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**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

9 The meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called
10 to order by Mayor Krachmer at 7:01 p.m.

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12

ROLL CALL

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

15 The following Council members were absent: None.

16 Also present were: Kevin Watson, City Administrator; Kaylin Clement, Assistant City
17 Administrator; Jesse Farrell, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Nolan Wall,
18 Planning/Community Development Director; Chris Hearnden, Fire Chief; Bob Sundberg, Finance
19 Director; Peggy Aho, Deputy Clerk; and Caroline Beckman, City Attorney.

20 Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 City Administrator Watson provided several announcements.

22
23

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

24 Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Rogers, it was

25 #23-02-023 “RESOLVED that the February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda be
26 approved as presented.”

27 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

28 The resolution was adopted.

29
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

31 A. January 17, 2023 Regular Workshop Meeting

Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Goebel, it was

#23-02-024 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the January 17, 2023 Regular
Workshop Meeting minutes as presented.”

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The resolution was adopted.

32 B. January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

33 Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

34 #23-02-025 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves the January 17, 2023 Regular
35 Council Meeting minutes as presented.”

36 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

37 The resolution was adopted.

38 **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

39 Upon motion by Goebel, seconded by Doll Kanne, it was

40 #23-02-026 “RESOLVED, that the Council approves Consent Agenda Items #7A
41 through #7J for the February 7, 2023 meeting as amended as follows:

42 A. Consider Approving Claims #83134 Through #83205 and Electronic
43 Claims #1847 Through #1850 for Payment

44 B. Consider Approving an Outdoor Event Permit for Half Fast Marathon
45 – February 18, 2023

46 C. Consider Approving an Agreement with Vadnais Heights Economic
47 Development Corporation

48 D. Consider Advisory Commission Appointment Recommendations

49 E. Consider Approving Tenth Rider to Agreement with the Board of
50 Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul (Saint Paul Regional
51 Water Services)

52 F. Consider Approving Loan Administrator Agreement with Community
53 Neighborhood Housing Services (NeighborWorks Home Partners)

54 G. Consider Approving a LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for
55 Church of St. Odilia to Conduct a Raffle at their Event on April 15,
56 2023 at the Vadnais Heights Commons

57 H. Consider Accepting Quote from Nystrom Publishing for Printing the
58 Quarterly Newsletters

59 I. Consider Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute
60 the Site Lease Agreement with DISH Wireless, L.L.C. for a
61 Communications Facility Installation at the Commerce Court Water
62 Tower

63 J. Consider Adopting a Resolution Establishing Parking Restrictions on
64 Rice Street.”

66 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

67 The resolution was adopted.

68 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

69 Mayor Krachmer opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m. There being no one that wished to
70 speak, Krachmer closed the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m.

71 **PRESENTATIONS**

72 A. Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS) Presentation

73 Angie Lewis Mills, Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS), gave a PowerPoint
74 presentation, recapping the history of NYFS, and their mental health programs,
75 community service programs, and fiscal picture, etc.

76 Council Member Jozwowski asked what the City/Council can do to help NYFS. Mills
77 responded that the adjustment of insurance reimbursement rates needs to be adjusted at
78 the legislative level and try to help reduce the stigma of mental health, not everyone
79 knows what NYFS does.

80 Council Member Rogers thanked Mills for her presentation and for the value of services
81 that NYFS provides to the area and region.

82 Mayor Krachmer said NYFS doesn't turn anyone away and the need is endless, so where
83 do the referrals come from. Mills responded from school partners, law enforcement
84 partners, city, etc. They are the only nonprofit in the area and that sector is struggling as
85 a whole.

86 Mills said they are doing tours every two months this summer to get people informed.
87 All are invited.

88 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

89 A. 2023 Fee Schedule Amendment – Ordinance No. 764

90 Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that the 2023 Fee Schedule previously
91 approved, did not have cancellation policies in place for Parks and Rec and staff would
92 like to add those fees to the Fee Schedule.

93
94 City Administrator Watson noted that fees have to be approved after the public is
95 engaged.

96
97 Mayor Krachmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 pm. Krachmer closed the Public
98 Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

99
100 Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

101 #23-02-027 “RESOLVED, that the Council approved the amended 2023 Fee Schedule
102 (Ordinance No. 764) be approved as presented.”

103 Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

104 The resolution was adopted.

105 **OLD BUSINESS**

106 A. Community Park Pavilion

107 Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that at the first Workshop this year, the
108 Parks, Rec and Trails Commission was asked to revisit the options for a new pavilion at
109 Community Park. Clement noted that after Parks, Rec and Trails Commission discussion,
110 they recommended three options to the Council. Recommendation from the Parks
111 Commission is to go with Option #1. She said that staff are looking for direction to
112 figure out the gap in funding and noted that there are some grant opportunities.

113 Council Member Rogers said he has been struggling with this because there is a big
114 number and there are competing interests. He said he feels we are at a moment where the
115 current pavilion is unsustainable, so it is on the current Council to figure out what to do
116 with it, and said we can't keep going on with what we have. Rogers said he would vote
117 to go with Option #1 knowing it is expensive, it will be there a long time and brand the
118 City.

119 Council Member Doll Kanne said she doesn't like Option #1, and that she likes the
120 smaller one. She said that the City should look at applying for a DNR grant.

121 Council Member Kelly said she is in favor of Option #1 and that size wise it makes sense
122 and agreed the City should apply for grants to help pay for it.

123 Council Member Goebel echoed what Jozwowski said.

124 Mayor Krachmer said he too likes Option #1 and that we need something that would
125 meet our current needs and be attractive. He said we have been talking about doing a
126 Parks Master Plan and as part of the Plan we need to look into the future, but at this time
127 we need a short term fix.

128 Goebel said that perhaps the City could check into grant funds to help pay for soil
129 mitigation.

130 City Administrator Watson said staff are looking for confirmation that we want to pursue
131 Option #1 and grants to help support that.

132 Upon motion by Doll Kanne, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

133 #23-02-028 "RESOLVED, that the Council approves proceeding with Option #1
134 pavilion design, which means finding the funds to gap the difference in
135 cost budgeted vs. actual cost to construction. The Council also directed
136 staff to apply for a Minnesota DNR Outdoor Recreation grant."

137 Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

138 The resolution was adopted

139

140 **NEW BUSINESS**

141 A. Planning Case 22-018: City of Vadnais Heights – City Code Amendments

142 Planning/Community Development Director Wall noted that this item revisits previous
143 discussions on this topic. He said that the Planning Commission recommends that the
144 Council approve Ordinance No. 763. Wall briefly summarized the proposed City Code
145 changes and noted why they are needed. He said these amendments clean up the
146 Planning Commission duties, and the power of City Council was duplicative of another
147 section, Board of Adjustments and Appeals standards, applicability, filing, notice of
148 hearings and decisions by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, and judicial appeals.

149

150 Wall said two actions are needed by the Council: approval of the draft Ordinance and
151 approval of the summary publication of the Ordinance.

152

153 Upon motion by Rogers, seconded by Jozwowski, it was

154 #23-02-029 “RESOLVED, that the Council to adopt Ordinance 763 and approves the
155 resolution for summary publication.”

156 Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

157 The resolution was adopted

158

159 B. Twin Lake Boulevard Feasibility Report

160 City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell this item is for our 2023 Twin Lake Blvd
161 Project in partnership with Little Canada. Farrell gave a presentation on the history of the
162 project and reviewed action items requested. He reviewed the current condition of the
163 road and the project schedule. He said if all goes according to plan, bid opening will be
164 on March 9 and the project work could begin in May.

165

166 Upon motion by Jozwowski, seconded by Goebel, it was

167 #23-02-030 “RESOLVED, that the Council hereby adopts the resolution setting the
168 assessment amounts, accepts the Feasibility Report and sets the public
169 hearing and assessment hearing for March 7.”

170 Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

171 The resolution was adopted.

172 C. Apply for a MPCA Grant for Level 2 Charging Station

173 City Administrator Watson noted that this item is a discussion about whether the City
174 wants to authorize staff to pursue a grant from the MPCA for EV duo charging stations to

175 be incorporated with the resurfacing of the Fire Station parking lot. Watson said he
176 thinks the project would run between \$50 and \$60,000. He said that the City could
177 potentially do the project in 2024 if it were to receive a grant. He said the question for
178 the Council is does it want to install the chargers in collaboration with the parking lot
179 resurfacing, and do we want to work with Xcel to get this done. He noted that staff are
180 meeting with private parties in town to see what their interest is in installing chargers. He
181 said he feels that with the Governors announcement there may be more funding to do
182 this.

183
184 Council Member Doll Kanne said she listened to the presentation by the MPCA on this
185 grant. She said what is interesting about this is that the math doesn't work out for the
186 80% match and that it seems like it may be 50/50 for us. Doll Kanne said she is trying to
187 think what location might be good for people to use. She said she was excited about the
188 80% match, but after additional discussion with staff about the City not having EV
189 vehicles at this time, she doesn't think there would be much use. Not sure this is the time
190 for the City to move but she believes it good to have this discussion now because at some
191 time the City will want EV chargers.

192
193 Council Member Jozwowski said that she thinks the location at the Fire Station is not a
194 good idea.

195
196 Council Member Goebel said he is not as enthused because of the math. He said he's not
197 sure how much use there will be from the public. Probably makes more sense to work
198 with private businesses in the City.

199
200 Council Member Rogers agreed and that you need to meet the consumer where they are.
201 He said he doesn't think it would get used enough in the Fire Department parking lot.

202
203 Mayor Krachmer said it appears rather clear to him that in order to make use of
204 infrastructure you have to value and convenience, and this doesn't seem to him that it
205 would stick out.

206
207 The Council decided to not apply for a grant at this time.

208
209 D. Gold Leaf Program

210 Assistant City Administrator Clement noted that at the last meeting, the Council
211 approved a resolution directing staff to formally enter the Gold Leaf program. She said
212 prior to this meeting, the Council was provided 44 options and asked to come with their
213 top two or three initiatives that they think Vadnais Heights could achieve taking into
214 account financial and staffing issues.

215
216 Council Member Kanne said her top three would be a combined green team, community
217 restoration, and tree steward committee.

218
219 Council Member Goebel said his top ones would be the combined green team, tree
220 steward community, green living streets and the active living campaign.
221
222 Council Member Jozwowski said her top three would be the combined green team,
223 community restoration, and the active living campaign.
224
225 Council Member Rogers said his top ones would be the community restoration,
226 accessible green spaces, tree steward program and community visioning.
227
228 Mayor Krachmer said that it seems important that we engage the community and that it
229 be as much a bottom up agenda. His top three are green team, tree steward program and
230 the active living campaign.
231
232 Administrator Watson said the Council should decide which ones they want staff to
233 pursue, then staff can do a deeper dive and come back to the Council for direction.
234
235 Upon motion by Doll Kanne, seconded by Jozwowski, it was
236 #23-02-31 “RESOLVED, that the Council pursue Green Team (CA1) and
237 Community Restoration (CC5) as the two initiatives the Council would
238 like to pursue in Gold Leaf Program in 2023.”
239 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0
240 The resolution was adopted.

241 COUNCIL REPORTS

242 City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell gave an update on the 2023 Street Improvement
243 project. He said that the recent estimate that SEH provided shows that the estimates may
244 come in higher than projected and so high that we are unlikely to do the parking lot and the
245 trail piece will be bid out as an alternate. He said that the Council may need to prioritize
246 other projects. Farrell noted that construction has begun on the Bear Park Boardwalk. We
247 are now in the season of cutting trees down. The City has completed an ash tree survey that
248 says that the City has approximately 500 ash trees that are accessible. He said that right now
249 we have \$100,000 in our 2023 budget for tree removal. Cost of removal is about \$1,000 a
250 tree. Farrell said that City Administrator Watson has authorized replacement of lighting at
251 one of our wells, outside City Hall and a location in one of our parks. He also authorized
252 repainting of the fire hydrants. Public Works staff all attended a salt program that the City is
253 looking at implementing. Farrell noted that VLAWMO’s technical committee meets once a
254 week and they will be meeting tomorrow.
255 Council Member Kanne said that the Parks, Rec and Trails Commission did an activity to
256 look at the City parks. She said it was a great activity. She said she is curious to hear more

257 about what came out of the activity. Kanne will be hosting a winter sowing workshop with
258 VLAWMO. Interested parties can register on VLAWMO's website.

259 Council Members Rogers noted that on the meetings Consent Agenda, the Council approved
260 new commissioners for three commissions. He thanked all the new commissioners for
261 investing time in the City and taking part. He noted that he had a conversation with Metro I-
262 net, and found out that they also do mobile for safety personnel and first responders. He also
263 met with the Health and Public Safety Commission. Take away is that Allina and the Fire
264 Department were on almost 3000 calls in 2022. He said they both provide a great service to
265 the City.

266 Mayor Krachmer said he is trying to spend more time with citizens of the City. He is
267 planning on hosting a breakfast the 4th Monday of every month. He said he will be putting
268 together other opportunities to increase the engagement.

269 City Administrator Watson said that the City made a request that people sign up before the
270 breakfasts with the Mayor so that they can let Perkins know how many people will be
271 attending.

272 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.