

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 19, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Windschitl at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Present: Mayor Windschitl and Councilmembers Grau, Hatfield, Hubbard, and Huang.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Noel Graczyk, Administrative Services Director; Kevin Wright, Communication Director; Elise Durbin, Assistant Administrator; Marshall Grange, Parks and Recreation Director; Nate Kabat, Community Development Director; Liz Hanson, City Planner; Jake Saufley, City Attorney; Matt Haefner, Water and Sewer Director; and Matt Clark, City Engineer.

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. Stephanie Poppler – Daughter of Bill Schalow

Stephanie Poppler stated the family was not informed of the meeting, so they could not be in attendance. She noted she was unhappy with the settlement offer and has done plenty of research on the easement. The road should have been built. She asked where the money is for the project as the road is in each and every drawing.

Ms. Poppler pointed out the Council was insinuating their family is cowardly and has poor character. The Council should have gone with the cheapest route earlier on as it will be more costly for the Council now.

Councilmember Grau stated he is another resident of the City that happens to be able to make decisions. He can never make everyone happy. It is inappropriate for members of the Council to be personally attacked.

City Attorney Jake Saufley recommended no one on the Council speak as the matter is under litigation. City Administrator Matt Podhradsky added any communication has to go through their attorney. He suggested a closed session be held if the Council would like more information.

Councilmember Grau stated he would like to be more informed on the matter.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the November 17, 2022, November 21, 2022, and December 5, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022, November 21, 2022, and December 5, 2022 City Council meetings.
Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through G:

A. License Agreement between the City of Chaska and Metro Fibernet LLC.

Motion to approve the attached pole attachment license agreement between the City of Chaska and Metro Fibernet LLC.

B. Municipal Tort Liability Limits

Motion to direct the City Administrator to inform the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust that the City of Chaska elects not to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statute.

C. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-143 MnDOT Agency Agreement for Federal Projects

Motion to Adopt a Resolution 2022-143 Authorizing MnDOT to Accept Federal Funds on Behalf of the City of Chaska.

D. Lease agreement with the Chaska Historical Society

Motion to approve the lease agreement with the Chaska Historical Society and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute such agreement.

E. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-145 Interfund Loan Financing of Capital Equipment Replacement and Capital Improvement Projects

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-145 Approving Interfund Loan Financing of Capital Equipment Replacement and Capital Improvement Projects.

F. Letter of Support: City of Chaska Quick-Build / Demonstration Project Technical Assistance Application

Motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the attached letter in support of the City's application to the MNDOT Quick-Build / Demonstration Project Technical Assistance Grant.

G. Adopt Resolution 2022-148, Establish 2022 Interfund Tax Increment Financing

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-148, establishing terms and conditions of interfund loans.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Public Hearing: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-144 Approving the Right of Way Easement Vacation with Downtown Block 16/City of Chaska/PC #2022-60

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Community Development Director Nate Kabat provided a presentation on it.

Mayor Windschitl opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Paul May, 503 Beach Street, noted he has no objection to abandoning the easement. However, there are pine trees on the alley way. There are four trees the City has the responsibility of removing. Two were recently removed as they were dead, and there is another dead tree that needs to be removed as it endangers his storage shed and garage.

Mr. Kabat stated it is the plan to remove additional trees, but he will ensure the dead trees are addressed.

Mayor Windschitl closed the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Huang to adopt Resolution No. 2022-144 to approve Vacating the Right-of-Way Easement and Reserving Drainage and Utility Easements Within a Public Way Located upon Block 16 of the Plat to the TOWNSITE (NOW CITY) OF CHASKA Recorded in Carver County as Plat No. 30050 (PC #2022-60).
Motion carried.

8.B. Adopt Resolution 2022-147 – 2023 Tax Levy and General/Enterprise Fund Budgets

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council provided a presentation on it.

Mayor Windschitl noted there have been a number of presentations, discussions, and work sessions regarding the budget. Additionally, the community has been engaged throughout its development. He listed a number of ongoing projects in the City.

Councilmember Hatfield agreed the process is not easy, but Staff was very creative with the budget.

Councilmember Hubbard pointed out some aspects are difficult to quantify related to lack of recruitment due to the state of the buildings but do have an impact on the ability to offer services.

Councilmember Huang stated he always has a difficulty raising taxes. He explained the current Council is adding onto the work of its predecessors.

Councilmember Grau added the Council relied on the feedback of community surveys in the decision-making. The surveys showed support of improving City facilities.

Mayor Windschitl noted the pandemic impacted the ability to build the building for public safety sooner. The local economy is still strong, which makes the budgetary decisions easier.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution 2022-147 setting the 2023 property tax levy and establishing the 2022 budget for the General and Enterprise Fund Budgets.
Motion carried.

City Administrator Podhradsky noted the City will try to prepare the facilities as soon as possible since the money has been allotted to the facility improvements.

8.C. Establish 2023 Utility Rates

8.C.i. Adopt Ord. No. 2022-1028 Electric Rates for 2023 and RES No. 2022-149 Summary Publication

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and provided a presentation on it.

Mayor Windschitl noted the City doesn't have much control over the sewer rates.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-1028 establishing 2023 Electric Utility Rates.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution 2022-149 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 2022-1028.

Motion carried.

8.C.ii. Adopt Ord. No. 2022-1027 Water & Sewer Rates for 2023 and RES No. 2022-150 Summary Publication

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Huang to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-1027 establishing 2023 Water and Sewer Utility Rates.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adopt Resolution 2022-150 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 2022-1027.

Motion carried.

8.C.iii. Adopt RES No. 2022-151 Stormwater Utility Residential Equivalency Factor

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution 2022-151 establishing 2023 Storm Water Utility Rates.

Motion carried.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 19-December-2022

The Council requested further information about bills on pages 5, 7, and 26.

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further information regarding those bills.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the bills as presented. Roll call was taken. Voting aye: Councilmembers Hatfield, Hubbard, Huang, Grau and Mayor Windschitl. Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Bi-Weekly Report 19-December-2022

Councilmember Hubbard:

- Noted a Community Center Task Force meeting was held where potential options were reviewed.
- Thanked the organizations and people that contributed to the Heroes and Helpers program.
- Stated she took her son to open skate and met several people who rejoined the Community Center for the skating rink and birthday party hosting options.
- Pointed out a number of seats in the Commissions are open and need applications, particularly the Planning Commission.
- Thanked the Public Works Department for their plowing and other maintenance of streets.
- Wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilmember Huang:

- Agreed the Heroes and Helpers event was phenomenal.
- Noted Chaska has a Santa Tracker on the City website.
- Pointed out SW Transit is still looking for a new CEO. Also, he will no longer be the Chair, and it would be taken over by Chanhassen with Eden Prairie as the Vice Chair. He added there is a peak of ridership on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are new records set every month showing the need for the transportation.
- Wished everyone happy holidays and noted the dates for Hannukah and Kwanzaa.

Councilmember Grau:

- Stated the local sports associations have hosted impactful events included younger kids in the community lately.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Explained the Santa Parade will be held December 21 at 5:00 p.m.
- Noted the next meetings are January 9, 2023 and January 23, 2023.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Pointed out there will be an ice hockey event in the new year the weekend before the ice fishing contest.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Motion carried.