



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

February 28, 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; Libby Kantner, City Attorney; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director/Police Chief; Jennifer Anderson, Support Services Manager; Mike Dobesh, Fire Chief; Julie Urban, Assistant Community Development Director, and Chris Swanson, Management Analyst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Supple led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN MEMORIUM

Mayor Supple requested a Moment of Silence to honor the three Burnsville First Responders who lost their lives in the line of duty and gave condolences to their families for their loss.

City Manager Rodriguez gave her thoughts and condolences to the families of the officers and first responders as well as the staff at Burnsville. She indicated Richfield's staff, especially the first responders, continued to be impacted by this tragedy. She thanked Richfield's first responders and Police Officers for everything they do in keeping everyone safe.

Mayor Supple stated she had received a message from the Burnsville Mayor thanking the Richfield staff for all of their help and they appreciated the support.

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

Kathleen Balaban, 65th and Stevens, expressed concern about proposed amendments changing the city government structure from Mayor-Council to Council-Manager system. She noted her concern

regarding the use of electronic signatures. She advocated for the right to vote on changes to the City Charter, citing staff-initiated changes that were not requested by the citizens.

City Manager Rodriguez read an email received from Deb Nordmarken expressing concern about the affordability of homes in Richfield and the City Council’s spending decisions, along with the Council not listening to residents and for making decisions without proper funding in place. Ms. Nordmarken requested a report on the City’s efforts to seek out new businesses, including clean-up plans and ideas to entice retail industry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Christensen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session of February 13, 2024; (2) Regular City Council Meeting of February 13, 2024.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Whalen to approve the agenda.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #2 RICHFIELD POLICE K-9 BADGING CEREMONY

Mayor Supple invited Chief Henthorne to the podium to administer the Oath of Office to canine Officer Orion and canine Officer Riggs.

Chief Henthorne summarized the Police canine program and administered the Oath of Office to canine Officer Orion and canine Officer Riggs.

ITEM #3 CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of an agreement between the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department and the City of Richfield Police Department to participate in the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) program from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026 (Staff Report No. 26)
- B. Consider extending American Rescue Plan Act funding contracts with VEAP from March 31, 2024 to June 30, 2024, and with the Conflict Resolution Center to September 30, 2024 (Staff Report No. 27)

RESOLUTION NO. 12186

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EXTENTION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT CONTRACTS WITH VEAP AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER

- C. Consider approval of the bid tabulation and authorization the Mayor and City Manager to execute a contract with Valley Paving, Inc. for the Sale Routes to School 71st Street Sidewalk project in the amount of \$150,820, and authorize the City Manager to approve contract changes up to \$175,000 without further City Council consideration (Staff Report No. 28)
- D. Consider approval of resolution authorizing execution of MnDOT Agreement #1055391 for the disbursement of state general obligation bond funding for the 71st Street Safe Routes to School sidewalk program (Staff Report No. 28)

RESOLUTION NO. 12187

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT
GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. 12188

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MNDOT AGREEMENT #1055391
SETTING GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF
STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FUNDING FOR THE 71ST STREET
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SIDEWALK PROGRAM**

M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to approve the consent calendar.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #4	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
----------------	--

None.

ITEM #5	PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION SPECIFYING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE URBAN HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION FOR 2024 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY AND ANY REQUIRED THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENTS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 29)
----------------	--

Council Member Hayford Oleary presented Staff Report 29 and opened the public hearing.

Council Member Whalen pointed out a mistake in the staff report and resolution regarding the amount of \$423 and \$432. City Attorney Kantner noted the mistake would be corrected and the Council could proceed with the approval.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Trautmann to close the public hearing.

Motion carried: 5-0

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Whalen to adopt a resolution approving proposed use of 2024 Urban Hennepin County Community Development Block Grant Program Funds and Authorizing Execution of Subrecipient Agreement with Hennepin County and any required Third-Party Agreements.

RESOLUTION NO. 12185

RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPOSED USE OF 2024 URBAN HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY AND ANY REQUIRED THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENTS

Council Member Trautman pointed out that this was a powerful tool and thanked staff for making it a priority for new homeowners in Richfield. Mayor Supple echoed Council Member Trautman’s sentiments and indicated the rehabilitation program was very valuable.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #6	CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AMENDING SECTION 925 – NUISANCES TO INCLUDE A NEW PROVISION RELATING TO FLEXIBLE DUMPSTERS AND ADDING THAT A VIOLATION OF SECTION 1305.27 SUBD 5 (YARDS) & 6 (VEHICLE PARKING AND STORAGE LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS) IS NUISANCE CONDUCT AND SUBJECT TO A REPEAT NUISANCE FEE (STAFF REPORT NO. 30)
----------------	---

Whalen presented Staff Report 30.

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve an Ordinance amending Subsection 925.13 of the Richfield Code of Ordinances Amending the Public Nuisance Code to add a provision relating to flexible dumpsters.

Council Member Hayford Oleary thanked staff for the changes and believed this would ensure people were being good neighbors. He stated he was in support of this.

BILL NO. 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION 925.13 OF THE RICHFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES AMENDING THE PUBLIC NUISANCE CODE TO ADD A PROVISION RELATING TO FLEXIBLE DUMPSTERS

Motion carried: 5-0

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve an Ordinance amending Subsection 925.13 of the Richfield Code of Ordinances to add that a violation of Section 1305.27 Subd 5 & 6 (parking and traffic rules) is nuisance conduct subject to a repeat nuisance fee.

BILL NO. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION 925.13 OF THE RICHFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD THAT A VIOLATION OF SECTION 1305.27 SUBD 5 & 6 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC RULES) IS NUISANCE CONDUCT SUBJECT TO A REPEAT NUISANCE FEE

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #7	CONSIDER THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CURRENT CITY CHARTER BASED ON THE CHARTER COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATIONS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 33)
----------------	--

Council Member Trautman thanked the Commission members and staff for their work on this Ordinance. He presented Staff Report 33.

M/Trautmann, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Adopting Comprehensive Amendments to the Richfield City Charter.

Council Member Hayford Oleary clarified they were not changing the form of government from the current structure. He noted the current city structure is Council-Manager and they would continue and that remains unchanged. He stated the intent of updating this language is to improve clarity on responsibilities in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Supple thanked the Charter Commission members and staff who worked on this.

Council Member Whalen noted a lot of the changes were non-significant updates and the form of government was not changing. He indicated a couple of slightly more significant changes related to what to do when there was a vacancy and when a special election was warranted as well as the emergency powers of the mayor, which had come up during the pandemic.

Council Member Trautmann inquired if each change to the Charter required a unanimous vote. City Attorney Kantner responded that was correct.

Council Member Trautmann pointed out that among the Council when they were discussing this there was no universal agreement, but a consensus was eventually reached.

Management Analyst Swanson noted the Commission had met more in the last 2.5 years reviewing this document than the Commission met in the prior 7 plus years. He thanked all members of the Charter Commission.

Mayor Supple thanked Management Analyst Swanson for researching the historical information on the original document.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #8	CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THOSE AGENCIES (STAFF REPORT NO. 32)
----------------	--

Council Member Christensen presented Staff Report 32.

The council asked general questions about the funding and what organizations were receiving the money. Assistant Community Development Director Urban answered the questions for the council.

M/Christensen, S/Whalen to approve the agreement with non-profit organizations to provide social services to the City of Richfield and authorize the City Manager to execute agreements with those agencies.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #9	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
----------------	------------------------------

City Manager Rodriguez did not have anything to report.

ITEM #1-	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
-----------------	---------------------------

M/Trautmann, S/Hayford Oleary that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

<u>U.S. BANK</u>	<u>02/22/2024</u>
A/P Checks: 326833 – 326975	\$1,130,236.95
Payroll: 185530 – 185845, 43773 – 43784	<u>\$965,631.10</u>
TOTAL	\$2,095,868.05

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #11	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
-----------------	----------------------------------

Council Member Trautmann thanked staff for taking the time to have the evaluation done regarding employee compensation and stated the city is in better shape than it had been in the past. He appreciated the moment of silence for the Burnsville first responder and police officers and gave hats off to the Richfield first responders, police officers, and firefighters.

Council Member Hayford Oleary gave hats off to the Transportation Commission for their work on Nicollet Avenue reconstruction.

Council Member Christensen gave hats off to the Parks and Recreation Department for the activities coming up this spring and summer.

Council Member Whalen stated there was also a new recreation fee assistance program for people who were unable to afford the fee of a recreation program. He thanked staff for their work on this program.

Mayor Supple stated there was going to be a listening session which would include policymakers with the Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership as sponsors on March 7 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Richfield Public Schools Boardroom. She gave a shout out to the Richfield Dual Language School students. She gave a shout out to the community members who attended the precinct caucus. She gave a shout out for the recreations program day trips scheduled. She thanked everyone for making her available to go to the League of Minnesota Cities training.

ITEM #12	ADJOURNMENT
-----------------	--------------------

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Motion carried: 5-0

Date Approved: March 12, 2024



Chris Swanson
Management Analyst



Mary B. Supple
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager