



COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS THE CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

Pursuant to notice thereof, a regular meeting of the New Brighton City Council was held Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the New Brighton Council Chambers.

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

Also Present: Devin Massopust-City Manager, Sarah Sonsalla-City Attorney, 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 6:30 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. Joe Warner, 1156 Pike Lake Circle, explained he lived on the north east corner of Pike Lake and he was the vice president of the lake association. He indicated he has lived on the lake for the past six or seven years. He expressed concern with the condition of the sediment pond and noted the culverts were leveling off towards the lake, which meant garbage was getting into the lake. He requested the City look into this concern to ensure the lake quality is not impacted. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported staff would investigate this and would be in contact with Mr. Warner.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the February 28, 2023 Council Agenda.

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

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Special Order of Business

None.

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 February 28, 2023 Agenda.

Special Order of Business

Consent Agenda

1. Consider Approval of Payments.
2. Approve City Council Minutes:
 - a. January 21, 2023 Special Strategic

- a. January 21, 2023 Special Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes.
 - b. February 14, 2023 Worksession Meeting Minutes.
 - c. February 14, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
- a. November 17, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - b. December 15, 2022 Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.
4. Consideration of Resolution Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget.
5. Consider Quote and Award City Project 23-2, Reclamite Maintenance Project.
6. Consideration of Bids and Award City Project 21-9A, Old Highway 8 Street Light Procurement.

- Planning.
 - b. February 14, 2023 Worksession.
 - c. February 14, 2023 City Council.
3. Accept Receipt of Commission Minutes:
- a. November 17, 2022 Equity Commission.
 - b. December 15, 2022 Equity Commission.
4. Consider Resolution Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget.
5. Consider Quote and Award City Project 23-2.
6. Consider Bids and Award City Project 21-9A.

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

4 Ayes, 0 Nays - Motion Carried

Public Hearing

None.

Public Hearing

Council Business

1. Consider Resolution Accepting Bids and Award of Contract for City Project 21-9, Old Highway 8 – 3 Lane Conversion.

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

Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting stated the City received seven bids for City Project 21-9 for Old Highway 8. He reported a bid tabulation has been completed and all bid totals were verified. The low bid of \$5,413,325.75 submitted by Forest Lake Contracting, Inc. is two percent below the engineer's estimate of \$5,570,000. The low bidder has completed work for the City before and is qualified and capable of performing work of this kind and magnitude. He commented further on the proposed project noting how the corridor would be improved. Staff requested the Council accept all bids and award the contract.

Councilmember Abdulle indicated this was an exciting project for the City of New Brighton. He requested further information on the elements that will be included in the roadway reconstruction. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting discussed the bicycle multi-use pathway that would be included in the corridor. He explained the corridor would be reduced from five lanes to three.

Councilmember Abdulle stated he was pleased this project came in under the engineer's estimate. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting discussed the work Forest Lake Contracting had previously completed in New Brighton.

Councilmember Allen agreed this was a great project and he looked forward to seeing this corridor renovated. In addition, he appreciated how this corridor would provide a great trail connection for walkers and bikers.

Council Business

1. Consider Resolution Accepting Bids and Award of Contract for City Project 21-9, Old Highway 8 – 3 Lane Conversion.

Councilmember Abdulle requested staff pursue a physical separation between the bike lane and the driving lane for safety purposes. Community Assets and Development Director Schlichting explained he could investigate this, but noted there was no extra right-of-way to accommodate a barrier.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked that staff address the dangerous access to Big Louie's.

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Allen to accept all bids and adopt a Resolution awarding a contract for City Project 21-9, Old Highway 8 – 3 Lane Conversion to the lowest responsible bidder, Forest Lake Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$5,413,325.75.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

2. Consider Resolution for Election Services Agreement with Ramsey County.

City Manager Massopust explained he and City Clerk Spangrud would be presenting this item to the Council. City Manager Massopust stated the 2024 election year includes administration of three elections: Presidential Nominating primary in March, State primary in August, and general election in November. Planning for the Presidential primary occurs every four years and begins fall 2023; therefore, budgets and decisions on administrative changes must be made this spring. Due to Ramsey County's post-2022 election review duties, which were completed in January, the election services agreement was reviewed by City staff and our attorney as soon as it was received this month.

City Clerk Spangrud reported as staff considered ways of continuing to offer consistent and efficient elections, a cost-benefit analysis and organizational review of elections was conducted. The City of New Brighton currently manages elections with 1.5 FTEs. With the growth of absentee voting, additional training, security procedures, and internal staffing changes affecting responsibilities, election management exceeds the capacity of our Clerk's Office. Further, time commitment to recruit and build relationships with election judges coupled with higher wages paid by the County have introduced additional incentives to consider an agreement with Ramsey County. Staff reviewed the three scenarios available to the City and commented on the cost benefit analysis for each scenario. After consideration of each scenario, staff was recommending approval of the election services agreement with Ramsey County.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked staff for the detailed presentation and commented on the cost benefit analysis. She explained the staff time involved from other departments was not included in this analysis but should be noted. City Manager Massopust reported this was the case, noting public works, public safety, human resources, and the parks department all assisted with elections as well.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she believed this contract would save staff a great deal of time, if approved, and she wanted staff to be intentional when considering how to readjust their hours.

Councilmember Abdulle thanked staff for the detailed presentation. He asked why the expense for elections varied so much between odd and even years. City Manager Massopust discussed the difference in costs for the elections in odd and even years. It was noted Ramsey County currently ran the elections in odd years and the City ran the elections in even years.

Councilmember Allen thanked staff for the thorough presentation. He thanked staff for their tremendous on elections each year. He explained he supported the elections contract with Ramsey County. He encouraged staff to advocate for early voting to continue at the Community Center. City Manager Massopust stated staff could discuss this further with Ramsey County.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on several concerns she had regarding the proposed agreement. She stated there were a number of costs that could come back to the City. She wanted to see the County responsible for recount costs. She asked if the County would be upgrading their processes to be more electronic. City Clerk Spangrud reported the County was adamant about not upgrading their equipment and

2. Consider Resolution for Election Services Agreement with Ramsey County.

processes. She stated for safety purposes, all results are hand delivered and no results are sent in via modem. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated the City may need to consider having public safety officers posted at election sites for safety purposes. City Manager Massopust thanked the Mayor for this comment. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested further information on how special elections worked in New Brighton. City Clerk Spangrud described the types of scenarios where a special election would be required. Councilmember Abdulle stated he believed it made sense for New Brighton to contract their elections with Ramsey County. He encouraged the city to have proper communication with the public if the contract is approved.

Motion by Councilmember Allen, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to adopt a Resolution to enter into an agreement with Ramsey County for 2023-2024 election services in the amount of \$194,094.00.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

3. Ordinance Review:

- a. Consider Approval of Ordinance 896: An ordinance amending the New Brighton zoning ordinance by rezoning properties from their existing zoning designations (R-1, R-3A, R-3B, B-1, B-2, B-3, I-1, I-2, and MX) to one of three new mixed use districts (MUN, MUR, or MUE) as guided by the Comprehensive Plan.
- b. Consider approval of the Summary Publication Resolution for Ordinance 896.

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 from early 2017 through mid-2019 (2.5 years), the City of New Brighton held meetings and conducted public outreach sessions with its residents to establish a new vision for the community. This new vision, encapsulated in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, was officially approved and adopted by the City in late 2019. Following a return to normal after COVID shutdowns, the City was able to use grant funding from Ramsey County to initiate the Vision Silver Lake Road 2040 study. Public input obtained over two phases of this study provided the direction necessary to create new zoning districts to govern the City's mixed use areas. It was noted Ordinance 896 is the final implementation step to complete the transition of lands to mixed use within the community as approved in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Staff commented further on the proposed mixed used districts and reported the Planning Commission recommends approval of Ordinance 896. Councilmember Abdulle explained he attended the Planning Commission meeting last week. He thanked staff for the detailed presentation that was made to the public. He stated he appreciated the lengthy discussion the Planning Commission had with the public in attendance. He encouraged the public to understand all future development requests will be reviewed one request at a time.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported the identified mixed use areas were identified because these areas were already mixed use. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola reported this was the case noting each of these areas were at intersections of major roadways.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas explained the City did not have any plans in mind for these areas, but rather was putting guidance in place for the mixed use areas. Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development Gozola discussed the process that would be followed if a request came forward from a property owner within one of the proposed mixed use districts. He commented further on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Planned Residential Development (PRD) processes.

Councilmember Allen thanked staff for their efforts on this Ordinance over the past six years and for continually working to engage the public. He appreciated how this Ordinance fit with the Council's goals

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- b. Consider approval of the Summary Publication Resolution for Ordinance 896.

within the Comprehensive Plan, along with the feedback the Council has received from the public. He also appreciated the City's forethought when it comes to the redevelopment of these areas.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked staff for their efforts on the Ordinance. She thanked the public for their feedback, comments and emails. She explained there was a desire to have more housing and a wider variety of housing in the community in order to allow today's youth to remain in New Brighton. She discussed how the Council was working to create a healthy community with vibrant housing and businesses.

Motion by Councilmember Allen, seconded by Councilmember Abdulle to adopt Ordinance 896, an Ordinance amending the New Brighton zoning ordinance by rezoning properties from their existing zoning designations (R-1, R-3A, R-3B, B-1, B-2, B-3, I-1, I-2, and MX) to one of three new mixed use districts (MUN, MUR, or MUE) as guided by the Comprehensive Plan as presented.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Motion by Councilmember Abdulle, seconded by Councilmember Axberg to approve the summary publication Resolution for Ordinance 896.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays-Motion Carried

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Commission Liaison Reports, Announcements and Updates

Devin Massopust

City Manager Massopust reported the Climate Action Plan Committee would be meeting next on Thursday, March 2. He encouraged residents to visit the City's website if interested in learning more about the City's climate action plan. He stated the City received 14 inches from the last storm. He thanked the public works plow drivers for clearing the City from the recent winter storm. He explained the City's new DEI Coordinator Hue Schlieu began working for the City at the end of February.

Graeme Allen

Councilmember Allen explained the Council conducted commissioner interviews at their worksession meeting this evening.

Pam Axberg

Councilmember Axberg reported the EDC would be meeting next on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 a.m. She thanked the public works department for all of their efforts to keep the City's streets free and clear of snow.

Abdullahi Abdulle

Councilmember Abdulle reported the Planning Commission met last Tuesday and discussed Ordinance 896.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas

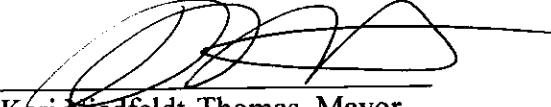
Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported the Equity Commission met last Thursday and discussed the elimination of racial covenants. She thanked the public works team for their efforts during the recent storm. She stated the Council would be holding a worksession meeting on March 7 where the remainder of the commissioner interviews will be conducted. She encouraged the public to visit the indoor farmers market on Wednesday, March 8 at the Community Center from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She explained the Ice Castles would be open for one more week in New Brighton.


Adjournment

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned
at 8:48 p.m.


Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Terri Spangrud, City Clerk