



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024
7 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Dan Louismet called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The City Clerk took attendance for Councilmembers Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Heidi Hughes, Bill Walsh, and Andrea West. Staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Police Chief Dale Hager, City Clerk Caley Longendyke and City Attorney Dave Anderson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on June 11, 2024

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes of the City Council Work Session on June 18, 2024

It was moved by Councilmember **West**, seconded by Councilmember **Walsh**, to approve the minutes. Motion carried 4-0. Councilmember Engstran abstained.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Louismet reported a request to move the *Consent Agenda* item regarding the license agreement with Cottage Park Homeowner's Association to *New Business*. It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a water efficiency grant agreement with the Metropolitan Council **Res. No. 13374**
- B. Resolution authorizing execution of a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage grant agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society **Res. No. 13375**
- C. Resolution authorizing execution of a memorandum of understanding with the Local 49 – Public Works Union **Res. No. 13376**
- D. Resolution renewing the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnerships Act Programs joint cooperative agreement with Ramsey County **Res. No. 13377**
- E. ~~Resolution authorizing execution of a license agreement for use of public land with the Cottage Park Homeowner's Association~~ *Moved to New Business*

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. White Bear Lake Conservation District Annual Update and 2025 Budget

White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD) Board Treasurer Mike Parenteau and Board Director Scott Costello, who serve as representatives for the City of White Bear Lake, presented the 2025 budget for the organization. Costello, who also serves as the chair of the Lake Education Committee, summarized a list of activities and accomplishments from 2023. Parenteau, who serves as the chair of the Lake Quality Committee, reported that a lake-use study will be conducted, with the latest one having been conducted in 2006. The information will be used as a resource for a future lake management study. An upcoming Eurasian watermilfoil survey is expected to show more growth this year due to the lack of ice and snow cover on the lake, which would typically hinder growth. Parenteau said fees for commercial slips and moorings will increase to \$125 in 2025. For 2025, the City's assessment to the WBLCD is \$21,679. He said WBLCD plans to use excess cash (reserves) to lower their fund balance in order to bring it back within range.

Councilmember Edberg thanked Parenteau and Costello for their service and recognized their consistent involvement. He asked about the lake level. Parenteau reported the lake level at 922.79 feet above sea level, an increase of 11 inches since this year's ice out. Councilmember Edberg suggested that WBLCD looks into investment opportunities for its fund balance reserves for better interest earnings. Mayor Louismet mentioned the City having issues with watercraft rental companies that illegally operate off the shoreline, specifically in Matoska Park. He asked if WBLCD has taken any action to help curb this. Parenteau said a committee is monitoring it and he explained there is permitting process. Mayor Louismet referenced a vote last year by the WBLCD board regarding an authorized dock usage area (ADUA) near Lion's Park and asked about the status. Assistant City Manager Juba and Director Kauppi provided an update, including an upcoming meeting with the involved party to memorialize the ADUA line. Mayor Louismet thanked Parenteau and Costello for their work.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ward 2 Parking Restrictions

At the June 11 regular meeting, staff presented proposed parking restrictions for residential streets in Ward 2 to be discussed with the Council. The City Council ultimately directed staff to send letters to area property owners to inform them about the proposed restrictions and to invite public comment through writing or by attending the June 25 Council meeting. Staff was also directed to study Morehead Avenue between 11th Street and Highway 96, which resulted in staff adding an additional proposed parking restriction. Public Works Director / City Engineer Kauppi recapped the current and proposed parking restrictions. He summarized comments that were submitted by residents, saying the majority of comments were in support of the parking

restrictions. He mentioned that some comments came from residents on 10th Street, who voiced concern that the north side was selected for no parking when the south side has less driveways. To address this, he explained that the overall pattern of no parking on the north side and no trailer parking on the south side on the streets was based on 11th Street having sidewalks on the south side, therefore the other streets followed suit for consistency. The couple comments opposing the parking restrictions said the congestion issues only occur on a handful of days during the year and didn't feel the year-round restrictions were necessary.

Though not an official public hearing, Mayor Louismet opened up the meeting for public comment, explaining that the Council wanted to hear from those residing near the impacted area. Steve Goranson, resident of 4927 Morehead Avenue, expressed concern that open streets will prompt drivers to speed through the area. He suggested considering parking restrictions just on the weekends, as the year-round restrictions seems to be unnecessary. Jim Nash, resident of 2277 9th Street, reported no parking issues during the time he's lived in his residence, which has been over 30 years. He said even with the busier events, he hasn't seen any issues. He expressed concern that parking restrictions during special events would hinder visitors from attending. Christopher Hughes, resident of 4984 Stewart Avenue, acknowledged the parking congestion and brought attention to visibility when trying to navigate the neighborhood. He was concerned that the parking restrictions will push vehicles and trailers to other streets, thus creating a separate issue. Similar to the other residents who spoke, he would be more in favor of parking restrictions limited to certain times of the year.

Councilmember Hughes asked if the parking restrictions could apply only to summer weekends. Director Kauppi said the signs can be as specific as Council wants them to be, but more text on signs tends to create confusion. He also pointed out that cars parked across from each other can occur on weekdays, forcing two approaching vehicles to take turns trying to pass through. Councilmember Hughes said she wasn't concerned about signs with more text and felt those who find it confusing would probably park somewhere else anyway. She understands that the same restrictions for each street creates consistency, but pointed out that each street is different. She prefers to listen to the feedback of residents, from 10th Street for example, than to force restrictions for consistency. Councilmember Walsh asked about the reasoning for focusing on more northern streets when the closest streets to Matoska Park are 4th, 5th, and 6th Street. Director Kauppi pointed out that trailers are typically pulled around to a street where there is quicker access to retrieve their boat. The restrictions are also to address streets narrower than 4th, 5th, and 6th Street.

Councilmember Edberg asked if there was data to back up the need for a solution, such as vehicle collisions or emergency vehicles not being able to get through, or if the issue presented is more of a nuisance. Director Kauppi referenced engineering standards, using an example that the width of a street that allows parking on both sides should measure at least 36 to 40 feet in width. Widths of streets allowing parking on one side should be at least 28 to 32 feet in width. The roads being discussed for parking restrictions measure 22 to 24 feet. When asking about actual data, Police Chief Hager confirmed there are fender benders in the area. In regards to getting police department emergency vehicles through, he said it's not a problem until it's a problem. He explained that part of preparing for emergencies is mitigating risk when possible, including following engineering standards.

Mayor Louismet shared support for the proposed restrictions and relayed the supportive comments he received. He acknowledged it doesn't have to be a permanent solution, but he would like to see the restrictions implemented for a couple years, especially when recognizing emergency vehicles aren't able to get through. Councilmember Walsh shared his support, but recognized the feedback from some residents on 10th Street who would rather see no parking on the south side, instead of the north side. He wasn't worried about the consistency. Councilmember Hughes said no trailer parking makes sense, but she finds the no parking on one side of the street for the entire year to be too restrictive. She wondered if the City will enforce the parking restrictions and if a parking ticket will deter people. Mayor Louismet brought attention to feedback he's received that it isn't just a seasonal issue, rather it worsens during those times. He also mentioned feedback about people struggling to simply get out of their driveways. Councilmember West shared her support for the restrictions, especially to improve emergency vehicle accessibility.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to approve **Res. No. 13378**, ordering permanent parking restrictions in the Ward 2 neighborhoods on certain streets between Stewart Avenue and Lake Avenue. Councilmember **Walsh** made a motion to amend the resolution to switch sides of the restrictions on 10th Street, so that it's no parking on the south side and no trailer parking on the north side, and was seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**. Mayor Louismet asked Director Kauppi about the importance of consistency from street to street. Director Kauppi acknowledged the amendment would be for just a small section, so he didn't express opposition. The motion and second to approve the amendment switching sides of the 10th Street restrictions was carried unanimously. The motion and second for the parking restrictions as amended carried unanimously.

Councilmember Edberg asked if staff should follow up with Council to review data and discuss the effectiveness of the parking restrictions. Upon discussion, it was decided that staff should follow up with Council after Labor Day in 2025.

B. School Resource Officer Agreement

Police Chief Hager presented a resolution for a school resource officer (SRO) agreement with White Bear Lake Area Schools for three SROs for the 2024-2025 school year. The City has provided two SROs to the District since the mid-1990s to support safety in District buildings and foster relationships with students. Currently, the two SROs split between the schools on the north side and the south side of the city. Due to the combining of the two high schools, it creates a much bigger campus on the north side of the city. Therefore, the District requested a third SRO. Subsequently, the City will hire another sworn police officer, increasing the Police Department to 32 officers. The District reimburses the City for the SRO program and certain training requirements.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve **Res. No. 13379**, approving an agreement with White Bear Lake Area Schools for three School Resource Officers for the 2024-2024 school year. Councilmember Walsh asked about SROs responding to school district buildings outside of city limits. Chief Hager said the City's police officers do not visit or respond to emergencies in schools outside of our service area. Councilmember Walsh pointed out that the District will receive service from an experienced

officer and wondered if that puts the City in a tougher position with a vacancy. Chief Hager was confident there wouldn't be an issue to get another officer in place. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution authorizing execution of a license agreement for use of public land with the Cottage Park Homeowner's Association

Assistant City Manager Juba presented a resolution authorizing the execution of a license agreement with the Cottage Park Homeowners Association (HOA) to maintain three narrow strips of city-owned land in the Cottage Park neighborhood. He explained the history of the strips of land, which were tax forfeited and eventually owned by White Bear Township. The City was deeded the land by the Township after annexation around 1985. The three parcels abut residential properties, with two of the parcels being ten-feet wide the third being five-feet wide. The use of these parcels has been consistent as far back as staff has been able to research, and the license agreement serves as a way to formalize what has been done for decades. For further understanding, Assistant City Manager Juba compared this agreement to the scoreboard installed by the White Bear Youth Football Association in Podvin Park, or private improvements on city-owned property.

Mayor Louismet sought confirmation that the agreement is formalizing what has been done and further outlines responsibilities, and that there are no funds being used by the City. Assistant City Manager Juba confirmed, and added that the agreement will clarify questions that arise about the parcels. Councilmember Walsh wondered about the purpose of the City owning the land and whether the HOA should purchase it. Assistant City Manager Juba said that is something that could be researched further if that is the will of the Council. Councilmember Walsh referenced Lakeview Park, noting that the City already owns a parcel with lake access near that neighborhood.

Councilmember Edberg brought up a number of items, including whether this agreement is favoring select residents and not others, whether the City is getting a reasonable return for allowing exclusive use of this land to the HOA, if there are specific obligations for the HOA outlined in the agreement, how the HOA would handle irresponsible users of the parcels, and whether non-HOA residents could walk on the property. Councilmember Edberg also expressed that he felt there could be more detail in resolutions when describing the provisions of legal agreements. For the latter topic, Mayor Louismet said this could be looked into further with the city attorney's advisement and the detail of resolutions is dependent on the agreement's subject matter and whether there are associated expenses for the City.

Addressing Councilmember Walsh's comment about whether the City should own the property long-term, City Attorney Anderson agreed that it's something the City could consider, but he said the agreement helps relieve the City of liability. In regards to resolution specificity when summarizing agreements, City Attorney Anderson would have to research the City's historical practice and follow up with staff. There were comments in support to look into resolution specificity further, but no concern was raised that the City has executed an agreement that didn't meet the City Council's standards. Mayor Louismet responded to Councilmember Edberg's list of inquiries. He wasn't concerned that the agreement is favoring certain residents, as the parcel sizes are minimal. He agreed with Councilmember Walsh's earlier comment that

the City could sell them someday. He shared his confidence that the agreement outlines the obligations of the HOA. He asked City Attorney Anderson if formalizing agreements for something already happening is unique to White Bear Lake or if other cities are similar. City Attorney Anderson confirmed this happens in other cities, as there has been a need to formalize agreements both for historical purposes, conflict prevention, and liability protection.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to approve **Res. No. 13380**, approving an agreement with White Bear Lake Area Schools for school resource officers for the 2024-2024 school year.

9. DISCUSSION

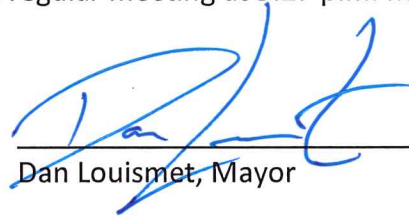
Nothing scheduled.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Assistant City Manager Juba shared various upcoming events. Mayor Louismet recognized Juba and other City staff for working diligently on Independence Day preparing for a successful fireworks show.

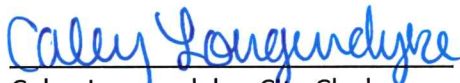
11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Edberg**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Dan Louismet, Mayor

ATTEST:



Caley Longendyke, City Clerk