



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting Virtual via WebEx

March 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: Sack Thongvanh, Assistant City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Melissa Poehlman, Community Development Director; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant; and Kari Sinning, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

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 stated that there were no callers and no prior emails.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Trautmann, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of 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 #1	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Whalen, S/Supple 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 #2	CONSENT CALENDAR
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Assistant City Manager Thongvanh presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of a resolution of support for proposed legislation (SF 2768/HF 2908) that would provide limited liability to commercial salt applicators that receive certification through an established voluntary salt applicator program as offered through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) (Staff Report No. 36)

RESOLUTION NO. 11950

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES LIMITED LIABILITY TO COMMERCIAL SALT APPLICATORS THAT ARE CERTIFIED THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED VOLUNTARY SALT APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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

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

ITEM #4	SECOND READING OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 37)
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Council Member Whalen presented Staff Report 37.

Community Development Director Poehlman explained that this item is very similar to what was brought to the work session with the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission approved this item unanimously.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed curiosity about the parking reduction one or the other with regards to bicycle parking or EV parking and asked why the applicant should not be able to do both. Community Development Director Poehlman explained that there would need to be larger discussions with the group to approve residential buildings to go below one parking spot per unit. Council Member Hayford Oleary appreciated the explanation and the option to reduce parking. He also expressed overall excitement for the implementation of EV chargers.

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve 1) the attached ordinance amendment establishing regulations for electric vehicle chargers; and 2) a resolution authorizing summary publication of said ordinance.

BILL NO. 2022-3

AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

RESOLUTION NO. 11951

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Council Member Whalen also expressed his excitement for this update to the city code and stated that this a great start to the Council goal of sustainability.

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #5	SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING REGULATIONS FOR FIREARM SALES, REPAIR, AND OTHER RELATED USES. (STAFF REPORT NO. 38)
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Council Member Trautmann presented Staff Report 38.

M/Trautmann, S/Supple to approve 1) an ordinance amending zoning regulations for firearm sales, repair, and other related uses; and 2) a resolution authorizing summary publication of said ordinance.

BILL NO. 2022-4

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING REGULATIONS IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS (C-2) AND MIXED USE (MU-C AND MU-R) DISTRICTS RELATED TO USES INVOLVING FIREARMS

RESOLUTION NO. 11952

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING REGULATIONS FOR FIREARM SALES, REPAIR, AND OTHER RELATED USES

Council Member Whalen commented that this agenda item was staff initiated and appreciated the efforts to update this code to the current online sales.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed gratitude to staff for researching and updating this code.

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 A FIRST READING OF A TRANSITORY ORDINANCE TO REAFFIRM THE CURRENT WARD DISTRICT BOUNDARIES THAT MEET THE EQUAL POPULATION CRITERIA. (STAFF REPORT NO. 39)
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented Staff Report 39.

City Clerk Sinning asked Council for feedback regarding the proposed precinct plans.

Council Member Supple thanked City Clerk Sinning for not reducing the number of precincts and supported a precinct plan that would make it easiest for voters.

Council Member Trautmann expressed concerns for voters on the north side of Wood Lake that would have trouble getting to a potential polling location. City Clerk Sinning stated voter outreach would be conducted to make sure those voters either vote absentee or have transportation to the polling location on election day.

Council Member Whalen commented on creating straighter boundary lines if possible.

Council Member Hayford Oleary also agreed with Council Member Whalen and also asked if voters have expressed discomfort or complaints about voting in churches. City Clerk Sinning stated that there has been any to her knowledge, however, if someone does there are options to vote curbside at the polling location or absentee before election day.

Council Member Supple thanked City Clerk Sinning for the detailed information.

City Clerk Sinning explained of the jaded boundary lines instead of using straight lines is to keep the precincts as close to even as possible while considering future residential developments in the precincts.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Whalen to approve first reading of the attached transitory ordinance establishing ward boundaries following the 2020 census data and conforming to redistricting requirements pursuant to Minnesota5 Statutes and City Charter and schedule a public hearing and second reading for March 22, 2022.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented that whatever is easiest for voters and to get as many people to the polls as possible. She also thanked City Clerk Sinning for her leadership and all the work she has been doing as City Clerk.

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 THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 40)
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Council Member Supple presented Staff Report 40.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to adopt a resolution modifying the Health Care Savings Plan for Council Members.

RESOLUTION NO. 11953

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN

Council Member Whalen thanked the Council for the willingness to change the plan.

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	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
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Assistant City Manager Thongvanh did not have any updates.

ITEM #9	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
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M/Whalen, S/Trautmann that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

U.S. Bank	3/8/2022
A/P Checks: 304296 – 304643	\$1,349,329.37
Payroll: 168653 – 168953	<u>\$ 772,672.51</u>
TOTAL	\$2,122,001.88

City Clerk Sinning took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #10	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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As spring nears Council Member Hayford Oleary thanked Public Works for a successful winter under the new policy and expressed excitement for discussion regarding the policy change. He also mentioned the Adopt a Storm Drain program to keep neighborhoods dry and clean.

Council Member Whalen mentioned the Kids @ Home Program application availability. He also gave a brief update on the organics collection program which about 327,000 pounds of food waste have been collected since the start of the program.

Council Member Trautmann mentioned that IT Staff, Trevor Doran, is leaving the City and took an opportunity to thank Jane Skov and the IT department for their work throughout the pandemic and beyond. He lifted up the Human Rights Commission’s legal clinic for Richfield Residents and encouraged lawyers in the City to participate. He also mentioned the Gene and Mary Jacobsen Outstanding Citizen Award nominations are available on the website to honor a neighbor.

Council Member Supple thanked the residents for the feedback given for the strategic management survey and the listening sessions for I-494. She also thanked the commission members and mentioned the display cases available for artists to display work at the Community Center and Municipal Center.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez extended thanks and appreciation to the communications team, Neil Ruhland and Kate Aitchison, for sharing the important information to the residents and sharing resources to the community.

ITEM #11	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:52 p.m.

Date Approved: March 22, 2022



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kari Sinning
City Clerk



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager