



**CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM**

Mayor Louismet opened the meeting at 7:23 PM. Councilmembers in attendance included: Andrea West, Kevin Edberg, Heidi Hughes, Bill Walsh and Steven Engstran. Staff members in attendance included: City Manager Lindy Crawford, Community Development Director Jason Lindahl, and Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek.

**1. Fair Housing Policy Discussion**

Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Shimek presented the draft Fair Housing Policy. She noted that the purpose of a fair housing policy is to affirm commitment to ensuring that fair housing opportunities are available to all persons in all housing opportunities and development.

Staff noted that since 2019, the Metropolitan Council has required recipients of Livable Communities Act grant funding to adopt a fair housing policy. Recent grant awards for the 2502 County Road E development project necessitated the City to adopt a fair housing policy at this time to accept the grant funding.

When considering a fair housing policy, staff reviewed a model ordinance from the Met Council and policies from other metro area communities. Based on this review, staff prepared a draft policy for consideration and discussion. Staff noted the draft policy had been analyzed from the lens of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Housing Task Force Report, and the 2024 Strategic Plan, and found to be consistent with these guiding documents. Staff concluded that although this would be a new policy for the City, most of the actions within the policy are typical of work presently being done by City staff in various processes, projects, or in addressing resident inquiries.

Mayor Louismet shared displeasure with the proposed policy as written and compared terminology between the Civil Rights Act and Minnesota Human Rights Act. The mayor went on to say that he fully supports these laws and the City is already legally bound to them; however, he believes the proposed policy as written goes beyond the laws. There was consensus among the Council that the policy should be revised significantly and brought forward for additional review at a work session on July 23.

Adjourned at 8:41 PM