



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2022

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lund called the City Council Meeting of November 14, 2022, to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Scott Lund
Councilmember Dave Ostwald
Councilmember Tom Tillberry
Councilmember Stephen Eggert
Councilmember Ann Bolcom
Walter Wysopal, City Manager
Scott Hickok, Community Development Director
Joe Starks, Finance Director
Sarah Sonsalla, City Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Mom's Haven of Hope Presentation

Pam Powell, Executive Director, explained that Mom's Haven of Hope is a faith-based nonprofit that seeks to help single moms by providing community, and soon, a home, that will provide a safe and stable place for moms and their children. She reviewed statistics on those who become moms between the ages of 15 to 19 and the support those young mothers need. She stated housing for single mothers is a real need in the community. She noted this organization is seeking to fill that need and broke ground on November 1 to build a single-family home. She stated each bedroom would be occupied by a single mother with a house manager onsite. She reviewed the other support and coaching the moms would receive through the program. She noted that more information can be found on their website www.Momshavenofhope.org.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Councilmember Tillberry to adopt the proposed Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Bolcom.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, MAYOR LUND DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approve the Minutes from the City Council Meeting of October 24, 2022.
3. Receive the Minutes from the City Council Conference Meeting of October 24, 2022.
4. Receive the Minutes from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting of September 1, 2022.
5. Receive the Minutes from the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of September 6, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Resolution No. 2022-125, Submitting a List of Eligible Nominees to Anoka County for the Open Manager Position on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers.

CLAIMS

7. Resolution No. 2022-127 Approving Claims for the Period Ending November 9, 2022.

ADOPTION OF REGULAR AGENDA

Motion made by Councilmember Eggert to adopt the regular agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Ostwald.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, MAYOR LUND DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN FORUM, VISITORS: Consideration of Items not on Agenda – 15 minutes.

No one from the audience spoke.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**NEW BUSINESS**

8. Resolution No. 2022-124, Approving Proposed 2023 Rates and Fess for the Public Utilities and Solid Waste Abatement.

Joe Starks, Finance Director, reviewed the proposed 2023 rate highlights for the solid waste abatement fund, noting a proposed decrease of 17 percent for all customers. He explained that is possible because the recycling commodity pricing has rebounded, meaning that recycled goods are worth more money. He stated the water utility fund and sanitary sewer utility fund both propose three percent fixed rate and three percent variance rate increases. He stated the stormwater utility fund proposes an increase of \$1.10 quarterly, which is a ten percent fixed rate increase, noting it is largely due to increasing capital and operational needs to comply with the new stormwater permit. He provided municipal community rates

for comparable communities, noting that Fridley falls into the middle. He stated staff recommends approval of the resolution as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Eggert to adopt Resolution No. 2022-124, Approving Proposed 2023 Rates and Fees for the Public Utilities and Solid Waste Abatement. Seconded by Councilmember Ostwald.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, MAYOR LUND DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Resolution No. 2022-126, Terminating the 1980 Joint Powers Agreement Between the City of Fridley and Anoka County Regarding Rice Creek West Regional Trail (Locke Park, Plaza Park, and Locke Lake Park).

Scott Hickok, Community Development Director, provided background information on the Locke Park Joint Powers Agreement. He explained the City had discussed having Anoka County support to dissolve the JPA to have Fridley take back the maintenance and programming of the parks identified in the JPA. He noted that two pieces of legislation would be required at the State level to allow the City to recoup its costs for maintenance and upkeep, currently paid to Anoka County. He reviewed the roles of the commissions in this JPA process. He commented on the lack of collaboration between the City and County. He stated staff recommends that the JPA is eliminated at this time and the City can pursue an attempt at the legislature to become an implementing agency to be reimbursed for the maintenance of the three noted parks.

The Council noted a recent presentation from Anoka County parks staff, as well as the letter received, and stated that did not include clear information or action items. It was noted that residents have commented on the desire for improvement within these parks. It was noted that Anoka County receives funding for these parks, and it has never been made clear as to the funds that have been spent on these parks.

Mr. Hickok commented the City would be following this path in order to protect and care for its parks.

Wally Wysopal, City Manager, commented that there is a difference in the maintenance levels of the County parks system and what is expected in City parks which was highlighted in the recent parks improvement planning. He acknowledged that it would take effort to get these parks to the City's standard.

The Council commented that the vision of the City is not to change the land use, but improve the park for use by residents. The Council expressed strong support for this action as the agreement is flawed and has not been followed by the County. There was concern with what would be done in the park during the one-year notice for dissolution of the agreement. It was noted that City staff would complete the mowing and snow removal and they would attempt to begin programming on a small scale during that time. It was noted that a County Commissioner stated that the County plans to honor their commitment during the one-year period.

Sarah Sonsalla, City Attorney, stated that she has been working with staff on this issue to review the options of the City, and it is clear the City has the right to terminate the agreement with the one-year notice period. She noted that she and staff have also been discussing funding.

The Council recognized the lack of a partnership on the part of the County, noting that the City was not even included in the development of the recent master plan. It was reiterated that this land has always been park land and would continue to be so. The experience would just be improved for users.

Motion made by Councilmember Bolkcom to adopt Resolution No. 2022-126, Terminating the 1980 Joint Powers Agreement Between the City of Fridley and Anoka County Regarding Rice Creek West Regional Trail (Locke Park, Plaza Park, and Locke Lake Park). Seconded by Councilmember Tillberry.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, MAYOR LUND DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMAL STATUS REPORTS

The Council commented on the successful Coats from Cops event which served 167 families. Upcoming events were also highlighted.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Ostwald to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Eggert.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, MAYOR LUND DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Moore
City Clerk

Scott J. Lund
Mayor