



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers.

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

Also Present: Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney, Gina Foschi-Finance Director, Tony Paetznick-Public Safety Director, 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

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 25, 2022 Council Agenda.

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Special Order of Business

1. Recognition of Leadership in Community Policing Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for the New Brighton Department of Public Safety's Police-Faith Community Partnership

Public Safety Director Paetznick stated at its 2022 annual conference banquet, the IACP honored the New Brighton Department of Public Safety with the Leadership in Community Policing Award for the agency's Police-Faith Community Partnership, an unprecedented third time that the department has earned the award. The IACP Leadership in Community Policing award recognizes promising practices that utilize effective and long lasting partnerships to make local, national, and global communities safer. This award recognizes agencies for programs that exemplify the principles of community policing and strengthen community trust through active and inclusive community collaboration. He noted this was the third time the New Brighton Public Safety Department has been honored by the IACP. He called up Sergeant Matt

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Forum

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Special Order of Business

Farmer and thanked him for his leadership in the Police-Faith Community Partnership. He then presented the City Council with the Leadership in Community Policing Award. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Councilmember Allen thanked Public Safety Director Paetznick and Sergeant Matt Farmer for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the community.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated in her conversations with the faith community, they feel supported and heard by the Public Safety Department. She thanked Public Safety Director Paetznick and Sergeant Matt Farmer for their strong leadership in the community.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
 - a. October 11, 2022 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
 - b. October 11, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes: None.
4. Consider Approval of Agreement for Municipal Prosecution Services for 2023-2025 with GDO Law.
5. Consider Approval of Joint Powers Agreement for the Ramsey County Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET).
6. Consideration of Resolution Amending the 2022 General Fund, Information Technology Fund, Water Utility Fund, Sewer Utility Fund and Stormwater Management Fund Budgets.
7. Consider a Resolution Requesting the Met Council Accept and Review a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to bring Chapter 6 (Transportation) of the City's Plan into Compliance with the recently issues 2022 System Statement and the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.
8. Consider Approval of Microsoft Office 365 Agreement.

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

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed the Comp Plan Amendment that was being forwarded to the Met Council noting these changes would bring alignment between the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Met Council's goals.

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission discussed the proposed amendments and requested New Brighton advocate for more affordable public transportation options.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

Public Hearing

None.

Consent Agenda

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Public Hearing

Council Business

1. Consider Acceptance of the 3rd Quarter 2022 Interim Financial Report.

City Manager Massopust indicated Finance Director Foschi would be presenting this item to the Council. Finance Director Foschi stated the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends as a best practice that a government undertake a process of monthly, quarterly, and annual reviews to ensure the ongoing completeness and accuracy of the data it collects. This process should include financial analysis of interim management reports to identify anomalous or incomplete data to be corrected. She reviewed the General Fund revenues and expenditures in further detail, also commenting on the City's enterprise funds. Staff commented further on the third quarter financials and recommended approval.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further information regarding how inflationary pressures have impacted expenditures over the past quarter. Finance Director Foschi stated over the last year contractual expenses have been higher than anticipated, such as natural gas bills. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned if most cities processed their interfund loans in May and November. City Manager Massopust stated he was uncertain when other cities timed these payments.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to accept the 3rd Quarter 2022 Interim Financial Report.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

2. Consider Approval of Agreement with the Minnesota DNR for Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant Funds for Park Improvement at Totem Pole Park.

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

Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated this is a matching grant (Outdoor Recreation Grant) from the MnDNR for improvements at Totem Pole Park. These improvements were called for in the Parks Comprehensive Plan, which Council in 2020. Improvements include; a full size basketball court, four pickle ball courts, new playground, open-air shelter, parking lot, and ball field enhancements. It was noted the City Attorney had reviewed the proposed agreement with the MnDNR. Staff commented further on how the City would utilize this grant for Totem Pole Park and requested the Council authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the MnDNR. Councilmember Abdulle congratulated staff for putting together this successful grant. He questioned how final the plans were, considering the City would still be seeking public engagement. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained the park elements would have to remain but the hours, access, design or placement could be rearranged within the park. Councilmember Abdulle stated he used to live near this park and noted this was one of the most diverse areas of the community. He encouraged staff to keep in mind what the park needs were for the surrounding community when renovating this park. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained there was not room for a soccer field within this park, but noted staff was looking to have additional greenspace within Hansen Park available for soccer. She reported she has heard from the neighbors that basketball courts were a must and this has been included in the park plans.

Councilmember Dunsworth thanked Councilmember Abdulle for his comments and stated she appreciated how staff had heard the comments and cultural needs of the community. She believed the consultants had done a wonderful job assessing each of the City's parks. Councilmember Axberg discussed how the City pursued feedback from the public. She appreciated how staff has balanced costs and facilities within this park in order to meet the

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unique needs of this immediate neighborhood. She explained the community came out in groves to ask for pickleball and noted this was a fairly inexpensive sport to play. She stated she was excited to see this park being brought back to life for the surrounding neighborhood and community as a whole.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested staff provide the Council with a graph or chart that shows where the City was and where it was going for each of its parks, along with showing each of the amenities within each park. She commended staff for pursuing this grant opportunity. She thanked staff for considering the noise concerns that would be coming from the pickleball courts. She suggested staff complete a sound study to assist in analyzing how the pickleball sound would travel through this neighborhood.

Councilmember Allen congratulated staff on the grant. He stated he appreciated the fact a sidewalk would be installed along Foss Road. He asked how high the fencing would be on the right field side of the ballfield. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported she would work with the consultant to ensure the fencing provides a safe barrier. She then provided the Council with a project timing update for the parks that were currently being renovated.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed the prevailing wage requirement within the agreement and requested staff ensure that the contractor abides by this requirement. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported per the agreement with the MnDNR, the City must work with a contractor that pays prevailing wages.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on the ADA requirements and asked if the new park alignment had taken into consideration these ADA requirements. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained the park would have to meet current ADA guidelines.

Councilmember Allen supported the City having a prevailing wage clause within all of its contracts or agreements. City Attorney Sonsalla reported the contract with the DNR requires the contractor to pay prevailing wages.

Councilmember Abdulle questioned why the on street parking was being removed. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained this was being done for safety reasons.

Councilmember Abdulle stated he believed on street parking assisted in improving pedestrian safety and slowed the speed of traffic. He noted he would also like the park to be walkable. He encouraged staff to reconsider the removal of the on street parking. Parks and Recreation Director Fink stated he could review this matter further with DCAD staff members and the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Dunsworth added that if pickleball was as popular as she anticipated it would be in this park, the City may have to offer on street parking adjacent to this park.

Councilmember Abdulle requested further information regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reviewed the proposed location for the pedestrian crossing.

Councilmember Axberg discussed how the proposed improvements in this park would bring the park into compliance with current ADA standards.

Motion by Councilmember Axberg, seconded by Councilmember Dunsworth to authorize staff to enter into an agreement, with the MnDNR for the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Grant for Totem Pole Park for \$300,000.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust discussed the upcoming election, which would be held on Tuesday, November 8 and noted early voting was being held at the Community Center.

**Commission Liaison
Reports,
Announcements and
Updates**

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen reported the Public Safety Commission will meet next on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. He stated he had a great time attending the Public Safety Open House, which was held on Monday, October 24.

Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth reported the Pumpkin Walk would be held on Saturday, October 29 at Veterans Park from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She thanked Councilmember Allen for attending the recent Cable Commission meeting on her behalf.

Abdullahi Abdulle

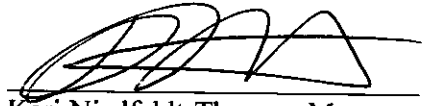
Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission met on Tuesday, October 18. He explained the Planning Commission urged the City Council to advocate for additional transportation options from the Met Council.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed her recent public speaking engagements. She invited the public to participate in a pumpkin carving party which would be hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department at the Community Center at 5:00 p.m. She explained the Equity Commission would meet next on Thursday, November 17.

Adjournment

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.


Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:


Terri Spangrud, City Clerk

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned
at 7:54 p.m.