

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2023**

Mayor Richard Brainerd convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. with City Council members Jeff Charlesworth, Lilly Melander, Luke Schlegel, and Jane Schneeweis in attendance. City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Attorney Bridget Nason, City Engineer John Sachi, Public Works Director Bob Goebel, Fire Chief Terry Fischer, Finance Director Scott Schaefer, and City Clerk Jerene Rogers were also in attendance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Council member Charlesworth moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.

City Council member Schlegel moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to approve the March 21, 2023 City Council meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. PRESENTATIONS – Government Finance Officers Association Award

Mayor Brainerd thanked Finance Director Scott Schaefer for his efforts in the City receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Award for the 31st consecutive year. This award is for the Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year end December 31, 2021.

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Christelle Peterson, 109 Loretta Lane said she is here to talk to the council regarding the proposed pickleball courts at Wedgewood Park. She saw the bid in the paper for the pickleball courts and was not happy because she didn't have an opportunity to speak out about the courts. She asked if any action has been taken to resolve the noise that will come from the courts. She said the City may be breaking their own noise ordinance by allowing these courts in the park. She stated the courts may cost the city more if the neighbors start complaining and asking for improvements to their homes to diminish the noise coming from the use of the courts.

City Engineer John Sachi said a final decision has not been made regarding the construction of the pickleball courts. He said going out for bids is part of the process. The bids will be brought to the May 2 City Council meeting where the Council will discuss this item and they will decide at that time if they want to proceed with construction. He said the courts will not have lights, therefore will only be used during the daylight. He said these courts have become very popular and are something both the Parks Commission and the City Council authorized. He stated that Candace Amberg who is part of the design team will be at the next meeting to answer any and all questions.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

6a. APPROVAL – WSB Proposal to Complete the 2023 Pond Maintenance Project.

A proposal from WSB to complete the 2023 Pond Maintenance Project was approved. The proposal is for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000.00 and will include design, testing, investigation and plan preparation for the maintenance of the highest priority ponds.

6b. APPROVAL – Disposition of Surplus Public Works Items.

Staff asked and received permission to dispose of a 2017 Toro Zero turn lawn mower, bagger and dethatcher and used Bobcat broom. These items were recently replaced.

6c. APPROVAL – 2023 Street Sweeping Contract

Staff asked and received permission to enter into a contract with Allied Blacktop Company for the annual citywide street sweeping. Allied Blacktop Company will charge the City \$120.00 per hour for this service.

6d. APPROVAL – Liquor License/Assorted License Renewals.

The annual liquor/assorted license renewals were approved contingent upon receipt of all appropriate paperwork and certificates of insurance.

6e. APPROVAL – Acknowledge Completion of Probationary Period for Firefighter/EMT Michelle Redlin.

Fire Chief Terry Fischer said Michelle Redlin has completed all necessary requirements to approve changing her probationary status to a paid on-call Firefighters/EMT. Michelle was sworn in by Chief Fischer in front of her family, friends and colleagues.

6f. CONSIDER APPROVAL – 2023 Recycling Grant Agreement with Washington County.

The 2023 Recycling Grant Agreement with Washington County was approved. The grant amount is \$16,310.00 and will be used towards recycling expenditures.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

8a. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Resolution to Support No Mow May Initiative 2023.

City Administrator Neilson said the Environmental Commission recommended the No Mow May Initiative. He said that bee pollinators make use of no mow May spaces as resources during early

8. STAFF REPORTS - continued

spring. He said the City will suspend the ordinance from May 1 to May 31 and encourage residents from mowing their lawns during this time period.

Christine Ahmann- Maples and Mike Chevalier, Environmental Commission members said the Environmental Commission supports this important initiative as it relates to pollinators.

City Council member Charlesworth moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-16, a Resolution to Support No Mow May Initiative 2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

8b. CONSIDER APPROVAL – Property Assessments for CSAH 12 Project.

City Administrator Scott Neilson said Washington County will be rebuilding County Road 12 in 2024 and the City will be participating financially in the project.

City Engineer John Sachi said Washington County will be rebuilding the next phase of CSAH 12 from Hallam Avenue/East Avenue to Ideal Avenue in 2024. He explained the City has an option to assess the properties that abut the project. He reminded the Council that the City assessed the properties along Wildwood Road in 2022 as part of that project. He stated if the Council wants to assess the properties along this segment, then staff (WSB) needs direction to prepare a feasibility report. He said the City could realize about \$200,000 in revenue if the properties along this segment are assessed. He explained that the assessment rates are approved annually with the fee schedule and the commercial properties will be assessed at a per foot rate.

City Council member Charlesworth asked if the assessment amounts are larger if the project area is larger.

City Engineer Sachi said no, the assessment amounts are the same regardless of the size of the roadway.

City Council member Schlegel asked if we would use the 2023 or 2024 assessment rates and what will the City be responsible to pay

City Engineer Sachi said we will use the 2024 assessment rates that will be computed in July 2023. He said the City will be responsible for ½ the signal light costs, some trail fees and some pedestrian crossing fees.

Mayor Brainerd said there are two large assessment areas in this segment, the school and St. Andrew's Church, what do these assessments look like.

City Engineer Sachi said there are different levels of assessment rates. He explained they are leaning towards the pavement rehab assessment rate for the school and church. He said this rate is the second lowest rate for commercial assessments.

8. STAFF REPORTS - continued

The consensus of the City Council is to assess the property owners in this segment of County Road 12 project and to have WSB prepare a feasibility report. The City Council will receive the report and then call a public hearing in order to assess the project.

8c. CONSIDER APPROVAL-Bill List

City Council member Charlesworth moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to approve the bills as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator Neilson stated he called MNDot regarding the condition of Mahtomedi Avenue and was informed they will be pothole patching and sealcoating this summer. He indicated that they are continuing to put the financing together for the turnback. City Administrator Neilson said the White Bear Lake water level issue is moving along in the legislature. He said there have been several amendments to the bill. He will keep the council apprised of the progress of this bill. He reminded the Council about the Board of Review meeting scheduled for April 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Director Bob Goebel said the snowstorm over the weekend was one of the worst we've had to deal with. He said the heavy wet snow and the numerous trees down made plowing very difficult. He said they continue to clean up downed trees and brush.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

City Council member Schneeweis stated she has received many calls regarding the potholes on Briarwood Avenue.

Public Works Director Goebel said they will be taking care of that area when the weather clears up.

City Council member Charlesworth congratulated Firefighter Redlin and said he is grateful for the fire department service.

City Council member Schlegel said he attended a recent Century Avenue Coalition meeting. He said there will be a study completed for the portion south of Interstate 94 to Interstate 694. He explained the State has been asked for \$50 million in funds for the Highway 36/Highway 120 interchange. He said they are looking at a grade separated interchange in this area. He explained that this is the last signaled interchange. He said there are funds available this year for the area north of Highway 694 for turnback and construction. He said this is the area in Mahtomedi. He said pre-design will begin this summer and after about a year there will be about 2 ½ years of design, and then potential construction in 2027. He said they will talk to us about trails, pedestrian crossings and non-automobile transportation. He explained the bridge will not be touched as part of the reconstruction.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL - Continued

Mayor Brainerd said we will be having a meeting on April 18th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss possible future agenda items. He said if anybody has anything they want to discuss to send Scott an email. He stated there will be a joint City Council/Finance Commission meeting on May 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Fire Department to discuss the recently completed Fire Department Staffing Study. He thanked the public works staff for their efforts this winter.

11. CLOSED SESSION – None

12. ADJOURNMENT

City Council member Schneeweis moved and City Council member Schlegel seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:



JERENE ROGERS, CITY CLERK



RICHARD BRAINERD, MAYOR