

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hovland called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. then shared the procedure for public hearing and community comment.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering rollcall were Members Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland.

Absent: None.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Member Jackson made a motion, seconded by Member Agnew, to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Ralph Zickert, 4311 Cornelius Circle, shared comments regarding the City's lack of accomplishments in 2023 that included a failed new fire station construction proposed for Rosland Park, lack of a clear clean water strategy, budget levy and utility rate increases, and poor liquor store performance. He commented on the need for better leadership and how the City needs to be held accountable.

Jim Grotz, 5513 Park Place, shared concerns about the City's lodging tax and how restricted funds for lodging tax were directed to Edinburgh Park and were instead coming from the general fund.

David Frenkel, 4510 Lakeview Drive, referred to a letter from the US Department of Justice regarding their investigation of ADA violations act in reference to the bridge near the Public Works site and requested feedback from the City on data not yet disclosed to the public.

Floyd Grabiell, 7510 Cahill Road, #312B, thanked the Council for their service then noted he had served as Planning Commissioner in the past. He shared concerns about Winwood condominium of 206 units and the current crisis in the insurance market. He said they had been unable to renew their insurance coverage and now have a policy that increased from \$147,000 to \$650,000 which was not affordable. He noted that how Minnesota had been a catastrophic state due to hail and windstorm damage, especially for older buildings. He asked the Council to share these facts with anyone they could to help address these concerning costs.

VI.A. CITY MANAGER'S RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY COMMENTS

City Manager Neal responded to Community Comments from current and past meetings.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Member Jackson made a motion, seconded by Member Agnew, approving the consent agenda as amended removing Items VI.A., Minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of February 20, 2024, and VI.I., Traffic Safety Report of January 30, 2024, as follows:

~~VI.A. Minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of February 20, 2024~~

- VI.B. Approve Claims for Payment for Check Register Pre-List Dated February 16, 2024, totaling \$1,269,102.78 and Check Register Claims Pre-List Dated February 23, 2024, totaling \$767,310.58**
- VI.C. Approve First Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with Nine Mile Creek Watershed for Rosland Park Clean Water Project**
- VI.D. Request for Purchase; Contract ENG 24-1 NB-5 Mill Pond Mechanical Harvesting of Aquatic Vegetation Management, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Premier Lake Harvesting for 2024 and 2025, \$68,600**
- VI.E. Request for Purchase; Contract ENG 24-1 NB-1 Non-Assessed Aquatic Vegetation Management, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Lake Management, Inc., for 2024-2025, \$83,744**
- VI.F. Request for Purchase; ENG 24-4 Bredesen Park Restoration Construction Oversight, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, RES, \$44,309**
- VI.G. Request for Purchase; City Hall Election Storage Professional Services, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, \$76,000**
- VI.H. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-23; Support for GreenCorps Host Site Application**
- ~~**VI.I. Traffic Safety Report of January 30, 2024**~~
- VI.J. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-22; Accepting Metropolitan Council Local Housing Incentives Account Grant and Authorizing Execution of Grant Agreement**
- VI.K. Request for Purchase; 2024 Ford F350, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Boyer Ford, \$90,860**
- VI.L. Request for Purchase; 2024 Chevy Suburban, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, TRES, \$72,984**
- VI.M. Request for Purchase; Manhole Liner Contract, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Underground Utility Specialties to seal 1097 manholes, \$70,000**
- VI.N. Request for Purchase; ProjectDox ePlan SaaS Renewal, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Avolve Software, \$35,352**
- VI.O. Approval of 2024-2025 Union Contract for IUOE Local 49 Public Service Workers**
- VI.P. Request for Purchase; Engagement Website Software Renewal, awarding the bid to the recommended low bidder, Granicus for BetterTogetherEdina.org for \$25,843**
- VI.Q. Approve 2024 Liquor License Renewals**

Rollcall:

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

VII.A. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024 – APPROVED

The Council referred to the lack of inclusion of Council comments in minutes, especially regarding the last sketch plan review and worksession direction. The Council suggested the information should be included to provide reasons in the event they needed to defend a challenge and that minutes were not complete nor provided a balanced narrative.

Communications Director Bennerotte and Clerk Allison commented on the historical context and decision of past Councils to create shorter meeting minutes and rely on the video for better context.

Attorney Kendall stated the minutes met the statutory requirements but if Council wanted to see more text, that could be directed but currently this was the policy decision.

Manager Neal noted the video record could be accessed by the public for better context but that if directed by a majority of the Council, the minutes format could be changed. He noted meeting room space could be provided to any member of the public wishing to review meeting footage.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

Member Risser made a motion, seconded by Member Agnew, to approve minutes of the regular meeting and workshop of February 20, 2024, as presented.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland
Motion carried.

VI.I. TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT OF JANUARY 30, 2024 – ACCEPTED

The Council asked about requests for sidewalks where staff recommended that crosswalks warrants were not met.

Director of Engineering Millner explained reasons for warrants that included substantial conflicts, presence of regional trails, school crossings, volume of pedestrians, traffic volume, and speed of motorists. He noted crosswalks range from \$2,000-\$3,000 and did not include maintenance costs and the need to balance that with crosswalks that continue to be effective.

Member Agnew made a motion, seconded by Member Jackson, to accept the traffic safety report of January 30, 2024, as presented.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland
Motion carried.

Introduction of Finance Director Pa Thao

Mr. Neal introduced the City's new Finance Director Thao who shared her background and said she was pleased to serve in this new role.

VII. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

VII.A. 2023 TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMARY REPORT – RECEIVED

Traffic Safety Coordinator Bauler presented the annual Traffic Safety Summary Report for 2023. He outlined the five categories of focus that included parking and signage, intersection control, traffic calming, pedestrian safety, and others. He reviewed the 183 requests submitted and how the Commission reviewed 167 which included 51 submitted from prior years. He reviewed actions taken place in response to requests in areas that included Market Street, Valley View Road, and the Wooddale Avenue shared use path, then reviewed requests by areas in the City and request trends.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS Affidavits of Notice presented and ordered placed on file.

VIII.A. PUBLIC HEARING: NEW ONSALE INTOXICATING AND SUNDAY SALE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR 4917 EDEN, LLC, DBA STARLING – APPROVED

Clerk Allison reported that 917 Eden, LLC, dba Starling, would be opening in Maison Green at 4917 Eden Avenue across from City Hall. The applicant had applied for On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Sale liquor licenses. Staff reviewed the application and found it to be compliant with code requirements. A background investigation was completed by the Police Department and staff recommended approval of the liquor licenses and request approval immediately, an exception to the two-meeting public hearing process.

Mayor Hovland opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Public Testimony

No one appeared.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

Member Jackson made a motion, seconded by Member Pierce, to close the public hearing.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

Member Jackson made a motion, seconded by Member Pierce, to approve the approve new On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Sale liquor licenses for 4917 Eden, LLC, dba Starling. as presented.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

Brent Frederick, applicant, shared about the Starling restaurant and thanked staff for their work so they can be ready to train in April with a soft opening shortly after. He outlined the themed eatery that included culinary focused, globally inspired flavors. He also commented on the new developer being searched for on the proposed apartment project.

VIII.B. PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21; AMENDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO AUTHORIZE INCREASED BONDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY CENTER (FIRE STATION 2) – CONTINUED TO MARCH 19, 2024

Ms. Thao stated in June 2022, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-56 to authorize financing for up to \$39,000,000 of general obligation bonds for the land acquisition, design, and construction of the fire station project. The original plan authorized a not to exceed \$39,000,000 bonding amount. The City completed site acquisition in 2022, anticipating the design and construction contracts to be awarded in 2023 and 2024. Preliminary design indicated the need to increase the project budget due to cost escalations and refined scope. Final bid results were received in December 2023 and the Council subsequently approved increasing the project budget by \$8,300,000 to \$47,300,000. The plan was amended to authorize an additional bonding amount, not to exceed \$8,300,000, subject to City Council approval for the project. She said following the close of the public hearing on March 10, staff recommended City Council to adopt Resolution No. 2024-21.

Nick Anhut, Ehlers and Associates, explained the process for general obligation bonds and bonding authorization which was subject to 30-day reverse referendum through a valid petition process. He said the proposed action authorized up to \$39 million for the site at 4401 76th Street West. He then reviewed bonds and timing for construction next year. He outlined the 2023 additional costs of \$47.3 million which were approved in February 2024 then explained the levy for the \$2.8 million represented a 5.15% overall levy increase from 2024 to pay for the bonds. He outlined the City's current credit rating and potential implications and said after review, while there would be an increased debt load, there would be no impact to the City's overall credit rating if issued and no concerns or material change to the City's credit rating.

Mayor Hovland opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.

Public Testimony

No one appeared.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

Member Pierce made a motion, seconded by Member Jackson, to close the public hearing on March 10, 2024, and continue action on Resolution No. 2024-21 amending the Capital Improvement Plan to authorize bonding increase for the Community Health & Safety Center (Fire Station2) to the March 19, 2024, City Council meeting.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

IX. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

IX.A. PROPOSED 2024-2026 EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CITY MANAGER – APPROVED

Mr. Neal shared the City Council conducted his 2023 performance review January 16, 2024, and as a result of the review, he had requested that Mayor Hovland and Council Member Pierce meet to discuss requests

for a new employment agreement. As a result of the meetings, the proposed 2024-2026 employment agreement was being presented for consideration.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

Member Agnew made a motion, seconded by Member Jackson to approve the proposed 2024-2026 employment agreement with the City Manager as presented.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

X. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE (MINUTES AND ADVISORY COMMUNICATION) –
Received

X.A. MINUTES: ARTS AND CULTURE, DECEMBER 14, 2023

X.B. MINUTES: ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION, JANUARY 11, 2024

X.C. MINUTES: TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, JANUARY 18, 2024

XI. MANAGER’S COMMENTS – Received

XII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS – Received

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Member Jackson made a motion, seconded by Member Agnew, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Allison, City Clerk

Minutes approved by Edina City Council, March 19, 2024.

James B. Hovland, Mayor

Video Copy of the March 6, 2024, meeting available.