



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

June 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Council Members Absent: Simon Trautmann

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Neil Ruhland, Communications and Engagement Manager; John Stark, Community Development Director; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Equity Administrator; and Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

OPEN FORUM

Barb Russ, 6915 3rd Ave S, stated there should be an increase in police staffing. She also spoke of the need to monitor what is displayed on billboards throughout the city.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Supple to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session of June 8, 2021; and (2) City Council Meeting of June 8, 2021 with the notice of an update to the Council Meeting minutes of June 8.

Motion carried 4-0.

Item #1	PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING THE REGIONAL AND STATE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS FROM BLESSED TRINITY
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez read a list recognizing each student and their achievements in the science fairs. She then spoke of how inspiring they all are and hopes to see them pursue great things in their future.

Principal Patrick O’Keefe spoke about the school and their ever growing science program. He expressed extreme pride in all the students.

Council Member Supple congratulated all the students.

Council Member Whalen referenced recognition of Dr. Jenkins on a career of work and is grateful to see so many students only beginning a career and encouraged them all to continue.

Council Member Hayford Oleary echoed congratulations to everyone.

Item #2	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve the agenda

Motion carried 4-0.

Item #3	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. 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. 97
- B. Consider the approval of an art installation at the roundabout at 67th Street and Lyndale Avenue that would be a collaboration with The Richfield Arts Commission, The Spread the Sunshine Gang, and city departments in support and celebration of Pride and the LGBTQIA+ community. Staff Report No. 98
- C. Consider the approval of an organics drop-off site agreement between House of Prayer Lutheran Church and the City of Richfield. Staff Report No. 99

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

Council Members Supple and Hayford Oleary expressed their excitement for the ‘pride-about’ associated with item B.

Motion carried 4-0.

Item #4	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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None

Item #5	<p>CONSIDER THE SECOND 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 AND A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF SAID ORDINANCE. THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES ZONING DESIGNATIONS OF PROPERTIES GENRALLY 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. 100)</p>
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Council Member Supple presented staff report 100. She then asked for clarification on existing homes.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated existing properties will obtain non-conforming status which will allow them to use the property as is.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve (1) second reading of an ordinance rezoning 23 properties in the vicinity of Veterans Memorial Park to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; and (2) a resolution authorizing summary publication of said ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; AMENDING APPENDIX I TO THE RICHFIELD CITY CODE BY REZONING LAND IN THE VICINITY OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK IN ORDER TO CONFORM TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council Member Hayford Oleary appreciates staff consideration to not push any residents out but expressed concern that this does limit what can be done to properties in the future.

Assistant Director Poehlman explained there was a mailing done to residents and a public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting on May 23, 2021. This item addresses a variety of changes in zoning regarding the 23 properties involved.

Council Member Whalen agreed with Council Member Hayford Oleary's comments and would like to see future discussions regarding the missing middle housing needs.

Motion carried 4-0

Item #6	<p>CONSIDER APPROVAL OF (1) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ATTACHED PORTLAND & 66TH SUB AREA STUDY; (2) A SECOND 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; AND (3) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICAITON OF SAID ORDINANCE (STAFF REPORT 101)</p>
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Council Member Whalen presented staff report 101.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated the moratorium is set to expire on June 24, 2021.

Council Member Whalen read statement provided by Commander Seamans from Post 435.

M/Whalen, S/Supple to approve the attached resolution adopting the Portland & 66th Sub Area Study.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PORTLAND AND 66TH SUB AREA STUDY

Council Member Supple stated she is pleased to see the addition of the bird collision reduction information and asked for clarification on buffering, green space and parking.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated there will be a buffer of green space and landscaping along with tree preservation.

Council Member Supple asked if a stand-alone building for Post 435 would be allowed.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated Post 435 would be able to continue using the property as a legally non-conforming property. However, if the property were to change, they would be required to abide by the overlay district guidelines.

Council Member Whalen stated his confusion by the comments submitted by Post 435 and their intentions for the property. He would like to get clarity of intentions and come to a solution that meets everyone's needs.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated staff has continued dialogue with Post 435 and she believes they are still exploring possible options of how to utilize the property.

Director Stark clarified if the property were to fall into redevelopment; they would need to incorporate some kind of multi-housing needs.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if Post 435 has always wanted a stand-alone building or if this is something new.

Assistant Director Poehlman stated in initially, there was no discussion of a stand-alone building but it has come up as Post 435 explores potential options.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about the possibility of selling some of their property to be utilized as multi-family and keeping their existing building.

Assistant Director Poehlman does not believe they would able sell a portion without the entire lot being rezoned.

Council Member Whalen thanked residents who contributed to the study. He then reiterated the city is not trying to re-develop the park itself and does not pursue redeveloping properties but helps guide them for future development.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez believes the contents of the Post 435 comments would be things to discuss with a potential developer.

Motion carried 4-0

M/Whalen, S/Hayford Oleary to approve (1) a second reading of the attached ordinance establishing regulations for a new Veterans Park Area Overlay District and rezoning properties to be subject to said Overlay District regulations; and (2) the attached resolution authorizing summary

publication of an ordinance establishing regulations for a new Veterans Park Area Overlay District and rezoning properties to be subject to said Overlay District regulations.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR A NEW VETERNS PARK OVERLAY DISTRICT AND REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE AREA OF PORTLAND AVENUE AND 66TH STREET TO BE SUBJECT TO SAID OVERLAY DISTRICT REGULATIONS

Motion carried 4-0

Item #7	COSIDER A RESOLUTION APPROVING A FINAL PLAT FOR LYNDALE OAKS 2ND ADDITION. THE PROPOSED PLAT COMBINES THE THREE PARCELS COMPRISING THE LYNK65 REDEVELOPMENT SITE INTO ONE PARCEL (STAFF REPORT NO. 102)
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented staff report 102.

Assistant Director Poehlman added this final plat does dedicate the appropriate right of away at the round about as well as the adjacent trail.

M/Hayford Oleary, S/Whalen to approve the attached resolution approving the final plat of Lyndale Oaks 2nd Addition.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL OF A FINAL PLAT FOR LYNDALE OAKS 2ND ADDITION

Motion carried 4-0

Item #8	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez addressed two comments from the previous open forum and gave a brief covid update and asked for more discussion on the mask mandate.

Council Member Whalen spoke of how numbers are showing exposure is down and he would be comfortable doing away with the masks at meetings.

Council Members Hayford Oleary and Supple agreed they are also comfortable with not requiring masks at council meetings.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also supported not being required to wear a mask but will if anyone becomes uncomfortable.

Item #9	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
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M/Hayford Oleary, S/Supple that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

A/P Checks 297582 - 298014	\$ 2,281,897.45
Payroll: 162489 – 162828 43401	<u>715,239.56</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,997,137.01

Motion carried 4-0

Item #10	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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Council Member Whalen expressed excitement for the pool now being open and how wonderful it is to have that amenity available to the residents. He spoke of the Sustainability Commission will be hosting an event at the Wood Lake Nature Center this Saturday. He also commended Richfield schools for their work in closing the racial disparity in graduation rates. Lastly, he reminded residents there will be some events taking place over the 4th of July weekend and are posted on the city website.

Council Member Supple thanked Red White and Blue Days committee in making some difficult decisions and the work they have done over the years. She then spoke of the new brochure from the Arts Commission. She also stated the eviction moratorium coming to an end and stated how to receive help regarding rent.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated a resident who was able to run down every street within Richfield and thought that was a very unique way to see the entire city.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez reminded residents of entertaining in the park and information is available online. She then spoke of an article containing ten summer fun guarantees for 2021 that outlines a variety of things to do with family and friends. Lastly, she recognized the Richfield Fire Department for receiving a letter of support from PETA for rescuing a cat from under a dishwasher.

Item #11	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:10 p.m.

Date Approved: July 13, 2021

 Maria Regan Gonzalez
 Mayor

 Kelly Wynn
 Administrative Assistant

 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager