



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, March 14, 2022

1. Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

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

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, 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 appeared to speak.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Receive 2021 Cash Reserve Fund Report and Consider Transfers to Other Funds

Finance Director Michelle Pietrick briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated March 14, 2022.

Councilmember Groff asked regarding the business model for the License Center, noting it is changing and the City is not getting as many tab orders. He asked why this has occurred.

Ms. Pietrick explained with COVID a lot of people discovered tabs can be renewed online so the City has seen a decrease in that line of business and staff does not believe the City will be getting that business back. The City is actively working on the passport side and staff is participating whenever there are naturalization ceremonies and trying to get the word out. The City has seen an increase in business there. At the Legislature, the Deputy Registrar's Association has been actively asking for an increase in fees. She stated there is discussion about sharing the

State's revenue because it has been recognized that people are purchasing their tabs online. It is also being recognized that a lot of the work with the new MNDrive system, which replaced MNLARS, has shifted almost one hundred percent of the data entry to deputy registrar's, away from the State. With the increased amount of time it takes to process drivers' licenses, there is recognition that perhaps the State should share part of the fees collected.

Mr. Trudgeon noted regarding the IT Funds, staff is sweeping the funds to conform with the policy. Staff does expect a future conversation will be needed as part of IT functions being spun off into a separate organization. Staff does know there will be increasing costs over time, including inflationary costs. As mentioned, previously the City has used some of the fund balance to help balance the IT budget. Staff and the Council will have a future discussion as part of the 2023 budget about the use of additional levy support or using this fund balance for IT expenditures.

Mayor Roe noted that sweeping money back out of cash carry forward into IT probably makes the most sense to support capital needs in IT as opposed to operating needs.

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, to receive the 2021 Cash Reserve Fund report showing the transfer of \$79,662 from the Parks and Recreation Fund and the transfer of \$360,160 from the Information Technology Fund, for a total of \$439,822 transferred to the Cash Reserve Fund.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.

- b. **Consider Resolution Establishing Precinct Boundaries After Redistricting**
Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated March 14, 2022.

Deputy City Clerk Katie Bruno made a presentation to the City Council on redistricting and establishing precinct boundaries in the City.

Mayor Roe asked whether, as part of this process, there was equity consideration based on the fact that is something the City is looking at in decision making.

Ms. Olson explained in a perfect world, staff would like to take more time to examine the equity impacts on this, knowing that the maps were released February 15th and there is a deadline. Some of the things staff considered are transportation needs within districts and what that looks like to polling locations as well as trying not to break up some neighborhoods that might have additional transportation needs or to other needs such as relying on others.

Councilmember Groff asked if there is a number the City is trying to stay at for resident per precinct, in general.

Ms. Olson explained that historically what has been done is to stay in the two thousand population range. However, with absentee voting and the increase in that, a little higher levels can be accommodated. She noted some of the larger precincts are in the three thousand plus voter population range and because of the level of absentee voting that occurred in the last couple of elections in Roseville. Ramsey County was comfortable with having that population in each of the precincts, if needed.

Councilmember Groff asked with the absentee voting, how is that handled as far as the election judges go and are the ballots counted afterwards or are the ballots counted at the County.

Ms. Bruno explained as she recalled those ballots are not counted ahead of time but stored at the County and fed through the County machines, probably the Monday prior to the Tuesday election. She thought the County hired people to work with absentee ballots and the ballots are not brought to the precincts.

Ms. Olson reviewed the alternative maps with the Council.

Mayor Roe noted some things in the initial proposal that he wanted to see addressed. The first is in precincts one and two, in the Mounds View School District. He noted the current proposal has precinct one at about fifteen hundred population and precinct two at around twenty-nine hundred. He knew the City did have a fairly significant number of residents potentially coming into precinct two as a result of the development around the Byerly's area. He wondered if it made sense to shift the current population a little more towards precinct one rather than the boundary following Fairview all the way North/South between the two precincts. He noted the boundary could shift towards the East in the Northern part to capture some more population into precinct one and decreasing the population in precinct two in anticipation of the future growth in precinct two. He noted that is one of the proposals.

Mayor Roe indicated in the Southeastern corner of the City, precinct six as laid out in the staff proposal has its Southern border at County Road B and that extends all the way to the East edge of the City with a sliver of precinct six going South of precinct seven. He was concerned about the regularity, the shape, from an aesthetic, visual point of view and perhaps from a community or driving transportation polling place point of view. Also, it seems like Highway 36 is a natural barrier and precinct eleven might be an appropriate precinct for residents between Highway 36 and County Road B. It happened to work out if swapping the area South of County Road B, currently South of precinct six, with the area South of precinct seven that was a part of precinct six, it is a slight reduction in population of precinct six but then makes a regular shape and population for precincts eleven seven. The only

thing he might tweak in that, after some conversations with staff, is the ability to take all high-density residential right at County Road B and Dale, South of Highway 36, and shift that up into precinct seven.

Mayor Roe indicated another small item he proposed is between precincts nine and ten, around Roseville Lutheran Church area. He jogged the precinct ten boundary a little farther North and West to even out the population of those two precincts.

The biggest change is between precincts three, four, and seven in the Northeast corner of Roseville. He moved the precinct three and four boundary to the East side of Lake Owasso and did not have precinct seven extend up into precinct four along Rice Street. However, as he looked at that, it would create a fairly populated precinct three at thirty-four hundred. He noted those precinct in that upper corner tend to be the City's high turnout precincts. He also noted in precinct three in the last election, which was a Presidential year, the registered voter count was just about thirty-three hundred. Actually with the population of thirty-four hundred or so, theoretically, the registered voter count is somewhere between seventy and eighty percent, depending on the election. He stated that does not sound like the City would be creating a precinct with too many voters to handle under his proposal.

Mayor Roe indicated one of the objectives for his suggested changes was to even out some population.

Ms. Olson indicated one of the things staff is considering while looking at the polling locations is to potentially have City Hall be a polling location depending on where things fall for precinct three.

Mayor Roe thought in both proposals, even if City Hall went into precinct five, it is pretty close to the edge of precinct three. He did not know what the standard is for how far away a polling place can be from its precinct but it does not seem too far away.

Ms. Olson indicated that was correct and believed it was within a mile of the boundary of the precinct so the distance would be sufficient.

Mayor Roe asked if Roseville Covenant Church be the polling place for precinct three.

Ms. Olson explained Roseville Covenant Church would be considered as the polling place for precinct two. Staff is working on a precinct one polling location.

Councilmember Strahan indicated in precinct two where it jogs down on Lydia by Oasis Park, squaring that out may make more sense, continuing up three blocks.

Ms. Olson noted one thing the City needs to be cognizant about is not splitting census blocks. The reason behind that is, for example, County Commissioner Districts still need to be redistricted and based on population. The only way to determine population accurately is by counting what is in the census block. When the census blocks are split, it becomes more difficult to calculate.

Councilmember Strahan thought precinct six was a little wonky and would be confusing, especially since there is only a block or a couple of houses as it gets up to Rice Street. She felt precincts six, seven, and eleven were acceptable for what the precincts needed to be for the City and a little bit more reasonable.

Councilmember Groff thought precinct seven got down to a small population with the proposed Mayor's changes.

Mayor Roe indicated that is why one of the proposals to modify would grab the County Road B and Dale multi-family buildings and shift those into precinct 7. When that is done, the population in precinct seven becomes 2,751 and the population of precinct eleven becomes 2,307, which is a shift of about 700 people.

In response to an observation from Councilmember Strahan about the long east-west stretch of proposed precinct 5 Mayor Roe indicated the map does not show where residential housing is located. He noted in precinct five going west of Rosedale, there is almost no residential housing and almost all commercial. Likewise, in precinct one there is a significant portion of the middle that are tank farms and commercial along the Lake road and Highway 35.

Mayor Roe was not sure if the Council had strong opinions about either proposal or wanted to further tweak either one. He thought this could come back for action on the March 21, 2022 as a consent agenda item, if done in a straightforward way, and would be preferred due to a large agenda.

Ms. Olson indicated at that same time, staff would present the polling locations as well because those would also need to be approved by March 29, 2022.

Councilmember Strahan thought it would be acceptable to bring this back to the March 21, 2022 meeting on the consent agenda.

Mayor Roe noted if this item is on the consent agenda, it will need to be on one map because no discussion would be involved. He asked if there was one map that could be used.

Councilmember Groff indicated he was leaning toward Mayor Roe's changes with the alteration of going up Fairview to Lydia, adding that to precinct two, and also adding the apartments into precinct seven.

Mayor Roe stated the Council's desire is to bring back the "Mayor map" with the change between precinct two and one, which would encompass the area between Fairview and Lydia that is currently in precinct one, back into precinct two instead and between precinct seven and eleven, and the portion of precinct eleven that currently includes the multi-family West of Irene and North of County Road B would shift into precinct seven. He noted all of those changes follow census blocks.

8. **Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items**
9. **Approve Minutes**
10. **Approve Consent Agenda**
11. **Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager**

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the March 21, 2022 City Council and the April 11, 2022 City Council meeting agendas.

Councilmember Strahan indicated she met with Senator Marty last week representing the Homeless Day on the Hill and talked about trying to advocate for more funding for the homeless programs. She also spent time with the Ramsey County League of Local Governments speaking about the Housing Navigator embedded within the Social Works. She indicated Senator Marty is very supportive but not very optimistic about the chances of funds being utilized, the surplus being used in that way. She indicated Senator Marty is advocating for ongoing funding for affordable housing and other projects to continue the Housing Navigator and things within the City.

Councilmember Strahan explained the youth at RAS High School are planning to support the Greta Thunberg Environmental focus a week from Friday.

Mayor Roe noted the Ramsey County League of Local Governments had a presentation last Friday about Maplewood's and Roseville's experience the last few months with the social worker embedded in the Police Department. He thought this was one of the better attended events.

12. **Adjourn**

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 6:46 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.

ATTEST:


Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager


Daniel J. Roe, Mayor