

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this hybrid meeting was held both virtually and in person.

Present: Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas, Councilmembers Abdulle, Allen, Axberg, and Dunsworth
Absent:

Also Present: Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney, Tony Paetznick-Public Safety Director, Craig Schlichting-Community Assets and Development Director, Jennifer Fink-Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Forum

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas opened the Public Forum for comments from the public.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the February 8, 2022 Council Agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to approve the agenda as submitted.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Special Order of Business

1. Public Safety Commission 2021 Year in Review.

Chair Geoff Hollimon provided the Council with a presentation from the Public Safety Commission. He stated it was an honor to be a part of such a forward thinking organization as the New Brighton Public Safety Department. He discussed the background and purpose of this group noting the Commission had nine members. He thanked Public Safety Director Tony Paetznick for all of his efforts on behalf of the group. He reported the Public Safety Commission meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. He indicated the Public Safety Commission's primary responsibilities were to advance 21st Century Policing throughout the department, to oversee traffic stop data, use of force statistics and policy body worn camera data, to overview traffic calming measures in the community, and to serve as an advisory group to Allina EMS. He indicated the Public Safety Commission met 11 times in 2021 and discussed pathways to policing, 2020

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1. Public Safety
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traffic stop data, 2020 crime statistics, the AHIMT team, a fire division review, a body-worn camera audit, public safety recruitment and retention, the use of drones, traffic safety requests with DCAD and received a presentation from the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center. He then reviewed the 2022 work plan and anticipated activities for the Public Safety Commission.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked Chair Hollimon for his tremendous leadership on this Commission. She suggested the Public Safety Commission speak with Ramsey County about the support they would be providing to youth in the community. Public Works Director Paetznick discussed how there had been an increase in crime, specifically theft in the community in 2021. He reported vehicles have been stolen in the community and the department was working to address this concern. He discussed how the police chiefs were having discussions with the county attorneys office, due to the rise in crime in the metro area.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked Chair Hollimon and Director Paetznick for their tremendous leadership. He asked what the path would look like to lower the residential speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting explained the City was working to address the residential speed limit in order to protect pedestrians. He indicated Fridley and Columbia Heights were considering a change to their residential speed limit and anticipated Roseville would follow.

Councilmember Allen commented on the traffic stop data and discussed how the Public Safety Commission had discussed at length the factors behind the numbers and noted this group was looking into programs that would assist with providing "fix it" vouchers and educational programs for drivers. He stated it has been a pleasure to serve as the liaison to this group for the past year. He thanked Chair Hollimon and all of the Commission members for all of their hard work.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Consider Approval of City Council Minutes:
 - a. January 25, 2022 City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes.
 - b. January 26, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.
 - c. February 1, 2022 City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
 - a. January 5, 2022 PREC Meeting Minutes.
4. Consider Resolution Authorizing Application to MnDNR for Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant for Totem Pole Park.
5. Consider affordable housing agreement with Pike Lake Apartments, LLC.
6. Consider Final Payment, Partial Payment 5 for City Project 21-1, 2021 Street Rehabilitation.
7. Consider Resolution Authorizing Application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to become a Green Corps host site.
8. Consider Agreement with WSB and Associates Inc. for Design Services for Sunny Square Park.

Councilmember Abdulle requested further information from staff regarding the affordable housing agreement the City pursued with the Pike Lake Apartments. City Manager Massopust discussed the details within the

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5. Consider affordable housing agr. with Pike Lake Apartments, LLC.
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7. Consider Resolution Authorizing App. to the MN Pollution Control Agency to become a Green Corps host site.
8. Consider Agr. with WSB and Assoc. Inc.

agreement in further detail with the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

Public Hearing

None.

Council Business

1. Consider authorizing staff to enter into an agreement with the MnDNR for the Hansen Park Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant.

City Manager Massopust indicated Parks and Recreation Director Fink would be presenting this item to the Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated in 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department was scheduled to replace fencing and backstops at Hansen Park for the two remaining youth fields at Hansen Park through the Non-Fleet Capital Asset Replacement Fund. A decision was made to delay those replacements in order to wait for the outcomes from the Parks Comprehensive Plan. Due to soil conditions and field location, rain and water often impact playability, cause field damage, which result in increased cancelations. With the completion and adoption of Parks and Recreation System Plan, the Parks and recreation department is proposing an application to the DNR to help facilitate the completion of a portion of the approved Hansen Park Master plan. For the purposes of this grant, the submitted proposal included reorientation of the north ballfield to an ideal direction for play (northeast). Each ballfield will be re-sized to 200' with grading and drainage improvements to accommodate play. The layout also includes a paved multi-use 8' wide trail connection to each field and expanded spectator areas with bleachers. Small play pods with one or two play features (such as swings) would be located near the spectator area for younger children watching games. There is also an option to fit a multipurpose field on the north ballfield. Parking lots will be consolidated into one lot with 119 stalls including accessible parking and sidewalks. Improvements to the popular disc golf course include a redesigned entrance, first hole and upgrades to existing tee boxes for consistency. An open-air shelter just south of the parking lot provides a separate gathering area for disc golf and space for group events. In an effort to improve the chances of a favorable outcome in our grant application, the City worked with WSB to assist in the grant application. We were chosen in July. Due to many different factors (COVID, Staffing, National Park Service delays), the DNR has had issues in finalizing these agreements. Staff is requesting that Council review the included draft agreement (that has been reviewed by the City Attorney) and authorize staff to enter into the final agreement pending approval by the City Attorney of any changes. Because of delays, the National Park Service has issued a letter authorizing the start date of the project be retroactive to November of 2021, and that is also included. Staff commented further on the plans for Hansen Park and requested the Council authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the MnDNR.

Councilmember Abdulle requested further information regarding the timing of the park renovations. Parks and Recreation Director Fink discussed the park renovations being planned for the next two years in further detail with the Council.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further information regarding the grant details. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated this grant was specific to Hansen Park East. She noted the goal would be to have Hansen

Public Hearing

Council Business

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East done by the end of 2023. She explained Hansen West would be completed in 2024.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed the language within the Intellectual Property Rights portion of the agreement and asked what the implications were for the City. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported this meant the plans for the park would be public data. City Attorney Sonsalla added that this was the State's grant agreement and it was used for many things, meaning it was broad and not all things may apply to the City's project. She reported the City would not have a special trademark or copyrighted image within Hansen Park. She commented further on how both the City and the state would have ownership in the plans, noting the plans would be public documents.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further comment on the termination language within the agreement. City Attorney Sonsalla discussed how she interpreted the termination language.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked if stated and federal approval would be required if additional changes were required at Hansen Park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated it was her understanding the watershed district has sent information to the DNR and FEMA and the City was waiting to receive a LOMR.

Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting discussed the tremendous amount of work the City has done with the watershed district in order to update the FEMA floodplain maps. He commented further on how it was the City's goal to provide enough compensatory storage by re-grading the site.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas explained that multi-jurisdictional agreements can be tricky and she thanked staff for all of their efforts on this project.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned if there had been any archeological finds in Hansen Park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated a 401 study was not required based on work that has been done in the past.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked if all invasive species had been eliminated in Hansen Park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained any work near a body of water that has invasive species would have to be addressed by the City.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to Authorize staff to enter into an agreement, pending approval by the City Attorney, with the MnDNR for the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant for Hansen Park in the amount of \$250,000.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust reported in late 2022 or early 2023 Ramsey and Washington County recycling will be rolling out curbside organics recycling. He noted they were currently looking for trial participants for this program. Those interested in participating are encouraged to visit the City's website for further information and to sign up. He commented on Ramsey County's appropriate response program. He explained staff was reviewing the concept drafts for Silver Lake Road and noted this information would be brought to the Council at a future worksession meeting. He stated the City was taking applications for Commission positions now through February 15.

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission would be meeting on Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth reported PREC met on Wednesday, February 2 and discussed the Xcel Partners in Energy Program. She provided further information on this program and how this free program could benefit the City of New Brighton and its residents. She stated she was

**Commission Liaison
Reports,
Announcements and
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looking forward to the City bringing in goats to assist with removing buckthorn in a community park.

Pam Axberg

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC met on Wednesday, February 2 noting the group received an update from Open to Business and discussed how to further collaborate with event sponsors (ice castles, etc.) in the future to make these events a win for local businesses.

Abdullahi Abdulle

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission would meet next on Tuesday, February 15. He discussed how the recent events in Minneapolis has impacted surrounding communities. He stated Amir Locke was killed by Minneapolis Police on a no-knock warrant, which was a tragedy. He explained he appreciated how the New Brighton Public Safety Department treated and honored human life.


Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported the Equity Commission held their first meeting on Thursday, January 20 and would be meeting again on Thursday, February 17. She commented on a recent meeting she attended with local mayors where public safety and public art was discussed, noting a presentation was also made by the school district. She indicated the local food shelves were in need at this time and any donations that could be made to Ralph Reeder and the schools would be appreciated. She discussed the meetings she has been attending with local mayors and County Attorney John Choi where rising crime has been the main topic. She noted Mr. Choi would be attending an upcoming council worksession meeting. She thanked all of the residents that participated in the luminary walk that was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. She then commented on the upcoming west side band festival. She invited the public to attend the Winter Music of the Night event that would be held at the Irondale High School on Saturday, February 19.

Adjournment

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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The meeting adjourned
at 8:00 p.m.



Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Daniloff, Deputy City Clerk