

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for September 3, 2019 to order at 7:00 PM

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Lisa Iverson, Linda Nanko Yeager, Joe Zerwas, Dennis Schilling, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Tom Loonan, Eckberg Lammers, Robb Linwood, City Administrator, Mark Erichson-WSB, Paul Hoppe - Public Safety Director, and Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Iverson – Asked for reports from items that the City has been working on that have been brought up by residents in past Open Forums. She asked for an update on Pioneer Road.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that there was a discussion at a summer Council meeting regarding lighting on Pioneer Road. He stated that they met with Xcel Energy about possibly lighting some of the intersections and determined that there wouldn't be a charge beyond the monthly charge for electricity for the lights. He stated that there was feedback from a resident that was adamantly opposed and shared that they had moved out into the country to not have this kind of LED lighting intrude on their property. He stated that there was another resident that shared the reasons that they felt it was important to have the lighting. He stated that there were also concerns shared about vehicles departing the roadway. He stated that they have taken a look at the whole corridor and it meets the design guidelines for additional lighting but there was the additional concern about vehicles leaving the roadway. He stated that the City added chevron signs at the curve which addresses the safety concerns, but not the lighting. He stated that Xcel has stated that the only lighting option is the LED lights. He stated that he wasn't sure if the residents had seen a difference with the addition of the chevron signage, but wanted to bring it back for Council discussion.

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Safety Director Hoppe if he had seen a difference in the number of vehicles leaving the road in this location.

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Stated that the signs have only been in place a few weeks, but they have not had any vehicles leave the roadway.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that there have been improvements made with the chevron, striping, shoulders, and widening. He stated that lighting was brought up as a possibility and he wanted the Council to give guidance on that issue.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that discussion about Pioneer Road is listed under Old Business on the agenda so further discussion could happen at that point in the meeting.

Mayor Iverson – Asked Public Safety Director Hoppe to give an update on the housing issue that was discussed at the last Council meeting.

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Stated that the department made contact with both the owner and the renter of the 4-plex home on the corner of Felton Avenue. He stated that they were given 24 hours to clear the space or the City would begin citing them. He stated that this resulted in removing 2 junk vehicles and some furniture. He noted that although the dumpster is currently overflowing, he thinks they have made significant progress. He stated that Public Works has also mowed the vacant lot across the street so the whole corner is looking better.

Steve Sicheneder, 6201 266th Court - Stated that he would like to talk about what he saw relating to utility franchise fees. He stated that he feels that is a misnomer because he feels that it is a hidden tax on the residents. He stated that he would prefer the Council simply raise the taxes so the residents would know what they are paying for.

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that the Council has not discussed the use of franchise fees and they are not part of the 2020 budget. There are no proposals to utilize them and it is strictly informational at this time. He explained that many other cities utilize franchise fees and noted that if the City would decide to utilize this funding source, there would be community meetings and other discussions.

Mayor Iverson – Noted that the full Council believes in transparency and noted that the utility franchise fee was included for informational purposes. She explained that she is not in favor of a hidden tax.

Mr. Sicheneder – Stated that the discussion regarding the City building he is concerned that the impression from the information that has been shared is that it is not safe to work in the current building. He stated that he feels the impression is that the employees need to be protected from the citizens. He stated he understands that security needs to be taken into consideration but noted that it seems as though that has been the lead item and reason behind some of the changes.

Mayor Iverson – Stated that every employer has the responsibility to make sure that their employees are safe. She stated that the point isn't that the employees or the City is not safe from the citizens, but there is a responsibility to ensure that the workplace is someplace where they are safe.

Mr. Sicheneder – Stated that from his point of view, he thinks Wyoming is an extremely safe City and does not want to give the impression that it isn't. He stated that he would also like to share that it appears as though there is no maintenance being conducted on the street level storm sewers. He stated that perhaps the City could have a volunteer force that can take on this type of maintenance if there is not staff available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota City Council for August 20, 2019**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ZERWAS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 20, 2019 AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Zerwas, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the "Consent Agenda" will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

2. To consider and application for a Massage Therapist License from Frederick Kuepiel for use at His and Hers Hair Company located at 26699 Faxton Avenue
3. To consider **Resolution 19-09-68** a resolution declaring certain vehicles as surplus property for disposal and authorizing the police department to dispose of vehicles through online auction
4. To consider adopting **Resolution 19-09-69** a Resolution Designating the Polling Place for the 2020 Primary and General Elections.
5. Consider authorizing payment of recommended bills, payroll and Journal Entries for the period of August 21, 2019 through September 3, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO APPROVE #2, #3, #4, AND #5 OF THE WYOMING CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Zerwas, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

6. Report of the Public Safety Director, Paul Hoppe for August 28, 2019
7. Report of City Building Official, Fred Weck, IV for August 30, 2019
8. Report of Public Works Superintendent, Chuck Almhjeld for August 28, 2019
9. Report of City Attorney Tom Loonan for August 29, 2019
10. Report of City Engineer Mark Erichson, WSB for 29, 2019

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

11. To continue discussion about features on Pioneer Road

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that there were some residents that would like to speak regarding Pioneer Road.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that one other thing that he didn't mention earlier is that the City would like to evaluate the speeds along Pioneer Road.

Ed Hein, 25930 East Comfort Drive, Chisago City– Stated that he thinks the City should be concerned about the safety in this area and thinks lights are important.

Ellen Crain, 7507 260th Street – Stated that that lights will be put in at the intersection and these

LED lights are very bright there and then dark outside of that immediate area. She stated that the bus drop offs are not at the intersection so she doesn't think the lighting will make them safer. She asked if there had been a problem with pedestrians being in danger at the intersection of 260th and Pioneer Road.

Public Safety Director Hoppe – Stated that there have not been pedestrian/vehicle incidents at this intersection.

Ms. Crain – Reiterated that she does not think the City needs lighting in this area because it is a fairly rural road. She thanked the City for getting the chevron signs put in so quickly and believes that has helped slow cars down. She stated that if she felt the lights would actually make people safer, she would support them.

Mayor Iverson – Asked if there would be a possibility of installing “old fashioned” lights rather than LED.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that Xcel will only do the LED lighting.

Councilmember Luger – Stated that she would be in favor of exploring dropping the speed limit and taking some time to see how the chevron signs work before installing LED lighting in this area.

Councilmember Zerwas – Agreed and stated that the many of the residents have expressed that they do not want lighting in the area.

The Council discussed the uniqueness of the intersection and the option of waiting to see how things went through the winter and explore the options to reduce the speed limit in this area before a decision is made.

Judy Coughlin, 8161 Pioneer Road – Stated that she believes lowering the speed would help. She stated that the neighbors appreciated what has been done, but would support lowering the speed and believe it will help with the overall safety.

The Council discussed the needed policies for changing the speed limits on State Aid roads.

There was a Consensus of the Council to hold off on a decision about adding lights on Pioneer Road until more data is gathered.

NEW BUSINESS

12. To consider **Resolution 19-09-70** a resolution approving a Site Plan Review: S-19-002 Polaris Parking Lot Expansion 7400 East Viking Boulevard Property ID Number 21.0001.25

City Administrator Linwood – Gave an overview of the proposed parking lot expansion that would provide 190 parking stalls. He noted that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ZERWAS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-09-70 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SITE PLAN FOR THE POLARIS PARKING LOT EXPANSTION AT 7290 EAST VIKING BOULEVARD, SUBJECT TO THE FOUR CONDITIONS INCLUDED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Zerwas, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

13. To consider **Resolution 19-09-71** Site Plan Review S-19-003 A-1 Mini Storage 24060 Greenway Avenue Property ID Number 21.10678.50

City Administrator Linwood – Noted that this business has changed ownership and A-1 should be changed to Gopher State. He gave an overview of the proposed plans to build an additional 4 buildings. He stated that staff, the City Engineer and the Planning Commission recommend approval, with the conditions as listed in the staff report.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Noted that the engineering report expressed concerns about the inverted crowns and slopes that would make driving difficult in the winter. She asked how these concerns will be addressed.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that it is not significant and they have asked that the grading and site plan be modified slightly to address these concerns.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Stated that does not appear to be listed in the current recommendations and conditions and asked if it should be included.

City Engineer Erichson – Stated that it would be helpful to add the conditions as listed in the staff report to the motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ZERWAS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHILLING, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-09-71 APPROVING A SITE PLAN APPLICATION TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR MINI-STORAGE BUILDINGS TOTALING 13,700 SQUARE FEET AT 24060 GREENWAY AVENUE, PROPERTY ID NUMBER 21.10678.50, SUBJECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS AS LISTED IN THE ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Zerwas, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

14. To consider approving a recommended Newsletter and Survey Questions from the Wyoming Planning Commission for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

City Administrator Linwood – Explained that the Planning Commission had been working on this newsletter and survey for a few months. He stated that they are proposing to mail out the newsletter and have the surveys available on-line as well as have hard copies available at public locations around the City along with drop boxes to turn them in. He reviewed a few of the recommended revisions and clerical errors that have been proposed by both Planning Commissioners and Council Members. He stated that the Planning Commission had hoped to have the survey available at Stagecoach Days.

The Council made some language and grammatical changes to the newsletter and the survey.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Zerwas – Attended the budget planning meeting.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Attended the budget planning meeting.

Council Member Luger – Attended the Joint Park Planning Board meeting and the budget meeting.

Council Member Schilling – Attending the budget planning meeting.

Mayor Iverson – Attended the Minnesota Mayor’s Executive Meeting, the Planning Commission

meeting and the budget planning meeting. She reminded residents that Stagecoach Days will be held September 13 and 14, 2019 and will support the Fire Relief Association.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ZERWAS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LUGER, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 "REGULAR MEETING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 8:12 PM.

Voting Aye: Schilling, Nanko Yeager, Luger, Zerwas, Iverson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

A portion of this public meeting may be closed to discuss "Labor Negotiation Strategies"; "Misconduct allegations or charges"; "Attorney-client privilege"; or "Performance evaluations" as per MN State Statute 13D.01-.05.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
7:00PM