



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, July 26, 2021

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Willmus, Strahan, Etten, Groff and Roe. Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson 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: Willmus, Strahan, Etten, Groff and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items.

Ms. Alarica Hassett, Skillman Avenue, asked the City Council to make a stronger regulation for dog ordinances in the City parks. She has noticed people are leaving their dogs off leash in the parks, the dogs have killed wildlife, and it is unsafe. She also wanted to bring up the homelessness in Roseville. It was her understanding that the Council took a compassionate side to this, which was great and admirable, but she thought this had gotten out of hand because people are staying and not going anywhere in spite of a lot of resources and help out there. She thought that one of the problems is that people are under the influence and a lot of the shelters will not take them if they are not clean. She explained these people are seen in the parks and provides an unsafe place for people if walking through the parks and even along the side of the road camping. These people are on substances, of an unstable mentality, and violent things might happen. The thing she is most worried about is people in the parks are building campfires and right now the State is in a drought. If there is one unattended campfire or one lit cigarette, the place could go up in flames and the city will end up like areas to the north of Minnesota. She explained all of the parks are flanked by residential homes as well as hundred-year-old trees in the parks as well as wildlife. She thought the City needed to give these homeless people boundaries, give them a timeline to move on.

Mayor Roe thanked Ms. Hassett for her comments and indicated it was a wise thing to be concerned about the fire danger. He thought the public safety people would make note of that as something to be on top of and he appreciated the comments.

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5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Highway 36 Transit Feasibility Study Update

Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 26, 2021.

Ms. Emily Jorgensen, Washington County Planner, introduced herself to the City Council.

Mr. Joe Ayers-Johnson, Assistant Project Manager for Washington County, also introduced himself and made a presentation on the Highway 36 Transit Feasibility Study to the City Council.

Ms. Jorgensen presented near term, mid-term, longer term, and ongoing study recommendations to the City Council.

Mayor Roe thanked Ms. Jorgensen and Mr. Ayers-Johnson for the presentation.

Councilmember Strahan explained the afternoon traffic on Highway 36 seems to be returning to the pre-pandemic levels. She thought there was going to be need for improvement because it was only going to continue to grow. She wanted to confirm scenarios one and two look like they utilize the transitway.

Ms. Jorgensen indicated that was correct.

Councilmember Strahan indicated this does not really address the St. Paul campus and skirts around it. As someone who travels Highway 280 in the morning, Highway 280 seems like it would need to be reconfigured pretty substantially in order to accommodate a shoulder because the traffic is very industrial. She thought there would need to be people who really understand merging traffic off Broadway and Hennepin and are familiar with how it works. She thought the on demand sounded similar to an enterprise vanpool scenario that has been entertained before, noting the biggest thing is that it would be hard to get behind it if it did not stop in Roseville. The fact that it would stop on Rice Street is really important but if it did not stop between Maplewood Mall and the University, it would bypass Roseville, it would take some traffic off the road, but it does not make it easier for people who might want to commute.

Ms. Jorgensen indicated they did not show where the transit lines will be stopping in the presentation, partially because if the stops are shown early on and things change, people will complain. While some assumptions were made, Washington

County chose not to show the stops on any of the public facing maps so the County and City of Roseville are not put in a box but rest assured, apart from the park and ride service, there will be stops within each community.

Councilmember Groff indicated the residents' concerns are traffic on Highway 36 and their goal would be to advocate reduced traffic, something they can use, as well as reducing carbon emissions. Those are things he would like the County to consider and things he would like to see down the line.

Mayor Roe believed MnDOT was considering Highway 36 or part of that corridor for an HOV lane, which would help facilitate express buses and other transportation. He also noted that as things move forward with any kind of Corridor Commission, the City would like to have a good understanding of what that is and what the inputs are from the various cities. He indicated on local on-demand, it would be interesting if Washington County could focus early on that, especially in Stillwater, to use that as a case study for connecting to this corridor and other corridors.

Public Comment

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

b. Consider the Recycling Services Contract for 2022 - 2025

Public Works Director Marc Culver briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 26, 2021.

Councilmember Etten explained one of the things brought up was the City's low residual rate and he noticed in the last contract, the residual rate jumped. He wondered if there was a new way that this is calculated.

Mr. Culver indicated he did not know specifically why the rates jumped. He thought there was still a lot of wish-cycling out there as well as some confusion about some of the plastics. He noted some of the things the City can do to help educate; even the restaurants that are still using those plastics may help in that regard as well.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one coming forward.

Strahan moved, Etten seconded, approval of the Recycling Services Contract 2022-2025 with Neighborhood Recycling Corporation (dba Eureka Recycling).

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan thanked Mr. Culver because this has been a long process and this presentation was very thorough. She appreciated being well informed throughout and that this brought up a lot of ideas for the future.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

- c. **Accept Housing Navigator Grant Position for the Roseville Police Department**
Chief Erika Scheider briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 26, 2021.

Councilmember Etten thanked Chief Scheider for doing this. He also appreciated seeing a list of organizations that the Community Action Team is already working with.

Councilmember Strahan asked if this will be connected to the Ramsey County navigator program.

Chief Scheider explained there are a number of host sites throughout the State so this person would continue to work with all of those resources.

Councilmember Strahan indicated her only concern is that an eighteen-year-old often is not the most prepared to handle some of those. She understood there would be ample training and has high regard for the AmeriCorps Program.

Councilmember Groff thought this was very timely given the feedback from one of their residents tonight, they need to look for a solution to the problem in the City, and this is a piece of it.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Anthony Gerry, 1640 Highway 36, Roseville Village Condominiums

Mr. Gerry explained his major question with this program is that he did not see the need for more funding. He sees there are four shelters within a five-mile radius already and knows this is a complex problem. He is a Marine Corps veteran, knows lots of vets that experience homelessness, he feels for them, and knows they have their own problems and demons. He explained that even though there are resources out there, they continue to get them, these people keep going back to the same thing, either addiction or other reasons why they cannot go back and live in society. He sees the homeless problem everywhere in the cities and instead of coming down on them with a heavy hand, the cities want to keep giving

them support and more support. He did not see this doing any real good so as much as he would like to see humanitarian action, he did not see this as having a change over the crimes that are being committed in a lot of the places.

Etten moved, Strahan seconded, approval to authorize the Roseville Police Department to enter into a partnership with AmeriCorps in hosting a Heading Home Corps Housing Navigator from September 2021 through July 2022 and to contribute \$10,000 toward start-up costs related to operating this valuable new initiative.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Etten thanked the public for their comments, noting the Council has also heard comments across the spectrum over the last couple of years regarding homelessness and how the City can help them out and move them into safe, stable places. He hoped this would help address those more permanently so they are moving people into safe places.

Councilmember Strahan echoed Councilmember Etten's comments and thought this provided another avenue of resource to the Police Department and the Community Action Team.

Councilmember Willmus indicated he has heard from a number of people that would echo the comments heard tonight. He also had the opportunity to talk with the Chief in the past and commended her for stepping forward, looking at some avenues, and taking some steps that are in line with what she feels will give them tools to start to deal with some of these issues and he certainly will support that. This is a program that will be looked at and reviewed fairly frequently to see how it is working and if it is effective. This is something that as the Police Department brings forward as a tool that they feel will help with these issues the City is facing, he is certainly going to support that.

Councilmember Groff indicated something needs to be done and the City Council knows that. What they are struggling with is how the City can do that, noting it cannot be done with an iron fist. The City has to find ways to help people get out of this cycle and he hopes this program will be one piece of that, which is why he will support it.

Mayor Roe stated hopefully it is clear that if the solution were merely to ask or force people to move along, the challenge is that they will move somewhere else, and it then becomes a problem for another neighborhood or city and does not help people to get out of that situation. He indicated there is no question that this is a difficult problem, as noted by the Chief, and there are many facets to this.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

d. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update and Discussion

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Matt Johnson briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 26, 2021.

Parks Superintendent Jim Taylor was also at the meeting.

Councilmember Strahan wanted to make sure there was a plan for future use of funds for preventative use.

Mr. Johnson reviewed how the funds will be used for preservation of trees.

Councilmember Groff asked how staff determined which trees are treated, and which are removed, and the cost differential.

Mr. Johnson explained the determination is based on the significance to the area. Heavily used parks are always a high priority and treatment is indefinite and around \$10,000 this year.

Mr. Taylor explained the cost is typically ten thousand dollars but this year it has been fifteen thousand because some trees were removed that did not respond well to the treatment.

Mr. Johnson indicated treatment is not guaranteed to work and does vary from area to area in the city.

Councilmember Willmus asked if there were any issues placing these trees somewhere else given the context of which dollars from the Community Development Tree Replacement Fund were secured. He requested more background with respect to that.

City Attorney Gaughan indicated City staff did look at the tree replacement resolution and it does reference replenishing activities. His response would be that the City is okay with doing this per city policy.

Mayor Roe recalled that the Council did make an adjustment to the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance in the Community Development side of things within the last couple of years because developers were having a hard time doing the trees close to development. He thought there was more flexibility put in the Ordinance.

Councilmember Etten asked where the EAB funds were coming from in the City budget.

Mr. Johnson explained the funds are in the operating fund in the Park Maintenance division and are teased out as tree maintenance.

Councilmember Etten asked if this is factored into the budget that is outlined in the packet.

Mr. Johnson indicated the plan would be that it is not requested in the 2023 budget. He reviewed the current budget and request with the Council.

Councilmember Etten indicated he would like staff to review this to find out where the funds in the future will be coming from for this program. He did not want the City to have a plan without a way to figure out how to continue it in the future. He thought another consideration would be American Rescue Plan dollars that could possibly be used for this as well.

Councilmember Willmus would like staff to develop a timeline with respect to best value process and what that would look like, noting it would be nice to see what the timeline looks like with the various components.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one coming forward.

Groff moved, Willmus seconded, to approve the Purchase Requisition in the amount of \$50,000 for additional diseased and hazardous tree removals in 2021 and approve the Request for Proposal as outlined and to use the existing Community Development Tree Replacement funds to plant trees anywhere on public property.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff thought this was really important and the sooner the better in these types of things. He indicated he supported this.

Councilmember Willmus stated was something the City has been kicking down the road for a while and will need to get a handle on this sooner than later. He supported the efforts.

Councilmember Etten appreciated all of the work on this, knew this would continue to be a lot of work.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

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 July 12, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Roe indicated there was a change submitted prior to the meeting which was to make a sentence read better.

Councilmember Etten indicated he had a word correction to the minutes which he would submit to staff.

Willmus moved, Etten seconded, approval of the July 12, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes as amended.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

9. Approve Consent Agenda

At the request of Mayor Roe, Assistant City Manager Olson briefly reviewed those items being considered under the Consent Agenda; and as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated July 26, 2021 and related attachments.

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

a. Approve Payments

ACH Payments	\$233,512.61
100397-100615	623,359.30
TOTAL	\$856,871.91

b. Approve 2021-2022 RAHS Police School Liaison Officer Agreement

c. Approve Final Contract Acceptance of the Galtier Lift Station Project

d. Receive Monthly Equity Report

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

Assistant City Manager Olson reviewed the August 9, 2021 City Council meeting, August 23, 2021 City Council meeting, September 13, 2021 City Council meeting, and the September 20, 2021 EDA and City Council Work Session meetings with the Council.

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Mayor Roe updated the Council on the Cable Commission meeting.

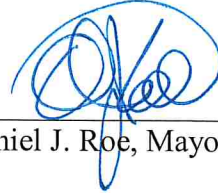
11. Adjourn

Etten moved, Willmus seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca Olson, Assistant City Manager