



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Regular Council Meeting Virtual Meeting held via WebEx

**June 23, 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; and Edwina Garcia

*Council Members Absent:* Simon Trautmann

*Staff Present:* Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Jennifer Anderson, Health Administrator; John Stark, Community Development Director; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Amy Markle, Recreation Director; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant

*Others Present:* Dr. Marc Jenkins; and Ron Johnson, Firefighters for Healing

**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**

City Attorney Tietjen reviewed and directed changes to the language in minutes of a from the City Council Special session from June 17, 2020.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to approve the minutes of the (1) Special City Council and Staff Work Retreat of May 20, 2020; (2) Special City Council and Staff Work Retreat of June 10, 2020; (3) City Council Meeting of June 9, 2020; and (4) Special City Council closed session of June 17, 2020 with amended changes from City Attorney Tietjen.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0

<b>Item #1</b>	<b>PRESENTATION OF DR. MARC JENKINS PROCLAMATION</b>
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez presented the proclamation.

Senior Office Assistant Wynn presented the Key to the City of Richfield.

Dr. Marc Jenkins thanked Council for the recognition. He spoke of how proud and thrilled he is to be a Richfield resident.

Council Member Garcia commented on how Dr. Jenkins is a ‘modern day hero.’ His work and contributions to COVID-19 are wonderful and expressed her gratitude.

Council Member Supple congratulated Dr. Jenkins. She also expressed her gratitude of his work with community youth and in being a fantastic role model.

Council Member Whalen echoed the many congratulations. He thanked Dr. Jenkins for all his work, especially with COVID-19 and in the community.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented on all of Dr. Jenkins’ achievements and is so grateful to have him as a Richfield resident. She spoke of how he has inspired many youth to become scientists and looks forward to what he is able to achieve in the future.

<b>Item #2</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b>
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M/Whalen, S/Garcia to approve the agenda

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

Regan Gonzalez: AYE

Supple: AYE  
Garcia: AYE  
Whalen: AYE

Motion carried 4-0

<b>Item #3</b>	<b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider the approval of the City of Richfield's Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Application submission (Staff Report No. 69)

**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. Continue the public hearing to consider the platting and vacation of easements at 6228 Penn Avenue South and 6200 Queen Avenue South (Lunds & Byerlys) to July 14, 2020 (Staff Report No. 70)
- C. Consider the approval of first reading of a transitory ordinance vacating a right-of-way easement on property at 6228 Penn Avenue South (Lunds) and schedule a public hearing and second reading for July 14, 2020 (Staff Report No. 71)

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

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0

<b>Item #4</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
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None

Item #5	<b>CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAWFUL GAMBLING PREMISES PERMIT BY FIREFIGHTERS FOR HEALING TO CONDUCT LAWFUL GAMBLING AT SANDY’S TAVERN, 6612 PENN AVENUE SOUTH (STAFF REPORT NO. 72)</b>
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Council Member Supple presented staff report 72.

Health Administrator Anderson stated she is available for questions.

Council Member Garcia asked about a new building. Ron Johnson confirmed they are building new units next to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Council Member Garcia asked about the benefits for Sandy’s Tavern by allowing gambling on their premises.

Ron Johnson explained they share the proceeds from the gambling. He then gave an explanation of what Firefighters for Healing does for firefighters, their families and relatives.

Council Member Garcia asked for clarification on the four different gambling components .

Ron Johnson explained they would like to focus on bingo and electronic pull tabs with the option to add a paddlewheel and/or tip board in the future.

Council Member Garcia brought up potential concerns with existing policies and a fear of more non-profits coming to the area to request gambling permits.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked Heath Administrator Anderson to clarify the process and who controls the permits.

Health Administrator Anderson explained gambling permits are granted to on-sale liquor establishment, which Richfield currently has ten. Gambling does not necessarily fit many establishments’ atmospheres so she is not concerned with multiple places applying. She also said this is the first permit requested in three years.

Council Member Garcia expressed concern with setting the wrong precedence. She believes in the organization but worries about bringing more gambling into the area.

Health Administrator Anderson asked about the possibility of setting a cap on the number of permits granted.

City Attorney Tietjen said she can look into the matter but does not believe the city can set a cap on the permits.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked other council members to supply comments and provided a summary of the items in question.

Council Member Whalen agreed with Council Member Garcia in that Firefighters for Healing is a great organization but is not terribly concerned with a flood of requests. He would like to know if putting a limit on the requests would be possible.

Council Member Supple has no issue with the current proposal but would like staff to look into a cap on proposals in the future.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed support for the current proposal. She then asked staff to complete more research on permits going forward.

Ron Johnson thanked council for their great questions and spoke of his connections to Richfield and what a wonderful community it is.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to adopt the resolution approving the lawful gambling premises permit application by Firefighters For Healing, to conduct lawful gambling at Sandy's Tavern, 6612 Penn Avenue South.

RESOLUTION NO. 11744

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LAWFUL GAMBLING PREMISES PERMIT APPLICATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS FOR HEALING TO CONDUCT LAWFUL GAMBLING AT SANDY'S TAVERN AT 6612 PENN AVENUE SOUTH

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0

<b>Item #6</b>	<b>CITY MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
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City Manager Rodriguez reminded residents there will multiple public hearings along with the open form for the upcoming meeting on July 14, 2020.

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina spoke of the single phone line that will be used for all public comments.

Senior Office Assistant Wynn explained there will be a phone line available for the open forum and public hearings for live comments and asked residents to be patient during the process. Below are options for participation:

- Email prior to meeting [kwynn@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:kwynn@richfieldmn.gov)
- Call prior to meeting (612) 861-9711
- Participate during live meeting (612) 861-0651
  - Be prepared to state full name, address and your comment

City Manager Rodriguez briefly spoke on the following items:

- A slight decline in COVID-19 cases in Richfield
- Update on mitigation regarding sports competitive play

- Policymaker advisory meeting regarding the 35W corridor, Project A

Council Member Supple thanked everyone for representing Richfield.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of how it was a united front and was glad things were brought to the forefront.

<b>Item #7</b>	<b>CLAIMS AND PAYROLL</b>
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M/Garcia, S/Whalen that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

<b>U.S. Bank</b>	<b>06/23/2020</b>
A/P Checks 288324 - 288716	\$ 2,768,999.49
Payroll: 154594 - 154865	<u>721,011.36</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,490,010.85</b>

Executive Analyst Martinez Gavina took roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0

<b>Item #8</b>	<b>HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS</b>
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Council Member Whalen encouraged residents to review the summary from the June 10, 2020 Council-Staff planning retreat online. He also spoke of how resident commissions are back in action after taking a few meetings off due to COVID-19. He also reminded community members of the ongoing recreation programs happening virtually.

Council Member Garcia excused herself from the remainder of the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Council Member Supple thanked Health Administrator Anderson for all the reminders and wonderful communication she has been supplying during the pandemic. She then reminded residents to register for the Urban Wildlife Race. The Wood Lake Nature Center is making the event happen virtually and taking place July 25 through August 1.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez encouraged small businesses in need to apply for the state's small business relief program. Applications are currently open. She also congratulated all Richfield 2020 graduates and how the community has come together to celebrate them in these unprecedented times. She then commented on how change starts with individual commitments. There are many ways to get involved in the community such as the League of Women Voters and Richfield Foundation.

<b>Item #9</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:57 p.m.

Date Approved: July 14, 2020



Maria Regan Gonzalez  
Mayor



Kelly Wynn  
Senior Office Assistant



Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager