bus station.

In order to move through the environmental assessment phase, Mr. Gitzlaf said, 15% engineering plans are required in order to conduct an analysis, which is where the Rush Line Project is today. He called out some refinements to the plan and reported that 15% plans were sent to cities as well as MNDOT and Metro Transit for comments. Mr. Gitzlaf asked for a resolution of support for the 15% plans. He noted additional opportunities to provide comments during the Environmental Assessment anticipated to begin in December 2020, and on the subsequent 30%, 60% and 90% design plans prior to construction in 2024.

Councilmember Walsh inquired about whether there will be an opportunity for a municipal consent vote on the project as a whole. Mr. Gitzlaf indicated that after Ramsey County finalizes its Environmental Review early next year is an opportunity.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12564** approving 15% engineering plans for Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

Walsh Nay
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Nay

Motion carried 3:2.

C. Resolution Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for the 2020 Street Reconstruction Project, City Project Nos. 20-01 & 20-06

City Engineer/Public Works Director Kauppi, provided a description of the 2020 Street Reconstruction Project is 1.2 miles of street in the Cottage Park area including Cottage Park Road, Circle Drive, Lakeview Avenue and Bellaire Avenue from County Road E to Orchard Lane. On April 2, 2020, he said, staff opened five bids, finding T.A. Schifsky and Sons the lowest bidder at \$1,490,523.14, which was 10% lower than originally estimated.

Mr. Kauppi reported that as in the past, bids were taken for private driveway work in which residents may choose to have contractors reconstruct their own driveways. He noted this would be paid by the homeowner upfront and would not be included in the assessment.

Mr. Kauppi mentioned the Cottage Park circle, which was in the plans to be removed in order to ease maintenance, however, many of the neighbors were fond of the feature and have asked that it be allowed to stay, noting its charm.

Councilmember Walsh reported attending a meeting of united and concerned neighbors at the circle last night with 21 people in attendance. Seeing the level of support for keeping the circle, he advocated for it to be returned.

In response to Councilmember Edberg, Mr. Kauppi explained that homeowners taking advantage of private driveway work would pay the City who would then pay the contractor. Councilmember Edberg asked who is responsible for standards, warranties and customer satisfaction. Mr. Kauppi stated the inspection and a one year warranty would be through the City as provided in the overall contract. Mr. Kauppi noted that language has been added to the driveway contracts which better defines the ways and means.

Councilmember Jones supported the circle. He also asked Mr. Kauppi to continue to provide those quality inspections and follow up on warranty improvements.

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg**, seconded by Councilmember **Walsh** to adopt **Resolution No. 12565** accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2020 Street Reconstruction Project, City Project Nos. 20-01 & 20-06.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for the 2020 Mill & Overlay Project, City Project No. 20-13

City Engineer/Public Works Director Kauppi, stated 3.3 miles of street are proposed for mill and overlay this year. He reported that alternate bids were taken for the parking lots at Rotary Park, Podvin Park and Weyerhauser Park. Mr. Kauppi stated, six bids were received on March 26, with the lowest bid coming from North Valley at \$1,395,475.17, also about 10% below initial estimates.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn** to adopt **Resolution No. 12566** accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2020 Mill & Overlay Project, City Project No. 20-13.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution to approve the sale of General Obligation Bonds for 2020 Street Improvement Projects

Finance Director Kindsvater reported the IRS has special regulations regarding the proceeds of tax exempt bonds and how proceeds are used to pay for improvement projects and for expenditures that happen before the bond sale process begins (May). She explained this resolution would allow the City to pay for these improvements from sources other than bonds until the bonds come due and can repay those sources.

Ms. Kindsvater forwarded staff's recommendation to set the bond sale maximum at \$3.5 million, which would provide the flexibility to finance reconstruction of the downtown parking lot. Ms. Kindsvater noted this was a placeholder at this time and the Council can decide to sell less bonds.

City Manager Hiniker added that a portion of these bonds would be paid for through assessments.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adopt **Resolution No. 12567** approving the sale of General Obligation Bonds for 2020 Street Improvement Projects.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution order expenditure from the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPP) Fund for Engineering design and construction of the 4th and Otter Birch Lake iron enhanced sand filter project.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Kauppi reported this started in 2017, when the Vadnais Lakes Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO) asked the City to participate in a study of methods to reduce phosphorus and other contaminants from entering Birch Lake. He said the study identified iron enhanced sand filters as a feasible project at the 4th and Otter Lake stormwater outfall.

Mr. Kauppi explained that VLAWMO received a \$97,000 grant from Bowser toward this project, which requires a 25% match from partners including Ramsey County, VLAWMO and the City of White Bear Lake. He noted the Council had approved \$20,000 toward this project. This spring he reported, VLAWMO received a bid for this work at \$161,647,000 and Mr. Kauppi forwarded staff's recommendation to pay \$20,000 as the City's portion of project costs.

Councilmember Jones said the cost of this project is high, but Birch Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the state, and this is the cost to continue keeping it clean. He said this iron sand filter is

projected to remove 35,000/lbs per year compared to Goose Lake looking at an expense of \$200,000 in alum treatments to remove 400 - 800/lbs per year over a 10-15 year period.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adopt **Resolution No. 12568** ordering expenditure from the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPP) Fund for Engineering design and construction of the 4th and Otter Birch Lake iron enhanced sand filter project.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution denying a massage therapist business license and therapist license

City Manager Hiniker reported the applicant was looking to sublease a portion of Vita Day Spa to provide massage services. She noted the application and background check were included in the packet. Ms. Hiniker relayed that the applicant failed to disclose a business license, therefore staff recommended the license for denial. She said the applicant appealed staff's decision for denial and provided her written appeal to the City Council.

Mayor Emerson said the City has been consistent in denying massage licenses for failing to disclose employment history.

Councilmember Jones reviewed the application and found it to clearly ask for five years of licenses and he did not understand why the applicant would leave off a two year employment history. He said it is a clear omission and Council must remain black and white on these cases.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adopt **Resolution No. 12569** denying a massage therapist business license and therapist license.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

A. Resolution Ordering Project, Approving Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project, City Project No. 20-07. **Resolution No. 12570**

- B. Resolution Ordering Project, Approving Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the 2020 Crack Seal Project, City Project No. 20-03. **Resolution No. 12571**
- C. Resolution Ordering Project, Approving Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the 2020 Miscellaneous Concrete Project, City Project No. 20-05, **Resolution No. 12572**
- D. Resolution Ordering Project, Approving Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the 2020 Bituminous Seal Coating Project, City Project No. 20-02. **Resolution No. 12573**

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

A. Wireless infrastructure permits

City Manager Hiniker noted recent letters from community members requesting the City pass a moratorium on issuing small cell and other wireless infrastructure permits during COVID-19. She said since the permit process was established, the City has had only three total applications for which one was approved and the other two are in review. She said there have been no applications received since COVID-19 and would not recommend a moratorium on these permits as this was vetted out quite thoroughly in the legislative process.

Councilmember Edberg wanted to receive background and documentation on concerns over possible health impacts of small cell technology. City Manager Hiniker agreed to forward information related to the impacts on health.

Councilmember Jones directed staff to refer these types of inquiries to the federal authorities as the City does not have jurisdiction over this issue, the FCC regulates this.

B. Conducting Public Hearings using through WebEx platform

City Manager Hiniker stated that there will be an ordinance at the next Council meeting as well as a Planning Commission meeting, both which will have public hearings. She described the process of staff pre-registering those wishing to speak, or encouraging written public comments. Community Development Director Kane relayed that proper notice was placed in the newspaper and staff has practiced with the applicants.

Councilmember Edberg suggested postponing public hearings until the stay at home order is lifted, stating the platform for robust public comment is inadequate.

Councilmember Jones agreed that to the extent possible, items requiring public comment should be postponed. He also suggested the Mayor could consider moving public speakers to the head of the meeting so they do not wait for long.

C. Downtown Parking Lot – Banning & 3rd

City Manager Hiniker stated the parking lot at Banning & 3rd was being considered for 2021, however, given the current situation, would the City want to consider undertaking this project in 2020 to minimize disruption to downtown parking. She noted that both Marketfest and Manitou Days are still being planned at this time.

City Engineer Kauppi explained the parking lot at Banning and 3rd has no opportunity to increase parking stalls and could easily be added to projects this year. He noted the downside being the economy and the need to assess the cost of the parking lot. If the project goes forward, Mr. Kauppi recapped the need to follow the state's 429 process including a feasibility study, public hearings and benefit appraisal.

Ms. Hiniker stated that estimates for this project are \$400,000 - 500,000 but staff would first need to explore this with downtown businesses and property owners.

Councilmember Biehn inquired as to electric vehicle infrastructure. Ms. Hiniker stated that would be part of the conversation should this project progress to the design stage.

There being no objections, City Manager Hiniker said she would advance the conversation with the downtown group and report back to Council.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Finance has been tracking all COVID-19 related expenses, including personnel for the ability to report back to Council and for future potential reimbursement under the state of emergency. Ms. Hiniker noted enterprise funds for the License Bureau and the Sports Center are down significantly while noting savings in gas, overtime and vacant positions. Each department has been reviewing their budgets for opportunities to save or postpone expenses.
- Melissa Joyce from the Sports Center is getting ready to launch Volgistics, a volunteer management software to house a database of community volunteers and opportunities. Each community entity would be set up as a department and manage their own volunteer projects.
- Tracy Shimek, the Housing and Economic Development Coordinator has been looking into platforms to better engage the business community. Staff remain engaged with the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee. A survey is also being generated for downtown businesses.
- Continued weekly meetings with the service organizations in the community including, the Community Foundation, Food Shelf, Solid Ground, YMCA and Newtrax. Newtrax has been on the forefront, offering driver services for various efforts.

- Community Foundation launched a community development fund of \$10,000 in grant money for local nonprofits addressing food, shelter and mental health.
 - Food Shelf is offering drive thru pickup, which has gone from 350 up to 500 pickups weekly. They ask for cash donations to purchase food. Staff continues to pack kids packs for the elementary schools.
 - YMCA continues to provide hot meals to families and daycare services for essential workers. They are also assisting people who cannot speak English and need help navigating assistance programs.
- The Police Department has seen an increase in domestic and mental health calls for service. The Fire Department has seen a slight increase in accidental home fires. The City has the PPE supplies that it needs right now.
- The License Bureau is open with limited services as allowed by the DMV. Staff have been fielding calls, processing dealer title work and dropbox transactions, which is located in front of City Hall. Offices are being retro-fitted with glass barriers to protect employees in confined quarters and in preparation for reopening to the public, scheduling software is being contemplated.
- Work Session next Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Capital Improvement Program and long range financial planning.
- Updates from Public Works Director/City Engineer, Kauppi
 - Landscaping activities have resumed.
 - Monday is the annual Water Treatment Plant shut-down, followed by hydrant flushing.
 - Dock damage was not as bad as first thought and longer spud poles will be placed further out to mitigate future damage.
- Updates from Community Development Director Kane
 - Staff hosted a trial run Webex in preparation for the April 27, Planning Commission meeting with applicants and commission members.
 - Building permit activity continues to be high.
 - Building department has a full route every day. The new building inspector, Derek has been shadowing Ben.
 - Marco has been busy responding to an increase in code enforcement complaints.
 - Pioneer Manor window replacement project is going well, likely completed before the May 1st deadline.
 - Staff continues to outreach to the business community in an effort to remain a vital commercial node in the Twin Cities.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Walsh Aye
 Biehn Aye
 Jones Aye

Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation

Arbor Day Summer of 2020

WHEREAS, the City of White Bear Lake has historically been committed to maintaining the urban forest in City parks and throughout the City by adding to and replacing its valuable tree stock; and

WHEREAS, the City annually confirms its commitment to the urban forest by promoting public awareness of forestry issues through tree planting projects, tree pruning and maintenance seminars, invasive species control projects and other educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes Arbor Day as an annual occasion during which the community pauses to recognize the importance of trees and their impact on our environment and daily lives and encourages public awareness of urban forestry issues; and

WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community and park system; and

WHEREAS, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to extend their support for, and recognition of, the importance of trees within our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jo Emerson, Mayor of the City of White Bear Lake, do hereby proclaim Arbor Day in 2020 not as a single day event but encourage individual celebrations throughout the summer in White Bear Lake and with fellow members of the City Council, the Park Board and City staff do hereby call upon all White Bear Lake residents to participate in their own individual Arbor Day observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of White Bear Lake to be affixed this 28th day of April 2020.

Jo Emerson, Mayor



City of White Bear Lake
Community Development Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Ellen Hiniker, City Manager

From: Anne Kane, Community Development Director

Date: April 23, 2020 for the April 28, 2020 City Council Meeting

Subject: **Agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for Building Permit Plan Review and Commercial Inspections Services**

BACKGROUND

The City of Vadnais Heights has requested temporary assistance from the City's Building Department as they have been unable to fill the vacancy of their Building Official position.

SUMMARY

After consulting with our Building Official and Building Inspectors, staff concluded that we have the capacity to provide assistance on a limited basis. Due to high level of construction activity in the City and in Mahtomedi, staff suggested that White Bear Lake provide plan review and commercial inspections service. White Bear Township will provide residential inspections during this timeframe. If approved, the City will provide a couple of half-day routes weekly to provide inspection services on an hourly basis. Vadnais Heights' Council and staff are both very appreciative of the contemplated arrangement.

Vadnais Heights continues to advertise and conduct interviews for the vacant Building Official position, but does not anticipate having the position filled by May 1st (their current contract expires April 30th). The initial term for the Agreement is two months, with the ability to mutually extend. With the current change in the employment arena, it is likely that Vadnais Heights will have improved results in candidates seeking to fill the current vacancy. The draft Agreement also has a 14 day termination clause in the event that we find we are unable to fulfill our obligations to provide such services to our own residents, businesses, and contractor, as well as continue to serve the City of Mahtomedi under the Contract in place.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Please forward the attached resolution to the City Council for consideration at its April 28, 2020 meeting, which, if approved authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Building Inspection and Plan Review Services

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS FR BUILDING PERMIT PLAN REVIEW AND COMMERCIAL INSPECTION SERVICES

WHEREAS, The City of Vadnais Heights has requested temporary assistance from the White Bear Lake Building Department as they have been unable to fill a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, City Building staff have agreed to provide plan review and commercial inspection services; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the City will provide a couple of half-day routes weekly to provide inspection services on an hourly basis; and

WHEREAS, the initial term of the agreement is for two months with an option of mutual extension by both parties, with a 14-day termination clause in the event White Bear Lake is unable to fulfill its internal obligations to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of White Bear Lake that the Mayor and City Manager are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for Building Inspection and Plan Review Services.

The foregoing resolution, offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____, was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Passed:

Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Coustry, City Clerk



City of White Bear Lake
City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Ellen Hiniker, City Manager
Date: April 21, 2020
Subject: **White Bear Lake Area Historical Society Funding Request**

BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the City of White Bear Lake has allocated funding to the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society (WBLAHS) to help support its on-going research and programming efforts.

SUMMARY

Attached is a letter from the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society (WBLAHS) requesting payment of \$14,773 as allocated in the City's 2020 adopted budget. The funding is drawn from the City's Economic Development Fund.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution approving the funding request from the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
Letter from WBLAHS

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT TO THE
WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society is a valued community resource; and

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society provides a variety of services to the broader community, including the collection and indexing of historical data that is made available to all residents; and

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society promotes the preservation of our community's heritage through sponsorship of multiple educational events, celebrations and remembrances throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society is requesting funds from participating communities to support its ongoing outreach initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City's per capita share of the total request is \$14,773 and was appropriated in its 2020 municipal budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of White Bear Lake that a payment of \$14,773 is hereby approved for the fiscal year 2019.

The foregoing resolution offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____, was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes:
Nays:
Passed:

Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Coustry, City Clerk

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 17, 2020

Mayor Jo Emerson and City Council Members
City of White Bear Lake
4701 Highway 61
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Dear Mayor Emerson and Council Members,

In the fall of 2019, the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society (WBLAHS) entered its 50th year of collecting, preserving and sharing the stories of our community. The WBLAHS is honored to represent the community of White Bear Lake and fortunate to have a collective history that is unparalleled by any community of our size. Thank you for your support of this important work. It is greatly appreciated.

During the past year the WBLAHS has accomplished much to gather, preserve and share the stories of our community.

Highlights include:

- Researching and developing new presentations regarding the centennial anniversaries of the original White Bear High School building, Prohibition and Suffrage;
- Upgrading our collections software to better inventory, catalog and access the archives and artifacts;
- Researching and developing the stories for interpretive markers, exhibit panels and presentations for the White Bear Town Hall that incorporate the history of Historic White Bear Township and the communities that were born from it including White Bear Lake through its incorporation and precedent setting annexations in the 1950s and 1960s;
- Developing local history curriculum to expand offerings available to educators in our area to make personal and local connections between students and our community.

During all of this the WBLAHS remains committed to connecting our community to its past and cultivating an understanding of and appreciation for our history. We do so through the ongoing preservation efforts to properly house and store the records, stories, images and objects of the organizations, businesses and families of our area and share those stories through our many resources and outreach programs.

At this time we respectfully request the distribution of the \$14,773 approved by the City Council in December of 2019 for allocation in 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara M. Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sara Markoe Hanson
Executive Director

651-407-5327 | office@whitebearhistory.org | whitebearhistory.org | facebook.com/whitebearhistory

Armory Office & Resource Library: 2228 Fourth St. | Fillebrown House: 4735 Lake Avenue
White Bear Town Hall: 1280 Hammond Road | Mailing Address: PO Box 10543, White Bear Lake, MN 55110



City of White Bear Lake
Community Development Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Ellen Hiniker, City Manager

From: Anne Kane, Community Development Director

Date: April 23, 2020 for the April 28, 2020 City Council Meeting

Subject: **Letter of Support for Bruce Vento Regional Trail Funding Application**

BACKGROUND

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation has requested the City provide a letter of support for its 2020 Regional Solicitation Application to extend the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from its current terminus at Buerkle Road.

SUMMARY

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan was originally adopted by Ramsey County in 1993 which identified a 13 mile multi use trail corridor that extends through the City of White Bear Lake. Although the southern seven (7) mile stretch was constructed in 2005 on the former BNSF railway corridor which was acquired by the Ramsey County Rail Authority, the 6 mile segment north of Buerkle Road, which will fill a critical gap in White Bear Lake, remains undeveloped.

A preliminary design study completed in 2016 identified a preferred alignment that uses both the BNSF railway and County right-of-way to extend segment between Buerkle Road and Highway 96. A similar Regional Solicitation Application was submitted in 2018, but unfortunately was not selected for funding. It is staff's understanding that the application missed out by just a couple of scoring points. Therefore, we are hopeful that the County's 2020 Application will once again score favorably and will secure the funding needed to construct this critical segment.

In conjunction with the Rush Line BRT planning process, the scope of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail has been expanded to provide improved pedestrian connections to future station locations. Also, the specific alignment north of White Bear Avenue to Highway 96 remains undetermined. Therefore, the 2020 Regional Solicitation funding application is for the segment between Buerkle Road to White Bear Avenue/Hoffman Road intersection with Highway 61. Staff believes this proposed trail improvement project will be of tremendous benefit to the community and will help create a connected and safe regional recreation and transportation system that serves all modes of transport.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Please forward the attached resolution to the City Council for consideration at its April 28, 2020 meeting, which, if approved authorizes City Manager to submit a Letter of Support for Ramsey County's 2020 Regional Solicitation funding application for the extension of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution Authorizing Letter of Support
Letter of Support

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RAMSEY COUNTY'S 2020 REGIONAL SOLICITATION FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE BRUCE VENTO REGIONAL TRAIL EXTENSION

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has requested a letter of support from the City for its 2020 Regional Solicitation Application to extend the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from its current terminus at Buerkle Road; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County had submitted its preliminary design study in 2018, but was not selected for funding and is therefore hopeful the 2020 application will be funded; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail improvement project will be of tremendous benefit to the community and will help create a connected and safe regional recreation and transportation system that serves all modes of transit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of White Bear Lake hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit a letter of support to Ramsey County for its 2020 Regional Solicitation Application to extend the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from its current terminus at Buerkle Road.

The foregoing resolution, offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____, was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes:

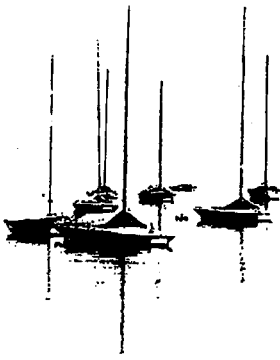
Nays:

Passed:

Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Coustry, City Clerk



City of White Bear Lake

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April 15, 2020

Scott Yonke, Director of Planning and Development
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109

RE: 2020 Regional Solicitation – Multiuse Trail and Bicycle Facilities
Bruce Vento Regional Trail – Buerkle Road to intersection of Hoffmann/Highway 61

Dear Mr. Yonke:

This letter is to share our support for Ramsey County Parks and Recreation's plan to extend the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from Buerkle Road to the intersection of Hoffmann Road/ US Highway 61 in the City of White Bear Lake.

The 13-mile planned regional trail corridor extends from the east side of downtown St. Paul to the north County line in White Bear Township spanning through the cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township. The Ramsey County portion of the regional trail between Larpentuer Avenue to County Road J has approximately 6 miles of undeveloped trail north of Buerkle Road. This undeveloped section is a critical trail gap for the northern communities of Ramsey County.

This project is the first of two steps to eliminate half of the six-mile trail gap in the regional and national trail system. This project will set the stage for future connections north of Highway 96 to County Road J, provide connections to the Highway 96 Regional Trail, Lakes Line Regional Trail, South Shore Trail, and will provide a future connection to the Hardwood Creek Trail at County Road J. This project will also complete a major gap in the National US Bike Route 41 (USBR 41) for connections north of Ramsey County to the Canadian border, since the Bruce Vento Regional Trail is the designated USBR 41 route through Ramsey County. Another important aspect for this project is providing critical pedestrian connections and removing significant barriers to the proposed Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) between Buerkle Road and Highway 96. The Bruce Vento Trail will provide pedestrian access to these station stops

The trail improvement project is extremely important to the County and Regional system and helps create a connected bicycle and pedestrian transportation system throughout Ramsey County.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hiniker
City Manager



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Ellen Hiniker, City Manager

From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist /Water Resources Engineer

Date: April 7, 2020

Subject: **Climate-Smart Municipalities Action Plan - Level One Objectives**

BACKGROUND

White Bear Lake is one of six Minnesota cities participating in the Climate-Smart Municipalities program, coordinated through the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment. Each city is assigned to a corresponding city in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany to exchange ideas and partner on local actions in support of a global energy transition.

In the spring of 2019, the Mayor formed a steering committee to develop goals and strategies that will provide a roadmap for energy transition at the local level. The steering committee serves as the citizen-led decision-making body and is made up of representatives from White Bear Lake's business, education and non-profit sectors, and the City's Park and Environmental Advisory Commissions.

Beginning last fall through February, the steering committee developed a Level One Action Plan of high-level objectives that are based on an overall goal of developing a community-wide vision toward reducing energy consumption and increasing reliance on efficient and sustainable renewable energy sources.

SUMMARY

The level one (high level) objectives in the attached action plan describe how the City proposes to accomplish the shared goal of reducing energy consumption and increasing reliance on efficient and sustainable renewable energy sources. The objectives are organized into five major categories:

1. Efficient energy use
2. Efficient energy production
3. Efficient transportation
4. Waste reduction
5. Natural resources

Within each of the five categories, there are objectives for City operations, private sector activity, and partnerships. Over the next several months, the steering committee plans to identify and prioritize detailed action items for each of the level one objectives.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Staff will provide a brief overview of the level one objectives in the attached draft action plan. Staff requests that the Council review the action plan, provide comments, and support the steering committee moving forward with identifying detailed action items for each level one objective.

ATTACHMENTS

Climate-Smart Municipalities Action Plan – Level One Objectives

Climate-Smart Municipalities Action Plan Level One Objectives

White Bear Lake is one of six Minnesota cities participating in the Climate-Smart Municipalities program, coordinated through the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment. Each city is assigned to a corresponding city in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany to exchange ideas and partner on local actions in support of the global energy transition. The objectives outlined in Level One of an Action Plan were identified by the Climate-Smart Municipalities (CSM) Steering Committee made up of representatives from White Bear Lake's business, education and non-profit sectors. Over the next several months, specific action items will be identified and prioritized for each of the objectives listed.

	Efficient Energy Use	Efficient Energy Production	Efficient Transportation	Waste Reduction	Natural Resources
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	<i>Develop a community-wide vision toward reduction of energy consumption and increased reliance on efficient and sustainable renewable energy sources.</i>				
Objectives that affect City operations	Track and benchmark the energy use of all City owned buildings and facilities	Explore opportunities for the application of renewable energy for City facilities.	Explore opportunities to reduce fleet vehicle emissions.	Reduce waste and increase recycling within all City facilities and operations.	Continue to plant trees and conserve green space within city limits to promote natural carbon sequestration.
	Maximize the energy efficiency of City owned buildings and facilities	Explore solar gardens and other renewable energy programs offered through Xcel.	Expand infrastructure for electric vehicles at public facilities for city fleets and employees.	Strive for zero waste at City and public events.	Create a restoration and management plan for City-owned natural areas.
	Communicate and market project progress, results, and success as part of regular City communications				
Objectives that encourage private sector activity	Develop an outreach strategy to actively engage residents, businesses, and institutions in the implementation of energy conservation and renewable energy measures		Enable reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) from single-occupancy vehicles while improving accessibility, increasing transportation choices and promoting equitable opportunity and growth.	Increase recycling opportunities throughout the city, including recycling receptacles in public and park spaces, and public events.	Promote and strengthen green infrastructure and natural systems that can build resilience, sequester or reduce emissions, and improve neighborhoods.
	Explore funding mechanisms for residents and businesses to adopt energy conservation and renewable energy practices		Encourage alternative low-carbon fuels and fuel-efficient vehicles.	Expand outreach and education efforts on waste reduction opportunities and recycling and organics programs.	Encourage businesses and their employees to volunteer in the community (i.e.: adopt a park, plant trees, clean up beach, etc.).
	Promote energy conservation and renewable energy as part of the City's permit and review program		Expand private sector infrastructure for electric vehicles.		
	Explore progressive building energy codes.				
Objectives that promote alliances and partnerships	Continue City involvement in the Climate-Smart Municipalities program				
	Explore opportunities available through Federal, Regional and State agencies				
	Ensure that youth and underrepresented populations are part of the coordinated effort				
	Support the adoption and implementation of emissions reduction plans by other government entities and institutions and collaborate on implementation				
	Work with business and economic development associations to recruit and retain green businesses and jobs				
		Expand other forms of locally generated renewable energy	Work with the school district and surrounding communities to promote carpooling, bicycling, and walking.	Expand other forms of locally generated renewable energy	Work with the County to establish a boulevard tree planting program.
		Advocate for utility scale renewable energy power generation from Xcel.			