



**Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, July 15, 2024**

1. Roll Call

Acting Mayor Groff called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Strahan. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Rachel Tierney were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

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

Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Groff, Strahan, and Schroeder.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Acting Mayor Groff called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items. No one appeared to speak.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

6. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Receive Organizational Equity Update

Equity and Inclusion Manager Antonio Montez briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated July 15, 2024. He explained what equity and inclusion meant to him.

Assistant Fire Chief Neil Sjostrom updated the City Council on the Fire Department's equity programs, partnerships, and initiatives.

Acting Mayor Groff indicated he liked the Fire Department's outreach program and also the cadet program.

Police Chief Erika Scheider updated the City Council on the Police Department's equity work, homeless outreach, Alternative Response Initiative, and co-response. She also reviewed the recruitment and hiring with the Cadet program and Internships and Pathways to Policing grant and ICPOET.

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Councilmember Schroeder indicated when she goes door knocking, one hundred percent of the people she talks to love the Roseville Police Department, so it shows the work the Police Department has been doing in the community on all levels that people appreciate, respect and support which is nice and something that does not happen easily.

Councilmember Strahan thanked Chief Scheider for the work with the high school and the students. She thought it was impactful and says a lot and is diverse in many ways.

Councilmember Etten concurred with all that was said.

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer updated the Council on programs and initiatives supporting a safe, inclusive, and well-connected transportation and infrastructure system including pathways, benches, and curb upgrades. He also reviewed the Snelling and County Road B Pedestrian Study and the Bike Plan.

Councilmember Schroeder explained the Public Works Department does a great job snow plowing the sidewalks and roads, noting she receives many compliments from people outside of the city. She also sees a lot of people in the winter with strollers and wheelchairs on the sidewalks and she is amazed that the work is done so well that people can do that in the city.

Councilmember Etten wondered if looking back, is the City meeting its goals as it relates to the every other side plowing.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the City department can do that and update the City Council.

Councilmember Strahan thought it was important to let people know that as a part of the snowplowing in Roseville, the City tries to avoid towing cars of people who are poor or who do not have the need. By allowing people to park somewhere else, the City is giving people the opportunity to save the extra towing fee and take time off to get to the impound lot.

Community Development Director Janice Gundlach updated the Council on programs and initiatives to support a thriving community, including quality housing and businesses.

Parks and Recreation Director Matt Johnson updated the City Council on programs and initiatives that embrace diversity through multicultural public programming, public gathering spaces, and parks.

Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson updated the Council on administration programs and initiatives that create a community that is welcoming and inclusive of all people regardless of their identity.

Councilmember Schroeder commented on the impact statement. She would like to see this expanded to be inclusive of all the different groups involved.

Mr. Montez concluded the topic with three key takeaways, Equity and Inclusion, Long Range Plan, and Departmental Equity Updates. He was excited to partner with the community and Council on this really important work.

The City Council thanked Mr. Montez and the City Staff for the update.

Recess

Acting Mayor Groff recessed the meeting at approximately 7:49 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 7:53 p.m.

b. Receive the Preliminary 2025-2044 Capital Improvement Plan

Finance Director Michelle Pietrick briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated July 15, 2024.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked Ms. Pietrick for spending time with her going over the spreadsheets. She took the spreadsheets from last year and compared them to this year's spreadsheets. She explained she knew some of the costs are updated and part of this is some items were added. She mentioned some items that were changed and added. She indicated in the General Facilities fund, the expenditures went up eighty-five percent from last year's spreadsheet because the Oval expenses are back in there. She thought if the City gets bonding, it should help that line a little bit because right now, bonding is not in the spreadsheet. The street light expenditures were up three hundred ninety-one percent from the previous spreadsheet because Xcel's contract expired. The City did not realize that Xcel would not continue to cover the expenses so the City had to quickly come up with the money for that. The park improvement has a line for Natural Resources with a flat fifty thousand dollars in it each year. She noted each year, the Parks Department has a Natural Resources Plan, which is very detailed with a lot of projects. She explained the Path and Parking Lot Maintenance has a new line in the spreadsheet with an additional fifty thousand dollars a year, which had a big impact on that particular fund. That is for the new pathway construction.

Councilmember Etten explained he was struck by what a significant negative change the City has in the projections from a year ago and three years ago.

Ms. Pietrick indicated that is because last year, the Council directed her to remove all tax levy increases for outlying years. The second driver is the cost of vehicles, which has gone up significantly.

Councilmember Etten explained he would note that the City should be wary when talking about the City borrowing over and over again. Certainly, there are targeted reasons to borrow sometimes but for those going to be on the City Council longer, there are consequences to that. He noted that being thoughtful about thinking ahead and putting money in the bank puts the City in a much better financial situation.

Public Comment

Acting Mayor Groff offered an opportunity for public comment with no one coming forward.

Acting Mayor Groff thanked Ms. Pietrick for the presentation and discussion.

c. Review Sales Tax Referendum Ballot Questions

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated July 15, 2024.

City Attorney Tierney advised the Council that this is not the time to try to stack the deck. This is the time to try to make sure the voters are informed, and that the language is as clear as possible for as many people as possible to understand. She thought that protecting the City legally was also a good policy.

Councilmember Strahan indicated currently as written this could be misleading, so she was looking for clarity. It is written as: "The sales tax for new parks and public works maintenance facility". However, if a person read the top portion only, the person would assume that there were new parks and a public works maintenance facility. She proposed it state "For new public works and parks maintenance facility". She felt that "new parks" could be misleading as people will think that parks will be impacted. She would make that change throughout all of the language.

Councilmember Etten agreed with that as a clarity point. He would offer that just calling this a maintenance facility undercuts what it is. He looked at the numbers he was communicating with Mr. Trudgeon and that these are big numbers, so making sure that people are aware of what is going on a little better is best. He would word it "maintenance and operation facility for Public Works and Parks". The only word he thought that needed to be added was "operation" but it is an understanding that this is not just a place where the City fixed trucks for sixty-four million dollars.

City Attorney Tierney noted the title itself has to be ten words and this is already at ten words. She explained the City can have additional information to the question but the title is limited to ten words.

Mr. Trudgeon suggested swapping out the word “maintenance facility” for “operations facility”. He noted the City generally calls it a maintenance facility but it is much more than that. It is used for storage, operations, equipment, and material storage, as well as administrative offices.

Acting Mayor Groff indicated he liked the word “maintenance” because he thought “operations” was a vague term for people to understand.

City Attorney Tierney explained one option might be to state “New Public Works and Parks Facility”, and within the body, talk about maintenance, storage, and operations facility or just elaborate on the purpose within the paragraph but keep that question tight.

Councilmember Schroeder indicated she liked that.

Councilmember Strahan explained she preferred option two. It does make it exceptionally long but felt that telling people what that Yes vote equals is very important because otherwise, the message you need to have in advance is much greater whereas the decision can be made when they are in the ballot box.

City Attorney Tierney explained if the vote was a levy increase, the vote Yes language is required. In her research on what other jurisdictions have done in these questions, some are including the Vote Yes language, and fewer are including both Vote Yes and Vote No language. It is not required for the sales tax measures. It is required under State Law for levy increases.

Councilmember Etten indicated he felt the No language was extremely long, confusing, and ended up with zero new information for the public. If it is decided to go with option two, he would not want the No language because it reduces clarity for the public.

Councilmember Schroeder agreed. She thought if the No language was put in, then it would need to be expanded to explain what the City would get, such as bonding or a tax levy.

Councilmember Etten thought if that was the message the City wants to send to the residents, it should be part of the educational pieces rather than something on a ballot that people will not read.

The consensus of the Council was to remove the No language in option two.

The Council discussed the title of the question.

Mr. Roger Hess, Wagener Place

Mr. Hess asked if the title could remove the word “and” and replace it with a slash “Public Works/Parks”

City Attorney Tierney indicated she did not think that was a great drafting technique to say the words.

Mr. Trudgeon indicated the title could read “Sales tax for public works and parks operations facility”, and drop the word “new” which leaves the title with nine words. He also would remove the No language in option two. He indicated for the License and Passport Center, there is the word “new” in there. He assumed the Council would want to drop the No language in option two for this question as well with similar language.

Councilmember Strahan indicated the word “new” could be removed from this question as well.

Councilmember Etten wondered if there needs to be an explanation that there will be park facilities on the second level of this structure.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed License and Passport Center building.

City Attorney Tierney indicated she had the direction needed from the City Council.

8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items

9. Approve Minutes

10. Approve Consent Agenda

11. Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the July 22, 2024, City Council meeting, August 5, 2024, City Council meeting, August 15, 2024, or August 16, 2024, City Council meeting, August 19, 2024, City Council meeting and the August 21, 2024, and August 22, 2024 (tentative), City Council meeting (Interviews for Equity and Inclusion Commission).

12. Adjourn

Etten moved, Schroeder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m.

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Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Groff, Strahan, and Schroeder.

Nays: None.

ATTEST:


Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager


Wayne Groff, Acting Mayor