

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
July 18, 2023**

**OPEN MEETING**

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 7:01 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; Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director; Chris Hearden, Fire Chief; Phillip Lundquist, Deputy Clerk; and Caroline Beckman, City Attorney.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

#23-07-103 "RESOLVED that the July 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda be approved as presented."

Ayes – 5                                      Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular Workshop Meeting of June 20, 2023

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-07-104 "RESOLVED that the Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023, be approved"

Ayes – 5                                      Nays – 0

Resolution was accepted.

B. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 20, 2023

Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Rogers, it was

#23-07-105 "RESOLVED that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023, be approved"

Ayes – 5                                      Nays – 0

Resolution was accepted.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- 40 Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was  
41 #23-07-106 “Resolved that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A through #7H for  
42 the July 18, 2023, meeting as follows:  
43 A. Consider Approving Claims #83760 Through #83890 and Electronic Claims #1891 Through  
44 #1897 for Payment  
45 B. Approve Hiring of Part-time/Paid-on-Call Firefighter Pavelka  
46 C. Accept and Acknowledge Donations for the 2023 Ice Cream Social  
47 D. Approve Public Outdoor Event Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament July 27-30, Old  
48 Clover co-sponsor  
49 E. Approve Temporary Liquor License for Big Wood Brewery for September 29-October 1  
50 Oktoberfest Event  
51 F. Approve Off-site Gambling Permit for Merrick for BINGO at Heritage Days  
52 G. Approve Purchase of Emergency Generators for Wells  
53 H. Approve Hiring Fire Technician-Training Officer Stenstrom  
54 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0  
55 The resolution was adopted.

### 56 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

57 Mayor Krachmer opened the meeting to the public at 7:07 p.m. Mayor Krachmer clarified that this period  
58 is for the public to speak on topics not on the agenda, and there would be a time for the public to provide  
59 input on the ordinances in the Public Hearings part of the agenda.

60 Dick Ottmun, of 1260 East County Road E, spoke on behalf of residents of Gable Pines. Ottmun brought  
61 a petition regarding Judson Road and County Road E and crosswalk safety. Several people in building  
62 are concerned about using the crosswalk for fear of being struck. Ottmun stated City Administrator  
63 Watson has been very helpful in coming up with solution to make the crosswalk safer. People in the  
64 building are talking about driving to dentist office across the street because drivers turn onto Judson from  
65 County Road E. Memo provided to Council. Second topic he wished to speak on was for sidewalks.  
66 Resident Ottmun referenced campaign material for walkability and greater sidewalks in the City.  
67 Encouraging Council to make a policy for high traffic streets. Contact information provided.

68 Ron Pierson, of 4015 Alpine Avenue, represents Pine Meadow HOA near street project. Residents are  
69 supportive of the street improvement project. Concern about water bill. Showed report of reading date  
70 and consumption. Turned on irrigation system on May 18 and report shows consumption began  
71 thereafter. System was programmed to be off on Sunday but it shows up on Monday. Report shows use  
72 on days that the irrigation system was off there was still consumption. The amount billed is out of line  
73 with past consumption. Request to Council is to have someone look into Pine Meadow water use  
74 because the recent bill is outside the norm. Asking for a response with a reasonable answer. Leaving a  
75 copy of their bills.

76 Erinn Robovsky, of 515 Bear Avenue North, discussed concerns of trail safety. Has sent letters in the past  
77 week. Bluebird Grove emergency trail is wide enough for emergency vehicles but other vehicles and 4-  
78 wheelers using the road going fast. Goal was to allow emergency access or water main maintenance but  
79 it is allowing traffic through. One idea at the time was for an automatic sensor for the gate. Is looking for  
80 follow-through to find a solution for trail safety.

81 There being no one else that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

### 82 **PRESENTATIONS**

83 Night to Unite Proclamation was read by Administrator Watson.

84 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**85 A. Ordinance #766 Park Hours

86 Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details.

87 Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:29 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the  
88 hearing at 7:29 p.m.

89 Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

90 #23-07-107 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopts Ordinance No. 766 establishing seasonal  
91 exceptions to park hours for Bridgewood Park pickleball courts and Kohler Meadows sledding hill,  
92 approves resolution for summary publication.

93 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

94 The resolution was adopted.

95 B. Ordinance #767 Amended Fee Schedule

96 Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details.

97 Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:31 p.m. There being no one that wished to speak, Krachmer closed the  
98 hearing at 7:29 p.m.

99 Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

100 #23-07-108 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Ordinance No. 767 which updates the  
101 Fee Schedule to align with M.S. 461.12 subd. 2, and approves resolution for summary publication of  
102 the ordinance.

103 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

104 The resolution was adopted.

105 C. Ordinance #768 Cannabis Business Study and Moratorium106 Administrator Watson presented the ordinance details. Creates a pause on the business sales within the  
107 City and cannabis use within the city.

108 Krachmer opened the hearing at 7:33pm.

109 Alan Hodges of 171 Woodridge Drive, spoke on the topic of the amount of time allowed to study, some  
110 cities already have rules in place. If the City is doing it, the concern is sales as the quicker it gets going  
111 the sooner the City would receive benefits, as people may shop at the first stores available.112 Jason Medvec, of Big Wood Brewing at 3429 Centerville Road, had a question of how this affects the  
113 current cannabinoid use. It was clarified that the ordinance does not affect the previously legalized hemp  
114 products, only the newly legalized cannabis products defined in Chapter 63.115 Erinn Robosky spoke and would like the tax proceeds from the sales to go to sustainable Park funding.  
116 Goebel asked about public spaces. Attorney Bell Beckman cited 342.17 with the new law with the  
117 locations it is allowed and 144.414 prohibits smoking in public places. Goebel asked what the consequence  
118 would be and Attorney Bell Beckman responded that it would be a misdemeanor. Council Member Rogers  
119 asked about the timeline for the moratorium. Attorney Bell Beckman clarified that the moratorium can  
120 be rescinded as soon as the ordinance is ready. Council Member Doll Kanne indicated the January 1,  
121 2025 could be moved based on the legislature and it behooves the Council to set the policy quickly.122 Goebel ask to amend to clarify use in public spaces is not allowed, and moved to amend the ordinance to  
123 explicitly prohibit use in public spaces and asked the City Attorney to prosecute violations as a petty  
124 misdemeanor.

125 Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

126 #23-07-109 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Ordinance No. 768 as amended which  
127 authorizes a study to be conducted by City staff and the Health and Public Safety Commission to  
128 determine whether amendments need to be made to the City’s official controls as they relate to  
129 public use and sales of cannabinoids in the City and; pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section  
130 462.355, the sale and public use of adult use cannabis products and concentrate as defined in Minn.  
131 Stat. Sec. 342.01 is hereby prohibited in the City of Vadnais Heights until such time as this interim  
132 ordinance expires or is terminated by action of the City Council and; instructs the City Attorney to  
133 prosecute violations of this ordinance as a petty misdemeanor.

134 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

135 The resolution was adopted.

136 **OLD BUSINESS**

137 A. Many Faces of White Bear Lake Agreement

138 Asst Administrator Clement explained the process of entering agreement, and asked Council Member  
139 Jozwowski to read the resolution. Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was

140 #23-07-110 “RESOLVED, that the Council accepts a resolution solidifying the City of Vadnais  
141 Heights’ membership to the Many Faces of White Bear Lake

142 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

143 The resolution was adopted.

144 **NEW BUSINESS**

145 A. Tubman Agreement

146 City Attorney Bell Beckman introduced the topic and provided background of what Tubman provides that  
147 the City is legally required to support. Attorney Bell Beckman affirmed and endorsed the services of  
148 Tubman. Council Member Goebel thanked Tubman for the services Tubman provides. Council Member  
149 Rogers added how this provides safety to residents and that the Council feels this is important, as well as  
150 the equity and diversity programming Many Faces Provides. Jennifer Dickinson, from Tubman, spoke to  
151 the past meetings with Council and the relationship with law enforcement and prosecution.

152 Upon motion by Rogers and seconded by Goebel, it was:

153 #23-07-111 “RESOLVED, that the Council authorizes City Administrator to sign agreement  
154 with Tubman for consultant services assisting domestic abuse victims for 2024 not to exceed \$14,000.

155 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

156 The resolution was adopted.

157 B. Adoption of an Emergency Management Plan

158 Chief Hearden presented the plan crafted by Ramsey County to be accepted by cities that meet state and  
159 federal regulations. Plan provides process for major emergencies and disasters. Council Member  
160 Rogers shared experience from being on the Health and Public Safety Commission and meeting with the  
161 county representative for these plans. Rogers noted the supplies needed are provided from the county,  
162 and that this plan meets a requirement to receive FEMA funding in case of disaster.

163 Upon motion by Jozwowski and seconded by Rogers, it was:

164 #23-07-112 “RESOLVED, adopts a resolution adopting and supporting the 2023 Ramsey  
165 County Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP).

166 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

167 The resolution was adopted.

168 C. Planning Case 23-004: Time Cheesebrow – Variance and Conditional Use Permit at 3871  
 169 Stockdale Drive

170 City Planner/Community Director Wall presented the variance request and conditional use request. Code  
 171 does not allow accessory buildings in front of the home. Request materials provided allowed Wall to  
 172 show the location and placement of the accessory building. Staff recommends approval of variance.

173 Upon motion by Doll Kanne and seconded by Goebel, it was:

174 #23-07-113 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves a variance and conditional use permit to  
 175 construct an accessory building on the subject property.

176 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

177 The resolution was adopted.

178 D. Approve Public Outdoor Event License for Big Wood Brewery for September 29-October 1  
 179 Oktoberfest Event

180 Big Wood looking to hold Oktoberfest in Vadnais Heights from White Bear Lake. Jason Medvec and  
 181 Jamey Worley answered questions from the Council. Medvec and Worley met with neighbors and the  
 182 outreach was well received. Event has 12 year history in White Bear Lake without a noise complaint.

183 Upon motion by Jozwowski and seconded by Goebel, it was:

184 #23-07-114 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Public Outdoor Event permit POE-23-5  
 185 and an exemption to the normal outdoor event hours permitted within the City Code, for Big Wood  
 186 Brewery’s proposed Oktoberfest celebration.

187 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

188 The resolution was adopted.

189 E. Accept Bids and Award Contract for Sewer Televising

190 Ousky presented the project context, as part of 2024 Street Improvement Project. When the street is  
 191 already torn up it is an opportunity for homeowners to get their connections to city sewer televised in  
 192 case repair is needed. Staff recommends approval. Watson added that residents will receive a letter  
 193 recommending residents televise their own lateral connections in case repairs are needed. Goebel asked  
 194 if the City tracks which sewer lines have been checked so there is record similar to the pavement quality  
 195 map.

196 Upon motion by Rogers and seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

197 #23-07-115 “RESOLVED, that the Council accepts the quote received for 2024 sewer  
 198 televising and awards the project to Pipe Services at a cost of \$10,808.57.

199 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

201 The resolution was adopted.

202 F. Accept Bids and Award Contract for Well 4 Pump Inspection and Maintenance

203 Ousky presented the project and answered questions about the inspection and maintenance project for the  
 204 wells.

205 Upon motion by Doll Kanne and seconded by Goebel, it was:

206 #23-07-116 “RESOLVED, that the Council authorizes Accept Bid and Approve the pump  
 207 inspection and maintenance of Well # 4 to Keys Well Drilling Company at a cost of \$55,910 with work  
 208 paid from water utility fund.

209 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

210 The resolution was adopted.

211 G. New Ladder Truck

212 Chief Hearden presented the topic of signing the purchase agreement for a new ladder truck. Expected  
 213 delivery of late 2025 or early 2026. By signing purchasing agreement before the end of the month it  
 214 avoids a 2%-3% increase in cost.

215 Upon motion by Jozwowski and seconded by Doll Kanne, it was:

216 #23-07-117 “RESOLVED, that the Council Consider authorizes staff to sign a purchase  
 217 agreement for a new Pierce Aerial Ladder Platform from MacQueen Emergency Group and purchase  
 218 replacement firefighting equipment, as included in the 2025 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) budget,  
 219 for a total cost not to exceed \$1,850,000.00.

220 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

221 The resolution was adopted.

222 **CITY COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

223 Deputy Clerk Lundquist – nothing to report

224 Fire Chief Hearden – thanks council for support. Fire Dept looks forward to Night to Unite and offered  
 225 rides with FD.

226 Asst. Administrator Clement – Friday July 21 is Park and Rec Professional Appreciation and wanted to  
 227 recognize that staff.

228 Engineering Technician Ousky - street project starts 7-19 on Alpine and Harwood after issue with  
 229 subcontractor. Westfield bioswale project is complete.

230 City Planner/Community Development Director Wall – Planning Commission meeting 7-25-23. Reminds  
 231 residents that this is construction season and asks for caution with workers outside and on-site. Residents  
 232 can ask questions of staff.

233 City Attorney Bell Beckman – nothing to report

234 Council Member Doll Kanne – Legislature set definitions for native plantings, and a future ordinance will  
 235 be required. Public Works Director starts 7-31-23 and acknowledges added work load on Watson and  
 236 Ousky. Ousky shared praise to members of Public Works Ken LaCasse and Jim Hamann and Wall.

237 Council Member Rogers – noted donations for Ice Cream Social and thanked Katie Everett and staff.

238 Council Member Jozwowski – thanked City staff and advertised the Green Team to the members of the  
 239 public. Also thanked the City Parks and Recreation.

240 Council Member Goebel – thanked staff for all the work putting agendas put together.

241 Mayor Krachmer – shared experience networking at the League of Minnesota Cities. Thanked Council  
 242 Members and City staff. Mayor invited the public to Music in the Park citing the success of the previous  
 243 week. Also advertised the Walk with the Mayor prior to the Music in the Park, and mentioned the montly  
 244 Breakfast with the Mayor. Will be present for Night to Unite and encouraged participation.

245 Administrator Watson provided an update to the watershed mediation, and more will be forthcoming, and  
 246 noted appreciation for Council’s gratitude and praised the work of Ousky in the absence of a Public Works  
 247 Director.

248 **ADJOURN MEETING**

249 Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Doll Kanne the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator