



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

June 8, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Neil Ruhland, Communications Manager; Jennifer Anderson, Health Administrator; John Stark, Community Development Director; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Chris Regis, Finance Director; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Specialist; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Equity Administrator; and Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Mara Glubka, Human Rights Commission Chair; Tasha Ostendorf, Human Rights Commission; and Matthew Mayer, BerganKDV; Lance Bernard, HKGI

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

OPEN FORUM

Brien Hall, 6945 17th Ave S, stated he is not in favor of organized collection and residents should be voting on the item. He also spoke of the recent Planning Commission meeting and how displeased he was with staff.

Lindsay Tietze, 6733 Grand Ave S, spoke of current zoning of an area where she would like to open a tattoo shop within Richfield. She has asked Council to consider changing zoning to accommodate the business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session of May 17, 2021; (2) Special Closed City Council Meeting of May 20, 2021; (3) City Council Listening Session of

May 20, 2021; (4) City Council Work Session of May 25, 2021; (5) City Council Meeting of May 25, 2021; and (6) Special City Council Meeting of June 1, 2021.

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #1 | PRESENTATION OF THE PROCLAMATION DECLARING JUNE 9, 2021 AS MARY SUPPLE DAY IN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD |
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez read and presented the proclamation to Council Member Supple.

Dr. Hines spoke of the impact Council Member Supple has had on the faculty and generations of students over the years. She wished her all the best in her next chapter of life.

Gretchen Gifford spoke of everything Council Member Supple offered everyday while teaching. She also spoke of her dedication and advocacy for teachers, students and the community.

Council Member Supple thanked everyone for the recognition and support.

Commissioner Debbie Goettel spoke of the dedication Council Member Supple conveys in everything she does and how she will continue to make a difference in the community.

Mike Supple described how he met his wife, Council Member Supple, and how incredibly patient, kind and giving she is, has been, and always will be.

Edwina Garcia described Council Member Supple as a true hero to the entire community as she is someone who truly loves her town and has done tremendous work and will continue to do things with the same passion and dedication.

Judy Moe spoke of Council Member Supple's importance to the community and what an advocate she has been as she not only listens but also takes action.

Council Member Trautmann congratulated Council Member Supple and stated her work is not yet done as she will continue to work and support the community.

Council Member Whalen described the impact Council Member Supple has had, and will continue to have, on the community.

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| Item #2 | PRESENTATION FOR PRIDE MONTH AND LGBTQIA+ PROCLAMATION |
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez read and presented the proclamation to the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Ostendorf thanked the city for recognizing Pride month.

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| Item #3 | PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 AUDIT FINDINGS |
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Matthew Mayer, BerganKDV, presented on the 2020 audit findings for the City of Richfield.

Council Member Trautmann thanked city staff for coming in under budget in such a difficult year.

Council Member Whalen thanked staff for the presentation and difficult work as 2020 was a hard year financially and tough decisions had to be made.

Council Member Supple spoke of the importance of risk management and controls and how Director Regis and staff were able to accomplish so much.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed accolades for Director Regis and staff as they have put the city in a good place financially.

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| Item #4 | APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA |
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M/Whalen, S/Trautmann to approve the agenda

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #5 | CONSENT CALENDAR |
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of an update to the City's Fund Balance Policy. Staff Report No. 87
- B. Consider the first reading of an ordinance rezoning 23 properties in the vicinity of Veterans Memorial Park in order to be consistent with the adopted 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed ordinance changes zoning designations of properties generally along 66th Street and Portland Avenue to either a multi-family or commercial zoning designation in order to allow more intense development in the future. Staff Report No. 88
- C. Consider the acceptance of the quotation from Northland Recreation for \$180,000 to replace play equipment at Christian and Fremont Parks and authorization of the Recreation Services Director to execute the contract. Staff Report No. 89
- D. Consider approval of an annual request for a Temporary On Sale Intoxicating Liquor license for the Academy of Holy Angels, located at 6600 Nicollet Avenue South, for their annual Holy Angels Rock the Lawn event taking place Saturday, July 17, 2021. Staff Report No. 90
- E. Consider the approval of the Small Wireless Facility Collocation Supplemental Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, d/b/a AT&T Mobility, that set forth the terms and conditions of collocation on wireless support structures within City right-of-way. Staff Report No. 91

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

Council Member Whalen expressed appreciation for residents who have reached out regarding concerns of rezoning Veteran's Park.

Council Member Trautmann clarified the city does not have authority to take homes for private development.

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #6 | CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR |
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None

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| Item #7 | CONSIDER RECEIPT OF THE CITY OF RICHFIELD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020. (STAFF REPORT NO. 92) |
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Council Member Supple presented staff report 92.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to accept the Annual Financial Report of the City for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #8 | CONDUCT THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR A NEW VETERANS PARK AREA OVERLAY DISTRICT REZONING PROPERTIES WITHIN THE VETERANS PARK AREA TO BE SUBJECT TO SAID REGULATIONS. (STAFF REPORT NO. 94) |
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Council Member Whalen read staff report 94.

Assistant Director Poehlman reviewed general development principles, personal connections, increasing connectivity, diversifying housing options, commercial uses and sustainable design practices.

Lance Bernard, HKGI, presented on the study area, stakeholder engagement including survey findings, design principles including building height, sun shade study and 3D model of potential design.

Council Member Trautmann asked about the overlay extending to 67th street.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained the overlay extends to 67th street only along Portland where there are some parcel owned by the HRA which are zoned for medium density housing. Within the overlay district, areas are guided and zoned for medium and high density housing along with commercial use.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked what guidance staff would like from Council as this has been through the Planning Commission.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated it passed in the Planning Commission but was not unanimous.

City Attorney Tietjen recommended Council discuss where each member stands before taking a vote regarding the amendments.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary asked about the benefits of going to a lower height.

Assistant Director Poehlman lowering the height could impact the development and where the Legion will be housed.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary stated preference of a five story building to provide better framework for a developer.

Council Member Supple stated she would like to give the Legion as much flexibility as possible. She expressed support for the amendments of items two and three.

Council Member Trautmann agreed and spoke of how important Post 435 is to the city.

Council Member Whalen echoed comments on continuing with a five story building to accommodate the most amenities for the Legion and housing. He then asked about the possibility of changing guidelines later on.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained that under a Planned Unit Development (PUD), there would be flexibility to go higher in height than the zoning code. To allow for more affordable housing would be something to consider when adding additional height to the building.

Council Member Whalen asked if it is likely to make this area a PUD.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained Council will want to set parameters before development but it would not be unusual for this site to be considered a PUD as it will most likely contain unique characteristics.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary disagreed with the parking amendment proposed by the Planning Commission. He preferred original language.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated her support of a five story maximum for the development. She then asked for more information regarding the second amendment.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated the intent is to add the limitations to neighborhood impact.

Council Member Supple asked about keeping the original language and adding a portion of limiting neighborhood impact.

Council Member Whalen agreed with comments and believes people will continue to become less reliant on cars with the availability of public transit. He then clarified height requirements surrounding this site. He also spoke of the Legion site being private property and they have expressed they are not interested in making it park land. He also asked about parking right next to the memorial.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained there are set back guidelines for a future development.

Council Member Whalen asked about migratory birds and how they will be affected by the development.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained she is not an expert but Recreation Services have been included in potential designs.

Council Member Whalen stated when a specific proposal is presented he would like to make sure community engagement is a priority.

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to conduct a first reading of an ordinance establishing regulations for a new Veterans Park Area Overlay District and rezoning properties to be subject to said Overlay District regulations and include amendment for accessibility as well as keep original language with the addition of minimal neighborhood impact.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed concern for the rezoning on the south side of 66th Street, as the updated zoning will create restrictions on improvements of single-family homes, while offering only limited opportunities for higher-density housing.

Council Member Whalen asked Council Member Hayford Oleary if he had an alternate solution to provide.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed need to continue to revisit the designations on the south side of 66th Street but does not want to hold up the item but would leave it up to staff to revisit.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained the overlay district and related rezoning were done based on the current comprehensive plan designations. Changes to the comprehensive plan were not considered either way, but rezoning is required to align the zoning code with the comprehensive plan.

Council Member Trautmann asked about utilizing a PUD on the HRA parcels.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained a PUD can be utilized when involving affordable housing. A fit-test was completed on the area and believed MR2 is correct but is open to further discussion.

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #9 | COSIDER A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SEEKING STATE BONDING FUNDS TO HELP SECURE A NEW WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER BUILDING. (STAFF REPORT NO. 95) |
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented staff report 95.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Supple to approve the resolution for support of seeking state bonding funds to construct a new Wood Lake Nature Center building.

RESOLUTION NO. 11858

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BONDING FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO HELP CONSTRUCT A NEW WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER BUILDING

Council Member Trautmann spoke of how this is a regional asset and needs regional support to complete the project.

Council Member Whalen expressed concern with what the city will do if it does not receive bonding money to complete the project.

City Manager Rodriguez explained the project would need to be reassessed.

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #10 | CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY MANAGER CONTRACT. (STAFF REPORT NO. 96) |
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Council Member Trautmann read staff report 96.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked Council for their support.

M/Trautmann, S/Hayford Oleary to approve the Resolution amending the City’s Manager’s employment agreement with the City reflecting a salary adjustment.

RESOLUTION NO. 11859

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND CATHERINE RODRIGUEZ, CITY MANAGER

Council Members Whalen clarified staff did supply a comparison report of area city managers for Council review.

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #11 | CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CITYWIDE ORGANIZED COLLECTION PROGRAM AND CONTRACT. (STAFF REPORT NO. 93) |
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Council Member Trautmann presented staff report 93.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked staff for all the hours put into this project and reviewed all the engagements staff completed.

Sustainability Specialist Lindholm presented a review of an overall timeline, engagement done with the community, resident feedback collected, negotiation process, customer service concerns and next steps.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed appreciation for staff incorporated of resident comments and concerns.

Council Member Trautmann recognized the importance of this item. He then referenced the phrase of ‘liquidated damages’ and explained the city has the ability to apply a penalty on a behalf of residents.

Sustainability Specialist Lindholm explained the increase in communication between haulers and the city to assist in preventing issues and increasing customer service for residents.

City Attorney Tietjen explained the goal is to open communication lines for everyone. She spoke of clauses built into the contract regarding monetary remedy to allow city staff to account for the time spent if a hauler becomes delinquent.

Council Member Supple thanked Sustainability Specialist Lindholm for all the research she completed in making this project affordable.

Council Member Whalen thanked Sustainability Specialist Lindholm for the presentation and stated this has been an important item for residents for a long time. He also encouraged residents to continue to reach out with questions or concerns.

Council Member Hayford Oleary thanked staff and expressed excitement in moving the sustainability needle in the right direction.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed comments of gratitude and spoke of how behind the city is regarding waste and recycling options.

Council Member Trautmann praised Sustainability Specialist Lindholm for her dedication and efforts in the project along with the level of respect she has shown and continue to show residents.

M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to approve a resolution to contract for residential organized collection, including trash collection, biweekly recycling, and a citywide organics program as base collection services.

RESOLUTION NO. 11860

RESOLUTION APPROVING OF THE
CONTRACT FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
BETWEEN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD
AND LICENSED RESIDENTIAL HAULERS SERVING RICHFIELD

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #12 | CITY MANAGER’S REPORT |
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City Manager Rodriguez congratulated Council Member Supple on her teaching retirement. She then reviewed an open forum comment from the June 8 meeting regarding social media posting. She also supplied a brief covid update and asked Council for discussion regarding mask wearing.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated he would like to continue wearing masks at meetings.

Council Member Trautmann stated his primary concern is risk of transmittance to other but would not mind lifting the mask mandate for meetings.

Council Member Hayford Oleary offered to continue wearing masks though the end of June and then moving to voluntary.

Council Member Supple agreed to wearing masks.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also agreed to wearing masks and asked staff to come back with recommendations on when and if to list the mask mandate during meetings.

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| Item #13 | CLAIMS AND PAYROLL |
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M/Supple, S/Trautmann that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

| U.S. Bank | | 06/08/2021 |
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| A/P Checks 297256 – 297581 | \$ | 1,146,830.75 |
| Payroll: 162197 – 162497 43398 - 43400 | | <u>723,732.11</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ | 1,870,562.86 |

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #14 | HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS |
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Council Member Supple thanked everyone for the kind words and proclamation. She also spoke of attending the memorial at Vets Park and thanked the community members for putting on a wonderful event. She expressed excitement for consideration of proposals to decorate specific roundabouts.

Council Member Whalen commented on the work session regarding a potential ban on conversion therapy and is excited to move forward with the work. He then commended the class of 2021 and wished them well.

Council Member Trautmann congratulated Council Member Supple. He expressed excitement for the pool to reopen and encouraged residents to purchase discounted pool passes until June 10, 2021.

Council Member Hayford Oleary congratulated Council Member Supple on her teaching retirement and the impact she has had on the school district. He also spoke of the projects on Portland Ave to include better pedestrian and biking access.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez congratulated Council Member Supple again on her teaching achievements.

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| Item #15 | ADJOURNMENT |
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:37 p.m.


Date Approved: June 22, 2021



 Maria Regan Gonzalez
 Mayor



 Kelly Wynn
 Administrative Assistant



 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager