



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, October 16, 2023

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Groff, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Christina Cruz-Jennings were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Schroeder moved, Strahan seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items. No one came forward to speak.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Receive and Update from the Roseville Police Department's Multicultural Advisory Commission.

Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 16, 2023.

MAC Committee members present were: Terry Newby and Etienne Djevi

Mr. Newby updated the Council on what MAC has been doing with the City Police Department.

Mr. Djevi reviewed the concept of poverty in the City and the impact of the Lights On program that the City has been doing for the past few years.

Councilmember Strahan thanked Mr. Newby and Mr. Djevi for the update on the partnership with Lights On. She thought it was nice to see it working and in full pace and it was great the City is participating in this influential program. She knew

when she had previous conversations with Mr. Djevi about fear around the police, she was glad to hear about the reduction of unnecessary interactions. She wondered how many members are currently on the MAC and what the relationship was between the City Council and MAC and what MAC does. She noted other Commissioners are appointed by the City Council and the Council loves to know about what the committee is doing but the Council does not have a lot of oversight or impact or decision making. She did not know if there was a formal relationship between the City Council and MAC, but she thought it would be interesting to consider moving forward.

Mr. Newby explained that right now there are twenty listed members of the MAC. There are different levels of participation. He noted the MAC is actively recruiting for membership and hoped to get more members. As far as the relationship with the City Council, he felt Councilmember Strahan was correct and that there was probably not a formal reporting relationship, but he would certainly be happy to do that because he thought it is important. This is a wonderful leadership opportunity for Roseville to show the world what effective community-based policing looks like. He welcomed whatever type of relationship the Council would consider because he viewed this as a way for the Council to promote MAC, which in effect, promotes Roseville and aligns with the community's values.

Mr. Djevi stated with this important data showing the impact of the Lights On program, he wondered if there was any way the City could help get the word out. He stated that the MAC can be doing some of this work with the Police Department since if there is not the capacity to spread the word the community will not know that this work has been done and the day-to-day impact it is having.

Mayor Roe thought there could be a newsletter article done, as a follow up, and maybe a scheduled periodic update from the MAC at a council meeting would be helpful as well.

Councilmember Groff thought this update was helpful because people do watch the Council meetings. He appreciated the update because even being on the Council he has not heard as many details as what was presented. He thought this was very helpful and especially reaching out to the high schools. He thought it was crucial to get some input from the youth because they have a different life experience than someone his age. He wanted to also say that the points made about poverty are important because that is a cycle that can spiral down quickly.

Mayor Roe indicated the other aspect is that often times those very minor automobile equipment violations can be an entry into the criminal justice system for someone, especially if those individuals are unable to pay their fine. If a warrant is issued, it can lead to future problems for the individual. He thought this could become something bad for that individual very quickly for a small equipment violation.

Councilmember Schroeder appreciated the MAC for working on some positive solutions for this and working with the Police Department very closely. She thanked the MAC for all the work that has been done.

Mayor Roe explained regarding the MAC not being directed by the City Council was intentional because people can engage as they are able to and there is not a formal process with an expectation of strict attendance rules. He thought that arrangement made sense.

Mr. Newby agreed and thought the MAC could give regular updates to the City Council or reporting for the Council to see.

Mayor Roe and the City Council thanked the MAC for their update.

Recess

Mayor Roe recessed the meeting at approximately 6:27 p.m., and reconvened at approximately 6:30 p.m.

b. Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission

Planning Commission Chair Michelle Pribyl briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 16, 2023.

Planning Commission Members present were: Chair Pribyl; Commissioners McGehee, Kruzel, Aspnes, Bjorum and Bauer.

Chair Pribyl highlighted a few of the work plan items the Planning Commission spent time on in 2022-2023. She indicated the Commission would like the Council to consider adding a sketch plan review process as a part of the Planning Commission tasks.

Mayor Roe explained as a previous Planning Commission member, he did not want the Planning Commission to feel so constrained that all the Commission can do is to say yes or no to a proposal based on whether it meets the City Code. He thought one of the legitimate and important roles the Commission has is hearing something, if it seems fairly clear to the Commission that something in the Code is not working properly, then a legitimate outcome of consideration of the proposal could be to say either the Commission recommends denial for these reasons or tabling it in order to work on the Code or not make a recommendation and ask the Council if the Commission should look at a particular issue or those types of things. He noted it can be easy to think all that needs to be done is to check the Code and if it matches that is the end of it but he did not want the Commission to feel they were powerless to do anything else.

Councilmember Schroeder agreed because she was looking at one of the Planning Commission items that says, “allow Commission members to add discussion items”. She indicated the Commission was always allowed to do that so she was a little surprised to see that in the information, based on what the Mayor just said. He noted if something were to come up, the Commission could add it to their agenda and talk about it and she hoped the Commission already knew it was something they could do.

Commissioner McGehee thought the issue was because there is not any place on the agenda for the Commission to add anything like that.

Mayor Roe suggested this be looked at because the City has Council’s Rules of Procedure that applies to the City Council and Commissions. Part of that applies to the Council and to the extent that there may be a lack of clarity or good direction to Commissions, he thought the City Council could certainly work on that.

Councilmember Strahan stated as the Commission is looking at items, she appreciated all of the discussions between the Commission in making decisions. She stated the minutes help her when the items come to the Council for a decision. She thought as the City comes to the Sacred Settlement legislation with the State of Minnesota the Planning Commission can help the City apply how that works for Roseville and if there is anything in particular the City needs to do to make sure the City can comply with the law would be very helpful. She appreciated the continued effort to work towards sustainability, but thought even a step further, in her mind, is the walkability of Roseville. She asked if anything can be done within the City’s ability to focus on that. She noted the Commission listed some properties for potential land use applications, and she saw a couple others that are sizable and should probably be on the Commission’s radar as well.

Councilmember Groff stated he finds these things to be interesting because he struggled with the exact same things when he was on the Commission. He hoped some movement forward could be made, noting there was confusion while he was on the Commission about what the Commission was allowed to do.

Mayor Roe indicated regarding the sketch plan review that is a process, in one form or another, that Roseville has done in the past and even some have been done before the City Council at times. One thing the Council set up when the process was revised a number of years ago related to open houses and the notion the City was hearing from residents that residents do not hear about the projects until it is before the City Council. So, hopefully, the open house process has helped people become aware of projects. He wondered if the Planning Commission review should happen before a neighborhood meeting so the developer can understand what some of the issues are that they need to pay attention to when there is an open house.

Chair Pribyl thought it would be helpful to have it as early as possible. Coming from the other side of the table and being an architect, they prefer getting input from jurisdiction as early as possible, so they are not headed down a road that in the end is not going to be something that is enjoyed by the community. She thought the sooner the better and just in terms of procedural element, having it before the open house also gives everyone more time to deal with it rather than having an open house and then a fixed schedule, limitation of time, before a decision is before the Council.

Councilmember Schroeder thought that was a good point because one of the feedback items she gets is that people come and talk and then feel there is nothing they can do or that the decision is already made. She thought if the City allows people to come earlier in the process, maybe they would feel a bit more heard versus when it is already done.

Commissioner Kruzel thought the City needed to make sure to communicate that as well because by the time people hear about a project, it seems to be already done and cannot be changed.

Commissioner McGehee thought sometimes there was a mismatch between the expectations of the community and what the City can do. They may be able to change the zoning in the future to accommodate some of the issues that come up, but it cannot be changed on the fly when the person has their materials there. She thought if the process began with the staff and developer meeting with the community before the developer has put massive amounts of money and effort into having his plan that he is now rolling out in the community, that is the key. She noted the developer, least of all, wants to make a lot of changes when people come before the Planning Commission. She suggested the planning department or a subset of the group participate in that neighborhood open house. She thought that good developers really do want to have their projects accepted to work with the community to the extent they can, but they do not want to be in the position of being forced to do something that they do not want to do also.

Commissioner Bjorum concurred and thought the key to the whole sketch plan process is that it is an informal presentation. It is extremely helpful to just get preliminary sketches, renderings, or something in front of people to get their feedback. But what helps this side of things, is that it puts notes on paper and when that comes to the Commission formally, the Commission has the information previously discussed that were important. This would give the Commission a much more objective look at whether or not this meets the intent of what the City wants the Planning Commission to look at.

Mayor Roe thought that was a great point and something he was going to mention as well, having a sort of single reference document that tracks that feedback and developer response through the process, regardless of whether a sketch plan step is

done or not. He thought that improvement would be helpful and a valuable role for the Planning Commission to play. He could see how that would work and thought they would need to think about the parameters around which types of proposals sketch plans would be done for. He suggested it would be a good idea to get feedback from staff and a development perspective too.

Mayor Roe wondered if there was a way to have a representative or two from the Commission, especially on larger proposals that might be controversial, to attend the Council consideration of that item to make a couple of remarks to summarize the discussion that the Commission had and some of the issues or concerns.

The Council liked the idea of a tracking report from the beginning of a project up to the point it is before the Council because it would help the City to see if there is anything that needs to be looked at and possibly changed in the Code that may not be working.

Chair Pribyl asked whether there was consideration for what the Planning Commission was looking at was incentivizing sustainability. She wondered if that was of interest to the Council, to keep going down that path.

Mayor Roe did not think the Council had a problem with looking at it from that perspective and it made a lot of sense to do that. He thought there was some concern about how bonuses worked and how they worked in conjunction with other bonuses the City already had in the Code.

Commissioner McGehee explained she has a different take on sustainability from anybody here. For her, if there was a pattern or objections that the City had over the past year and a half, it was density in subdivisions. If the City looks seriously at sustainability and realizes that the City has the highest impervious surface of any of the metro area cities, then when they talk about increased density they are talking about increased impermeable surface, fewer trees, and more water runoff and flooding issues, so there are two angles to consider. There is an incentive angle and there is also a zoning issue where the City thinks about the community at large. She thought the City should pay attention to both sides of sustainability. The other one is the environmental side and what kind of environment is the City creating in terms of air quality, health, noise, traffic, all of those things that are impermeable surface is a part of that. When looking at the Zoning Code, she was surprised and thought there were things within the Code that could be looked at.

Mayor Roe thought this was always the challenge because ultimately, even if there are objections, those objections often do not rise to the level of something that is actually not allowed in the Code. So, the City is not able to do anything but approve the project, but the City can try to deal with issues as early in the process as possible.

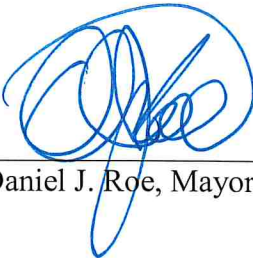
Mayor Roe and the City Council appreciated the joint meeting and indicated the Planning Commission can come to the City Council anytime with questions.

- 8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items**
- 9. Approval of City Council Minutes**
- 10. Approve Consent Agenda**
- 11. Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager**
City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the October 23, 2023 City Council meeting, November 6, 2023 EDA meeting and the November 6, 2023 City Council meeting.
- 12. Adjourn**
Strahan moved, Groff seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 7:13 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager