



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Council Meeting Virtual Meeting held via WebEx

June 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez at 7:01 p.m. via WebEx.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Ben Whalen; Edwina Garcia; and Simon Trautmann

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Chris Regis, Finance Director; John Stark, Community Development Director; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Mike Peterson, Assistant Utilities Superintendent; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant

Others Present: Caroline Stutsman, BerganKDV Audit Manager; Scott Nelson, DJR Architecture Principal; Daniel Oberpriller, Northbay Companies Owner; Garrett Duncan, Northbay Companies Development Analyst; and Mara Glubka, Human Rights Commission member

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance

OPEN FORUM

No speakers. Senior Office Assistant Wynn stated no submissions had been received and reviewed the options to participate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Supple, S/Trautmann to approve the minutes of the (1) City Council Work Session of May 26, 2020; and (2) City Council Meeting of May 26, 2020.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

Regan Gonzalez: AYE
 Supple: AYE
 Trautmann: AYE
 Garcia: AYE
 Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #1 | PRESENTATION OF WATERSMART KICKOFF |
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Assistant Utilities Superintendent Peterson gave an overview of the new WaterSmart software. The portal will give residents the ability to easily view water usage, set up alerts, ideas of how to reduce usage and more. He hopes to have it rolled out by the end of June or early July.

Council Member Whalen asked how the department will roll out the portal.

Assistant Utilities Superintendent Peterson explained there will be some direct mailings, emails, and social media posts.

Council Member Trautmann thanked staff for their work and is excited to have access to this tool.

Assistant Utilities Superintendent Peterson commented on how it will be a powerful tool and will put the power in the resident’s hands.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed the shared excitement and thanked Assistant Utilities Superintendent Peterson for his presentation.

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| Item #2 | PRESENTATION OF 2019 AUDIT FINDINGS |
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Director Regis gave a brief description and introduced Caroline Stutsman with BerganKDV.

Audit Manager Stutsman reviewed the Independent Auditor’s Report. She briefly spoke on the results regarding the General, Liquor, Water and Sewer Utilities, Storm Sewer, and Governmental Funds.

Council Member Whalen questioned the totals regarding the Governmental Activities net position, why it continues to decrease and if that is financially concerning for the city.

Director Regis explained he would have to do some research but believes the decrease has to do with bond refunding and project funding.

Council Member Supple thanked staff for all the detail in the report.

Council Member Garcia appreciated all the detail as well.

Council Member Trautmann commended Director Regis for his careful planning and putting the city in such a good position in the current economic state.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed gratitude to Director Regis and staff. The detail of the report is a great visual to see where the city is spending its money.

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| Item #3 | PRESENTATION OF LGBTQI PROCLAMATION |
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez presented the proclamation and introduced Mara Glubka with the Human Rights Commission.

Mara Glubka expressed gratitude for the Council putting this proclamation in place. She spoke of how important something like this is to help support transgender children. She also spoke of how the Richfield Schools have also implemented a gender inclusion policy.

Council Member Supple thanked the Human Rights Commission for submitting the proclamation and is looking forward to celebrating in the years to come.

Council Member Garcia spoke of how this is just one more step in the right direction of becoming a more inclusive community.

Council Member Whalen appreciated the proclamation as a whole and is glad to be part of a city doing this work.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Mara Glubka for accepting the proclamation and being a role model for so many in the community.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed the gratitude for having Mara Glubka as a leader in the community. She also spoke of Council being supportive in the coming events.

Mara Glubka thanked everyone.

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

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Garcia: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

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 adoption of a resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of \$5,000 to the city of Richfield from the Minneapolis Foundation (Staff Report No. 65)

**RESOLUTION NO. 11743
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION RECEIVED BY THE
MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF RICHFIELD TO
ADMINISTER THE FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UPDATED CENSUS**

- B. Consider a ratification of the Mayor’s May 29, 2020 Proclamation of a Civil Emergency and establishment of a city-wide curfew pursuant to City Code subsection 900.21 and all Supplemental Orders extending such curfew and rescind the current state of civil emergency (Staff Report No. 66)

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

Council Member Supple reminded residents to fill out their Census forms whether it is online or sending it in the mail.

Council Member Whalen congratulated Richfield residents for already reporting 73% but there are still many residents who need to file.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Garcia: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #6 | CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LYNDALE AVENUE AND 64TH STREET (6345 LYNDALE AVENUE SOUTH AND 600 64TH STREET WEST, GENERALLY) AS PLANNED MIXED USE (PMU) AND SCHEDULE A SECOND READING FOR JULY 14, 2020. (STAFF REPORT NO. 67) |
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Council Member Garcia presented staff report 67.

Director Stark explained staff and the developer are available for any questions that council may have.

Council Member Supple requested the timeline.

Director Stark explained this agenda item would go before the Housing Redevelopment Association and would come back to Council on July 14.

Council Member Garcia explained she will be looking at this item more thoroughly and will follow up with any questions.

Council Member Whalen reiterated that the Planning Commission did pass this property with the condition of adding more parking. He asked about further discussion regarding parking.

Director Stark explained there has been some discussion about alternative parking areas but may be problematic for the city to enforce. He also spoke of decreasing units or increasing parking may increase rent pricing.

Daniel Oberpriller with NorthBay believes they have maximized the area for parking. He then gave a description of the units and believe only one person will be occupying a majority of the units. He also explained there will be bike parking and the development is on the transportation line.

Scott Nelson explained there are 117 parking spots for the development and also believes there will only be one person per unit.

Council Member Whalen expressed appreciation for the affordable units. He encouraged residents who have concerns to speak up and continue conversations.

Director Stark explained they will be speaking with City Attorney Tietjen regarding the discretion the city has on the transit reduction due to setting precedence to other developments.

M/Garcia, S/Whalen to approve a first reading of an ordinance that amends Richfield Zoning Code Appendix I to designate Lots 3-8, Block 5, Lyndale Oaks Addition (to be re-platted as "Lot 1, Block 1, HENLEY 2") as Planned Mixed Use.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Garcia: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #7 | RECEIPT OF THE CITY OF RICHFIELD COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019. (STAFF REPORT NO. 68) |
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Council Member Trautmann presented staff report 68.

M/Trautmann, S/Supple to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the City for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Council Member Trautmann questioned the difference between principles and standards within this report.

Director Regis explained they have standards when it comes to auditing but also uphold the generally accepted principles.

Council Member Supple thanked staff for the very detailed CAFR.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked Director Regis and department for preparing this report every year. She also highlighted the need to diversify the tax base and the major initiatives. She spoke of the achievements and awards the department has received and how they show how fiscally prudent the city is.

Director Regis referred to Council Member Whalen’s previous question of why the governmental activities area was decreasing. He mentioned various factors and an increase in debt as well.

Council Member Whalen thanked Director Regis and wondered if the decrease is concerning.

Director Regis spoke of how the city needs to record liabilities each year but is very unlikely to have to pay out and that greatly affects the final numbers.

Council Member Supple reiterated Director Regis’ comments of how liabilities are required to be recorded but do not create realistic numbers.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Garcia: AYE
- Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #8 | CITY MANAGER’S REPORT |
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City Manager Rodriguez asked Analyst Martinez Gavina to give an update on the Census.

Analyst Martinez Gavina spoke of how 73.5% of Richfield has reported but there are multiple hard to count tracks that are only reporting at 62.5% and 55.8% response rate. These numbers are trending to miss about 7,500 residents in the Census count.

City Manager Rodriguez spoke on the following items:

- The Deputy Registrar office is open for limited services and capacity
- The Lyndale Shoppes liquor store has re-opened
- The new Governor’s order regarding restaurant dining
- Summer programming:
 - Farmer’s Market
 - Pickleball and tennis doubles
 - Mini-golf
 - Cancelled adult sports
 - Small shelter rentals
 - One sheet of ice ready by August at the arena
 - Pool to remain closed for season

Council Member Supple asked if the ice sheet was ahead of schedule.

City Manager Rodriguez believes it is on schedule.

Chief Henthorne spoke of the civil unrest in the Twin Cities and reviewed the increase in calls between May 28 and June 8. He reviewed the joint effort of all staff to help keep the city and its residents safe. He thanked Richfield residents for abiding by the curfew and reporting suspicious activity. He also spoke of the overtime and budget impact from having the appropriate staffing.

Council Member Supple asked if these reports included Fire staffing statistics.

Chief Henthorne explained these were reports for the Police Department only.

Council Member Trautmann asked for insight on people stopped without license plates and if they were from out of state.

Chief Henthorne spoke of many of the people stopped were from outside of Richfield. Some were from surrounding cities but a majority from out of the state.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked Chief Henthorne and all staff for leading in this time of crisis. She also spoke of the request for call to action and explained that it is a priority and will be a team effort to address.

Chief Henthorne expressed his investment in the community and how the actions of those officers involved do not define the oath they were sworn to uphold. He commented on the despicable actions and how it unfortunately is shedding a dark light on officers.

Council Member Whalen appreciated the sentiment and message from Chief Henthorne. He also spoke of his gratitude for the great communication to the community during this time.

Council Member Garcia commented on the calls she has received regarding the concern of not addressing the systematic racism in this world. She spoke of the need for change and it begins with every single person. She requests the Mayor and/or Police Chief put out statements condemning the actions. She also acknowledged the great people Richfield has and how the city is blessed but would like to see a quicker response when it comes to certain actions.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Council Member Garcia for her thoughts and Chief Henthorne for all his comments. He spoke of how devastating the death of George Floyd has been and how it has created elevated levels of anxiety and fear. He also thanked all first responders and staff for helping in keeping the peace.

Council Member Garcia mentioned how the calls she received were criticizing the leadership within the city.

Council Member Supple expressed appreciation of all the comments and believes this will be a long process but needs to be kept centralized within conversations. She also thanked everyone who worked so hard to keep the community safe.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked Council for their thoughtful comments. She stated how there was an immediate statement put out condemning the death of George Floyd. Sites then had to quickly pivot to the civil unrest and are now being moved to the inequities and systemic racism. This is ongoing work and will require many hard conversations.

Council Member Trautmann spoke of how grateful he is for both police and for Black Lives Matter. He expressed how his heart is heavy for both sides.

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| Item #9 | CLAIMS AND PAYROLL |
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M/Garcia, S/Whalen that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

| U.S. Bank | 06/09/2020 |
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| A/P Checks 287961 - 288323 | \$ 2,228,172.10 |
| Payroll: 154594 - 154865 | <u>670,005.10</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 2,898,177.20 |

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

- Regan Gonzalez: AYE
- Supple: AYE
- Trautmann: AYE
- Whalen: AYE
- Garcia: AYE

Motion carried 5-0

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| Item #10 | HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS |
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Council Member Supple spoke of the opening on the Planning Commission and the city is taking applications until June 22. She also thanked residents for reaching out to Council Members with their concerns.

Council Member Whalen echoed the encouragement for residents to continue to reach out with their concerns and thoughts. He also thanked everyone who showed up to help clean up the aftermath and demonstrations. He then encouraged people who were a part of any large group demonstrations to get tested for COVID-19.

Council Member Trautmann expressed appreciation for everyone who has become engaged in the community and democracy in peaceful but urgent ways. Reminded residents the Parks and Recreation department is still active even with social distancing.

Council Member Garcia spoke of former Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson passing away and how he valued the constituents that he met. He was an honorable and respectable Hennepin County Attorney and offered her condolences to his family.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of the bone shaking moment the world is experiencing and how everyone has a lot of work ahead of them. She believes this is the time to make change. She reminded residents to take care of each other and to make time for self-care as well.

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| Item #11 | ADJOURNMENT |
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:13 p.m.

Date Approved: June 23, 2020

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kelly Wynn
Senior Office Assistant

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager