



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 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, Heidi Hughes, and Andrea West. Councilmembers Steven Engstran and Bill Walsh were excused for the evening. Staff in attendance were City Manager Lindy Crawford, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Community Development Director Jason Lindahl, 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 July 9, 2024

It was moved by Councilmember **West**, seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Minutes of the City Council Work Session on July 9, 2024

It was moved by Councilmember **Hughes**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Due to two absent councilmembers, Mayor Louismet reported the removal of two *Consent Agenda* items—a resolution accepting restricted donations and a resolution accepting a Pathways to Policing grant as both items require a super-majority vote. The items will appear on the agenda at the August 14 regular Council meeting. It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg**, seconded by Councilmember **West**, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 3-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

~~A. Resolution accepting restricted donations~~

B. Resolution authorizing the submittal of a letter of concurrence for Rice Creek Watershed District boundary changes **Res. No. 13384**

~~C. Resolution accepting a Pathways to Policing grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety~~

It was moved by Councilmember **West**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

5. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

As a board member of Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), Councilmember West introduced Administrator Phil Belfiori to present information about the organization. Belfiori provided basic information about watersheds and explained that the City consists of four water organizations. VLAWMO is the only joint powers water management organization, governed by a joint powers agreement and includes six participating cities. He provided more information about the difference between the water management organization and watershed districts. He shared that the water collected in the 24-square-mile outlets to the Saint Paul Regional Water Services and is used as drinking water for 450,000 residents. He shared VLAWMO's mission and areas of focus. He highlighted partnerships for certain projects, including the Rotary Nature Preserve project, the City's 2024 street reconstruction project, and the Oak Knoll Pond spent lime demonstration project. He highlighted other projects involving partnerships, which includes education and outreach. For future partnership opportunities, he talked about the Sports Center feasibility project and parking lot renovation, a stormwater treatment project near Birch Lake, Goose Lake sub-watershed projects, and Whitaker Pond iron-enhanced sand filter feasibility study.

Councilmember Edberg asked Belfiori to identify the sources of the biggest surface water issues. He referenced a priority list developed in their long-term management plan, but he emphasized groundwater conservation. He also mentioned preparation for climate resiliency. Belfiori also answered Councilmember Edberg's question about the spent lime project in Oak Knoll Pond.

B. Quarterly Finance Department Report

Finance Director Kindsvater presented the quarterly report for the Finance Department and License Bureau. She said revenues and expenditures are tracking as anticipated at this time of year, with some categories having higher revenues than expected, including fees for plan reviews, heating and A/C permits, electric permits, park and mooring/skid rental fees, and License Bureau transactions. She reminded the Council that the Maplewood DMV office closed in May 2023, resulting in the number of transactions to dramatically increase. Since it's been over a year, the City can start comparing data to last year. As anticipated, the year-to-year comparisons for the services began to level out this quarter. The electronic vehicle title and registration transactions are significantly higher than last year. She talked about new software rolled out by the Driver and Vehicle Services.

Mayor Louismet asked about the general state of the License Bureau, considering the time that has passed since the closure of the Maplewood office and revenues collected from the new fee structure that passed during the 2023 legislative session. Director Kindsvater indicated that the License Bureau is doing better thus far. Councilmember Edberg complimented staff for the quarterly reports and appreciates the layers of analysis.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading of an ordinance amending the Operation of Cannabis Businesses Interim Moratorium Ordinance

City Attorney Anderson brought attention to legislative amendments passed during the 2024 session that could potentially create gaps in the City’s current moratorium addressing cannabis businesses. The legislative amendments include separation of certain types of businesses from the definition of “cannabis business,” creation of a process allowing certain businesses to apply for license preapprovals, and allowing certain businesses to start growing cannabis prior to obtaining a license. City Attorney Anderson recommends an amendment to the City’s moratorium to address the legislative changes, creating a clearer message that the moratorium still applies to these types of businesses separated from the definition of “cannabis business,” cultivators, and those pursuing the preapproval process.

A second reading and public hearing is scheduled for the August 14 regular Council meeting.

9. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Crawford provided an update about a land use application from Solid Ground, which was reviewed and ultimately tabled by the Council at its May 14 regular meeting. She said the applicant has withdrawn their application. She encouraged the Council and members of the community to attend the last Marketfest for the season and the upcoming Farmers’ Market.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **West**, seconded by Councilmember **Hughes**, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Louismet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caley Longendyke, City Clerk