City of
ROSEVILLE
Minnesota, USA

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, September 16, 2024

1. **Roll Call**
Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Groff, Strahan, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe. 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: Groff, Strahan, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.
Nays: None.

4. **Public Comment**
Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items.

Mr. Roger Hess, Jr., Wagener Place, explained the Ramsey County Lake McCarrons park has been getting overrun by homeless people recently as well as he had a homeless person sleeping on his porch without his permission. He wondered if there was anything the City could do to help this situation.

Mayor Roe thanked Mr. Hess for his comments and thought the City could hold a neighborhood meeting regarding this at some point, referring the matter to City staff for follow-up.

5. **Recognitions, Donations, and Communications**

6. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

7. **Business Items**
   a. **Joint Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission**
   Parks and Recreation Commission members present were: Chair Lindsay Matts-Benson, Vice Chair Karen Beckman, Commissioners Jammie Penny, Daryl Brown, Joe Arneson, Audrey Arneson, and Jessica Raygor.

   Parks Commission Chair Matts-Benson briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated September 16, 2024.

Chair Matts-Benson and Vice Chair Beckman gave a presentation on work highlights, Commission Community Engagement, and ongoing initiatives on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Brown presented an update on the implementation of the new Natural Resources Plan and project list.

Chair Matts-Benson reviewed the process for the recommended name for the new park at 2381 County Road B, Sunset Park. She also updated the Council on the consideration of an amendment to a "willing seller" land acquisition in the Parks Master Plan Policy 3.7.

Chair Matts Benson asked if there were any initiatives from the City Council for the Parks Commission to investigate.

Councilmember Strahan explained there is a need for bike racks in the parks because there are insufficient quantities. She hoped the Parks Commission would consider that a weakness or opportunity for discussion (referencing the commission's SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats – analysis included in the meeting materials). She agreed that looking at the music was a good idea, and the City has been asked to look into getting dog parks. She asked if the Park Commission had any ideas or thoughts on a community center in the City.

Chair Matts-Benson explained part of growing up in Roseville there was a type of partnership with the schools where Fairview was considered more as a community center. There is not a lot of good public use space in Roseville for a community center. There is Cedarholm and park shelters but not a big, fancy community center with a waterpark and gym, and having that hub in the City means a lot to the people—a place to meet and gather in the City.

Commissioner Arneson thought instead of a community center, people have to look at the things the City has that other communities do not have. Roseville and the State have put a lot of money into the OVAL. There are meeting rooms there and he felt that Roseville, for its size, has this national facility and has taken over a lot of the space a community center money would have gone towards. A lot of people in the City use the OVAL too. He thought Roseville pushed for the OVAL more than a community center at the time. He noted he would love to see a community center in Roseville but the push to build it and where to put it would be a big task and financial burden.

Youth Commissioner Arneson thought having a place like the community center would be helpful as a place to study with friends, not always going to the library or a place to eat and spend money. She also thought having a place to work out would also be nice and a little less expensive than the gyms around Roseville.

Councilmember Etten indicated he did not see any open spaces for park acquisition in the area referenced by the commission unless a house was purchased and removed.

Commissioner Arneson explained that it is fair to say but if there is an owner who has a parcel with potential for more development, and if that land became available and was next to a nice park, and could fill out a spot in the park, it would be a valuable piece of land. It would be nice to consider that as an opportunity to purchase, if that is possible. That would be a house that would be removed for parkland. It is not something that the City would do often but is more where the name "Sunset Park" came from. He noted that was a piece of property he wished the City could have purchased but without a willing buyer/willing seller, the City was not able to move forward with that. Luckily there is a park there and did meet the criteria. He thought moving forward in a landlocked city, if there was a piece of land available, even if it was an industrial place next to a park, it would be nice to have the ability to purchase that piece.

Councilmember Etten indicated the City was working with a homeowner a few blocks east of the proposed "Sunset Park" and that did not work out so that is something the City should always be considering and thinking about. He thought if HarMar ever redevelops or changes, theoretically, park dedication might kick in or some sort of an agreement would go there. There seems to be a potential for something to occur there in the future.

The Council and Commission discussed development properties in the City that might be acquired for City use and the land trust policy as well as City policy that might need to be changed.

Councilmember Groff indicated he liked the Parks Commission work plan and the way it was organized with point people on the plan reporting back to the Commission.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked the Parks Commission and was impressed with how involved everyone was. She indicated the parks are an important area of the City and she appreciated all the work being done. She thought it made sense to prioritize the park list because it is impossible to get it all done. She noted everything costs money and there is no free space, and the money usually comes from property taxes. As the Commission is looking at these things and priorities the Commission needs to take into consideration the costs.

Councilmember Etten stated that when the Parks Commission begins to look at the Natural Resources Master Plan, which is a continuation of work started years ago and very important for the community, they should keep in mind all the work that has been done to date and that work is not lost. He asked as the Parks Commission moves through that process if there will be a prioritization per park per the whole system and how will that come back for decisions.

Commissioner Brown thought that was a good question and what the Parks Commission would be discussing at their upcoming meeting. Volunteers are a part of this, and they want to keep that ongoing and expand. He explained the process that the Parks Commission will be following and what is feasible as far as prioritization goes.

Mayor Roe wondered if the City could consider some type of park land trust similar to the housing land trust. That might be something to investigate as a possibility. He confirmed with the commission and staff that the natural resources discussion includes non-park City property and mitigation of invasive species, etc. He echoed all the work that the Parks Commission has done and for taking the time to be at the joint meeting to discuss the work plan.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, officially naming the new park at 2381 County Road B "Sunset Park".

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff thought this was a good name and agreed with Commissioner Arneson about getting to see a nice sunset from that park and since it fits the City's naming requirement, he supported of this.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.
Nays: None.

b. Receive Finance Commission Recommendations on the 2025 City Manager Budget, Tax Levy, and 2025-2044 CIP

Finance Commissioners at the meeting were: Chair Bruce Bester, Vice Chair Joe Tupy, Commissioners Anna Vervoort, Dan and Sagisser.

Finance Commission Chair Bester briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated September 16, 2024.

Chair Bester gave a presentation to the City Council on the 2025 City Manager Budget, Tax Levy and 2025-2044 CIP. He noted the Finance Commission is satisfied that the City can make its budgets and keep the City healthy.

Councilmember Groff appreciated the Finance Commission report and indicated he liked the perspective and analysis, which is very helpful. He asked if the

Commission has seen anything in the budget that concerns them other than the City should look at borrowing rather than adding on in the future years.

Chair Bester explained borrowing would be on the top of his list because he thought that represents a level of being quite conservative and appropriately built-in within the budget or perhaps, they could do a better job of doing things such as the investment recommendations the Commission has made that remains out there as an open item. The Commission felt this was a very conservative budget and approach.

Commissioner Sagisser indicated he had the opinion that the City has been cautious over the past couple of years because the economy has been weird with very high increases in how much people are being taxed. The hope is that if the trends continue, they hoped that the City could be less cautious about spending and no longer try to defer things until later. The Commission is also trying to make sure there is enough money in all the funds to cover the project costs in coming years, assuming the trend continues.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked the Commission for the presentation. She indicated long-term assets and long-term debt are something to look at. If the City were to use the current operating money to pay for long-term assets it would not make sense for a long period. Debt is not necessarily a bad thing and could be a good thing and is something worth thinking about.

The Council and Commission discussed borrowing money for long-term assets.

Councilmember Strahan indicated since she has been on the Council the Master Campus Plan has been on the schedule and she wondered if the Finance Commission has addressed at all the cost-effectiveness such as market rate versus potentially locating something like that in a more industrial area of Roseville. She realizes that the City currently owns that property and that comes with some great assets to them, but it is in the middle of the City where probably there is a higher market rate. She would appreciate it if the Finance Commission brought this up or would be willing to, in the future, give the Council a perspective with that information.

Chair Bester indicated the Finance Commission would be willing to give the Council some perspective. They were asked early on in the process but did not go too far down the road. He thought it was a logical question and one he did bring up early on in the process.

City Manager Trudgeon indicated he did present the project to the Finance Commission a couple of months including the costs and staging of it. He noted that quite frankly, the decision to locate over there had been made previously by the Council and was not something he brought forward to the Commission as an alternative to be looked at since it was decided previously. The Commission was more focused on the cost, the process, and understanding the sales tax and the phasing. As the City gets further into the bids and borrowing, there is going to be more interaction with the Finance Commission and if nothing else, to update them on the project.

Chair Bester asked if the City was past the point where conversations could be entertained and investigating the market.

Mayor Roe thought the City was past that point in the process. He explained he could not imagine a seventy-two-million-dollar project that acquiring the necessary eight acres of land in industrial property is going to make the project cheaper. He could not even conceive of that possibility because right now, the City has land that it already owns, and it costs that much money. It seemed to him that the question had already been answered. He did not think it would be something the Council would direct the Finance Commission to look at.

Councilmember Strahan did not think the community realized that there was no going back. She did not think the community had the understanding that this was a done deal and that they had no choice. This has been a concern when bringing it up to people and they are wondering why the City is asking them for a property tax amendment for this ballot initiative because the City is going to do it even if the residents do not want to. The City will put it there even if the residents do not want it there and she thought this was a decision before she had joined the Council for three and a half years, which means that it preceded Councilmember Schroeder. Not to say there are other options, but it is hard to say that a decision made by people who no longer are on the Council, that it is the way it has to be moving forward. She finds that frustrating on behalf of the community that the City is locked into that no matter what. She realizes that a lot of pieces have been put together and there have been studies and all kinds of other things done that did cost money. But there are a lot of other moving parts to this, and a lot of people who are very frustrated and sad that this continues to move forward without their understanding. People did not realize that six years ago they had to give their opinion against it for it to stop and to do anything further than what is happening right now.

Mayor Roe noted the Commission does not have to answer that. He explained that since the beginning of time, there had been people serving on City Councils who have made decisions that have impacted the future of the City and just because those people leave the Council, it does not mean that the City stops, changes everything, and goes back on all the decisions that were made. He indicated that is a preposterous proposition. It would mean chaos and business could not be done by cities if that happened. Now, if there is a change to the majority of the Council and there is a Council that wants to vote to reverse a decision, that is always possible, but there are consequences to those decisions as well. He thought if the ballot question does not pass, the City has a decision to make about how to finance the project going forward because then that option is off the table unless there is a way to go back and try again. If the sales tax did not get passed by the voters, the City would have to take a serious look at how it would proceed or whether the City would proceed on that project. But the City does not yet know the answer to that question because that has not happened. Mayor Roe noted the process to get to where it is now was certainly not without public engagement, including hearing from neighbors and very valid concerns about noise and other aspects of the project. He thought the Council also has some strong feelings about how the project is ultimately designed and built in terms of the impact and the visual relationships to the neighborhood around it, things like that. The Council will be continuing as a Council to make those decisions and will cross those bridges as they come before the Council.

Mayor Roe and the City Council thanked the Commission for the information.

c. Approve 1 Temporary Liquor License

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated September 16, 2024.

Schroeder moved, Etten seconded, approving the temporary liquor license for Roseville Lutheran Church.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.
Nays: None

d. Consider Possible Additional Appointment to the Equity and Inclusion Commission

Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated September 16, 2024.

Councilmember Etten explained as a part of this discussion the Council needs to consider that the person who turned down the appointment was one of the required two that had to have an initial three-year term so there would need to be some shifting done.

Councilmember Schroeder indicated she would be comfortable moving ahead with four Commission Members because to her nothing changed, and when the Council had this conversation last time, she thought there was agreement that the Council wanted to do this right instead of fast. She thought this was an important commission, would like to remain with the four members, and open this up to try to get more people to apply for this and ensure the right mixture.

Councilmember Strahan proposed the Council accept the candidate that got three out of five votes, which would normally be a majority for most of the voting unless it required a supermajority to get five candidates.

Councilmember Groff noted one of the arguments he heard at the last meeting was that there needed to be an uneven number of Commissioners so if there is a vote, there would be a three majority. Otherwise, there would be a two-two split vote. He would support the other candidate that he supported last time, and the City would still have two spots to fill. He wondered what the City would do differently next time to encourage more applicants unless there is a plan in place to increase that number.

Councilmember Etten explained he was not prepared to add another person based on the big picture and would lean toward Councilmember Schroeder's feeling on this. He thought the Commission would still operate with four commissioners.

Mayor Roe thought if it was another Commission like the Planning Commission that is taking votes frequently, he might be more concerned about the even versus odd number of members. He hoped this Commission would work more on a consensus model anyway in handling their business. He noted he did not tally for the person that received three tallies and he did not know that he was one hundred percent sure that he would be supportive of adding that individual to the Commission at this point. He would tend to lean towards sticking with four commissioners.

Councilmember Strahan pointed out that the person did bring a different dynamic and a different set of lived experiences than several of the other people, noting she had to double check that she knew which one was from which so she thought if the Council wanted a truly diverse set of people, the Council needs to pay attention to someone that is out their comfort zone and into something that may be the best fit for this group of people.

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, approval of the additional candidate with three tallies to the Commission to bring the Commission to a make up of five.

Mayor Roe noted the additional candidate would be Michelle Doyal, who had three tallies on the previous go around, to be the fifth member.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff stated the Council was going to ask people to be on these commissions and they make a good faith effort coming in, and then the Council rejects more than half of the applicants, he thought the Council was making quite a statement to the population of Roseville. He thought that anyone who votes against someone qualified should keep that in mind.

Roll Call
Ayes: Groff, Strahan.
Nays: Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.

Mayor Roe indicated the motion does not pass and there needs to be an adjustment to the appointment schedule. He asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

The Council discussed the appointment schedule.

Etten moved, Schroeder seconded, to move Mr. Chan from a two-year term to a three-year term.

Roll Call
Ayes: Groff, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.
Nays: None
Abstain: Strahan

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 September 23, 2024, City Council meeting, September 25, 2024, City Council Strategic Planning meeting, October 7, 2024, City Council meeting, October 11, 2024, City Council Strategic Planning Meeting, and the October 14, 2024, City Council Work Session meeting.

12. Adjourn

Groff moved, Etten seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call
Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Etten, Schroeder, and Roe.
Nays: None.

Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager