



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, May 3, 2021

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13.D.021, City Council members, City Staff, and members of the public participated in this meeting electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Strahan, Groff, Willmus, Etten and Roe. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Mark Gaughan were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, Willmus, Etten and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items. No one indicated a desire to speak.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

a. Recognize the 2021 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Roseville Speaks Out Entrants

Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

Evan Bierscheid read his essay.

Sophie Hopper presented her artwork.

Entrant Ngoc Van was in attendance but elected not to read their essay.

Councilmember Groff indicated hearing Evan read his essay was impactful and important. He thought Sophie's note was an important remark to make as well. He thanked everyone for participating.

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Councilmember Strahan agreed that the essays were very moving and thought it was important to hear the words.

Councilmember Etten thanked all of the entrants for their submissions and thought each was impactful.

Mayor Roe and the City Council recognized the 2021 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission Roseville Speaks Out Entrants for their participation.

b. Recognition of Outgoing Commissioners

City Manager Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

Ms. Lauren Petersen thanked the Council for the appointing her in 2015 and indicated she enjoyed her time on the Commission.

Mr. Chuck Gitzen thanked the Council for appointing him and encouraged other members of the community to apply for whatever Commission they are interested in.

Mayor Roe and the City Council recognized the following outgoing Commissioners for their work on the City Commissions:

Jack Reif, Finance Commission
Cat Beltmann, Human Rights, Inclusion & Engagement
Monica Bolinger, Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement
Ahmed Hassan, Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement
Lauren Petersen, Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement
Nancy O'Brien, Parks & Recreation
Jerry Stoner, Parks & Recreation
Chuck Gitzen, Planning
Peter Sparby, Planning
Stephanie Hammer, Public Works, Environment & Transportation

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Receive Xcel Energy Presentation on Northeast Metro Natural Gas Project

Public Works Director Marc Culver briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

Mr. Jake Sedlacek, Xcel Energy, gave a presentation on Northeast Metro Natural Gas Project.

Councilmember Strahan wondered if walking and biking paths will remain accessible on County Road B while the project is going on and if intersections will be open going north/south during the summer along Lexington, Victoria, and Dale, especially if there is some semblance of the State Fair.

Mr. Sedlacek explained Xcel Energy is trying to keep trails open as much as possible. There is one section between Dale and Sandhurst where a barrier will be put. County Road B will be open west bound the entire time and the detour will be east bound. The intent is for pedestrian and bike access on the north side of County Road B to be available as well as most on the south side.

Mayor Roe thanked Mr. Sedlacek for the presentation.

b. Consider Approval of Youth Commissioner Application Changes

Assistant City Manager Olson briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

Councilmember Willmus indicated he did not have a problem with this application other than the two sections where the City is asking for a response to a question or asking the youth applicant to form some sort of narrative. He wondered what kind of accommodation will be made for a youth that is dyslexic. For example, he wondered why the wording "Your application will not be judged on the content of this answer," is even on the form. He did not think it should be included. He stated the City was looking for individuals that have a desire to serve on these Commissions, have a willingness to learn about governance, and are willing to contribute in whatever fashion that happens to be. He struggled with this particular section of the application.

Councilmember Strahan appreciated Councilmember Willmus' comment as it was not something that immediately came to her mind. She indicated as a teacher that is really important to note. She was looking more at the format of the form itself and was confused that the parents now have to sign off on the child participating.

Ms. Olson explained the parent only needs to sign the application and fill out the parental permission if the youth wanted to be a voting member.

Councilmember Strahan asked because there will still be a photo release so whether or not the youth is voting, would the parent still have to authorize that or would the youth be photoless and nameless. She wondered how the City would handle that. She thought there might be an opportunity to have the parents opt in or out on the voting and need to agree on the other things. She also thought there should be somewhere on the form for when the student turns 18 and no longer subject to their parents' decisions. On the duties of the student, it would be nice to have them initial each of the lines that gives the expectations, if the youth chooses to be a voting member. Strahan expressed concern if the youth opted to be a voting member, the

student would be subject to the Ethics Code and she thought the youth should be subject to the Ethics Code whether or not they choose to be a voting member since the student would be representing the City in some capacity.

Councilmember Etten agreed on the essay questions. He thought the City was asking a lot more of the student commissioners than from the adult commissioners. He did see these as potential barriers for some students and thought they should probably disappear. He also agreed that at the bottom of the application there should be two separate signatures for the parent. When looking at the section on page three, where it has the responsibilities of a voting member, he thought the sentence that states “I wish to be considered a voting member, yes or no” should come after the responsibilities are listed. He would also like the student to sign or initial that spot as well. He stated in the responsibilities, it should be added that the youth member could be expected to respond to emails as well as receive them. It was also important to add that there “will” be votes the youth commission will need to make and not “may,” which he thought was incorrect. He stated it would be a good idea to list the Commissions that the Youth Commissioner could be a part of based on what the City currently has rather than leaving it open.

Councilmember Groff thought this new application makes things clear, it is transparent, and does what the City Council wants it to do. The part where it states “The Commission has its own webpage where you can learn more...” is very important because many youth and adult commissioners should look at that before applying for the various Commissions.

Mayor Roe agreed with the Council on their concerns and changes. He also agreed with separating out the parental permission side of it. He asked the Council if there should be parental permission for the youth to be a youth commissioner and also for the youth to be a voting member or are they only asking for parental permission for the voting part of it. He noted there are so many things that a youth under 18 needs a parent’s permission for that it seemed being a commissioner, even a non-voting commissioner, would be something the parents would expect to be able to weigh in on. His preference would be to have permission both for the basic application as well as the voting portion as well as the release of information. Another thing he wanted to note for the Council, is how to determine if there is a quorum of the Commission. He asked whether a quorum would still be made up of only the adult commissioners so the attendance of a youth commissioner would not affect if there was a quorum or not.

Councilmember Strahan agreed on the permission for release of information. She also agreed that the essays could make it hard for a lot of kids. She wondered if there was a possibility of having this a fillable PDF form so the student would not need to find a printer and fill it out to send in. She also wondered if there would be

a possibility of having the application translated into other languages for their comfort. She thought that all of the accommodations being asked for youth commissioners would be nice for adult commissioner applications as well.

Councilmember Willmus indicated with respect to youth commissioners not counting towards a quorum, he would like to look at that from the other perspective. The student would be a voting member and will be helping make informed decisions so given that, then the individual would count towards a quorum.

City Attorney Gaughan advised that if youth members have voting privileges it is going to count towards a quorum, particularly for purposes of the open meeting law.

Councilmember Etten agreed and thought if the youth member is voting, then it should count towards the quorum. He supported having two sign offs for parents, one would be the general one for photo release and knowing that the youth is applying for the Commission and the second one would be a release for the youth being a voting member. He indicated as far as translations, he has been a big proponent of the City moving forward with translations and thought that getting rid of the essays reduces that. In this case, he was not sure if there should be translation because the City does need to make sure that folk will be able to operate in the given language used in meetings.

Ms. Olson asked for clarification if both essay questions are being eliminated.

The Council concurred.

c. Consider Councilmember Strahan's Requested Future Agenda Items: 1) Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis; 2) Declaring National Gun Violence Awareness Day

City Manager Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

Councilmember Strahan noted in light of the many things that have happened in the last year including the killing of George Floyd, Dante Wright, and countless other killings seen on social media and the widespread anti-Asian hate that the Council has acknowledged, also the disproportion of impact on people on communities of color, it was time to find a way to show support for these communities of color by suggesting that racism is a public health crisis. The Imagine Roseville document would support such a declaration involving the City's aspirations, our inclusion and respect statement, and the racial equity narrative. All of these are arguments that would support such a declaration. She stated the City could take on affirming the Ramsey County declaration stating that racism is a public health crisis, noting the Minnesota House of Representatives passed a similar declaration last summer as well. In addition, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Minnesota Public

Health Association are some of the few other agencies and organizations that went forward passing and declaring racism as a public health crisis. She felt that if Roseville indeed declares that Roseville Rejects Racism, which shows on many of the electronic signs on a loop, then the City needs to acknowledge that systemic racism is indeed a public health crisis. By acknowledging it, the City lets residents know that the City acknowledge the racism inherent in the systems and structures. While this is more symbolic than anything, it does provide an opportunity for the people that are perpetually impacted by the systemic injustices to know that the community not only supports them by offering its DEI efforts, but also moves forward and says yes, the City does believe that racism is a public health crisis and the Council and City supports the work of the Ramsey County declaration and affirms the work Ramsey County does.

Councilmember Strahan explained she was reviewing the Imagine Roseville 2025 document and their goals. Number nine of their efforts was “supports health and wellness of all community members” and that seemed like it supported a gun violence resolution; however, in the matrix that was provided for Imagine Roseville 2025, there was no specific directive around number nine. In regard to this, she believed the City needed to also acknowledge that gun violence awareness is not a political matter and whether or not this particular organization is a political organization, it is something the Council needs to decide as an entity. She thought that the fact that the Council needs to acknowledge that every person in the Twin Cities has been in some way impacted by gun violence and what has happened in the City. She noted the City could agree that it does not promote gun violence. However, in reviewing the proclamation policy from June 7, 2010, with Mr. Trudgeon, it states the proclamations must relate specifically to an interest of the residents of the City of Roseville, or relate to a stated policy of Imagine Roseville. She noted, as indicated, it seemed like it might match closely with number nine and is not to be of a political nature. Whether or not this particular organization or event is the right one, she felt that the effort and acknowledgement to say that the City does not support gun violence was something worth pursuing.

Councilmember Strahan indicated at the previous Council meeting she also proposed a third future agenda item but after speaking with Chief Schieder, it is something that she is not planning to pursue at this time.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one indicating a desire to speak.

Councilmember Groff thanked Councilmember Strahan for bringing the two items up, noting the first one is not a new crisis and has been going on for a long time and it is time for it to be addressed. He stated in reading through the information in the

packet, it is very obvious that the black, indigenous people of color (BIPOC) communities have huge disparities in the results on health care. There are many reasons for that but a lot of it is structural racism and things that are in place. It kind of dovetails into what the Council has been talking about over the last year and why the City hired a Diversity Equity & Inclusion Manager, because the City needs to address those things.

Councilmember Groff indicated as far as gun violence, he hoped everyone was against gun violence and whatever statement the City could make to that effect that is appropriate, he would support.

Councilmember Etten agreed with the sentiment of both of these. What he does not agree with, is if they would not agree that the Council needs to take these up as action steps it would mean that the City is against them. When he thinks about gun violence, clearly gun violence across the country is an issue but there are many other issues of great health concerns and great concerns, so he wondered where that stops for the Council. He thought that was why the City has that proclamation policy. He would be reluctant to make a proclamation on gun violence. On the health crisis, he agreed with the Ramsey County report that this is not a momentary crisis but an ongoing crisis. The City is not a public health agency, and he would rather look at things the City can do to actually make changes. There are a lot of symbolic statements, the City has taken a lot of specific action, and there are a lot of action in the que. He did not know if taking time to create this and debate this, changes any of that and noted the things the City has right now speaks about almost all of that. He had an action step in mind in working with Ramsey County.

Mayor Roe explained in reviewing for this discussion, he did take another look at the items mentioned by Councilmember Strahan. The aspirations, the inclusion or respect statement, and the City's racial equity narrative, and he did see a fair amount of parallel with a lot of the material in the Ramsey County resolution. He noted the resolution Ramsey County has is a very substantial one in terms of content and is not as narrow as declaring a public health crisis. It is actually saying that in Ramsey County there are things the County is going to do to address equity and racism. It is a very substantial list of things and is actually impressive in that regard. He likes the notion that the City has already done so much, and thought they were leaps and bounds ahead of a lot of suburbs comparable to Roseville in that regard. Because the City is not a public health agency, he would not want to go forward with something that is so narrow as talking about the public health crisis aspect of it but maybe something that builds upon what the City has already been stating and putting out there. He thought what had already been done says a lot about where the City is at as an organization, where the City wants to strive to be, and in what the City is doing. He also agreed with the proclamation about gun violence awareness. He was very supportive of people being aware of the issue of gun violence. He indicated there are a lot of different aspects of gun violence that need to be addressed societally but he was not sure that the City of Roseville passing a proclamation

related to this, once again, it gets into if the City passes a proclamation for gun violence then do they pass a proclamation for other things that are important to certain people. He noted the City gets many requests for proclamations about so many different things that the Council formed a policy to always relate it back to what they are doing and their policies and practices as a city. That is where he tends to come down and perhaps National Gun Violence Awareness does not quite fit in with the policy because it does not have as specific of a nexus as perhaps Mental Health Month where the City does a lot with mental health as a city.

Councilmember Willmus stated he appreciated all of the comments, noting that with declaring a National Gun Violence Awareness Day, they do not live in a vacuum and see what is occurring on a daily basis. He did think that the issues seen with gun violence in the country is actually very political. On the State level, he thought folks that consider themselves on the right side of the aisle, so to speak, find this is an issue they have gotten significantly wrong. He explained that from the perspective of a gun owner, he routinely hunts in the fall and there are certain rights and responsibilities that come along with that. There are certain types of firearms that are used for those types of events that maybe everybody does not need to have access to. He did think it was political and when they look to issues of red flag laws, etc., the State Legislature needed to address that. He stated there was effort and progress that needed to be made there. He felt the political posturing for various lobbying groups had done a disservice to the communities for a number of years. He hoped that those things will start to be addressed, at least at the State level, if not the Federal level.

Councilmember Willmus explained with regard to declaring racism as a public health crisis, Councilmember Etten mentioned some things with respect to actionable steps and falling in line with some of the things Ramsey County is doing. He asked for Councilmember Etten to elaborate a little bit on that.

Councilmember Etten reviewed a meeting he had last week that involved two Ramsey County Commissioners. The information from the Commissioners was focused on Ramsey County efforts to use their American Recovery Plan funding as much as possible on solving the housing crisis in the community. They are looking for municipal and community partners to maximize the benefits. Council Member Etten spoke to using some of Roseville's ARP allocation to partner with Ramsey County to help improve housing opportunities in Roseville.

Councilmember Strahan thanked the Council for the feedback, and indicated she was fully supportive of action. As the newest person, she had no idea what to expect when she brought something forward and indicated it is quite nerve wracking. If the Council is going to do something, she would prefer it be a statement that is intended to show support and she believed housing is a great first step in that. She is very supportive of something that is actionable because that is really the only

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way the City proves more than taking a bold step and saying the City declares racism is a public health crisis and then like Ramsey County has done, explain how it will be addressed by the City because that is really the main purpose.

Etten moved, Strahan seconded, directing City Staff to coordinate with Ramsey County in spending some of Roseville's allocation from the American Recovery Plan to support efforts to reduce health and economic disparities in the community for BIPOC residents.

Mayor Roe offered a friendly amendment to change "spending some of Roseville's allocation" to "spending as much as possible."

Councilmember Etten declined the amendment and indicated he worded it as such because the Council has not had discussion with staff yet on what needed to be done to make sure the City is whole first. He explained he was not yet ready to set any specific percentage or amount to go towards this.

Mr. Trudgeon explained he has received some very broad guidelines on the spending of these dollars and is waiting for specifics.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, Willmus, Etten and Roe.

Nays: None.

Councilmember Willmus left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

d. Receive Update on COVID-19 and Impact on City Operations

City Manager Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 3, 2021.

8. Approve Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by the City Council prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the Council packet.

a. Approve April 19, 2021 EDA and City Council Meeting Minutes

Strahan moved, Etten seconded, approval of the April 19, 2021 EDA and City Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, Etten and Roe.

Nays: None.

9. Approve Consent Agenda

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At the request of Mayor Roe, City Manager Trudgeon briefly reviewed those items being considered under the Consent Agenda; and as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated May 3, 2021 and related attachments.

Groff moved, Etten seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda including claims and payments as presented and detailed.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, Willmus, Etten and Roe.

Nays: None.

a. Approve Payments

ACH Payments	\$94,184.66
99721-99775	380,273.98
TOTAL	\$474,458.64

b. Approve Resolution No. 11806, Reinstating Multifamily Rental Licenses, Previously Revoked at 1735 Woodbridge Court

10. Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager

Mr. Trudgeon reviewed the May 10, 2021, EDA and City Council meetings, May 17, 2021, City Council meeting, and June 7, 2021 EDA and City Council meetings.

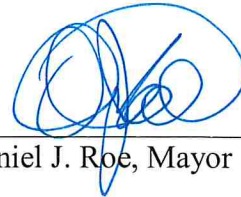
11. Adjourn

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, Willmus, Etten and Roe.

Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager