



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a hybrid meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:35 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Councilmember Dunsworth

Also Present: Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney (attending remotely), Gina Foschi-Finance Director, Craig Schlichting- Director of Community Assets and Development, Ben Gozola-Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development

Call to Order

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:35 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. There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the October 11, 2022 Council Agenda.

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

A roll call vote was taken.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Special Order of Business

1. Proclamation Declaring Pletscher's Day in New Brighton.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas read a proclamation in full for the record recognizing Pletscher's for their 100 Year Anniversary and declaring Sunday, October 9, 2022 to be Pletscher's Day in the City of New Brighton. Councilmember Allen thanked the Pletscher's for their impressive connection to the community.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Forum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the October 11, 2022 Agenda.

Special Order of Business

1. Proclamation Declaring Pletscher's Day in New Brighton.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:

- a. September 27, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
 - b. September 27, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.
 - c. October 4, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
 - a. August 8, 2022 Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - b. April 21, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - c. June 16, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - d. July 21, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - e. May 17, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.
4. Consider Wellhead Protection Plan Part 2 Amendment Proposal.
5. Consider Well #5 Motor Upgrade Proposal.
6. Consider a Resolution Approving a Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, and Variance to authorize subdivision of the land at 546 Old Highway 6 SW into two parcels.
7. Consider Authorization for the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Sub-Grant Agreement with KJ Management concerning the City's participation in the Metropolitan Council Water Efficiency Grant Program.
8. Consider Authorization for the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement with the MN Department of Public Safety for Multicultural Driver Education.
9. Consider Well #4 Roof Replacement Proposal.
10. Consider Resolution Appointing Individuals to Commissions.
11. Consider Resolution Appointing Election Judges.

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

A roll call vote was taken.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

Public Hearing

None.

- a. September 27, 2022 Worksession.
- b. September 27, 2022 City Council.
- c. October 4, 2022 Worksession.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
 - a. August 8, 2022 Public Safety Commission.
 - b. April 21, 2022 Equity Commission.
 - c. June 16, 2022 Equity Commission.
 - d. July 21, 2022 Equity Commission.
 - e. May 17, 2022 Planning Commission.
4. Consider Wellhead Protection Plan Part 2 Amendment Proposal.
5. Consider Well #5 Motor Upgrade Proposal.
6. Consider Resolution Approving a Prelim. Plat, Final Plat, and Variance to authorize subdivision of the land at 546 Old Highway 6 SW into two parcels.
7. Authorization for the Mayor and City Mgr to enter into a Sub-Grant Agr. with KJ Mgmt concerning the City's participation in the Met Council Water Efficiency Grant Program.
8. Authorization for the Mayor and City Mgr to enter into a Grant Agr. with the MN Department of Public Safety for Multicultural Driver Education.
9. Consider Well #4 Roof Replacement Proposal.
10. Resolution Appointing Individuals to Commissions.
11. Consider Resolution Appointing Election Judges.

Public Hearing

Council Business

1. Consider a Resolution Confirming the City's Commitment to Becoming External Debt-Free for the Financing of Street Projects by 2025.

City Manager Massopust indicated Finance Director Foschi would be presenting this item to the Council. Finance Director Foschi stated since 2015 the City Council has continued to approve the staff-recommended initiative to end external financing of street projects by 2025. Ending external financing eliminates debt issuance costs, provides greater financial flexibility and pays interest back to the City for financing of future projects. In 2015 the City also developed its Street Reconstruction Plan of reconstructing about 2 miles of streets each year. This allows for more consistent budgeting and planning of internal financing. On September 12, 2017 the City Council adopted a resolution directing staff to remove Local Government Aid (LGA) from the General Fund and add it to the Street Financing Fund, to assist with the internal financing of street projects. At the June 28, 2022 Council discussed the City's current financial goals and their desire to formalize Council's long-term commitment to this initiative.

Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting commented on the City's comprehensive street plan which was created in 2008. He explained this plan breaks the City's streets into different 10 year periods, noting each City street would be replaced every 25 years going forward. The variable costs for street reconstruction costs were reviewed with the Council.

Finance Director Foschi commented further on the City's internal financing plan which provided a better foundation for the City's debt planning. She reported this plan would have interest paid directly back to the program, would provide full control over the interest rate, would have no debt issuance costs and would provide flexible term lengths and payment amounts. She described how LGA was worked into the City's streets financing fund. Staff commented further on the benefits of the debt-free streets program and recommended approval of the proposed Resolution.

Councilmember Abdulle asked questioned if the City should be concerned about the big levy increase that would occur from 2016 to 2025. Finance Director Foschi reported the City was through the 2022 tax levy and has the preliminary budget in place for 2023. She believed the finish line was right around the corner.

Councilmember Allen commented this increase only relates to the street debt levy and not the overall debt of the City. He stated he supported this initiative because it would save the City money over time. He questioned if there were other communities that had pursued this type of program. Finance Director Foschi indicated she was not aware of any other communities that have pursued this type of initiative, as they generally issue debt each year for their street projects.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked staff for the detailed presentation on this program. She appreciated the fact the Council would be adopting a Resolution showing their commitment to this program. In addition, she appreciated the foresight of the previous Council's to put this program in place. She commented on how the reuse of aggregate had assisted with keeping costs down for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 street projects. She inquired if these savings would be seen going forward. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting indicated staff would work to preserve aggregate when possible on future street projects.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked staff for all of their work on this plan. He encouraged staff to consider pursuing less harmful materials going forward if costs allow.

Motion by Councilmember Axberg, seconded by Councilmember Abdulle to approve a Resolution confirming the City's commitment to becoming external debt-free for the financing of street projects by 2025.

A roll call vote was taken.

Council Business

1. Consider a Resolution Confirming the City's Commitment to Becoming External Debt-Free for the Financing of Street Projects by 2025.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

**Commission Liaison
Reports,
Announcements and
Updates**

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust reported Tails on the Trails was held this past Sunday and the event was very well attended. He noted the Thrive Expo was held last Thursday at the Community Center. He noted the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Walk will be held on Saturday, October 29 at Veteran's Walk.

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission met on Monday, October 10. He noted this group discussed the City's drone policy and community feedback received regarding the Public Safety Department's proposed drone program. He explained this group recommended the Council hold a public hearing forum and move forward with a drone program. He noted the Public Safety Department – Fire Division Open House would be held on Monday, October 24. He stated Drive 25 yard signs were available at the Community Center.

Pam Axberg

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC's meeting was canceled in October for Yom Kippur.

Abdullahi Abdulle

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission would meet next on Tuesday, October 18, 2022.


Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported she presented at the Reuse Minnesota's recent event, which was an organization that was promoting reuse across the State. She stated the last summer farmers market would be held on Wednesday, October 12 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She explained the farmers market would transition to a winter market. She explained the Equity Commission would meet next on Thursday, October 20.


Adjournment

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned
at 7:20 p.m.


Karl Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:


Terri Spangrud, City Clerk