

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
March 27, 2024

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

Matt Magstad

Todd Magstad

Greg Janitschke

Shariz Janitschke

Linda Madsen

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Hybrid Interactive Technology Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
03.27.2024

The 03.27.2024 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Rob Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon; Interim City Administrator Jack Davis, City Attorney Bill Griffith, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and City Engineer Kevin Bittner.

Also in attendance: Linda Madsen

Not in attendance: None.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Hegland to approve the adoption of the agenda for the March 27, 2024 City Council meeting. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- ~~1. Approval of the 03-13-2024 City Council Meeting Minutes~~
2. Pay Bills as Posted

Hegland requested the 03-13-2024 City Council Meeting Minutes be pulled for review of the edits by the Interim City Administrator.

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items No. 2 . Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

1. Public Open Forum

Matthew Magestead presented his Eagle Scout project regarding oak wilt education, its effects, and how he was fundraising for it and requested to plant 6-12 oak saplings in a City park. The Councilmembers suggested Mr. Magestead consider presenting at the Park Board, having a booth at Fall Fest, and recommended staff put something on the City's website.

Motion by Preiner to approve the Oak Wilt Project for Matthew William Magestead Eagle Scout Project. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Preiner to clarify that this is being approved as the City as beneficiaries for that purpose. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

2. Linda Madsen – 2023 Lakes Center Annual Report

Linda Madsen presented the 2023 Lakes Center for Families and Youth Annual Report reviewing her background and the history of the Lakes Center. She reviewed the annual report including revenue sources, the goals for the program, the areas they have focused on – enrichment, intervention, and counseling.

3. Drive-Way Variance – 9367 189th Avenue

Councilmember Busch, City Council liaison to the Planning Commission, stated the applicant, Greg and Sharie Janitschke, was requesting a variance to allow an additional lot of a single-family home access off an existing shared driveway that was already being shared by another neighbor. He noted the applicant was hoping to pursue a subdivision of the 40-acre property to allow their son to purchase the property to build a home so their families could be nearby. He indicated the Planning Commission had recommended approval of this variance request.

Motion by Busch to approve the variance for 9367 189th Avenue, PID 25-33-22-42-0001, to increase the number of properties receiving access from an unimproved driveway from two to three in a residential rural zoning district, subject to conditions set forth in staff's report PC24-101 included as part of the application for the request . Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

4. Approval of 2024 Preliminary Fall Fest Budget

Davis explained that planning of the 2024 Fall Fest has begun and some expenses will be incurred prior to conclusion of fundraising activities. It is requested the Council consider making \$6,000 available to cover initial costs prior to collection of donations. He summarized the Fall Fest budget, noting the account finished 2023 with a balance of \$1,392.01. The City contribution for the 2024 event is \$3,000, which brings the total cash available to \$4,392.01 as of March 27, 2024. Fundraising is expected to generate \$1,608 to cover reservation deposits that will be encountered through May 2024. Davis explained that last year's solicitations collected \$12,325 and it is anticipated that 2024 contributions will exceed that amount as fundraising efforts will begin several months earlier. He completed review of the Fun Fest budget, noting staff recommended the Council approve a start-up budget of \$6,000 to cover initial costs.

Davis reported that some 2023 Fall Fest costs were initial expenses and would not recur for the 2024 event. Hegland clarified there were some costs that were expensed to Fall Fest 2023 which needed to be charged to more appropriate accounts to reflect the true costs of last year's event and increase the funds available for 2025.

Motion by Preiner to approve the preliminary Fall Fest budget in the amount of \$6,000 to be used for

upfront expenses incurred prior to fundraising for this year's activities. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

5. Meeting times for EDA/City Council Meetings

Davis noted the quarterly EDA meetings were scheduled on the day of and one hour prior to City Council meetings on April 10, August 14, and November 14, 2024. He indicated EDA workshop meetings were also scheduled prior to the Council workshop meetings. He recommended, to avoid the conflict with the Council meetings, that the Council regular meeting start at either 6:30 p.m. or EDA workshops be scheduled for another day/time. He requested Council's direction regarding this.

The Council discussed the options and directed staff to look at moving the EDA workshop and regular meetings to a Thursday, and not in the same week with a Council workshop or Council meeting.

6. Agenda Discussion for April 9, 2024 City Council Work Meeting

Davis summarized the proposed agenda for the April 9, 2024 City Council Work Meeting. He asked if those were the topics the Council wanted to discuss, if they wanted additional items added, or if they wanted any items deleted.

Council accepted the proposed agenda.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

1. Engineer Report

Bittner stated Forest Lake was holding an Open House for Eureka Avenue on Monday, April 15, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. He asked if Council wanted him to attend this Open House or if any Councilmembers wanted to attend, to let him know.

2. Attorney Report

Griffith gave an update on the Columbus apartments noting that the April 15 closing date has been disrupted by financing and interest rates. He stated the Fisher family had indicated that the plans also did not work with them as they wanted to change unit sizes to maximize the number of units, but that would necessitate reopening the approved CUP/PUD and a trip back through the Planning Commission and City Council. He stated the Fisher family still wanted to build the project but would need 120 days to submit a new plan. He indicated the City could terminate the purchase agreement with the Harchenkos and continue working with the Fisher family if they chose to do that, or they could terminate the purchase agreement and put the land up for sale again. Griffith recommended cancelling the purchase agreement with Harchenkos and continue negotiating with the Fisher family. He explained how the process would work if the Council chose to continue working with the Fisher family and what the next steps would be.

Council discussed the options and chose to continue to work with the Fisher family on a new purchase agreement and CUP/PUD and to terminate the agreement with Harchenkos.

Motion by Hegland to terminate the purchase agreement with the Harchenkos. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to proceed to start working with the Fishers on a new purchase agreement and application for a CUP/PUD. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Griffith reviewed the legislative updates including two Bills on the Hornsby project and the Bill on the Fiscal Disparities Relief Program.

3. Mayor & City Council Member's Report

Hanegraaf stated he had no report.

Wagamon stated she had no report.

Hegland stated she had no report.

Busch gave an update on the Met Council State of the State event he attended

Preiner gave an update on the recent Fire Board meeting.

4. Code Enforcement Report

No report.

5. Public Works Report

Windingstad stated the fire hall roof was completed. He indicated he was planning to move forward with a subscription to track salt use data on the plow trucks which would allow residents to download a map showing where the snowplows were at and which roads were plowed. He noted this would also be a good way for the schools to determine if they were going to cancel school or not. He stated this would not only benefit the community, but it would help staff as well to determine how much salt was being used, so they would know how much to order the following year.

6. Interim City Administrator's Report

Davis informed the Council that he had attended a meeting with the Anoka County Highway Department regarding the potential road project to connect County Road 14 to Hornsby Street in Columbus.

7. Personnel Committee Report – Hire of Accounting Assistant

Hegland gave an update on the hiring of the Accounting Assistant, indicating they had extended an offer to Mary Tomnitz who has had prior experience working as an accountant, treasurer and city clerk in several neighboring cities, and who they believed would be a good addition to the City.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee for the hire of Mary Tomnitz to the full-time position of Accounting Assistant at Step One of the 198 point pay scale grade of \$25.91 per hour with benefits, subject to the completion of a satisfactory background check. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland gave an update on the search for the City Administrator position indicating they had received 38 resumes, 16 completed applications which they had evaluated, and six were selected to move forward as semi-finalists. She noted interviews would take place during the week of April 12 – 16 after which a special meeting will be held to decide who the two finalists will be. Once the two finalists were chosen, Council will interview them, they will meet with staff, and be addressed by the public after that.

The Council chose to hold a special Council meeting on April 30 at 5:30 p.m. and requested staff get it posted.

Motion by Hegland to set a special Council meeting for 5:30 p.m. on April 30 to select the two finalists from the semi-finalists for the City Administrator position. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Planning Commission Meeting April 3, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- City Council Workshop Meeting April 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- EDA Meeting April 10, 2024, at 5 p.m.
- City Council Meeting April 10, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Busch to adjourn. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator

Drafted by: Kathy Altman
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.