



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Regular Council Meeting Virtual Meeting held via WebEx

**April 13, 2021**

### CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Pam Dmytrenko, Assistant City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; John Stark, Community Development Director; Julie Urban, Housing Manager; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence to recognize the police involved killing of Daunte Wright, for his family and community.

### OPEN FORUM

Senior Office 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@richfielmn.gov](mailto:kwynn@richfielmn.gov)

Senior Office Assistant Wynn read a statement supplied: My name is Kathleen and I live at 6526 Stevens Ave So. I am here representing my neighborhood to ask for your assistance in amending and/or creating an ordinance that addresses noxious and/or toxic air emissions from small businesses, specifically noting laundromats.

Senior Office Assistant Wynn stated there were no callers.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve the minutes of the (1) Joint City Council/HRA/Planning Commission/Human Rights Commission Work Session of March 15, 2021; (2) City Council Work Session of March 23, 2021; and (3) City Council Meeting of March 23, 2021.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #1</b>	<b>PRESENTATION TO RECOGNIZE IMMIGRANT DAY</b>
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez read the proclamation.

Council Member Supple expressed gratitude to Unidos for bringing this forward as many families are in need of support and protection.

Council Member Hayford Oleary spoke of how it is a national issue that affects Richfield residents and hopes to see real change.

Council Member Trautmann echoed comments and will continue to support policies that make everyone welcome in the community.

Council Member Whalen stated this was an issue recently brought up in a discussion with US Representative Omar. It is an item that is out of Richfield jurisdiction but greatly impacts the Richfield community.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of a recent rally at Partnership Academy last weekend that attracted people from all over the state.

<b>Item #2</b>	<b>PRESENTATION TO RECOGNIZE EARTH DAY 2021</b>
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez presented the proclamation.

Council Member Whalen highlighted the ongoing work and thanked staff involved with the sustainability efforts.

<b>Item #3</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b>
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M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the agenda

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #4</b>	<b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

A. Consider the approval of a resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$30,000 on behalf of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Staff Report No. 50

**RESOLUTION NO. 11837**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RICHFIELD TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF THE RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (RBWMO)**

B. Consider First reading to consider a proposed ordinance amendment to modify rules related to home occupations. Staff Report No. 51

C. Consider the approval of the resolutions to adjust the City’s Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) network. Staff Report No. 52

**RESOLUTION NO. 11838**

**RESOLUTION REVOKING MUNICIPAL STATE AID DESIGNATION FROM CERTAIN CITY STREETS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11839**

**RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL STATE AID DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN CITY STREETS**

D. Consider the approval of the Small Wireless Facility Collocation Supplemental Agreements with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, that set forth the terms and conditions of collocation on wireless support structures within City right-of-way. Staff Report No. 53

E. Consider approval of a first reading of an ordinance repealing Section 500 of the City Code and adopting a new Section 500 related to Plats and Subdivision Regulations and schedule a second reading for April 27, 2021. Staff Report No. 54

F. Consider approval of the first reading of an ordinance rezoning property on the northeast corner of Lyndale Avenue and 65th Street as Planned Mixed Use (PMU) and consider approval of the first reading of a transitory ordinance vacating a portion of the Lyndale Avenue right-of-way and utility easements and schedule second readings for April 27, 2021. Staff Report No. 55

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

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked staff why item F includes vacating an easement.

Director Stark stated he will look into and have an answer at the second reading.

Council Member Supple expressed appreciation for the discussion from community regarding item B and was pleased to see a compromise and amendment.

Council Member Whalen emphasized the proposal in item B is different from the original due to input and feedback from the community and encouraged residents to reach out and offer comments.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Director Stark and the Community Development staff for continuously working with the community.

Council Member Hayford Oleary thanked the community for seeing the current rules didn't work and brought change to the table to better the community.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #5</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
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None

Item #6	<b>CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION MODIFYING A HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN FOR POLICE LIEUTENANTS, TEAMSTERS #320 BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES. STAFF REPORT NO. 56</b>
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Council Member Supple read staff report 56.

Assistant City Manager Dmytrenko stated every employee group within the city has a post-employment savings plan and employees pay 100% into the plans. Staff received the request from the police department to increase the plan.

M/ Supple, S/Whalen to adopt a resolution modifying a Health Care Savings Plan for eligible Police Lieutenants, Teamsters #320 bargaining unit employees.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11840**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN UPDATED AMENDED POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN FOR POLICE LIEUTENANT EMPLOYEES (TEAMSTERS #320)**

Council Member Supple encouraged employees to set money aside for future healthcare needs whenever possible.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed comments and stated it is a great option to build a savings account for additional costs.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Hayford O'leary: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

Item #7	<b>CONSIDER A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JUST DEEDS COALITION, WHICH WORKS TO FACILITATE THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS FROM PROPERTY DEEDS. STAFF REPORT NO. 57</b>
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Council Member Trautmann presented staff report 57.

Director Stark stated the map recognizes the high number of covenants in the southeast portion of Richfield which is also a highly concentrated area of poverty. The covenants not only had an impact but continue to impact the community.

Housing Manager Urban stated staff would like to take action as they became aware of disparity of BIPOC communities and owning a home. She appreciated the support to remove covenants as the government has been a part of the problem and would like to be part of the solution.

Council Member Trautmann thanked staff for all the work and raising awareness of the situation.

M/Trautmann, S/ Hayford Oleary to adopt a resolution condemning the use of discriminatory covenants, discharging discriminatory covenants on City-owned property, and approving participation in the Just Deeds Coalition.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11841**

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE USE OF DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS, DISCHARGING DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY, AND APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE JUST DEEDS COALITION**

Council Member Supple stated is had been an honor being the liaison for the Human Rights Commission who recently voted unanimously to support this effort.

Council Member Whalen thanked all the leaders in the coalition in assisting in moving this work forward.

Council Member Hayford Oleary echoed comments and will continue to support such work.

Council Member Trautmann described his personal background of moving into Richfield and how out of place their family was on their block. He spoke of his support for this work and bringing it to the forefront and recognizing the damage it has done to the community. He thanked staff for their continued work on this item.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented and what a wonderful educational tool this is and how staff is supporting the community.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #8</b>	<b>CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A \$1,000,000 GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE NEWLY CREATED COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING (CPF) PROGRAM FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER. STAFF REPORT NO. 58</b>
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Council Member Hayford Oleary read staff report 58.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked staff for their hard work on this item and is hopeful for federal funding on the project.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked for clarification on the total estimated cost of \$20million.

City Manager Rodriguez stated that is correct and is hopeful to be included in funds for next year.

M/ Hayford Oleary, S/ Whalen to approve the resolution of support for a federal CPF grant application for the new Wood Lake Nature Center project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11842**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY  
PROJECT FUNDING (CPF) GRANT APPLICATION FOR WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER**

Council Member Whalen asked about a preliminary design timeline and when council will be looking at the design.

City Manager Rodriguez stated there will be a work session on May 11 dedicated to the Wood Lake Nature Center.

Council Member Trautmann commented on how widely used the Wood Lake Nature is and how many programs are offered to residents utilizing the space.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated Wood Lake Nature Center is another great example of how the community is leading to created spaces and parks within a community.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #9</b>	<b>CITY MANAGER REPORT</b>
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City Manager Rodriguez supplied a brief update regarding Covid. She then recognized the recent tragic incident involving Daunte Wright and the grieving region.

<b>Item #10</b>	<b>CLAIMS AND PAYROLL</b>
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M/Hayford Oleary, S/Trautmann that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

<b>U.S. Bank</b>	<b>04/13/2021</b>
A/P Checks 295745 - 296203	\$ 1,777,674.10
Payroll: 161011 – 161306 43394	<u>687,387.47</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,465,061.57

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:  
 Regan Gonzalez: AYE  
 Supple: AYE  
 Trautmann: AYE  
 Hayford Oleary: AYE  
 Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

<b>Item #11</b>	<b>HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS</b>
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Council Member Trautmann recognized the passing of a longtime friend, Bill Green, who was recently hired as the Richfield Equity and Inclusion Coordinator. Bill had dedicated his life to equity work and will leave a lifetime legacy of clear eyed vision.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated his condolences for the Green family. He then recognized the comments from the open forum and is hopeful to have some discussions regarding the air quality. He also stated his appreciation for the immediate work by staff to protect the community following the incident in Brooklyn Center.

Council Member Supple expressed gratitude for the assistance from elected officials on a project at the middle school. Officials recorded greetings for the children as they were unable to meet in person. She also voiced heartfelt condolences to the family of Daunte Wright and continues to add her voice to the call for justice.

Council Member Whalen echoed comments and added a people made problem can be solved. He encouraged community members to reach out with ideas for safety. He also spoke of the upcoming meetings on Inclusionary Housing draft language.

City Manager Rodriguez explained she will be speaking with the Green family and will be recognizing him at the next meeting.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated she is holding the Green family and everyone who knew Bill close to her heart.

<b>Item #11</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:12 p.m.



Date Approved: April 27, 2021



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Maria Regan Gonzalez  
Mayor



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Kelly Wynn  
Senior Office Assistant



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Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager