



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

May 24, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

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

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; Julie Urban, Assistant Community Development Director; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Chris Swanson, Management Analyst; and Kari Sinning, City Clerk

Others Present: Gary Parker, Ruth Evaneglista, Katrina Joseph and Greg Holly, Attorneys from H/J Law

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Regan Gonzalez 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

There were no participants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Supple, S/Trautmann to approve the minutes of the: (1) Joint City Council, Planning Commission and HRA Work Session of May 10, 2022; and (2) Regular City Council Meeting of May 10, 2022.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #1	PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF RICHFIELD FOR KELLI JO ETTEN-BEYER
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez invited Gary Parker CEO of Life Rebuilders to the podium who shared a brief history of Kelli Jo Etten-Beyer and the impact she had on the group home. Mayor Regan Gonzalez read aloud the proclamation and presented it to Gary Parker.

ITEM #2	PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF RICHFIELD FOR RUTH EVANGELISTA
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez invited Ruth Evangelista and supporting community members to come to the podium and shared that Ruth Evangelista was one of four recipients of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Virginia McKnight Binger Unsung Hero Award in 2021. Ruth Evangelista thanked the City of Richfield, Partnership Academy, and friends and family that have rejoiced in her achievement. Lisa Hendricks from Partnership Academy felt honored to be able to partner with Ruth Evangelista and La RED Latina and thanked them for their work in the community and with Partnership Academy. Mayor Regan Gonzalez mentioned that it was because of La RED Latina that she got involved in running for public office and how La RED Latina has supported Richfield and the surrounding communities. Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed respectfulness and admiration for the leadership of Ruth Evangelista and La RED Latina. The proclamation was read aloud by Mayor Regan Gonzalez and given to Ruth Evangelista.

ITEM #3	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the agenda.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #4	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of an agreement allowing Richfield Department of Public Safety to accept grant monies from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. (Staff Report No. 80)

RESOLUTION NO. 11976

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE TO ACCEPT THE EDWARDS BYRNE MEMORIAL GRANT (JAG) FOR \$9,899.95 FROM THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS TO BE USED FOR A DISPARITY STUDY

- B. Consider approval of a Temporary On Sale Intoxicating Liquor license for the Steel Domain Wrestling event scheduled to take place June 25, 2022, at Fred Babcock VFW #5555, located at 6715 Lakeshore Dr. (Staff Report No. 81)

- C. Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing Master Partnership Contract No. 1050202 between the City of Richfield and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). (Staff Report No. 82)

RESOLUTION NO. 11977

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RICHFIELD TO ENTER INTO MASTER PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT NO. 1050202 WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- D. Consider the acceptance of the quotation from Northland Recreation for \$180,000 for the replacement of play equipment at Monroe and Sheridan Parks and authorize the Recreation Services Director to proceed with the project. (Staff Report No. 83)
- E. Consider approval of a Construction Cooperative Agreement with Hennepin County for the County State Aid Highway No. 52/Nicollet Ave Safety Improvement Project. (Staff Report No. 84)

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

Council Member Supple expressed happiness for the Department of Justice Grant (item A) and how the study will help us to collect quantitative analysis of demographic disparities.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked why the VFW needed a temporary liquor license. Public Safety Director Henthorne stated that the event will be held outside which requires a license approval when it is not contained inside the establishment.

Council Member Whalen echoed the comment of Council Member Supple on collecting better data in the advancement of equity and also expressed excitement for the playgrounds at Monroe and Sheridan.

Council Member Trautmann recognized and thanked staff effort and leadership to apply for grants that are in line with our values and vision.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #5	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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None.

ITEM #6	CONSIDER THE SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 721 TO ADD NEW SUBSECTION 721.24 RELATED TO FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK DEICER STORAGE AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION. (STAFF REPORT NO. 85)
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Council Member Whalen presented Staff Report 85.

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending City Code Subsection 721 to add new Section 721.24 related to facility requirements for bulk deicer storage and approve the resolution authorizing summary publication.

BILL NO. 2022-9

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER VII OF THE RICHFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING BULK DEICER STORAGE FACILITIES

RESOLUTION NO. 11978

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR FACILITIES WITH BULK DEICER STORAGE

Council Member Hayford Oleary thanked Public Works for this requirement as it should reduce the wash off into our storm sewers.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #7	CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE TAX INCREMENT REDEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE LYNDALE GATEWAY/INTERCHANGE WEST, URBAN VILLAGE AND CITY BELLA TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS, ALLOWING 10 PERCENT OF INCREMENT TO BE POOLED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PURPOSES. (STAFF REPORT NO. 86)
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented Staff Report 86.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Whalen to adopt resolutions approving a modification to the Tax Increment Redevelopment Plans for the Lyndale Gateway/Interchange West, Urban Village and City Bella Tax Increment Financing districts to allow pooling of 10 percent for affordable housing.

RESOLUTION NO. 11979

RESOLUTION APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR THE INTERCHANGE WEST AND LYNDALE GATEWAY TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 11980

RESOLUTION APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR THE URBAN VILLAGE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 11981

RESOLUTION APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR THE CITY BELLA TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT

Council Member Supple thanked staff for lobbying to change the law so that this funding could be used for affordable housing. City Manager Rodriguez stated that a lot of it was led by Assistant Community Development Director Julie Urban.

Council Member Whalen clarified that this is opening up the possibilities of how TIF can be used and reinvested into the community. Assistant Director Urban confirmed his statement. Council Member Whalen thanked Assistant Director Urban for noticing this possibility and lobbying to help make it happen and expressed excitement for the future conversations regarding these funds.

Council Member Supple asked about the timeline of the districts. Assistant Director Urban stated that two of the three will be removed from the TIF districts in 2025 and one of them in 2030 but this will allow the pooling of money until 2026 to be used for affordable housing.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked staff and mentioned that this change is huge for the City of Richfield and hopefully this will set a precedent to make the change throughout the state and how cities respond to the needs of our community.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #8	CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PROSECUTION SERVICES WITH THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND H/J LAW. (STAFF REPORT NO. 87)
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Council Member Trautmann presented Staff Report 87.

City Manager Rodriguez introduced Attorneys Katrina Joseph and Greg Holly who gave a brief overview of their experience, their firm’s prosecution philosophies, how they will represent the values of the City, and focus on training officers on law changes.

Council Member Trautmann thanked them for their explanation of their values and how they will help better the community. He mentioned and thanked Martin Costello for the work he has done. Katrina Joseph stated the firm’s commitment to listen and respond to the concerns from Council.

Council Member Whalen echoed the comment of Council Member Trautmann and stated that equity is one of the biggest concerns of Council and how racial disparities affect the lives of our community members. He asked them about their initial thoughts on how they weave criminal justice disparities against poor people and people of color and how collateral consequences could affect futures. Katrina Joseph mentioned alternative programs to the limited Hennepin County run diversion program and explained that expungement cases are not taken lightly of which only 10% of expungement cases in the last year were denied.

Council Member Supple asked about the firm’s work with victims’ advocates especially with victims of domestic abuse. Katrina stated that Richfield’s advocates would from Cornerstone Advocacy Group which provides excellent support for victims. The firm works with Cornerstone and the victim to explain how the system works, to provide better support and access to resources such as shelters, and to make sure that the victim is going to be heard and taken seriously.

Council Member Trautmann thanked the firm for their statements recognizing that victims of crimes are disproportionately people of color and that the firm acts as our victims’ advocates when the cases are not involving domestic abuse with Cornerstone. He also mentioned the structural injustice of “more money equals less consequences” which needs to change as current City Prosecutor Martin Costello said at a work session “Our system is not fair to people of color. It’s a huge problem and we

have to fight it.” Council Member Trautmann also mentioned that we have yet to have a wage theft crime in Hennepin County and that it would be delightful to have some accountability for those that do not pay their workers their wages. Katrina Joseph stated that if there is sufficient evidence and that if people come forward; they will do their job.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez added that the council has been focused on advancing equity and embedding it into our work as a City and stated the importance of communicating information to policy makers that would help advance equity and building trust between community members. She shared that Richfield prides itself on being nimble and creative when coming up with ideas that better our community and the advancement of equity. Katrina Joseph stated that they will be accessible to Council, city staff, and whoever may need their services and that the elected officials represent the community so if the Council voices concerns; they will listen.

M/Trautmann, S/Supple to approve the contract agreement for Prosecution Services with H/J Law for the City of Richfield Department of Public Safety.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM #9	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez gave a short covid report.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if there was a follow up to the open forum comment from last council meeting regarding noise ordinance enforcement. City Manager Rodriguez stated that staff followed up directly.

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

U.S. Bank	5/24/2022
A/P Checks: 306189 – 306571	\$1,829,027.17
Payroll: 170181 – 170486, 43467 – 43468	<u>\$ 709,354.07</u>
TOTAL	\$2,538,381.24

Motion carried 5-0

ITEM #11	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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Council Member Whalen encouraged residents to attend the outside Farmer’s Market and to check out their ash trees that are on their property that might be sick from infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Council Member Supple mentioned the planting of fifty new trees at Taft Park in conjunction with Tree Trust and thanked HRA Commissioner Gordon Hanson for his leadership with Tree Trust. She also thanked the Public Works Department as they are the unsung heroes that keep everything running. She also mentioned the Flags for Fort Snelling event on May 28 and the Honoring All Veterans Memorial Day ceremony on May 30.

Council Member Hayford Oleary complimented the participants and city staff that helped organize the city wide garage sale.

Council Member Trautmann gave a shout out to the Richfield Foundation and bringing back the annual wine tasting fundraiser event. He wished Liquor Store Director Bill Fillmore the best who will be retiring after forty-one years of service.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked the volunteers, staff, and community members that supported the Richfield Foundation event. She attended a birding event at Wood Lake Nature Center and thanked Paul Smithson and community members who partnered to do the event. She shared an article in the American Association of Architects magazine that showcases how Richfield has been advancing equity through our built environment.

ITEM #12	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:14 p.m.

Date Approved: June 14, 2022



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kari Sinning
City Clerk



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager