



## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers.

**Present:** Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas, Councilmembers Abdulle, Allen, Axberg and Dunsworth (attending remotely)

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney, Gina Foschi-Finance Director, Ben Gozola-Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development, 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 and Scouts from Troop #106 led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council thanked the Scouts for being in attendance and for their strong leadership in the community.

### Public Comment Forum

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

### Approval of Agenda

Approval of the May 10, 2022 Council Agenda.

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

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried**

### Special Order of Business

1. Consider Proclamation designating May 15-21, 2022 as National Police Week.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas read a proclamation in full for the record declaring May 15 through May 21 as National Police Week in the City of New Brighton.

2. Consider Proclamation declaring May as Arbor Month.

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### Call to Order

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comment Forum

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2. Consider Proclamation declaring May as Arbor Month.

City of New Brighton.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
  - a. April 26, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
  - b. April 26, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
  - a. March 14, 2022 Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - b. February 2, 2022 Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - c. March 2, 2022 Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes.
4. Consider Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force Joint Powers Agreement.
5. Consider Authorization for Staff to Purchase a Mobile Camera Trailer from Mobile Pro Systems.
6. Consider Adoption of Ordinance 890 Amending the 2022 Fee Schedule.
7. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Essential Worker Appreciation Pay.

**Motion by Councilmember Allen, 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 Acceptance of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Auditor Communication Letter, and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

City Manager Massopust indicated Finance Director Foschi would be presenting this item to the Council. Finance Director Foschi stated preparation of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ending December 31, 2021 has been completed. She thanked the finance team for all of their efforts on the year end financials and 2021 audit. She reviewed the fourth quarter 2021 financials in detail with the Council and noted a representative from BerganKDV, our independent auditing firm, was in attendance to review the 2021 audit.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
  - a. April 26, 2022 Worksession
  - b. April 26, 2022 City Council.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
  - a. March 14, 2022 Public Safety Commission.
  - b. February 2, 2022 EDC.
  - c. March 2, 2022 EDC.
4. Consider MN Financial Crimes Task Force JPA.
5. Authorization for Staff to Purchase a Mobile Camera Trailer from Mobile Pro Systems.
6. Consider Adoption of Ordinance 890 Amending the 2022 Fee Schedule.
7. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Essential Worker Appreciation Pay.

### **Public Hearing**

### **Council Business**

1. Consider Acceptance of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Auditor Communication Letter, and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal

Andy Grice, Audit Partner with BerganKDV, presented the audit results for December 31, 2021 with the Council. He reported the City received an unmodified or clean opinion which means the City's financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects. He explained his firm has also issued a Communications Letter and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance. The components of the audit were discussed in further detail. He commented further on how the General Fund and Enterprise Funds performed in 2021 and commended the City for their strong financial standing.

Councilmember Axberg congratulated the finance team for all of their efforts and for receiving a clean opinion on the audit. She asked if there were any recommendations that were given to staff that the Council should be aware of. Mr. Grice indicated from a reporting standpoint several items were discussed with staff, but he stated City staff was doing a tremendous job with managing the City's finances.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further information on the Certificate of Excellence. Finance Director Foschi explained City staff had to follow a stringent process in order to be considered for the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting which was issued by the National Government Finance Officers Association. She reported the City of New Brighton has received this certificate every year for the past 30 years.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked Finance Director Foschi and her entire team for their efforts on behalf of the City of New Brighton. She recommended the finance team look into how inflation would impact the 2022 and future budgets going forward. She encouraged staff to also continue to update the Council on how and when ARPA dollars are being allocated. City Manager Massopust commended staff for their efforts on the audit.

**Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Allen to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Audit Communications Letter, and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried**

2. Consider a Resolution Approving a Site Plan to Authorize Expansion of the Existing Public Works Building located at 700 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

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Authorize Expansion of the  
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Building located at 700 5<sup>th</sup>  
Street NW

City Manager Massopust indicated Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola would be presenting this item to the Council.

Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola stated in the 1950's much of the area between Old Highway 8 and the railroad tracks was a large drainage pond for surrounding areas. By the 1970's, all land in this area had been transformed into useable ground as surrounding development redirected storm water to new locations, ditches, and a now developed storm sewer system. The public works building now proposed for improvement and expansion was up by 1974. Sometime between 1991 and 2003, the remaining buildings on the site were constructed. In 2019, a portion of the site was used for the affordable housing development to the north (Brighton Oaks). As part of this development, the salt shed was relocated to its present location along the northern lot line. In 2022, years of need finally have built up and require action to update the facility. Staff commented further on the proposed expansion and reported the Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions and encouraging the Council to pursue sustainability measures in the new building. Councilmember Abdulle questioned if any future street improvements would impact this building. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola reported future street improvements would not

impact this building.

Councilmember Allen stated he appreciated the Planning Commission's recommendation encouraging the Council to pursue sustainability measures within this project. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola explained the Planning Commission wanted to ensure the solar array would continue to operate at the Public Works facility along with other energy efficient measures.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked if the solar panels would be removed and replaced by a solar company or would this work be completed by staff. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola stated he was uncertain, but assumed a solar company would be brought in to assist the City with the reinstallation project. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported this work would be completed by the company that placed the solar panels on the building originally.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed the life of the existing building, noting it had been in use for 48 years. She questioned what the life expectancy would be on the newer portion of the building. City Manager Massopust stated the remainder of the building provides good service to staff. He commented on the changes that occurred since the Midtown Village was constructed, which has created greater efficiencies for public works staff. He reported the expansion would allow staff to move forward in terms of operations. Parks and Recreation Director Fink commented on a study that was completed for the Public Works Facility and stated the proposed building would meet staff's needs both now and going into the future.

Councilmember Axberg asked if environmental standards would be considered for the new part of the building. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported staff would be working with PREC and the Partners in Energy Program to create sustainability goals for this project. She explained that it was difficult to retrofit a building into something that would meet LEED or B3 standards. However, she noted staff would be constructing this building in a manner that was efficient that also saves the City money and energy.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked City staff for pursuing energy and efficiency standards within this project. He believed it was important for the City to lead by example.

Councilmember Allen stated he was proud of the way the City works to position and invest in its infrastructure.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas noted for the record the Council discussed this item in detail at the April 26 worksession meeting. She thanked staff for recognizing the gender diversification of the public works staff within the new facility.

**Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to adopt a Resolution approving a Site Plan to authorize expansion of the existing Public Works Building located at 700 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried**

### **Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates**

#### **Devin Massopust**

City Manager Massopust reported the New Brighton city-wide garage sale will be held May 12 through May 15. He explained the City sponsored clean up day would be held on Saturday, May 21 at the Public Works facility. He stated the City was seeking election judges at this time and those interested were encouraged to visit the City's website.

#### **Graeme Allen**

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission met on Monday, May 9 and discussed the potential to lower the speed limit on residential streets in New Brighton. He encouraged residents to participate on the New Brighton clean up day on Saturday, May 21.

**Commission Liaison  
Reports,  
Announcements and  
Updates**

**Emily Dunsworth**

Councilmember Dunsworth reported PREC did not meet in May. She stated the goats were still at work at Creek View Park and noted work continues at Sunny Square Park. She explained the Community Center has hosted over 400 birthdays already this year, which was more than all of 2021. She explained the Cable Commission met recently and has four candidates for the Executive Director position for Nine North.

**Pam Axberg**

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC met on Wednesday, May 4 and discussed the business outreach program, the vision for the Silver Lake Road project, and adopted the 2022-2023 work plan.

**Abdullahi Abdulle**

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission would meet next on Tuesday, May 17. He thanked all of the members of the public who were participating in the No Mow May initiative.

**Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas**


Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported those interested in participating in the No Mow May initiative could still join in by contacting City Hall. She explained she met recently with the Regional Council of Mayors where the group discussed water planning. She encouraged residents to sign up for City Council updates on the City website. She wished all mothers and her mom a Happy Mother's Day. She invited the public to attend the annual Memorial Day parade which would be held on Monday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. noting a ceremony would be held at St. John the Baptist.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned  
at 7:59 p.m.

  
Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Terri Spangrud, City Clerk