



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

January 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Supple at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mary Supple, Mayor; Sharon Christensen; Simon Trautmann; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director/Police Chief; Jennifer Anderson, Support Services Manager; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer; and Chris Swanson, Management Analyst

Others Present: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Supple led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Supple reviewed the options to participate:

- Participate live by calling 1-415-655-0001 during the open forum portion
- Call prior to meeting 612-861-9711
- Email prior to meeting kwynn@richfieldmn.gov

Larry Ernster, 6727 Elliott Avenue South, urged the Council to not support the City's Legislative priorities supporting the sanctuary State Legislature until they had solved the existing problems with respect to homelessness and other housing issues. He expressed concern that the City had insufficient resources. He noted there had been no outreach to the Richfield citizens of the Council's intentions and no interest in what the citizens wanted. He indicated the City had no plan in place to pay for more migrants.

Melissa Gonzalez, 7045 Lyndale Avenue South, agreed the City had housing issues and food insecurity, as well as other issues, but the issues of immigration and law enforcement were not directly tied to those. She noted she supported the Legislative priority. She stated people may or may not agree with the reasons people come to this Country, but with her work with immigrants, they were excited, felt blessed, and wanted to be active members of this society. She indicated they want to be looked at as human beings. She requested the Council approve the Legislative priorities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session of January 9, 2024; (2) Regular City Council Meeting of January 9, 2024; and (3) Special City Council Meeting of January 12, 2024.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #1	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Trautmann, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the agenda.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #2	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of the Foundational Public Health Responsibilities (FPHR) grant provided by the Minnesota Legislature and administered through the Minnesota Department of Health (Staff Report No. 12)
- B. Consider adoption of resolutions of support for two grant opportunities offered through MnDOT’s Safe Routes to School Program:
 - 1. An infrastructure grant application by Public Works for \$500,000 to construct pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on 70th Street between Elliot and 12th Avenues at Richfield STEM and Dual Language Elementary Schools
 - 2. A Planning grant application by ISD #280 for planning assistance to update the 2014 Safe Routes to School Comprehensive Plan (Staff Report No. 13)

RESOLUTION NO. ____

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 70TH STREET SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. ____

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ISD #280’S SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLANNING ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Christensen to approve the consent calendar.

Council Member Whalen expressed support for Item B and encouraged residents to learn more about the Safe Routes to School program.

Mayor Supple gave a shout out to the City and School District for working together on the Safe Routes to School. She indicated she appreciated all of the work they put in.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #3	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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None.

ITEM #4	CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF A YOUTH MEMBER TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION. (STAFF REPORT NO. 14)
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Christensen presented Staff Report 14.

M/Christensen, S/Trautmann to approve the appointment of Helen Burk to the Sustainability Commission as a youth commissioner.

Mayor Supple welcomed Helen Burk to the Commission.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #5	CONSIDER APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RICHFIELD.
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Hayford Oleary presented the Staff Report.

Transportation Engineer Hardegger presented an overview of how the plan came into development.

Mayor Supple encouraged people to look at the presentation in the Council’s placket for more information.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Christensen to adopt the Active Transportation Plan for the City of Richfield.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated the plan did an excellent job of talking about the places of success on Lyndale Avenue and 66th Street, but it also identified a lot of problems where they did not have the funding or staff capacity to do. He noted in order to achieve what was necessary, they need a more concerted planning effort along with have significantly more financial resources allocated to it to be able to build and start to change those streets. He requested the Council keep this in mind for the next budgeting session. He indicated he was happy to see the plan.

Mayor Supple stated the Senate Bonding Committee joined Richfield on Nicollet Avenue. She thanked everyone who was a part of the process.

Council Member Trautmann thanked everyone’s leadership and focus on this.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #6	
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	CONSIDER AMENDING THE CITY'S 2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM TO INCLUDE THE NORTHSTAR BILL (STAFF REPORT NO. 16)
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Council Member Whalen presented Staff Report 16.

M/Whalen, S/Trautmann to amend the City's 2024 Legislative platform to include the following addition to the platform under Public Safety:

Support for the goals of the NorthSTAR Act which clearly separates all Minnesota government resources from civil immigration enforcement as it is a federal responsibility. This clarity helps build trust with Richfield's immigrant community and removes barriers to provide important public safety, public health, and other services. We encourage the bill's authors and supporters to work with the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, Minnesota Sheriff's Association, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, League of Minnesota Cities and Metro Cities on the specific language.

Council Member Whalen indicated he was excited for the continued conversation about how they build 50,000 more housing units or more to address the housing crisis. He stated no human being was illegal and the City was glad they were here. He noted he was excited to support this.

Council Member Trautmann thanked the Chief of Police, the City Manager, and other staff. He indicated he appreciated the comments made today identifying common challenges. He believed there was a bipartisan consensus that the Federal immigration system was non-functioning, but that was not something that they try to solve in the City as they had no tools to solve this. He believed they would serve the residents better if they could serve the State, or if the State could give consistent guidance to all cities, Counties, and multiple levels of government to the Metropolitan Council. He stated clarity would be helpful to the residents. He stated this was not an invitation to break any law, but this is an opportunity to clarify the law and create some good policy. He indicated he would support this.

Mayor Supple encouraged the bill's authors to work with the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, the Sheriff's Association, the Police and Peace Officers Association, and the League of Cities. She believed it was important for everyone to work together to get the best possible bill.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #7	CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez shared information regarding the last Council meeting Open Forum including Richfield having equitable public safety and the advocating for eliminating traffic stops.

Hayford Oleary stated with respect to the traffic stop he question the term low level as it seemed ambiguous. He asked what did low level mean. City Manager Rodriguez responded she needed to verify the details of their policies and would get that information to the Council.

ITEM #8	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
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M/Trautmann, S/Whalen that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

<u>U.S. BANK</u>	<u>01/18/2024</u>
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A/P Checks: 326136 - 326439	\$2,575,240.95
Payroll: 184570 – 184881 43748 - 43753	<u>\$753,877.42</u>
TOTAL	\$3,329,118.37

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #9	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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Council Member Whalen thanked the legislators who visited and toured some of Nicollet Avenue and he thanked staff for putting that together.

Council Member Christensen gave hats off to the City staff who put out an email summary of what happens in the City.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary gave hats off to Jeff M., the owner of Sota Boys Smoke shop for the discussion he had with him regarding the changes made to the tobacco sales and flavored tobacco. He thanked him for his time.

Council Member Trautmann wished former Mayor Marty Kirsch a speedy recovery and express sympathy that he was doing poorly. He thanked the Richfield Optimist Club for the flags they put in his yard on the 4th of July and Memorial Day. He noted the Richfield Optimists raised thousands of dollars through that which was then donated to local charities.

Mayor Supple gave hats off to Partnership Academy and thanked them for inviting several people to come for their change makers unit. She gave hats off to Patty Piatz and her team for the Hometown Media Award they received.

ITEM #10	ADJOURNMENT
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M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Motion carried: 5-0

Date Approved: February 13, 2024



Chris Swanson
Management Analyst



Mary Supple
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager