

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 5, 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, and Hubbard.

Absent: Councilmember Huang.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Elise Durbin, Assistant Administrator; Michael Melchert, City Attorney; and Krista Mark, Communications Coordinator.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. Erin Rathke, Superintendent Eastern Carver County Schools - Learning and Listening Presentation

Dr. Erin Rathke, Superintendent Eastern Carver County Schools (ECCS), introduced herself and provided information on her professional background. She pointed out that their Strategic Plan included a lot of input, and they are proud of the final product and its representation of the community. In her new role, she is reflecting on four main questions: what is great about the schools and District, what is on the community's wish list, what should the District prioritize in the budget, and what opportunities does ECCS have. She showed the list of engagement opportunities.

Mayor Windschitl and Councilmember Hatfield congratulated Dr. Rathke on her new position.

Councilmember Hubbard asked if Dr. Rathke had received any feedback yet. Dr. Rathke noted she spent the end of the school year listening to students. They have a high value of their teachers. The community at large is concerned about class sizes and retaining the best teachers.

Councilmember Grau pointed out he is a parent of two elementary school students in ECCS. He agreed the class sizes are a concern for him, and it should be a priority despite the limited budget.

Mayor Windschitl added he would like to see the cities throughout the District work together better. He asked if the bus shed would still be built. Dr. Rathke confirmed ECCS has some land, and they are assessing the most pressing needs of the District.

5.B. Greg Pavett, The Humanity Alliance - Former Oak Ridge Conference Center

Greg Pavett, representative of The Humanity Alliance, introduced himself and detailed the history and purpose of the organization. Based on their success in Victoria with supportive housing, they are excited to expand their services.

Councilmember Hatfield encouraged the community to check out The Humanity Alliance's video to learn more about their efforts. She asked what partners they are working with to scale. Mr. Pavett explained their priority is reducing rent burdens and helping people get plugged into their communities. The average stay is six to nine months, and their beds are regularly full. He shared more statistics about the need for their services. The focus in Chaska will be on active seniors, and the support time will be longer than average.

Mayor Windschitl asked if The Humanity Alliance has an agreement with the Oak Ridge Conference Center. Mr. Pavett stated they are working out an agreement with the owners. They are hoping to lease only the housing portion of the site.

Mayor Windschitl asked if the zoning would need to change. City Administrator Podhradsky explained the site is zoned for a hotel. The zoning would have to change to include apartments for the proposed offerings by The Humanity Alliance. The zoning would also require the units to have kitchens which creates a challenge for the program as they focus on communal meals. He pointed out that another facility in the City would also like similar exceptions.

Mayor Windschitl added there would need to be another round of inspections. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the State Department of Health would likely need to inspect the facility.

Mayor Windschitl asked if only Carver County would be served. Mr. Pavett stated a majority of the residents would be from Carver County, though there are no restrictions on who may receive services. Mayor Windschitl expressed the importance of serving the needs of the County first off.

Councilmember Hatfield noted her appreciation of supporting seniors. Councilmember Grau agreed it is important to support seniors as they want to remain in the community.

Mayor Windschitl asked if there would be an opportunity to support families. Mr. Pavett confirmed they are looking for ways to support families. They would likely make color-coded communities within the greater community so people would primarily stay in their respective communities.

Mr. Pavett reiterated their excitement to serve in Chaska.

Councilmember Hubbard asked if the program helps the clients to find additional options. Mr. Pavett confirmed their measure of success in the program is supporting clients in their next steps.

5.C. Visitor Presentation

Mayor Windschitl asked if anyone else wished to address the Council. He asked for a young man to come forward to speak. The young man explained he is studying political science and accounting in Mankato, and he wanted to learn more about local government. He hopes to intern in accounting or possibly local government.

Councilmember Grau encouraged the young man to get involved in local government even if his career doesn't take him in that direction.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the July 15, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024, City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Hatfield noted her appreciation of the gifts and donations that enrich the community.

Mayor Windschitl asked if Consent Agenda Item 7c. Adopt Resolution 2024-64 to Approve Joint Powers Agreement for Carver County Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail - Chaska Connection is to connect the trail. City Administrator Podhradsky confirmed that is correct.

Motion by Councilmember Hubbard, second by Councilmember Grau to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through C:

A. Adopt Resolution 2024-63 Accepting Gifts and Donations

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-63 acknowledging and accepting gifts to the City of Chaska received during the period April 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

B. Approve Full & Final Schalow Property Settlement Agreement

Motion to approve the Full and Final Settlement Agreement and Release and to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Chaska.

C. Adopt Resolution 2024-64 to Approve Joint Powers Agreement for Carver County Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail - Chaska Connection

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-64 to Approve the draft Joint Powers Agreement for Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of Chaska Segment of Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to fully execute a final draft. Motion carried.

8. Action Items

None.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 5-8-2024

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further information on certain bills.

Motion by Councilmember Grau, 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 5-8-2024

Councilmember Grau:

- Commented on the new pavement in his neighborhood.
- Thanked everyone who contributed to the success of River City Days.

Councilmember Hubbard:

- Pointed out the Community Center will be closed for a few days for renovation and maintenance. This will be August 26 through September 2, 2024.
- Stated Night to Unite is August 6, 2024.
- Noted Hwy 5 between Victoria and Chanhassen will be closed for one week starting August 12, 2024.
- Thanked everyone who contributed to the success of River City Days.

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Thanked everyone who contributed to the success of River City Days.
- Pointed out the tunnel is now open.
- Stated Coffee with a Cop on a Rooftop is August 16, 2024.
- Added Touch-a-Truck is August 22, 2024.
- Noted the Farmer's Market is still going on.
- Stated the Carver County Fair starts on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Provided an update on the next Council meeting and the survey results.
- Noted Chaska received the second grant for The Big Woods.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Thanked everyone who contributed to the success of River City Days.
- Pointed out SouthWest Transit will be providing transportation to the State Fair.
- Provided an update on 2025 construction projects.
- Asked if they are still behind on the Public Safety Facility project. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the project is still behind schedule.
- Noted the U.S. Amateur Golf Championship begins on August 12, 2024.
- Added filing to run for City Council is open. Ward 2, Ward 4, and the Mayor positions are available.
- Stated the Hwy 212 groundbreaking ceremony is coming up.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Motion carried.