

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JUNE 6, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by ~~Mayor Krachmer~~ Acting Mayor Rogers at 5:33 p.m.

The following members were present: Acting Mayor Steve Rogers and Council Members Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne. The following member was absent: Mayor Mike Krachmer, Council Member Erik Goebel.

Also present were: City Administrator, Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator, Kaylin Clement; Engineering Technician, Nick Ousky, Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Fire Chief, Chris Hearden; and Deputy Clerk, Phillip Lundquist.

OTHER STAFF ITEMS

No items added

LONGTIME FIRE OPERATION DISCUSSION

No actions necessary by Council, presentation to provide context and direction of the Fire Department. Increasing calls over time. Chief position hired in 2002. 2014 was the beginning of the Duty Crew System. Duty Crew system now maintains three firefighters to respond to higher calls, staffed evenings and overnights. 2022 had nearly 1900 calls. Acting Mayor Rogers asked if this included the mutual aid calls, which Chief Hearden affirmed. Acting Mayor Rogers followed up to inquire if medical or mental health calls are responsible for the increase. Chief Hearden added that the aging population of Vadnais Heights adds to the increase, in addition to the medical and mental health calls. The trend is holding steady year over year. Part of full-time staff covers child safety seat inspections, rentals, training. Lake Johanna is a similar program experiencing similar growth. Longtime goals could include adding a fourth Duty Crew position. Administrator Watson asked for a breakdown of the organization. Council Member Jozwowski inquired about salaries. There are three full-time fire technicians in addition to the assistant chief to do inspections, trainings, etc. Acting Mayor Rogers asked when the Council should begin budgeting for adding personnel. Administrator Watson reinforced that this is an early discussion so the City can get ahead of recruitment/retention issues and to make sure the City is prepared for the future. Council Member Doll Kanne asked if the Fire salaries are a part of the salary survey. Acting Mayor Rogers confirmed that the budget question would be for 2025. Council Member Doll Kanne brought up that a consultant would be able to assess the department and

39 create a transition plan. Chief Hearden added that he has been a part of similar studies and
40 relayed that the scope and questions to be examined need to be narrow and specific.

41 **PARK AMENITY HOURS**

42 Administrator Watson opened the discussion about the pickleball court hours and residents who
43 neighbor the court have been complaining. Kohler Meadows will have a court with pickleball
44 lines. Question to Council of if park hours need to be changed so people do not play at midnight
45 or very early in the morning to not be disruptive to neighbors. Administrator Watson confirmed
46 that the parks close 30 minutes after sunset, and open 30 minutes before sunrise. Engineering
47 Technician provided information about construction time frames. Council Members Jozwowski
48 and Doll Kanne and Acting Mayor Rogers were supportive of set times. Discussion of
49 enforcement based on decibels or hours. A possibilities were discussed for pickleball courts at
50 Kohler and Bridgewood Parks. Establishment of hours would be an amendment to Code.

51 **GOLD LEAF UPDATE**

52 Assistant Administrator Clement opened the discussion. The intern started June 5th and Asst.
53 Administrator Clement was able to participate in an on-boarding process. Asst. Administrator
54 Clement provided sample websites and the intern will assist with managing. VLAWMO
55 participation with maintenance of native areas as that coincides with goals of the program. Asst.
56 Administrator pointed out that the Gold Leaf program indicates that these are opening
57 opportunities to draw like-minded people together who will carry the program forward.

58 **FUTURE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS**

59 Council Member Doll Kanne asked about a timeline for an update to the weed ordinance.
60 Differentiation between nuisance and native areas important.

61 NE Youth and Family Services may have space on a board if a City Council Member wanted to
62 be a part of it.

63 Council Member Jozwowski will speak at VHEDC.

64 **ADJOURN**

65 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.