



## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, September 12, 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 via Zoom), 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. There were no comments from the public.

### Approval of Agenda

Approval of the September 12, 2023 Council Agenda.

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

**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 22, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
  - b. August 22, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
  - a. July 20, 2023 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.

### Call to Order

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comment Forum

### Approval of Agenda

Approval of the September 12, 2023 Agenda.

### Special Order of Business

### Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
  - a. August 22, 2023 Worksession Meeting.
  - b. August 22, 2023 City Council Meeting.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
  - a. July 20, 2023 Equity Commission.
  - b. June 7, 2023 EDC.
4. Consider App. for a Solicitor Lic. for Legacy Restoration

b. June 7, 2023 Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes.

4. Consider Application for a Solicitor License for Legacy Restoration LLC.
5. Consider Change Order 1, Change Order 2, Change Order 3, and Partial Payment 4 Final Payment for City Project 21-8, Hansen Park Water Main Improvement.
6. Consideration of Advanced Oxidation Process Ultraviolet Lamp Purchase.
7. Consider Authorization to Purchase a 2023 Ford F550 with a dump box and a 10ft V-Plow to Replace Unit 1303.
8. Consider Resolution to Authorize Gambling Premises Permit Application at Alicia's Latin Cuisine.
9. Consider Resolution Rescinding Resolution 23-067, Declaring Costs to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments, and Setting Public Hearing Date for Assessment Hearing on City Project 22-1, 2022 Street Rehabilitation.
10. Consider Pawnbrokers Ordinance 908 and Summary Publication.
11. Consider Issuance of RFP for Public Safety Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study.

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

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

**Public Hearing**

None.

**Council Business**

1. Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Action Plan.

City Manager Massopust stated this report presents the draft of our Partners in Energy (PiE) Plan for Council's consideration. He explained staff was not seeking approval on this item but would be requesting feedback from the Council. He noted Parks and Recreation Director Fink would be presenting this item to the Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported the City previously authorized our participation in the PiE Program through an agreement with Xcel Energy. The draft plan is a collaborative effort with Xcel Energy, the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), and residents, and represents a significant step towards our city's commitment to environmental sustainability. The PiE Program, administered in partnership with CEE, is designed to assist municipalities in implementing energy-efficient strategies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative aligns with our ongoing Climate Action Plan (CAP), reflecting the City's Strategic Priority to Environment and Sustainability. As a reminder, these facilitation and planning services to us a City were free of charge. As a part of the implementation, PiE provides approximately 18 months of ongoing support. Those activities and support include:

5. Consider Change Order 1, Change Order 2, Change Order 3, and Partial Payment 4 Final Payment for City Project 21-8.
6. Consider Advanced Oxidation Process Ultraviolet Lamp Purchase.
7. Consider Authorization to Purchase a 2023 Ford F550 with a dump box and a 10ft V-Plow to Replace Unit 1303.
8. Consider Resolution to Authorize Gambling Premises Permit App. at Alicia's Latin Cuisine.
9. Consider Resolution Rescinding Resolution 23-067, Declaring Costs to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments, and Setting Public Hearing Date for Assessment Hearing on City Project 22-1.
10. Consider Pawnbrokers Ordinance 908 and Summary Publication.
11. Consider Issuance of RFP for Public Safety Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study.

**Public Hearing**

**Council Business**

1. Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Action Plan.

- Develop campaign details and designed, co-branded, community materials for campaign promotions.
- Facilitate Xcel Energy data requests to measure campaign impacts as needed outside of normal data reporting.
- Create printed and digital media for promoting programs, incentives and resources.
- Develop case studies to support campaign outreach.
- Create designed packets of materials as stated in the strategies.
- Support the development of a benchmarking program through sharing best practice resources and connections to peer communities.
- Provide up to \$1,450 for reimbursed expenses related to printing and distribution of co-branded marketing materials, venue fees, food, and other related needs associated with outreach and education.

Dierdre Coleman, Center for Energy and Environment, discussed how she has been working with the City on the Energy Action Plan (EAP). She noted the team members that assisted with the plan. She commented further on the planning process that was followed for the CAP and EAP. She reviewed the building and energy reduction goals that had been set by the CAP team, along with the goals for increasing energy savings. It was noted the vision states New Brighton is a community that leads by example, promoting clean energy through education and action. By prioritizing energy efficiency, equity and renewable resources, we are creating a sustainable and resilient city that serves as a model for others. Together we can build a healthier, more prosperous future for all. The strategies to reach the City's goals were seen as being across the community, meaning the City, its partners, civic leaders and volunteers were all part of the work. A detailed overview was provided for the actionable strategies and strategy implementation timeline. Implementation support and resources were discussed. She commented further on how the plan would be implemented and requested questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Axberg indicated the financial cost for this plan was rather low. She questioned if there were any other costs or staff resources that were required for implementation. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported the cost listed within the MOU was a contribution (\$1,450) from Xcel Energy. She stated at this time, there was no cost for the City to participate in this program.

Councilmember Axberg asked what the timeline was for the MOU. City Manager Massopust stated the MOU would run for 18 months and the City would have an opportunity to extend the MOU if the City was lacking in capacity. He commented on how it would take more staff time to implement the CAP than the EAP. Parks and Recreation Director Fink commented on how the EAP and CAP would be implemented separately.

Councilmember Axberg inquired if the City or Xcel had 2022 data that could be included in the EAP. Ms. Coleman explained 2021 data was included because this was the data that was available when the EAP was started. She reported Xcel does have 2022 data available.

Further discussion ensued the City's franchise fees.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she was very excited about the EAP and its implementation. She thanked staff and the partners at Xcel for all of their efforts. She commented on how some of the actions within the EAP that would require City funds noting she was nervous about how these would be funded. She questioned how the proposed rebates would be funded. Parks and Recreation Director Fink explained this was a plan but staff understood not all initiatives may be pursued. She discussed how the proposed programs would assist the City in pursuing federal dollars or grants. She commented on how a federal grant and City rebate may assist residents with pursuing energy efficient products or solar panels. Staff explained the could color code items within the plan that would or may require City funding.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas indicated she was not a fan of putting things into a plan that the City did not intend to do. She stated if the City was not planning to offer rebates this should be removed from the plan. She requested further information on how the building code would be impacting the City's goals. Ms. Coleman indicated she was not a building code expert, but she understood the State building code was still being worked on.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on the vision slide and asked how this would work with the Climate Action Plan. Parks and Recreation Director Fink reiterated that the EAP was a standalone plan separate from the CAP.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked staff for all of their efforts on this plan. He stated he appreciated the vision and goals within the plan. He asked how the goals within the plan were tracking with the State's goals. Ms. Coleman reported the goals within the plan go above and beyond Xcel's goals.

Councilmember Abdulle inquired if the State's 2040 goals should be connected to this plan. Ms. Coleman commented the grid decarbonization was in reference to the State's plans.

Councilmember Allen stated this was a great partnership for the City and he appreciated all of the efforts on the plan. He asked what the incentives were for residents to pursue these programs. Ms. Coleman explained Partners in Energy was not playing in this space.

Councilmember Allen stated he was worried the residents may miss the boat on some programs given the timelines that were set by the federal government. He encouraged staff to lay out the timelines that would assist in capturing as many resources as possible from the state and federal government. He recommended these timelines be posted on the City's website in order to educate and pass along the information.

Councilmember Abdulle requested the City's multi-modal and complete streets program be called out in this plan.

City Manager Massopust thanked the Council for their input. He reported this item would come back to the Council in early October for consideration.

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

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#### **Devin Massopust**

City Manager Massopust reported the City-wide cleanup date would be held on Saturday, September 16 at the Public Works facility.

#### **Graeme Allen**

Councilmember Allen reported the Planning Commission would be meeting next on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Emily Dunsworth**

Councilmember Dunsworth reported she attended the Public Safety Commission meeting on Monday, September 11 where the group received a tour of the Public Safety Facility. She noted the Cable Commission would be meeting next on Thursday, September 21.

#### **Pam Axberg**

Councilmember Axberg reported PREC met on Wednesday, September 6 and reviewed the earned revenue and cost recovery for the Parks and Recreation Department. She discussed the Park Tour that was held at the end of August. She thanked the Lions for supporting the Music in the Park series this past summer. She noted the Parks Department would be holding a sensory event at the Community Center on Sunday, September 17. She reported the Thrive Expo would be held on Thursday, September 21 at the Community Center.

#### **Abdullahi Abdulle**

Councilmember Abdulle reported the EDC met on Wednesday, September 6 and discussed the how to improve the image and brand of the City. He provided the Council with an update on the banner campaign and thanked all of the members of the community that took the time to have their photos taken. He thanked the local photographer who assisted the City with this project.

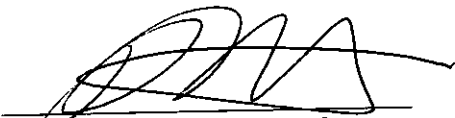
**Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas**


Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas explained the Council recently held a budget worksession meeting to discuss the preliminary budget and tax levy for 2024. She reported the Council would be setting the 2024 budget and tax levy at their Tuesday, September 26 meeting. She thanked the New Brighton Lion's for sponsoring the summer concert series and movie in the park. She stated Metro Cities met recently and discussed transportation and other governmental topics. She encouraged the public to visit the farmers market on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each week through the end of October. She stated the Ramsey County Library had their tiny art in the City's library through the end of September. She reported the Mounds View Schools Foundation would be holding a Rock the School fundraiser in Saturday, September 16. She reported Rosh Hashanah would be on Saturday, September 16.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned  
at 7:47 p.m.

  
Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Terri Spangrud, City Clerk