



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting

August 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 7:01 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; Kumud Verma, Finance Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; and Chris Swanson, Management Analyst.

Others Present: Mara Glubka, Human Rights Commissioner; Matthew Mayer, BerganKDV; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Mike Flaherty, Deputy Chief

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

City Manager Rodriguez read an email from Karen Lanthier on the proposed ordinance amendment updating the City's Zoning Code subsection that regulates fences, walls, and hedges.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve the minutes of the: (1) Regular City Council Meeting of July 26, 2022; and (2) Special City Council Work Session of August 1, 2022.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #1	2022 GENE & MARY JACOBSEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez invited Human Rights Commissioner Mara Glubka to the podium to award the Gene and Mary Jacobsen award to Rissa Pahl.

Council Member Supple congratulated Rissa Pahl on the award and thanked her for her service to the community.

Council Member Whalen thanks Ms. Pahl for her work in the community and commented on how it's not always easy managing a public forums and she does a great job walking the line between moderating and informing the public through the Richfield community Facebook page.

Council Member Trautmann congratulated Ms. Pahl and thanked her for all she has done.

ITEM #2	RECEIPT OF THE CITY OF RICHFIELD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021
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Finance Manager Verma introduced Matthew Mayer with BerganKDV, the city's auditing firm.

Matthew Mayer presented on the findings of the city's audit for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

Council Member Supple wanted to thank Finance Manager Verma and her staff for all the work they did pulling this together. She recognizes the audit caught a small internal issue that occurred when there was a software switch and is happy to hear that, because of the audit, this will be something we plan for in the future.

Council Member Trautmann thanked city staff for their work. He noted that residents may have almost \$40 a year on property taxes but see no special assessments. He talked about how many cities charge residents for construction projects as a special assessment. Richfield is different; the city takes on the debt for these capital projects. He feels this is a great use of resources and helps to not burden citizens and small businesses.

Council Member Whalen thanked staff for the presentation and difficult work as 2021 was a time of transition. He was happy to hear our financial outlook is healthy

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked staff for all their works over the past years. She recognizes the city has done a lot over the past year as we faced numerous crises and had fewer resources.

M/Trautmann, S/Whalen to accept receipt of annual financial report for the year ending December 31, 2021.

Motion carried: 5-0

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

Motion carried: 5-0

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

- A. First Reading of Ordinance Amending Section 300 and Section 1220 of the City Code of Ordinance relating to the Abolishment of the Liquor Department and Liquor Operations Director Position Within the City Organization. (Staff Report No. 109)
- B. First reading of a proposed ordinance amendment updating the City's Zoning Code subsection that regulates fences, walls, and hedges. (Staff Report No. 110)
- C. Consider adoption of a resolution authorizing the City of Richfield to accept grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 and enter into a Source Water Protection Grant Agreement (SWIFT Contract Number 214643) with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to upgrade security system infrastructure at the Water Treatment Plant and Well Houses. (Staff Report No. 111)

RESOLUTION NO. 11991

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RICHFIELD TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 AND ENTER INTO A SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GRANT AGREEMENT (SWIFT CONTRACT NUMBER 214643) WITH MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UPGRADE SECURITY SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WELL HOUSES

- D. Consider the approval of a resolution appointing Assistant City Manager Sack Thongvanh as the City's Director Representative on the Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS) Board of Directors. (Staff Report No. 112)

RESOLUTION NO. 11992

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER AS THE CITY'S DIRECTOR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LOGIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- E. Consider the adoption of a resolution supporting a Livable Communities Act Transit Oriented Development grant application to the Metropolitan Council for the proposed "Veterans Village" development by the American Legion Post 435 at 6501 Portland Avenue. (Staff Report No. 113)

RESOLUTION NO. 11993

RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT FUNDING AND AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

- F. Consider authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute a cost-share/reimbursement agreement with Partnership Academy for installation of a water utility service line in advance of the City's 65th Street Reconstruction Project due to expansion of the Partnership Academy campus. (Staff Report No. 114)

- G. Approval of a resolution amending the allocation of the 2021 General Fund Budget. (Staff Report No. 115)

RESOLUTION NO. 11994

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISION OF 2021 BUDGETS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

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

Council Member Hayford Oleary wanted to talk more about the fence issue raised in the email read during the Open Forum. He has received the comment earlier and was able to meet with resident. He directed other council members to view the rendering provided on page 185 showing how the new rule would impact a corner lot. He stated he would be open to changing the proposed language on side yard setback to allow some more flexibility. He stated he is looking to propose a 3 foot setback for all fences and would reach out to community development to discuss.

Council Member Supple wondered if they would be able to receive more info before the next meeting. She recognizes having a bus stop on that corner does impact her thoughts on the fencing guidelines.

City Manager Rodriguez said she will ask Community Development Director Poehlman to respond to the Open Forum comment when the item is considered at the next meeting.

Council Member Trautmann stated he would like to see if there is a way we can allow variances based on practical difficulties.

Council Member Whalen feels he would benefit from a few more real life examples of application of the ordinance and an example of the tunnel effect. He would not like this ordinance to be overly restrictive.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated there is a variance process written in the proposed ordinance, but would like it to be a little easier for the resident.

Council Member Whalen stated he had a comment on another item on the Consent Agenda. He wanted to make a note on Item A. on the Consent agenda. He wanted residents to know this is just a reorganization of the liquor store. He also wanted to express his excitement about the continued movement on the American Legion site.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated she is also excited about all the work going on around the Veteran's Village.

Motion carried: 5-0

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

ITEM #6	CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez wanted to thanks staff and council for supporting all the great community events over the past weeks.

ITEM #7	CLAIMS AND PAYROLL
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M/Trautmann, S/Whalen that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

<u>U.S. BANK</u>	<u>8/9/2022</u>
A/P Checks: 308012 – 308357	\$3,899,854.09
Payroll: 172200 – 172560, 43480	<u>\$767,055.93</u>
TOTAL	\$4,666,910.02

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #8	HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS
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Council Member Trautmann wanted to thank all public safety, fire department workers, and community members who participated in Night to Unite. He is excited to see how his family and community still are excited for events like this.

Council Member Hayford Oleary spotlighted the bike tour he participated in did last week with the Transportation Commission. Got to visit some great projects and look at some of these items first hand. He wanted to thank staff for organizing this event.

Council Member Supple wanted to everyone for their work with Unity in the Community. She recognizes it is a lot of work over many days for staff and partners. She really enjoyed the event. She also wanted to highlight where residents can go if they have issues like storm damage to a boulevard tree or a street light out. The report a non-emergency issue link is on the public works website.

Council Member Whalen wanted to echo the great comments about night to unite. He also wanted to thank everyone who has been contacting the city to provide feedback on the strategic plan and ARPA. He also wanted to also give a big thank you to everyone who participated in the primary yesterday.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez talked about how amazing it’s been to do all these community events over the past weeks. She wanted to thank staff and all our partners for pulling all this together. She talked about the amazing turnout for an event in honor of international breastfeeding day. She talked about how proud she is that our community members are amazing leaders, the care they have for Richfield and how they work make the community a better place. She talked about how amazing to see everyone together and how excited people seem after COVID-19.

ITEM #9	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:51 p.m.

Date Approved: September 13, 2022



Chris Swanson
Management Analyst



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager