

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, September 13, 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, Craig Schlichting-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 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 September 13, 2022 Council Agenda.

**Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, 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. August 23, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
  - b. August 23, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.

### Call to Order

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comment Forum

### Approval of Agenda

Approval of the  
September 13, 2022  
Agenda.

### Special Order of Business

### Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
  - a. August 23, 2022 Worksession.
  - b. August 23, 2022 City Council.
3. Accept Receipt of

3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes – None.
4. Consideration of 2011 Tymco Sweeper Rebuild.
5. Resolution Authorizing Pursuit and Support of Ramsey County Critical Corridor Grant Application.
6. Resolution to Consider Entering Agreement for Access, Installation and Maintenance of Physical Fish Barrier at New Brighton Community Center.

**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. Consideration of Resolution Adopting the Proposed Preliminary Tax Levy for Taxes Payable 2023 and Setting the Meeting Dates for the 2023 Budget Discussion with Public Comment and the Determination of the Final 2023 Tax Levies.

City Manager Massopust indicated Finance Director Foschi would be presenting this item to the Council. Finance Director Foschi stated the City Manager's recommended preliminary 2023 General Fund budget is \$20,926,800, which represents a 7.17% increase over the 2022 adopted budget. The preliminary 2023 budget includes a proposed general tax levy of \$12,609,500 for taxes payable in 2023, which represents an increase of \$1,133,900 or 9.88%. It was noted per State Statute, the preliminary tax levy has to be approved prior to September 30, 2022. It is recommended that the 2023 Budget Discussion with Public Comment (Truth in Taxation Hearing) meeting be held during a special City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:30 pm and adoption of the final 2023 budget and tax levies be held during the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The date, time and place for the scheduled public hearing will be included on the County's parcel specific notices. Staff commented further on the strategic priorities that were being pursued within the proposed preliminary tax levy and recommended approval.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on the strategic goals of the Council stating Develop and Refine Earned Revenue Strategies and Goals was another goal for the Council. She noted the projected revenues for the license bureau were within this goal. Finance Director Foschi stated this was correct.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported she was proud of the fact the 9.88% increase was in alignment with staff's previous predictions.

Councilmember Allen asked if staff had any idea how inflation would further impact the budget. City Manager Massopust explained there were signs inflation was coming down slightly, but less than projected.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas indicated the City would be hiring a police officer half way through 2023. She understood that the department was having a hard time hiring officers at this time.

Councilmember Allen stated all residents are feeling the inflationary crunch. He explained he was pleased to see the tax levy came in very close to the inflationary estimate, while still meeting the Council's strategic priorities. In addition, he noted he was very proud of where the New Brighton's tax levy came in when

4. Consideration of 2011 Tymco Sweeper Rebuild.

5. Resolution Authorizing Pursuit and Support of Ramsey Co. Critical Corridor Grant Application.

6. Resolution to Consider Entering Agr. for Access, Installation and Maintenance of Physical Fish Barrier at NBCC.

**Public Hearing**

**Council Business**

1. Consideration of Resolution Adopting the Proposed Preliminary Tax Levy for Taxes Payable 2023 and Setting the Meeting Dates for the 2023 Budget Discussion with Public Comment and the Determination of the Final 2023 Tax Levies.

compared to comparable cities. He also appreciated how the proposed budget reflected the values of the community.

Councilmember Abdulle stated it was impressive what staff had done to reduce the tax levy from 17% to 9.88%. He commented on how it would cost the City more if it were not to complete projects in 2023, but rather were to kick the can down the road. He explained he would love to see the tax levy even lower, however, in order to meet the goals of the City the increase next year would be 9.88%.

**Motion by Councilmember Allen, seconded by Councilmember Abdulle to approve the Resolution adopting the proposed preliminary tax levy for taxes payable 2023 and setting the meeting dates for the 2023 budget discussion with public comment and the determination of the final 2023 tax levies.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

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

2. Consideration of Resolution Adopting the Proposed Preliminary Tax Levy for Taxes Payable 2023 for Lake Diane and Bicentennial Pond Storm Sewer Improvement Taxing District.

2. Consideration of Resolution Adopting the Proposed Preliminary Tax Levy for Taxes Payable 2023 for Lake Diane and Bicentennial Pond Storm Sewer Improvement Taxing District.

City Manager Massopust indicated Finance Director Foschi would be presenting this item to the Council. Finance Director Foschi stated the proposed preliminary tax levies for taxes payable in 2023 for the City's Storm Sewer Improvement Taxing Districts are \$3,750 for the Lake Diane and \$2,100 for the Bicentennial Pond.

**Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Allen to approve the Resolution adopting the proposed preliminary tax levies for taxes payable in 2023 for the Lake Diane and Bicentennial Pond Storm Sewer Improvement Taxing Districts.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

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

3. Resolution to Consider Bids and Award of Contract for City Project 21-10 Maintenance Facility Remodel and Addition.

3. Resolution to Consider Bids and Award of Contract for City Project 21-10 Maintenance Facility Remodel and Addition.

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

Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting stated in accordance with the City purchasing policy, staff received bids for project 21-10 with a recommendation for awarding the project to the lowest responsible bidder. The history of this building was discussed with the Council, along with the proposed renovation and addition plans for the site. It was noted costs came in higher than originally estimated for this project. Staff commented on how cost saving measures could be pursued for the project and recommended the Council award the contract for the Maintenance Facility Remodel and Addition to Rochon Corporation.

Councilmember Allen asked if the current site would be able to function during construction. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting reported he anticipated all of the vehicle bays and the mechanics shops throughout construction. He anticipated port a potties may be required during portions of construction and some staff members may be relocated to Public Safety or City Hall.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned why Source Well was not used for this bidding process. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting explained this project would move forward with the low bidder. He anticipated many of the bidders used the same subs for the plumbing and electrical. He stated the

City has had a lot of success with this bidding process. Sadly, the increases to wages and building materials led to bids coming in higher than the engineers estimate. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained Source Well bidding works better when they are brought in from the beginning of the project and not at the end. In addition, Source Well typically completes projects that are less than \$5 million.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas inquired if the vision for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension would be to encourage local travel, or would this strictly be used for City staff vehicles. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting reported connections would be provided for the other parcels along the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension, except to the Arcadia property.

Councilmember Axberg thanked staff for all of their work on this project. She questioned if staff had confidence on the low bidder that was selected. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting explained staff was familiar with most of the bidders and staff was confident with Rochon's ability to complete the contract.

Councilmember Abdulle asked if Rochon was still the low bidder, when considering the alternate bids. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting commented on the alternate bids noting these were options. He stated the awning would be eliminated and the special flooring would not be completed. With this in mind, Rochon would still be the low bidder.

Councilmember Allen asked if staff had any references or understanding of other projects Rochon has completed in the metro area. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting stated Rochon was a well known company and the City has not received any negative feedback. He reported they have been very good to work with and appreciated that staff gave them time to understand their bid before moving forward. He indicated staff was fully comfortable with Rochon moving forward with this project.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas inquired what the implications would be for delaying several projects in order to move this project forward. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting explained each year within the CIP the City sets aside \$200,000 for sewer lining, so these dollars were not for a specific project. He discussed how problematic areas had already been addressed by the City. He reported staff did not have concerns about delayed sewer lining.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked staff for their innovating thinking on how to move this project forward.

**Motion by Councilmember Axberg, seconded by Councilmember Abdulle to accept all bids and adopt a Resolution awarding a contract for City Project 21-10, Maintenance Facility Remodel and Addition to the lowest responsible bidder, Rochon Corporation in the amount of \$4,957,000.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

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

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

#### **Devin Massopust**

City Manager Massopust reported on Saturday, September 24 the Met Council will be hosting a virtual open house for the Long Lake Interceptor rehab construction project. He explained on Tuesday, September 22 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. the City, on collaboration with the County, will be hosting an open house for the three lane conversion of Old Highway 8. He stated the City was named a finalist for a Leaders in Local Government Award for programs and initiatives through the Parks and Recreation Department from the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Graeme Allen**

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission met on Monday, September 12 and discussed the results of the recent community survey. He explained he attended the Long Lake cleanup and he thanked all of those in the community who helped at this event. He thanked the City for its involvement with CPY's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, which was held

**Commission Liaison  
Reports,  
Announcements and  
Updates**

on Saturday, September 10.

September 13, 2022 Page 5 of 5

**Pam Axberg**

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC met on Wednesday, September 7 where the group discussed the history and vision for Silver Lake Road. She explained the group encouraged staff to pursue additional grant opportunities for this project corridor.


**Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported she participated in the Long Lake cleanup day as well. She stated she appreciated all of the volunteers that showed up for this event. She congratulated CPY for holding a wonderful community event when they celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She indicated the Sportsman's Club was seeking additional support from the community. She stated electric vehicles stations were being installed around town and encouraged the public to look for these. She noted she attended the regional council of mayors meeting on Monday where the economy and labor shortages were discussed. She explained she attended a meeting with the County Attorney to discuss the attorney's new dashboard. She stated the Equity Commission would be meeting on Thursday, September 15 and the group would be discussing the proposed residential rental program ordinance. She invited the public to join the Council in honoring former Mayor Bob Benke at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 27. She encouraged the public to attend the fall festival at St. John the Baptist's from September 23 through September 25. She noted the Irondale Marching Knights would be hosting the Music of the Night on Saturday, September 24. In addition, the Mounds View Schools would be hosting their Rock the School fundraiser on Saturday, September 24.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

**Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned  
at 7:53 p.m.



Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Terri Spangrud, City Clerk