

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MAY 2, 2023**

The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Mike Krachmer and Council Members Steve Rogers, Erik Goebel, Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne.

The following Council members were absent: None.

Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Kaylin Clement, Assistant City Administrator; Jesse Farrell, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Bob Sundberg, Finance Director; Phillip Lundquist, Deputy Clerk; and Caroline Beckman, City Attorney.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Council Member Jozwowski and seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne it was #23-05-067 “RESOLVED that the May 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Council Member Goebel and seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne it was #23-05-068 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the April 18 Closed Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Council Member Goebel and seconded by Council Member Jozwowski it was #23-05-069 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the April 18, 2023 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by Council Member Jozwowski and seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne it was

45 #23-05-070 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the April 18, 2023 Regular Council
 46 Meeting minutes as presented.”
 47 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

48 The resolution was adopted.

49

50 **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

51 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Goebel, it was

52 #23-05-071 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7E
 53 for the May 2, 2023 meeting as amended as follows:

54 A. Consider Approving Claims #83499 Through #83549 and Electronic Claims
 55 #1875 Through #1878 for Payment

56 1. US Bank payment in the amount of \$3,717.49

57 B. Consider Approving Loan Servicing Agreement with the Center for Energy and
 58 Environment

59 C. Public Works Equipment Front-end Loader Purchase

60 D. Public Works Equipment Asphalt Hot-box Purchase

61 E. Accept 2022 Bowhunting Results

62

63 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

64 The resolution was adopted.

65

66 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

67 Mayor Krachmer opened the meeting to the public at 7:06 p.m. and the following spoke:

68

69 Resident Justin Charpenter, 785 North Oak Drive, described the emu and goats he has and asked the
 70 council for an extension to removing his animals so he could pursue options to keeping them on his
 71 property.

72

73 Mayor Krachmer closed the meeting to the public at 7:15 p.m.

74

75 **PRESENTATIONS**

76 Many Faces OF White Bear Lake – a collaboration of organizations presented to the council their
 77 mission, vision, past, current, and future programs, and description of how the group operates.

78 Invitation to join the Wacipi event May 6 from 11am to 5:30pm. Council Member Rogers asked what is
 79 required of membership – Many Faces of White Bear Lake has a welcome committee that can present
 80 materials. Dues are \$100, and a representative to be an active member on the Many Faces of White
 81 Bear Lake board.

82

83 Proclamations:

84 Building Safety Month presented by City Planner/Community Development Director Wall. Made note
 85 of the significance of the work of the city’s building inspector.

86

87 National Public Works Week presented by City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell. Mayor
 88 Krachmer thanked the Public Works team for their work and efforts.

89 National EMS Week presented by Administrator Watson.

90

91 **OLD BUSINESS**

92 11A – Consideration for Hodgson Road Cooperative Agreement. Ramsey County has been studying the
 93 project for decades and would include new trail and sidewalk the entire length of project. City
 94 contribution would be \$150,000 and \$60,000 right-of-way costs. Ask is for Council to include in the
 95 next budget. Intersection improvements include Rice/Hodgson which would be a roundabout to
 96 decrease number of vehicles cutting through neighborhoods. Project is expected to start in 2023 and end
 97 in 2024. Council Member Rogers asked for an explanation of right-of-way costs. City would need to
 98 acquire temporary easements based on value of the land in case more space is needed temporarily for the
 99 duration of the project.

100 Upon motion by Council Member Doll Kanne, seconded by Council Member Jozwowski, it was
 101 #23-05-72 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the cooperative and maintenance
 102 agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights for the Hodgson Road project”

103 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

104
 105 11B – 2022 Street Project Amendment, presented by Finance Director Bob Sundberg. Funding of
 106 project began in 2021 and costs have gone up and attached is the more up-to-date costs. The ask is for
 107 budget amendment to use COVID funds and general fund transfer which would provide sufficient funds
 108 to complete project. City planned for this as it was not entirely unexpected as a part of fund balance
 109 planning. Fund balance is 47%. Audit is in progress. Fund balance would go from 44% to 42%. Very
 110 rare to do such a transfer. Council Member Doll Kanne asked if this money was already spent. Council
 111 Member Goebel asked about what changed on what made the budget change from what was expected.
 112 City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell described that other projects cost significantly more which
 113 depleted funds, and other costs were charged in August. Boardwalk construction was added, and the
 114 estimate of bids was lower than where the cost came in. Council Member Rogers asked about increased
 115 cost of SEH work. Farrell described that three alternatives were added in the project development –
 116 narrow street with trail, narrow street with storm and water, and boardwalk.

117 Upon motion by Council Member Jozwowski, seconded by Council Member Rogers it was
 118 #23-05-73 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the contract and budget amendments
 119 related to the 2022 street improvement project”

120 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

121
 122
 123 12A – Farrell described bid and background. Feasibility approved in October of 2022, report completed
 124 in January and meeting with residents. Public hearing on 2-21 and following testimony the council
 125 approved for plans and a RFP. Project includes Lily Pond Trail option. Bituminous Roadways was
 126 lowest bid. Removed Fire parking lot to make sure project was affordable. Request is to add bid
 127 alternate. Possibility of adding Fire parking lot. SEH estimate as well. No additional City contributions
 128 anticipated. Still possible to add Fire parking lot given project came under expectations. M K asked
 129 about Lily Pond Trail of the work needed. Farrell replied it is a combination of overlay and full depth.

130 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Jozwowski it was
 131 #23-05-74 “RESOLVED, that the Council accepts bid tabulation and awards the contract for
 132 the 2023-1 Street Improvements to Bituminous Roadways, Inc.”

133 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

134
 135 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Jozwowski it was
 136 #23-05-75 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves and enters into agreement with SEH for
 137 field construction services.”

138 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

139

140

141 12B – Administrator Watson provided context for Ramsey County applying for a grant for the trail
 142 along Vadnais Boulevard and what the local commitment would be. Administrator Watson noted that
 143 there are possible funding methods to account for local contribution.

144 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne it was
 145 #23-05-76 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Ramsey County grant application and
 146 commitment of local funds for Vandansi Boulevard Trail Project between Rice
 147 Street and Koehler Road/County Road F.”

148 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

149

150

151 12C – City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell explained that conversations around street
 152 improvement projects typically happen later in the year and during a workshop. The proposed streets
 153 are Woodridge Dr, Woodridge Ct, Woodridge Cr, Woodview Dr, and Woodview Ct. These roads are
 154 some of the worst in the City. Adopted budget documents would include funding proposals. Establishes
 155 curb and gutter and storm sewer. This resolution would allow SEH to examine project and would allow
 156 for better engagement with the neighborhood. Feasibility report would provide actual estimates rather
 157 than more theoretical budget numbers. Council Member Doll Kanne commented on pavement condition
 158 index and Woodridge is at the top of the list and that there will be other projects vying for attention.
 159 Council Member Goebel stated concerned about other of the streets included and asked if it would make
 160 more sense to focus on Woodridge Dr and pair other later. Farrell noted condensing construction in a
 161 neighborhood in one year is more ideal rather than multiple seasons of disruption to a neighborhood.
 162 There are possibilities of the project cost going down if working more with overlays in some areas and
 163 full replacement for others. Mayor Krachmer asked if doing a neighborhood at a time is more efficient
 164 and Farrell agreed. This project would address all residential roads noted in the 2019 as amongst the
 165 worst, excluding commercial streets.

166 Upon motion by Council Member Goebel, seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne it was
 167 #23-05-77 “RESOLVED, that the Council orders a feasibility study for the 2024 Street
 168 Improvement Project.”

169 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

170

171 **COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

172 Finance Director Sundberg wished Farrell well.

173

174 City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell said it was an honor to work with mayors and councils and
 175 the residents.

176

177 City Planner/Community Development Director Wall noted service of Farrell to the city.

178

179 City Attorney Beckman noted a new attorney to their office. Also wished Farrell well.

180

181 Assistant Administrator Clement announced Troop 949 Scouts complete Heritage Park clean-up (trash,
 182 buckthorn removal, branch trimming). On April 22nd the city held a clean-up event that was well
 183 attended: between 300 and 400 cars came through. Many hazardous materials dropped off and this was
 184 the first year of a city shredding event.

185

186 Council Member Jozwowski noted Farrell’s service as did Council Member Goebel.

187

188 Council Member Doll Kanne noted Farrell’s service and recounted their interactions.

189

190 Council Member Rogers reported health and public safety commission meeting. Ramsey County Sheriff
191 is focused on carjacking in the area and the increase is not as steep. Report on vehicle weaknesses and
192 the Sheriff's Office is collaborating with other agencies. Key takeaway for residents are to not keep
193 keys in the vehicle, keep service doors to houses/garages locked and use caution. Council Member
194 Rogers asked Farrell about delivery of the asphalt hotbox Farrell responded hotbox delivery anticipated
195 in September. Council Member Rogers thanked Farrell for his service.

196

197 Mayor Krachmer met with county commissioners and spoke on the work to respond to homelessness
198 and the county response. There was a presentation in Shoreview by Commissioner Fretham and the
199 roots and ways to respond to criminality more appropriately and effectively and M K looks forward to
200 those discussions becoming local. Mayor Krachmer thanked Farrell for his service and communication
201 skills.

202

203 Administrator Watson echoed compliments to Farrell.

204

205 **ADJOURN**

206 Mayor Krachmer adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.