



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a hybrid meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers.

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

Absent:

Also Present: Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney, Jennifer Fink-Parks and Recreation Director, Ben Gozola-Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Scouts from Troop #_____ 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 May 24, 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

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
 - a. May 10, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
 - b. May 10, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Forum

Approval of Agenda Approval of the May 24, 2022 Agenda.

Special Order of Business

- ### Consent Agenda
1. Consider Approval of Payments.
 2. Approve City Council Minutes:
 - a. May 10, 2022 Worksession.
 - b. May 10, 2022 City Council.
 3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
 - a. February 17, 2022 Equity Commission.

3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:

- a. February 17, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - b. May 17, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
4. Consider Resolution Accepting a Water Efficiency Grant and Authorization for the Mayor to Execute the Metropolitan Council Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement No. SG-17778.
 5. Authorize staff to purchase picnic shelter and restroom building kit for Sunny Square Park.
 6. Consider Resolution accepting grant funds from Twin Cities Gateway.
 7. Consider Resolution Accepting grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
 8. Consider a Resolution approving Lease Amendment #3 for the Verizon Wireless Installation on the City's Water Tower at 700 Silver Lake Road.

b. May 17, 2022
Equity Commission.

4. Consider Resolution Accepting a Water Efficiency Grant and Authorization for the Mayor to Execute the Met Council Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement No. SG-17778.

5. Authorize staff to purchase picnic shelter and restroom building kit for Sunny Square Park.

6. Consider Resolution accepting grant funds from Twin Cities Gateway.

7. Consider Resolution Accepting grant funds from the MN Dept. of Agriculture.

8. Consider Resolution approving Lease Amendment #3 for the Verizon Wireless Installation on the City's Water Tower at 700 Silver Lake Road.

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

1. Consider a Resolution approving a subdivision of the property at 401 CR E2 West (Preliminary Plat & Final Plat), a floor area ratio (FAR) variance, and an SUP to allow an undefined use in one of the existing buildings on the property – PID 29-30-23-41-0026.

Public Hearing

1. Consider a resolution approving a subdivision of the property at 401 CR E2 West (Preliminary Plat & Final Plat), a floor area ratio (FAR) variance, and an SUP to allow an undefined use in one of the existing buildings on the property – PID 29-30-23-41-0026.

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 the Donatelle Family Limited Partnership LLLP is seeking to divest from its property at 401 County Road E2 which presently houses two manufacturing buildings constructed by Donatelle in the 1980s. The prospective buyers would each like to own individual buildings on individual parcels, so this application seeks approval of multiple requests to facilitate the desired subdivision. Staff commented further on the subdivision, FAR variance and SUP requests noting the Planning Commission recommended approval based on the findings of fact and proposed conditions.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Allen to open the Public Hearing.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:56 p.m.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked for comments, there were none.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to close the Public Hearing.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:57 p.m.

Councilmember Dunsworth stated she supported the proposed request and was happy to see Vandalay and Paddle North in the City of New Brighton.

Councilmember Abdulle questioned what type of vehicles would be used by Vandalay to transfer recyclable goods to and from their site. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola explained the site would have no more than one semi coming to the site per week. Otherwise, the site would have box trucks coming to and from the site. He indicated staff was not concerned with the proposed trucking given the fact the site was zoned I-1.

Councilmember Abdulle suggested all trucks use the 5th Avenue entrance and not the County Road E entrance. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola indicated the City does not typically dictate how traffic circulates on a site, but he anticipated the tenants would work this out very quickly.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she was very excited about two new businesses coming into New Brighton. She thanked Donatelle for all of their years in the community and for helping the City with getting funding in the past for the superfund site. She requested further information on what products would be recycled at the Vandalay site. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola reported their primary objective would be to collect and recycle cardboard.

T. Ryan Johnson, Vandalay Industries representative, explained he had partners that utilize products such as plastics and cardboard from pallets. He indicated he bundles, aggregates and combines these materials and moves them out. He reported there would be no hazardous waste on the site.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked if the recycled materials would be processed on this site. Mr. Johnson stated there would be no shredding or processing on this site. He indicated he was looking at a bailer.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further information regarding the type of activity that would occur on the site. Mr. Johnson explained three different cardboard types would be recycled and box trucks would be used to move the material to and from the site. He then thanked Mr. Gozola for all of his assistance on the subdivision request.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned what would happen if the two businesses became not so friendly in the future, given the joint access agreements that were in place. City Attorney Sonsalla reported the tenants would have parking and access agreements in place, along with a landscaping maintenance easement. She advised these agreements would run with the land so if one of the tenants were to move, the agreements would remain with the property. She stated these types of agreements were quite common and stated the properties would have to work together going forward.

Councilmember Allen asked why this request required approval from Ramsey County. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola reported Ramsey County required the final plat to be filed.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to adopt a Resolution to approve a Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, a floor area ratio (FAR) variance, and an SUP to allow an undefined use in one of the property's existing buildings; all on the land at 401 County Road E2 West.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

1. Consider a Resolution approving a site plan for the rehabilitation of Sunny Square Park.

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

Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola stated the City of New Brighton is seeking authorization to rehabilitate facilities at Sunny Square Park in accordance with the recently approved 2040 Park & Trail System Master Plan. Staff reviewed the proposed plans for the park in detail with the Council and noted the Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions.

Councilmember Allen asked if the proposed changes would bring this park into ADA compliance. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported this was the case, noting the new trails and structure would create additional accessibility.

Councilmember Allen inquired if there were any concerns regarding stray balls from the baseball field going into the adjacent neighborhood. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated staff was comfortable given the fact this was a youth field. She noted the left field line would remain as is and the right field line would have more space. She reported the fencing for the field would be replaced.

Councilmember Abdulle questioned where the flexible play space was located. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained the multi-purpose field that was proposed by staff would be in Hansen Park. She commented further on the overall plans for the City's parks and how the amenities would be spread across the community.

Councilmember Abdulle stated he was pleased by the proposed improvements for Sunny Square Park. He explained he appreciated how the parking would be consolidated into one lot for this park.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked if the bathrooms would have security cameras. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported the City does not have cameras in all of the parks, or on the permanent/portable restrooms. She did not believe the City would be moving in this direction unless a problem were to arise. She stated proposed restroom facility would have occupancy sensors and automatic locks, which would help with staffing issues.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned if sensory friendly or exercise pods for the disabled would be built into this park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained she had discussions today with a consultant about accessibility and options for the park. She understood that when looking at playgrounds accessibility was important. She noted there would be transfer pads and improved surfacing but noted this would not be an abilities playground because poured in place surfacing was extremely expensive. She indicated the park would have ADA swings.

Councilmember Allen discussed the stormwater ponding and asked if there has been any previous flooding issues at this park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated this park has not previously had any issues. She reported the City has televised all stormwater lines under the park and was seeking watershed approval for the park plans.

Councilmember Axberg thanked staff for all of their efforts on this park. She stated she was excited to see the City taking action on the improvement plans for Sunny Square Park. She explained she appreciated how the City was working to improve availability to all parks to the residents of New Brighton.

Council Business

1. Consider a Resolution approving a site plan for the rehabilitation of Sunny Square Park.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to approve the proposed Site Plan based on the findings of fact and conditions within the staff report as may have been amended here tonight.

A roll call vote was taken.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

**Commission Liaison
Reports,
Announcements and
Updates**

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust reported a Second Compassion Clinic would be held on Saturday, June 11 at Highview Middle School. He explained the City received an award from Ramsey County for the 46 vaccination clinics that were held at the New Brighton Community Center. He stated the resident survey was still open online.

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission would meet next on Monday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. He thanked all of the residents that participated in the cleanup day.

Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth reported PREC would be meeting on Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. She stated the goats would be leaving New Brighton on May 30. She discussed the two grants the City received that were approved on the Consent Agenda. She explained the City was seeking artists at this time to participate in the Chalk Walk. She recognized the fact that 18 children and one teacher lost their lives today in Texas. She asked that the Council take a moment to reflect on this tragedy. She noted her fourth grader would be singing the National Anthem at the Minnesota Twins game tomorrow.

Pam Axberg

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC would be meeting on Wednesday, June at 7:30 a.m. She encouraged the public to honor and remember those who have served and lost their lives for their country this weekend.

Abdullahi Abdulle

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission met last Tuesday and discussed the two items that were addressed by the Council at this meeting. He commented on the tragedy that occurred in Texas and stated he did not want events like this to be normalized, but rather he wanted legislation in place.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported an Irondale Pops Band Concert would be held on Wednesday, June 1. She stated the farmers market would also be held on Wednesday, June 1. She explained the New Brighton Historical Society would be holding their Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 5 in the afternoon at the Depot on Long Lake Regional Park. She indicated the City wide cleanup day was a tremendous success this past weekend. She explained Stockyard Days would be held August 12, 13 and 14 this year and noted the Lions Club would be hosting this years events. She stated Chalkfest would be held June 24, 25 and 26. She invited the public to attend the Memorial Day parade which would be held on Monday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. She noted the VFW would be holding a memorial service at the St. John's Cemetery following the parade. She recognized the tragedy that occurred in Texas and noted that tomorrow was the second anniversary of the killing of George Floyd. She reported this was important because there were calls for racial reckoning and this should continue, along with the communities commitment to social justice.

Adjournment

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



Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Terri Spangrud, City Clerk

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned
at 7:59 p.m.