

99 more efficient patching as well as increased durability. He stated that the City will also
100 be utilizing a contractor to augment City staff efforts to increase productivity.

101 Council Member Goebel stated that he supports this purchase and the lease terms which
102 provides new equipment each year as that saves on ongoing maintenance costs. He
103 commented that this will be a good use of resources.

104 Mayor Krachmer congratulated staff noting that this is a great plan to address the issues
105 with the roads.

106 Council Member Doll Kanne asked if this purchase was included in the 2023 budget.
107 Mr. Farrell replied that this item was not included in the budget. He stated that staff will
108 work with finance as the year goes on and may need to shift other items in the budget.
109 He commented that this is the worst pothole season the City has experienced and this
110 solution was developed in response.

111 Mayor Krachmer stated that the decision to consider this purchase has been discussed by
112 staff and is a reasonable opportunity to do a better job. Mr. Farrell stated that at the next
113 workshop, they will discuss public works equipment. He noted that last year they
114 ordered a plow, prior to the development of the budget, which has still not been
115 delivered.

116 Council Member Doll Kanne agreed that she would like to plan ahead for equipment of
117 that nature to provide sufficient time for delivery.

118 Council Member Goebel referenced the estimated delivery time for this equipment of
119 September 2023 noting that it would seem it would not be used for this season. Mr.
120 Farrell replied that public works would still be able to patch at that time, but confirmed
121 that it would not be used for spring/summer patching.

122 Council Member Doll Kanne asked for details on the municipal lease program. Mr.
123 Farrell provided additional details on that process.

124 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne, it
125 was

126 #23-04-056 “RESOLVED, to approve the purchase of a John Deere 325G Compact
127 Track Loader from Midwest Machinery for the sum of \$67,904.45, as
128 presented.”

129 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

130 The resolution was adopted.

131 B. 2024 Sanitary Sewer Access Path Design Proposal

132 City Engineer/Director of Public Works Farrell stated the Council is being asked to
133 authorize entering into an agreement with S.E.H. to complete the Sanitary Sewer Lining

134 and Access Project design and construction administration services on an hourly basis
 135 with a maximum fee of \$132,500. He provided more details on the purpose of the
 136 project, project scope, and benefit that would be provided.

137 Council Member Rogers asked the worst-case scenario if nothing is done. Mr. Farrell
 138 replied that would be an environmental emergency with property damage.

139 Council Member Doll Kanne asked if the City would be liable for property damage in
 140 that type of scenario. City Attorney Beckman provided additional details on when the
 141 City could be liable versus when the City would have immunity.

142 City Administrator Watson asked staff to provide details on budgetary impacts of the
 143 project as well as impacts to utility fees. Mr. Farrell stated that utility enterprise reserves
 144 have been built up in anticipation of projects. He commented that this would be a huge
 145 project that would have a significant impact on those funds and those funds would be
 146 built back up using utility fee payments.

147 Finance Director Sundberg stated that the reserve is a healthy fund and using some of
 148 those funds will be a good thing. He noted that once completed, the fund would be built
 149 back up in anticipation of other projects.

150 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Jozwowski, it
 151 was

152 #23-04-057 “RESOLVED, to authorize entering into an agreement with S.E.H. to
 153 complete the Sanitary Sewer Lining and Access Project design and
 154 construction administration services on an hourly basis with a maximum fee
 155 of \$132,500, as presented.”

156 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

157 The resolution was adopted.

158 **NEW BUSINESS**

159 A. No Mow May Resolution

160
 161 City Administrator Watson explained that similar to 2022, the City will support No Mow
 162 May on private property through the month of May. He explained the City will not cite
 163 any violators of the City’s 10-inch height requirement for tall grass and weeds during the
 164 month of May.

165
 166 Council Member Doll Kanne stated that she distributed proposed revisions to the Council
 167 for consideration, noting that it would be called Slow Mow Summer rather than No Mow
 168 May. She commented that while there are good intentions in the No Mow May initiative,

169 it does not always work the way it is intended depending on the growing season. She
170 provided additional details on her proposed revisions.

171
172 Mayor Krachmer commented that this is an encouragement to support pollinators, but
173 participation is not required.

174
175 Council Member Goebel stated that his concern with changing the name to Slow Mow
176 Summer would be that some people may believe they can continue not to mow throughout
177 the summer, which is not the intended message. He noted that he has received concerns
178 from residents.

179
180 Council Member Doll Kanne stated that she would be open to calling it Slow Mow May.

181
182 Council Member Goebel stated that some people do not like the appearance of long grass
183 and code enforcement should occur. He asked staff for details on enforcement. Fire Chief
184 Hearden explained that staff reviews the properties that have registered for No Mow May
185 about one week into June. He stated that for those properties that have not mowed, a notice
186 would be provided with adequate time for the resident to bring the property into
187 compliance. He stated that if compliance is not done, the City would contract for a service
188 to mow the property and that property would be assessed for the service.

189
190 Council Member Goebel stated that he would like to find a balance between support for
191 pollinators and ensuring that people are not abusing the process.

192
193 Council Member Doll Kanne suggested additional efforts in education. She noted that
194 when people pickup their yard sign, the expectation can be clearly communicated when the
195 yard must be mowed.

196
197 Council Member Goebel asked if properties must register to participate. Mr. Hearden
198 replied that properties do not have to register. He stated that when staff receives
199 complaints, they do follow up to determine if the property is participating or whether they
200 are simply not mowing.

201
202 Council Member Goebel stated that he would prefer Slow Mow May rather than Slow Mow
203 Summer.

204
205 Council Member Rogers stated that last year the Council supported No Mow May without
206 much knowledge of the intent. He stated that he has done more research on the intent to
207 support pollinators and has learned about more pollinators. He explained that the
208 pollinators have evolved because of the lack of native plants and stated that pollinators
209 would benefit more by planting of additional native plants rather than people not mowing
210 their grass. He stated that he too would be hesitant about Slow Mow Summer, but could
211 support Slow Mow May.

212
 213 Council Member Doll Kanne stated that perhaps the concept of native plant sales and
 214 pollinator education is discussed by the Council in a future workshop.

215
 216 Mayor Krachmer agreed and believed the Council would have opportunities to promote
 217 sustainable practices through other initiatives.

218
 219 Upon motion by Council Member Goebel, seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne, it
 220 was

221 #23-04-058 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopt Resolution Supporting a Temporary
 222 Exception to Section 22-2 of City Code, Public Nuisance, in Support of
 223 ‘Slow Mow May.’”

224 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

225 The motion was adopted.

226 B. National Opioid Settlement Agreement

227
 228 City Administrator Watson said the Council is being asked to authorize him to sign the
 229 settlement agreement with Teva and Allergan pharmaceutical manufacturers as well as the
 230 Walgreens, Walmart and CVS pharmacies. He stated that the allocation the City would
 231 receive is not yet known and explained how the City would use those funds.

232
 233 Fire Chief Hearden explained how the first responders have used those funds to respond to
 234 individuals in crisis, as well as protect those responding and providing assistance.

235
 236 Council Member Goebel asked if the City could use this money to provide assistance
 237 with organizations in the community that provide treatment to individuals. Mr. Watson
 238 replied that he could follow up to determine if the funds could be used in that manner.

239
 240 Mayor Krachmer stated that there would also be public education opportunities.

241
 242 Upon motion by Council Member Goebel, seconded by Council Member Doll Kanne, it
 243 was

244 #23-04-059 “RESOLVED, that the Council authorize the City Administrator to sign
 245 the settlement agreement with Teva and Allergan pharmaceutical
 246 manufacturers as well as the Walgreens, Walmart and CVS pharmacies, as
 247 presented.”

248 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

249 The motion was adopted.

250 C. Gambling Premise Permit for Vadnais Heights Lions Club at Clover Inn at 705 E County
 251 Road F

252
 253 City Administrator Watson presented the application for a Minnesota Lawful Gambling
 254 Premises Permit LG214 and Lease Form LG215 to allow Vadnais Heights Lions Club to
 255 conduct lawful gambling at Old Clover Inn located at 705 East County Road F,
 256 commencing on April 5, 2023. He explained this would be contingent upon approval by
 257 the Minnesota Gambling Control Board and the previous gambling entity is no longer
 258 operating at that location. Mr. Watson noted a background check was performed by the
 259 Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and showed no violations.

260
 261 Upon motion by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Goebel, it was

262 #23-04-060 "RESOLVED, that the Council approve application for a Minnesota
 263 Lawful Gambling Premises Permit LG214 and Lease Form LG215 to
 264 allow Vadnais Heights Lions Club to conduct lawful gambling at Old
 265 Clover Inn located at 705 East County Road F, commencing on April 5,
 266 2023, and contingent upon approval by the Minnesota Gambling Control
 267 Board and the previous gambling entity is no longer operating at that
 268 location, as presented."

269 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

270 The motion was adopted.

271 D. PULLED - Gambling Premise Permit for Merrick Community Services at Sak's Sports Bar
 272 at 1460 E County Road E

273
 274 E. Kohler Meadows Tennis Court Reconstruction and Budget Amendment
 275

276 City Administrator Watson said the Council is being asked to amend the 2023 Park
 277 Dedication Budget and accept the bid from Bituminous Roadways in the amount of
 278 \$166,500, plus an additional \$10,000 for wind screens, for the reconstruction of the Kohler
 279 Meadows Park tennis courts. He noted that a budget amendment would be needed as the
 280 bids were higher than the budgeted cost.

281
 282 Council Member Doll Kanne asked when the park dedication funds for the Elevage
 283 development would be available in the fund balance. Planning/Community Development
 284 Director Wall replied that those funds would be available once the building permit is issued
 285 and explained that process. He anticipated that those funds would be available within the
 286 next six to nine months.

287
 288 Council Member Goebel asked for more information on the wind screens and whether
 289 planting trees would be another option. Mr. Watson provided details on the proposed wind
 290 screens that would be attached to the fencing. He commented that there is interest for that

291 type of screening from the users of the court. He stated that trees were not reviewed as an
292 alternative for this project. He noted that the wind screens would also have a lower cost.

293
294 Council Member Rogers provided additional context on the purpose of the wind screen as
295 a tennis player. He stated that the tennis experience is lessened when there are not wind
296 screens. He noted that trees often have other unintended consequences for a tennis court,
297 such as dropping leaves and pinecones. He recognized that \$90,000 was budgeted for this
298 project, but the bids were almost double that cost. He noted that there were projects that
299 have been pushed off which in essence freed up additional funding that could be used for
300 this project.

301
302 Council Member Doll Kanne clarified that all three projects were planned to use park
303 dedication funds, when the balance in that fund could have never supported all three
304 projects. Mr. Watson explained how park dedication funds are used, recognizing that the
305 fund balance never covers the full cost of all the anticipated projects therefore some
306 projects are delayed, or additional funding sources are identified. He stated that the Park
307 Master Plan will provide guidance on funding for future park improvements.

308
309 Council Member Rogers stated that the project is needed and commented that the park is a
310 great setting for the courts.

311
312 Council Member Doll Kanne asked the lifespan of the windscreens. Mr. Watson
313 anticipated about five years, dependent on weather conditions. It was confirmed that the
314 screens are removed prior to the winter season.

315
316 Council Member Doll Kanne stated that perhaps the Park Commission is asked to review
317 alternate wind screening options in the future to determine if there is a better solution.

318
319 Council Member Rogers commented that there are four courts and asked if the screens
320 would be located on all four sides. Mr. Watson replied that he would assume the screens
321 would be on all sides but noted that another member of staff would have that information.

322
323 Council Member Doll Kanne commented that the courts are well-used and therefore the
324 cost for the screens would seem justified for this case.

325
326 Upon motion by Council Member Goebel, seconded by Council Member Rogers, it was

327 #23-04-061 “RESOLVED, that the Council adopt Resolution Approving an
328 Amendment of the Approved 2023 Capital Improvement Plan and accept
329 the bid from Bituminous Roadways in the amount of \$166,500, plus an
330 additional \$10,000 for wind screens, for the reconstruction of the Kohler
331 Meadows Park tennis courts, as presented.”

332 Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

333 The motion was adopted.

334 Council Member Jozwowski asked for additional information from the City Attorney on
335 Item 12 D which was removed from the agenda. City Attorney Beckman explained that
336 the City is the licensing agency and provided additional background information on the
337 authority of the City on that matter.

338 **COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

339 Chief Hearden commented that there was a great turnout for the Fire Department open house
340 and waffle breakfast, which was hosted by the Lions.

341 Assistant City Administrator Clement noted a new staff member, Phillip Lundquist, will be
342 joining the team the following week. She also recognized Mr. Farrell noting that he will be
343 missed.

344 Finance Director Sundberg had nothing to report.

345 City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell commented that this has been the snowiest
346 winter in over 40 years and commended the public works team for their continued hard work
347 in snow removal. He stated that residents who received damage in their yard should contact
348 the City for assistance.

349 Planning/Community Development Director Wall had nothing to report.

350 City Attorney Beckman had nothing to report.

351 Council Member Doll Kanne stated that she is excited for Mr. Farrell's next opportunity,
352 although he will be missed in Vadnais Heights. She recognized a resident of Vadnais
353 Heights who assisted with the revisions she provided to the Slow Mow May resolution. She
354 noted that she had a great time at the waffle breakfast and Fire Department open house.

355 Council Member Rogers shared an update from the health and public safety monthly meeting
356 which took place the previous week. He recognized the great job that Mr. Farrell does,
357 noting his great communication with residents.

358 Council Member Jozwowski commented that she was able to spend time with the public
359 works crew recently, who do an amazing job. She thanked Mr. Farrell for everything he does
360 and noted that the new city will be lucky to have him.

361 Council Member Goebel commented that he works in Oakdale, which is where Mr. Farrell is
362 going and plans to keep him busy. He noted that the City is losing a true asset.

363 Mayor Krachmer had nothing to report.

364 City Administrator Watson had nothing to report.

365

366

