



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting Virtual via WebEx

February 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 7:00 p.m. virtually via WebEx.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Krista Guzman, Human Resources Manager; Melissa Poehlman, Interim Community Development Director; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant; Chris Swanson, Management Analyst, and Kari Sinning, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also led a moment of silence for Jahmari Rice who was shot at the South Education Center and shared condolences with all those affected by this tragedy.

OPEN FORUM

Administrative Assistant Wynn reviewed the options to participate:

- Participate live by calling 612-861-0651 during the open forum portion
- Call prior to meeting 612-861-9711
- Email prior to meeting kwynn@richfieldmn.gov

Administrative Assistant Wynn read aloud an email from Rob Skezton who shared his thoughts on the use of City funds during the pandemic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Whalen, S/Supple to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session of January 25, 2022; (2) Regular City Council Meeting of January 25, 2022.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #1	PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIR, WALTER BURK
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez introduced Human Rights Commission Chair Burk and read aloud the proclamation.

Council Member Supple welcomed Chair Burk and thanked the commission for bringing the proclamation to the City. She also shared appreciation for a couple of retired teachers from Richfield Public Schools that both taught for over thirty years; Mr. Willie Falwell, who taught art at the high school and Ms. Nel Swanson who taught fifth grade.

Council Member Hayford Oleary appreciated the focus on racial equality on the council and the structural policy issues that the city continues to work on and loved to see that the proclamation called out to specific individuals that have had an impact on the community.

Council Member Trautmann appreciated Chair Burk’s leadership and the work that the Human Rights Commission continues to do and reminded that all the history in black history is all of our history throughout the year.

Council Member Whalen thanked the commission for bringing the proclamation to council and expressed appreciation that we are focusing on equity. He stated that the history African American contributions to our community are as long as the history of discrimination and racism. He encouraged the celebration of those that have overcome discrimination and racism.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also thanked Chair Burk and the Human Rights Commission for the proclamation and shared a thought of lifting up African American stories and work in the community. She also expressed her excitement on the work that we have to do regarding racial equity.

Human Rights Commission Chair Burk thanked the Council for the opportunity to present the proclamation.

ITEM #2	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to approve the agenda.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE

Hayford Oleary: AYE
Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #3	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. First reading of a proposed Ordinance Amendment establishing regulations for Electric Vehicle chargers. (Staff Report No. 17)
- B. Consider a resolution approving a request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Class I (full service) restaurant and retail market at 2900 66th Street West, Suite 2900 (Southdale Square). (Staff Report No. 18)

RESOLUTION NO. 11943

RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A RESTAURANT AND RETAIL MARKET AT 2900 66TH STREET WEST SUITE 2900

- C. Consider approval of a first reading of an ordinance authorizing the sale of three city-owned properties for I494 Project 1 and schedule a second reading for February 22, 2022. (Staff Report No. 19)
- D. First Reading of an ordinance amending zoning regulations for firearm sales, repair, and other related uses. (Staff Report No. 20)
- E. Consider purchase approval of a Pierce Enforcer PUC Fire Pumper for \$300,000 in budget year 2022 and \$523,673 in budget year 2023, totaling \$823,673, from MacQueen Emergency Group, and authorize the City Manager to approve contract changes up to \$175,000 without further City Council consideration. (Staff Report No. 21)

M/Supple, S/Whalen approve the consent calendar.

Council Member Whalen lifted up the community development department staff continual work during this transitional period and expressed appreciation for addressing the issues instead of putting them on the back burner.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed discontentment for item C and will hold off on comments until the second reading. He also expressed excitement for item B.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

Regan Gonzalez: AYE
Supple: AYE
Trautmann: AYE
Hayford Oleary: AYE
Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #4	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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None.

ITEM #5	CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 921 AND 925 OF THE RICHFIELD CITY CODE TO UPDATE AND INCORPORATE PREVIOUS OPEN BURNING, FIRES, AND INCINERATION RESTRICTIONS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 22)
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented Staff Report 22.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Supple to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Sections 921 and 925 of the Richfield City Code and schedule a second reading for February 22, 2022.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #6	CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTRACTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES (POLICE OFFICERS) AND TEAMSTERS (POLICE SERGEANTS AND POLICE LIEUTENANTS) FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 23)
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Council Member Supple presented Staff Report 23 and thanked the negotiations teams for both management and employees.

M/Supple, S/Trautmann to adopt a resolution approving the provisions of the 2022-2023 labor agreements with LELS and Teamsters bargaining units and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements.

RESOLUTION NO. 11944

RESOLUTION APPROVING LABOR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES (LELS #123) AND TEAMSTERS (#320) BARGAINING UNITS FOR YEARS 2022-2023

Council Member Trautmann thanked management and Police for working together to come to this agreement and also recognized our law enforcement for their responsiveness to the recent tragedy.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also thanked staff and everyone on both sides of the bargaining table and expressed excitement to see the pilot program in the works and looks forward to the updates.

Human Rights Commissioner Lee asked when the pilot program would be revisited. Human Resources Manager Guzman explained that revisions would be made as necessary and that there would be regular conversations with the union on the pilot program.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #7	CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SACK THONGVANH TO BE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF RICHFIELD. (STAFF REPORT NO. 24)
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Council Member Trautmann presented Staff Report 24 and shared a comment from the City of Falcon Heights.

City Manager Rodriguez stated that Mr. Thongvanh expressed his regrets for not attending the meeting as he is taking a much needed vacation.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez shared her excitement for the appointment of Sack Thongvanh.

M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to confirm the appointment of Sack Thongvanh as Assistant City Manager for the City of Richfield.

Council Member Whalen seconded the excitement expressed for the hiring of Assistant City Manager Thongvanh.

Council Member Supple welcomed and expressed excitement to work with the new assistant city manager.

Council Member Trautmann commended staff on the recruitment process.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #8	CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MELISSA POEHLMAN TO BE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF RICHFIELD. (STAFF REPORT NO. 25)
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Council Member Whalen presented Staff Report 25.

City Manager Rodriguez shared her excitement for this promotion.

Acting Community Development Director Poehlman thanked the Council and also expressed her excitement to lead the community development team.

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to confirm the appointment of Melissa Poehlman as Community Development Director for the City of Richfield.

Council Member Supple welcomed Community Development Director Poehlman to the director role and expressed excitement to working with her in the future.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed his excitement for Community Development Director Poehlman to continue to do good work for the City.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed her appreciation for the Community Development Department and the department’s contributions to the community. She shared her enthusiasm to work with Community Development Director Poehlman.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #9	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez extended condolences to the family and the community involved in the tragic events from the past week. She thanked Police Chief Henthorne and Fire Chief Dobesh and staff for their hard work and thanked our communications team. She also thanked council and especially Mayor Regan Gonzalez for her communication and outreach to community.

City Manager Rodriguez also gave an update on covid and the current city mitigations and if we could possibly make changes to those mitigations in the future as cases decrease.

City Manager Rodriguez also thanked council for the approval of the Assistant City Manager Sack Thongvanh and Community Development Director Poehlman.

ITEM #10	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
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M/Whalen, S/Supple that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

U.S. Bank	2/8/2022
A/P Checks: 303562 – 303943	\$1,191,494.57
Payroll: 168050 – 168349, 43460 – 43461	\$ 733,163.67
TOTAL	\$1,924,658.24

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford Oleary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #11	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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Council Member Supple offered condolences to Jahmari Rice’s family and friends and expressed gratitude for the schools and the community support surrounding this tragedy. She mentioned that residents can apply for the citizen HRA/EDA appointment on the website. She also promoted the Ice and Snow Festival this Saturday at Taft Lake.

Council Member Whalen echoed the thanks and appreciation for all those involved in responding to the shooting and the community members supporting the victims’ families. He expressed gratitude for our communication’s responsiveness and reflected on how to strengthen community safety.

Council Member Hayford Oleary echoed the condolences and distress and gratitude for those involved with the tragedy. He also thanked community members for their input to the I-494 project and mentioned a virtual meeting for the project.

Council Member Trautmann shared in the grief that Jahmari Rice’s family and the other victims are going through. He lifted up the students that are experiencing trauma caused by the tragedy. He appreciated the work of Bishop Howell at Shiloh Temple and BJ Skoog and Cesar at Young Life. He also mentioned the funeral for Jahmari Rice. He was grateful for the community and how it’s supported one another.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed the many emotions that she had been feeling; deep grief, hopelessness, loss, and concern for the sanctity of our communities. She acknowledged that the important work council does as leaders in the community to create community in Richfield and the seamlessness of how well different departments and levels of government worked together in the response of this crisis.

ITEM #12	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:28 p.m.

Date Approved: February 8, 2022



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kari Sinning
City Clerk



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager