



## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, May 9, 2023 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 (attending remotely), Gina Foschi-Finance 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 May 9, 2023 Council Agenda.

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

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

### Special Order of Business

1. Proclamation Naming Patty Isaacson as a City Ambassador.

Finance Director Foschi reported Patty Isaacson has worked for the City of New Brighton for nearly 35 years and would be retiring next week. She noted she has worked with Patty for the past six years and she was very fortunate to have served with her. She reviewed Patty's accomplishments over the years and wished her a long and healthy retirement. She presented Patty with a plaque from the City. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas read a proclamation in full for the record proclaiming Patty Isaacson as a City Ambassador for the City of New Brighton. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance. Councilmember Allen thanked Patty for her dedicated service to the City of New Brighton and its employees. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she appreciated all Patty has done behind the scenes over the years and how she has assisted in making the City grow. She thanked Patty for all she has given to the City and wished her a happy retirement.

Massopust reported when he started with the City, as the Assistant City Manager he worked closely with Patty and without her guidance and assistance he would have had a difficult time. He thanked Patty for her

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tremendous service to the City and wished her all the best in the future.

2. Consider Proclamation Designating May 14-20, 2023 as National Police Week.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas read a proclamation in full for the record declaring May 14-20, 2023 to be National Police Week in the City of New Brighton.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
  - a. March 7, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
  - b. April 4, 2023 City Council Worksession/EDC Joint Meeting Minutes.
  - c. April 25, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
  - d. April 25, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes.
  - e. May 2, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
  - a. March 13, 2023 Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes.
  - b. March 21, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.
4. Consider Application for a Solicitor License for Viking Construction.
5. Authorize Staff To Enter Into Agreement with Egan For Replacement of RTU #21.
6. Consider a Professional Services Contract with Bolton & Menk to Complete a Parking Ordinance Update.
7. Consider Commission Chair and Vice Chair Designations.

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

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

### **Public Hearing**

None.

### **Council Business**

1. Consider Acceptance of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Auditor Communications Letter, and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance for fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

2. Consider Proclamation Designating May 14-20, 2023 as National Police Week.

### **Consent Agenda**

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4. Application for a Solicitor License for Viking Construction.
5. Authorize Staff To Enter Into Agr. with Egan For Replacement of RTU #21.
6. Consider a Professional Services Contract with Bolton & Menk to Complete a Parking Ordinance Update.
7. Commission Chair and Vice Chair Designations.

### **Public Hearing**

### **Council Business**

1. Consider Acceptance of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Auditor

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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 ended December 31, 2022 has been completed. BerganKDV, our independent auditing firm, has completed their audit of our accounting records and financial statements. They have issued an unqualified, or clean, opinion that our financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects. The auditors also have issued a Communications Letter and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance. Staff commented further on the 2022 budget to actual audit documents and thanked her staff members for all of their assistance with the audit.

Andrew Grice, Audit Partner with Bergan KDV, further discussed the 2022 audit. He reported State Statute requires cities to undergo an audit every year to provide citizens assurance that the information included in the reports are materially accurate. He explained the City received an unmodified or clean opinion on the 2022 audit. He commented on the General Fund fund balance and reviewed the City's revenues and expenditures from 2022. The City's tax capacity and levy were further reviewed, along with outstanding debt. He commended the City on their strong financial position and asked for questions or comments.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked when the recently improved parks would move onto a depreciation schedule. Mr. Grice explained once those assets are placed into use, related depreciation costs would be recognized.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned what the useful life was for a park. Mr. Grice indicated this varies, depending on the park.

Councilmember Axberg thanked Director Foschi and her team for their great work on the audit. She inquired if there were any internal recommendations to staff as part of the process. Mr. Grice explained he had no significant findings in the 2022 audit.

Councilmember Allen thanked staff for all of their efforts on the audit.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned if there were items that needed to be thought through or improved going forward. Finance Director Foschi discussed the new GASB announcements the City would have to address noting there were new reporting requirements.

**Motion by Councilmember Axberg, seconded by Councilmember Allen to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Audit Communications Letter, and Reports on Compliance with Government Auditing Standards and Legal Compliance for fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.**

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

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

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#### **Devin Massopust**

City Manager Massopust thanked the residents in the southern portion of New Brighton for their patience as the County and City works to complete some maintenance projects. He reminded the Council the grand opening for Sunny Square Park would be held on Tuesday, May 30 at 5:15 p.m.

#### **Graeme Allen**

Councilmember Allen reported the Planning Commission would meet next on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. He stated attended the NYFS Open House and he appreciated seeing the organization's space.

#### **Emily Dunsworth**

Councilmember Dunsworth reported she would be attending a Cable Commission meeting on Thursday, May 18. She explained the Public Safety Commission would not be meeting in May.



**Pam Axberg**

Councilmember Axberg reported she attended the PREC meeting on Wednesday, May 3 and noted the group discussed the farmers market. She encouraged residents to participate in this wonderful community event on Wednesdays June through October. She explained the group also received an update on the Climate Action Plan. She invited residents to attend the City's summer concert series at Veterans Park. She noted the first concert would be held on Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.

**Abdullahi Abdulle**

Councilmember Abdulle reported he attended the EDC meeting on Wednesday, May 3 where the group reviewed their workplan for 2023 and discussed how to better engage with local businesses.

**Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas recognized Councilmember Abdulle for receiving the WTS Minnesota Chapter and the Minnesota Department of Transportation Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. She thanked residents for all of their patience as the City worked to complete several maintenance projects. She explained the City had four open student commissioner positions available at this time. She stated on Monday she attended a regional mayor's meeting where presentations were made regarding population growth. She reported Arbor Day would be held on Friday, May 12 and the City-wide garage sale would be held this weekend. She stated Ramsey County would be holding a Memorial Award Ceremony during National Police Week on Thursday, May 18. The Citywide cleanup day would be held on Saturday, May 20. She invited the public to attend the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29 at 10:00 a.m. She noted the Equity Commission would meet next on Thursday, May 18.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Terri Spangrud, City Clerk

