



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, October 24, 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), Tony Paetznick-Public Safety Director (attending remotely), 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 24, 2023 Council Agenda.

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Special Order of Business

1. New Brighton Ambassadors Introduction.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas welcomed the New Brighton Ambassadors to the meeting and asked them to come forward and introduce themselves. The Ambassadors in attendance introduced themselves to the City Council and discussed why they applied to be a part of this Ambassador Program. Further discussion ensued regarding the community events the Ambassadors have been a part of since August.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked the Ambassadors for attending this meeting and for being great representatives of the community. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Forum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the October 24, 2023 Agenda.

Special Order of Business

1. New Brighton Ambassadors Introduction.

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City

2. Approve City Council Minutes:

- a. September 5, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
- b. October 10, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes.
- c. October 10, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.

3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:

- a. August 2, 2023 PREC Minutes.
- b. September 6, 2023 PREC Minutes.

4. Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Complete Health Environmental and Safety Services (CHESS).

5. Consider Approval of Agreement with City of Saint Paul for Ramsey County Traffic Safety Initiative (RCTSI).

6. Consider Authorization to Replace (10) Motorola APX2500 Portable Radios with (10) Motorola APX6000 Portable Radios with Associated Parts and Services.

7. Consideration of quote for Maintenance Facility Janitorial Services.

8. Consider Final Payment, Partial Payment 1 for 9th Street NW Water Main Break Street Repairs.

9. Consideration of Resolution Making an Election Not to Waive the Statutory Tort Limit for Liability Insurance Purposes.

10. Consideration of Change Order 1 for Hansen Park East Redevelopment Project.

11. Consider Acceptance of the Third Quarter 2023 Interim Financial Report.

12. Consider Approval of Agreement with WSB for Hansen Park West Design Services.

13. Consider Authorization to Purchase Splash Pad Equipment from CRS for Lions Park.

14. Consider Resolution Authorizing Staff to Host "DL for All" Special Events on November 19, December 3, December 10 and December 17.

Council Minutes:
a. September 5, 2023 Worksession Minutes.
b. October 10, 2023 City Council Minutes.
c. October 10, 2023 Worksession Minutes.

3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
a. August 2, 2023 PREC Minutes.
b. September 6, 2023 PREC Minutes.

4. Approval of Prof. Services Agr. with Complete Health Environmental and Safety Services (CHESS).

5. Consider Agr. with Saint Paul for Ramsey Co. Traffic Safety Initiative (RCTSI).

6. Authorization to Replace (10) Motorola APX2500 Portable Radios with (10) Motorola APX6000 Portable Radios with Associated Parts and Services.

7. Quote for Maintenance Facility Janitorial Services.

8. Consider Final & Partial Payment 1 for 9th Street NW Water Main Break Street Repairs.

9. Consider Resolution Making an Election Not to Waive the Statutory Tort Limit for Liability Insurance Purposes.

10. Consider Change Order 1 for Hansen Park East Redev. Proj.

11. Accept the Third Quarter 2023 Interim Financial Report.

12. Approval of Agr. with WSB for Hansen Park West Design Services.

13. Authorization to Purchase Splash Pad Equipment from CRS for Lions Park.

14. Consider Res. Authorizing Staff to Host "DL for All" Special Events on Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17.

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

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

Public Hearing

1. Consideration of a resolution conditionally approving the vacation of unutilized

Public Hearing

1. Consideration of a

roadway easements which bisect developed properties (2201 26TH AVE NW, 2250 26TH AVE NW, 2550 22ND TER NW, and 2311 26TH AVE NW) between Mississippi Street and Rice Creek Terrace.

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AVE NW, 2550 22ND
TER NW, and 2311
26TH AVE NW)
between Mississippi
Street and Rice Creek
Terrace.

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

Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola stated over the summer, Apple Tree Dental sought an SUP to remodel the building at 2201 26th Avenue NW to house their corporate offices. As part of that review, City staff learned about three areas of unused right-of-way in this area of the City which have been ignored, overlooked, or disregarded for decades; and each will definitely cause significant problems for multiple landowners if left unaddressed. Given this finding, Council directed staff to initiate a process to vacate the unused easements on behalf of the affected landowners. Staff commented on the proposed easement vacations in further detail and recommended approval.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to open the Public Hearing.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked for comments, there were none.

Motion by Councilmember Allen, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to close the Public Hearing.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she understood staff had not heard from property owners Martinez and Elvig. She asked if this approval hinged upon having conversations with these property owners. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola explained Mr. Elvig's property would have no conditions attached to his approval and Mr. Martinez would have to meet two conditions requiring him to work with his neighbor on providing an access easement and he would have to dedicate and clean up a portion of the right of way along 22nd Terrace to the south.

Councilmember Axberg thanked staff for their work on this item.

Councilmember Abdulle asked which of the easements required cross access agreements. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola reported Silver View Apartments would have to provide right of way on 26th Avenue and the Martinez property would have to provide access for the neighbor.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Dunsworth to approve a Resolution conditionally vacating the unused roadway easements which bisect developed properties (2201 26TH AVE NW, 2250 26TH AVE NW, 2550 22ND TER NW, and 2311 26TH AVE NW) between Mississippi Street and Rice Creek Terrace.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas recessed the City Council meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reconvened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Council Business

1. Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with Center for Values-Based Initiatives (CVBI) for Public Safety Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study.

City Manager Massopust stated Public Safety received five responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) to study the department. Staff narrowed the group to three semi-finalists who were invited to speak before the Public Safety Commission at its October meeting. Commissioners assessed each presentation and ranked the firms, with CVBI being the first-choice of the majority. Staff also interviewed CVBI and recommends this organization for the project. It was noted Matt Bostrom from CVBI was in attendance.

Matt Bostrom, CVBI, thanked the Council for their consideration his proposal. He explained his focus for this study would be the Public Safety Department's mission with the primary goal being to analyze police, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management operations while also developing a strategic plan that increases trust between public safety and the communities they serve. It was noted the project scope would be to create a comprehensive public safety services and staffing study that provides operational recommendations and best practices to implement for the future success of the department. He commented further on the project scope noting this would include community engagement. The project schedule was reviewed in further detail with the Council, along with a city-wide strategic plan initiative that could be explored by the City. He stated he was delighted to be working with the City on this project and asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Abdulle asked what groups of people would be involved in the community engagement. Mr. Bostrom reported he would like to work with the Public Safety Commission, the business community, individuals from the faith based community, as well as the volunteer/non-profit community.

Councilmember Allen explained he would like to know what the tipping point would be for staff within the fire safety division. Mr. Bostrom indicated he would let the Council know what this number would be.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked Mr. Bostrom for his years of service to Ramsey County as the former Sheriff and for his years of service to St. Paul Fire. She believed it was very helpful that Mr. Bostrom understands the County and community. She thanked Mr. Bostrom for submitting a very thoughtful proposal. She requested the study include information on how the number of calls for service will evolve, change or increase over time as the community grows. Mr. Bostrom stated he would look at communication center data for the past three to five years and study the pattern for these calls. Secondly, he would review the informational calls that were being made to the department. Last, he would review reports from officers. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas questioned if there were any predictive analytics that should be considered within the study. Mr. Bostrom explained he would be offering these types of services to the City as the study gets underway.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented she believed both staff and community engagement would be important for this study. She asked if Mr. Bostrom would be able to disaggregate the information from the community and staff by race, gender, or other variables. She believed this information would be important given how the community and staff members were diversifying racially. Mr. Bostrom commented on how he approaches community engagement with different groups and noted he takes comments from all members of the group and does not move onto the next question until there is consensus within the group.

Councilmember Dunsworth urged Mr. Bostrom to engage with other groups beyond the Public Safety Commission and faith based groups, in order to go deeper into the community to build trust. Mr. Bostrom stated in Falcon Heights he conducted focus groups and a strategic survey in order to draw in specific voices. He suggested the City also leave a window open for community comments.

Councilmember Dunsworth questioned how Mr. Bostrom would take into consideration implicit bias in this work. Mr. Bostrom discussed his experience in Compton and described how he allows people to work their way through the questions by offering answers in a variety of ways. He stated from a bias standpoint, he was very conscience of group think and that was why he was careful not to plant any seeds.

Councilmember Allen anticipated there were two camps in New Brighton, those who were long term

Council Business

1. Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with Center for Values-Based Initiatives (CVBI) for Public Safety Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study.

residents (80%) and those who were new to the community (20%). He hoped that both voices and their experiences would be able to be heard through this process. Mr. Bostrom explained he could ask participants to let him know how long they have been a resident of New Brighton.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked Mr. Bostrom for his detailed presentation. He stated he looked forward to seeing this work begin. He understood policing was difficult and understood there were strong views on policing. He appreciated the fact Mr. Bostrom was familiar with policing and that he was aware of the gaps that exist. He indicated some groups in the community were over engaged while other populations were under engaged. He stated there were some folks who were not comfortable speaking to any government agencies or staff members because they do not feel safe. However, these residents also deserve the same level of service from the City. He questioned how the City overcomes these community trust challenges. Mr. Bostrom explained relationships are woven over time and the timing for trust is different for each person based on individual life experiences. He commented on how he wanted trust to be the oxygen for people when they come to work in this City in order to for people to see something different when they are in New Brighton. He discussed how important it was for a community to have shared values in order to build trust. He stated New Brighton has an engine that was already running and this engine was in need of fine tuning going into the future.

Councilmember Axberg thanked Mr. Bostrom for his detailed presentation. She commented on how important shared values were on informing behavior. She believed this study would be a real growth opportunity and learning process for the City. She asked what the Council was being asked to approve this evening. City Manager Massopust explained he wanted to explore the values portion of the study further with Mr. Bostrom, but noted there were some of the add ons that he was not interested in exploring. He reported he spoke to Mr. Bostrom about this and he would be comfortable working with the City on which add ons would be further explored and which would be dropped.

Councilmember Axberg inquired if the City received a grant to cover the expense of this study. City Manager Massopust reported the City did not receive a grant, but rather received State funding that could be used on public safety initiatives.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas discussed the unique situation suburbs were facing which was increased poverty. She explained New Brighton was not in an area that had a wholistic social service provider. She indicated this meant these social services were being provided by the New Brighton Public Safety team. She understood this was not ideal, but she knew the team doing a tremendous job on behalf of the community. She asked if any new recommendations, regarding gaps in social services, would be made as part of this study. Mr. Bostrom reported core service expectations from public safety would be discussed with the community and any gaps would be presented to the Council.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated the New Brighton Public Safety Department made a number of changes to build a new culture and model within the department. She explained she looked forward to learning a great deal from this study as to how the department can continue to rise above and meet the needs of the community. She questioned what the timeline was to complete the organizational assessment and staffing study. Mr. Bostrom estimated the project would take him 26 weeks to complete. He explained he would not be taking on any other projects during this timeframe noting he would be working solely for the City of New Brighton.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked Mr. Bostrom for his thoughtful proposal and detailed presentation.

Councilmember Allen stated Public Safety had asked for this study and he appreciated the fact the City Council had made it a priority to allocate dollars from the State for this project.

Motion by Councilmember Dunsworth, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to approve professional services agreement with CVBI to perform Public Safety Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

2. Consider Approval of the Partners in Energy Plan.

2. Consider Approval of the Partners in Energy Plan.

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

Parks and Recreation Director Fink presented the updated draft of the City's Partners in Energy (PiE) Plan for Council's consideration. 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 initial draft was presented to Council in September. Suggested changes have been incorporated into the document based on feedback from the Council. Those changes include:

- Notation of items that require funding above and beyond current funding levels. (This is notated with an icon.) This is representative of the need to seek, develop or grow funds (grants, subsidies, or additional city funding) as a part of this work.
- This is a recognition of the need to identify items that are not possible given current staff, budget and operational constraints and that they are contingent on additions to those areas in order to be completed.

Parks and Recreation Director Fink reported 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:

- 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.
- Xcel/Partners in Energy will 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.

Parks and Recreation Director Fink commented further on the vision and goals for the plan and requested the Council adopt the Partners in Energy Plan as presented.

Councilmember Axberg thanked staff for making changes to the plan per the discussion that was previously held by the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Allen to adopt the Partners in Energy Plan.

5 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust reported the City doesn't have an election this year, but the school district does. He noted residents could participate in early voting at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through November 3. He reported the school board election would be held on Tuesday, November 7. He explained the City would be hosting Driver's License for All events at the License Bureau on November 19, December 3, December 10 and December 17.

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen reported the Planning Commission met jointly with the City Council this evening to address the City's parking standards. He explained he was looking forward to attending the Public Safety Open House, which would be held on Monday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth reported she attended a Cable Commission meeting last week and noted this group discussed the 2024 budget for Nine North.

Pam Axberg

Councilmember Axberg thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for hosting another successful pumpkin walk on Saturday, October 21.

Abdullahi Abdulle

Councilmember Abdulle reported the EDC would meet next on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 a.m.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on the recent New Brighton Area Historical Society event. She explained she participated in the State of the City event along with Keller Williams and the mayors from Arden Hills, Shoreview and Roseville. She stated the Irondale Knights recently won the Youth in Music Award at State. She encouraged residents to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 7.

Adjournment

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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The meeting adjourned
at 8:35 p.m.


FOR Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:


Terri Spangrud, City Clerk