

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 15, 2024

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; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Nate Kabat, Community Development Director; Christophe Morschen, City Attorney; and Matt Clark, City Engineer.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. Michelle Arnett - Concerns regarding Highway 10 Development impacting Skyview Dr.
Michelle Arnett, 1549 Skyview Drive, explained she attended the Highway 10 public meeting recently. It seemed to be a proposed project at the meeting, but the County representatives have said otherwise. After speaking with the County, they directed her to speak with the City. Safety is only addressed at the main intersection. However, there isn't any information about the impact on Skyview Drive. She has concerns regarding the roundabouts, particularly with the speed, snow implications, and impacts on property values. Ms. Arnett proposed an alternative solution of speed bumps on Skyview Drive. It enhances safety, decreases speed, and decreases noise.

Mayor Windschitl asked if Ms. Arnett thought there would be increased traffic on Skyview Drive. Ms. Arnett explained the speed limit is 30 miles per hour on the residential street, and there isn't an option to reduce the speed. Skyview Drive is on a downward slope, and the speed limit is often broken. Speed bumps would be a way to keep the children of the neighborhood safe.

Mayor Windschitl asked where the cars are going. Ms. Arnett stated Skyview Drive is used as a shortcut for other areas. Regardless, the downward slope and speed limit are unsafe.

City Administrator Podhradsky agreed Ms. Arnett's neighborhood is used as a shortcut because people want to avoid the intersection at 41 and Engler. Councilmembers Hatfield and Grau agreed it is a shortcut area.

Ms. Arnett stated the downward slope and speed limit are unsafe, even if the roundabouts were to redirect traffic. Councilmember Grau stated if the shortcuts were eliminated, then any people speeding would be neighbors. Also, speed bumps are an issue with snow removal.

Councilmember Hubbard stated the people that live in front of the speed bump may benefit from the slower traffic, but drivers make up for that speed between the bumps. Also, drivers may drive on the sidewalk to avoid the bumps.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated the cut-through traffic could be reduced with improvements to the lights on 41.

Ms. Arnett stated if speed bumps are not a viable option, she suggested there be stop signs added to the two streets that intersect Skyview Drive and children's warning signs.

Councilmember Hatfield agreed people drive too quickly on residential streets. A possible solution could be through additional enforcement.

Councilmember Grau thanked Ms. Arnett for bringing her concerns to the Council, and her feedback is important. He agreed with City Administrator Podhradsky that getting the cars to the proper roads would be helpful.

Ms. Arnett stated the construction project won't be complete for a number of years. She requested stop signs in the interim. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the City would have to do an analysis to warrant stop signs. He obtained Ms. Arnett's phone number to follow up with her.

Ms. Arnett thanked the Council for their time.

Mayor Windschitl asked if there are additional visitors looking to speak.

Christian Luken, 30 River Bend Place, explained he is in attendance at the Council meeting to complete a school assignment.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the April 1, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Grau to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Huang pointed out the value in the McKnight Wetland Bank Conservation Easement is extremely impactful and unique to Chaska.

(22:00) Mayor Windschitl asked where the Seminary Fen is located. City Engineer Clark stated there is a trail near the Xcel transmission line.

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

A. Approve Temporary On-Sale Liquor License - Chaska Lions Club

Motion to approve Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating License TW 24.02 for the Chaska Lions Club, that allows them to serve intoxicating beverages at Chaska Lions Wood Bat Tournament, on June 14th-16th, 2024.

B. On-Sale Liquor at Community Event - Oak 19 Fare and Refreshment

Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF24.01, for Oak 19 Fare and Refreshment, 3000 Town Course Drive, Chaska MN for The Loop at Chaska Grand Opening, effective May 5th, 2024.

C. Approve Lieutenants Contract for 2024-2025

Motion to approve the Labor Agreement between The City of Chaska and the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local #447 (Lieutenants) for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

D. Approve McKnight Wetland Bank Conservation Easement

Motion to Approve the Conservation Easement Agreement for the McKnight Wetland Bank and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to fully execute.

E. Accept Seminary Fen C-2 Ravine Stabilization Grant

Motion to execute grant agreement and associated work plan with the Board of Soil and Water Resources to accept \$615,000 in grant funds for the stabilization of Seminary Fen Ravine C-2. Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Designation of Official Newspaper

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

Councilmember Hubbard noted the School Board was able to post notifications online. City Administrator Podhradsky explained the School Board obtained special legislation, and there is potential for cities to have similar rules in the future.

Mayor Windschitl stated the system is antiquated. The *Chaska Herald* has been around for a number of years and has preserved the history of Chaska. It is sad to see the newspaper go, and it is a big loss for the City. He thanked the newspaper and its staff for its service to Chaska over the years.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hatfield to appoint the *Patriot* as the City's new official newspaper for the remainder of 2024.

Councilmember Huang pointed out many newspapers have closed all over the country and are a challenge for smaller communities. Several newspapers in the surrounding area are also closing. The *Herald* is one of the longest-operating newspapers in the State. It was founded when Abraham Lincoln was President during the Civil War while Minnesota was still grappling

with the Dakota War of 1862. Also, milk pasteurization had just been invented and Congress had recently approved the printing of dollar bills. It was 14 years before the invention of the telephone, 17 years before the lightbulb, 24 years before the car as it is known today, and 41 years before a successful plane.

Motion carried.

8.B. Adopting Resolution 2024-34 voting against the installation of proposed noise walls along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 and Trunk Highway 41 as part of the Highway 41/CSAH 10 project

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Luke Schwarz, Carver County representative, provided a presentation on it.

Councilmember Grau noted the estimated cost for the Noise Wall #9 has not been updated to current costs. City Administrator Podhradsky pointed out it is a federal process which requires using federal numbers.

Mayor Windschitl stated the true cost could be double of the estimate. Councilmember Hubbard stated more accurate data should be provided.

Councilmember Huang stated the noise wall would not allow the trail to access the road. The trail would still be visible to homeowners.

Councilmember Hubbard explained Noise Wall #7 would be very expensive because it would require relocation of power lines.

Councilmember Grau stated the road would basically feel like a tunnel. Even if someone wasn't directly impacted by the wall, the atmosphere would be extremely different.

Councilmember Hubbard added the walls didn't take into account the reflection of the sun and impacts on the opposite side of the wall.

Councilmember Grau noted the noise walls don't consider the future of cars. For example, electric cars are becoming more common, and they are much quieter than gas cars. Councilmember Huang agreed there are flaws in the methodology.

Councilmember Hatfield asked if any community members expressed concerns with sound. Mr. Schwarz stated he didn't personally hear any remarks about concerns with the sound.

Ms. Arnette stated she doesn't support the walls, based on the look and cost, and she has heard desire for landscaping to be a more natural noise barrier. Mr. Schwarz stated the landscaping plans are still in progress, and there is a desire to enhance the area's aesthetic.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained there has been interest in landscaping as a means for noise reduction. Unfortunately, landscaping doesn't buffer any noise. Mr. Schwarz pointed out there needs to be about 100 feet of dense foliage for any noise impact.

Councilmember Huang stated another option to reduce noise is berming, but that requires a lot of ground area as well to prevent erosion.

Mayor Windschitl added he previously expressed concern about the responsibility for maintenance. Upkeep isn't part of the budgeting either.

Councilmember Huang asked what the total cost was based on the analysis. Mr. Schwarz stated he would have to double check, but it would be over \$3 million.

Councilmember Hatfield asked about the next steps for communication with residents. Mr. Schwarz stated there will be one more public meeting. Due to some design challenges and issues with approval, the projects won't begin until 2025.

Councilmember Hubbard asked what the consensus from the comment cards showed. Mr. Schwarz stated he hasn't seen those results.

Councilmember Hubbard asked who is following up with commenters regarding their concerns. Mr. Schwarz stated someone from the County follows up with commenters if requested on the comment cards.

Councilmember Huang pointed out the County is looking into walls because it is a requirement of the process. Mr. Schwarz confirmed since the road is expanding from two lanes to four lanes, there are federal requirements to look into noise walls. Councilmember Huang thanked Mr. Schwarz and other County workers for their work on the project.

Mayor Windschitl asked if all construction plans will be pushed back a year. Mr. Schwarz stated three projects' timelines have been impacted.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt resolution 2024-34 voting on the installation of proposed noise walls along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 and Highway 41 as part of the Highway 41/CSAH 10 project.
Motion carried.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 15-4-2024

The Council requested further information about bills on pages 3 and 13.

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further information regarding those bills.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hatfield 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 15-4-2024

10.B. Hawk Pride Recap

10.C. Financial Reports as of 02/29/2024

Councilmember Grau:

- Noted a number of baseball fields and parks are receiving AEDs.

Councilmember Huang:

- Stated there will be a tree planting on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Lion's Park.
- Noted April 29, 2024 will be the last day the Fire Department is in its current building.
- Pointed out May 4, 2024 is Christmas in May.
- Stated the opening of the revitalized park The Loop will be May 5, 2024.
- Noted Taste of Chaska is May 8, 2024.
- Added River City Days is July 26, 2024.
- Stated the Chaska History Society is hosting tours and reenactment performances.
- Pointed out 16 teachers from Chaska High School were nominated for Teacher of the Year and four others were nominated for Support Staff of the Year.
- Explained Orchestra Director, Kate Kowalkoski has been selected to perform with the Minnesota Orchestra as part of the first educator side-by-side performance; only 34 string educators in Minnesota and Wisconsin were selected.
- Congratulated the Knowledge Bowl Team for placing third at the regional tournament.
- Shared two students qualified for the DECA International Conference and Halle Browning qualified for the 2024 National Speech & Debate Association National Tournament.
- Noted three students were selected for the MMEA All-State Choir, two for the ACDA 9/10 Honor Choir, and two for the MMEA All-State Band.
- Added six Chaska High School theater students received Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Honors and another six received awards at West Conference Visual Arts Festival.
- Stated the Chaska Hawks Concert Choir, Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony competed at the Region 2AA Contest and received the highest ratings of "Superior".
- Pointed out 2024 Scholastic Award Winners included two Gold Key winners, eight Silver Key winners, and five honorable mentions.
- Shared two Chaska High wrestlers competed at state and the Boys Swim and Dive Team finished 11th overall.
- Explained Aubrey Heyer was selected as the 2024 Athena Award Winner.
- Added four students were selected for Minnesota Association of Dance Teams All State Teams.

Councilmember Hubbard:

- Pointed out Spring Clean-Up is May 4, 2024.
- Noted she attended the Chaska Bash fundraiser, and it was well-attended.

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Asked for details on making tee times for The Loop. City Administrator Podhradsky stated he would look into it.
- Pointed out Squad Car Story Time is April 16, 2024.
- Stated food distribution is April 18, 2024.
- Noted Coffee with a Cop is April 24, 2024.
- Added Earth Day in May is May 4, 2024.
- Explained the summer music series will be returning.
- Stated a constituent expressed concerns about being neighborly. She encouraged residents to be considerate of one another.

Assistant City Administrator Durbin:

- Stated Moratta Controls is applying for the MIF funds, and they are having a ribbon cutting on April 22, 2024. She invited Councilmembers to attend with her.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Pointed out the legislation regarding missing middle housing is not moving forward.

(1:22:00) Graham Johnson:

- Explained the final edition of the *Herald* is coming out on April 25, 2024.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Thanked Staff and other cities for their work on the missing middle housing legislation.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Motion carried.