



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Special Council Meeting

August 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez at 5:42 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Sam Ketchum, Acting City Attorney; John Stark, Community Development Director; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Scott Kulzer, Administrative Aide/Analyst; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Specialist; Kate Aitchison, Housing/Communications Specialist; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Equity Administrator; and Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

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| Item #1 | CONSENT CALENDAR |
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of a resolution authorizing the City of Richfield to enter into a Local Road Improvement Program grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT Agreement No. 1047188) for \$11,690,000 to be used for construction of the 77th Street and Trunk Highway 77 Improvements Project. Staff Report No. 122

RESOLUTION NO. 11871
RESOLUTION APPROVING EXHIBIT E FOR GRANT AGREEMENT TO STATE
TRANSPORTATION FUND LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF THE 77TH STREET AND TRUNK
HIGHWAY 77 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (SP 157-594-
003; SP 157-108-035; & SP 2758-82)

- B. Consider the approval of a site license agreement between the City and C.S. McCrossan Construction, Inc., for construction staging for the 77th Street and Trunk Highway 77 Improvements Project. Staff Report No. 123

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #2 | CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR |
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None

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| Item #3 | CONSIDER THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 601 OF THE RICHFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, COLLECTION AND HAULING. STAFF REPORT NO. 124 |
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Council Member Whalen read staff report 124.

M/Whalen, S/Supple to approve the first reading of an ordinance repealing and replacing Section 601 of the Richfield City Code pertaining to solid waste disposal, collection, and hauling.

Council Member Whalen asked staff to briefly comment on the changes occurring with this item to clarify for residents.

Sustainability Specialist Lindholm stated this update to the code will bring things up to date.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about cart placement being allowed in front of houses.

Sustainability Specialist Lindholm stated there are four different diagrams included in the code covering a variety of lot sizes and shapes which detail where carts can be placed. She encouraged residents to review the diagram.

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #4 | CONSIDER THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION’S REQUEST FOR A JOINT MEETING TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S PLANS FOR THE I-494 AND PENN AVE INTERCHANGE AS RELATED TO THE I-494: AIRPORT TO 169 PROJECT. STAFF REPORT NO. 125 |
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Council Member Hayford Oleary presented staff report 125.

Director Asher stated all decisions have been made regarding the 494 project but staff is available to assist with any discussion.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated he spoke with some commissioners regarding the change in routing from Best Buy Corporate to 35W and do not think it is the best solution.

Council Member Supple stated she would speak with the commission.

Council Member Whalen asked staff if a meeting would be a good use of time.

Director Asher provided her perspective that this meeting would be a step back but is unsure what the intended outcome would be other than a better understanding of the routing.

City Manager Rodriguez stated hosting a meeting would set expectations of a change which will not happen as decisions have been solidified.

Director Asher added the change will affect approximately 200 vehicles, according to a study completed.

Council Member Trautmann spoke of how engaged the members of the transportation commission are but the PAC and TAC have already agreed to the plans put forth by MnDOT and is unsure there is a space to make a change at this point in the process. He asked staff to share additional information with the commission and then find out if there is still a need for a meeting.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated the meeting has merit to show how important this is to the council and city.

Council Member Whalen spoke of questioning votes that have already been approved and does not believe this is a large concern.

Council Member Trautmann wondered if this meeting request is premature.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated a meeting concerning this specific issue is unnecessary but would explore the idea of a work session to prepare for municipal consent.

Director Asher stated she could attend the next commission meeting and perhaps have MnDOT attend to see if questions can be answered before convening a work session with council.

Council Member Trautmann suggested tabling the item until getting further clarity from staff regarding the desired outcome from the requested meeting.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated it is a worthy request as some decisions happen in the background and do not necessarily incorporate resident feedback.

Council Member Trautmann again suggested tabling instead of rejecting the request.

M/Trautmann, S/Supple to table this item until the next council meeting of September 14, 2021.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked staff to acquire more information from the commission in regards to their goal from having a meeting with council.

Council Member Trautmann would like staff to bring the same information given to council and provide that to the commission.

Council Member Whalen would like staff to present realistic options are going forward to receive a better sense of the commission desired outcome.

Motion carried 5-0.

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| Item #5 | CITY MANAGER’S REPORT |
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City Manager Rodriguez responded to two previous open forum comments from residents. She then thanked all directors for their work on the budget presentation that took place during the work session. She also asked if council had any other comments or direction regarding the budget process.

Council Member Supple thanked directors and staff for the extensive work on the budget presentation along with looking forward and developing the ten year plan. She also expressed she would not like to raise the levy during times of the pandemic as there is so much economic uncertainty.

Council Member Trautmann echoed comments of gratitude to staff and believes the city has a good outlook. He stated he would like to utilize some reserves and not raise the levy.

Council Member Whalen spoke of the rising market value and the tax increase will be felt more than past years. He also mentioned how many large infrastructure investments regarding recreation facilities should be more clearly defined. He then spoke of continuing to prioritize sustainability.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if these same concerns regarding the levy were said last year and how does staff know the city will do better next year.

City Manager Rodriguez believed it was a crisis last year due to impacts of the pandemic and those impacts are still being seen. She also believes due to the debt service happening next year, it will be difficult not to use reserves next year as well.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of the volatility that will continue to affect the city and its services along with how important it is to develop a strong ten year plan. She also suggested expanding the budget for consultants to take advantage of the construction boom to build out the community.

City Manager Rodriguez then expressed deep gratitude for Director Regis and Assistant City Manager Dmytrenko for their years of service to the City of Richfield as they both had their last day within the last week.

Council Member Whalen echoed appreciation for both individuals for their dedication to the community.

Council Member Trautmann spoke of the legacy left behind by both employees and thanked them for their stewardship.

Council Member Supple also thanked both individuals as they worked tirelessly for the city.

Council Member Hayford Oleary echoed gratitude.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of the leadership displayed by both employees and appreciated all the work they put into making the community a better place.

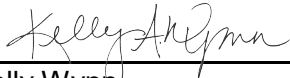
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| Item #8 | ADJOURNMENT |
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:45 p.m.

Date Approved: September 14, 2021



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kelly Wynn
Administrative Assistant



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager