

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 9, 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; Kevin Wright, Community Engagement Manager; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Ryan Seibert, Police Chief; Hunter Panning, School Resource Officer; and Christophe Morschen, City Attorney.

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. Chaska VFW and American Legion Commanders – Creek Road

Gary Van Eyll, American Legion Commander, and Billy Luetkahans, Chaska VFW Commander, introduced themselves. They requested there be a sign dedicated to veterans near Veteran's Park. There wouldn't be any changes to addresses or street names.

Mayor Windschitl stated Staff could move forward with the suggestion should the Council be in agreement. Councilmember Huang noted his support of the suggestion.

Councilmember Grau asked if there is a similar sign in Chaska. City Administrator Matt Podhradsky stated the County has a similar one.

It was the consensus of the Council to support the suggested signage.

5.B. Chief of Police Ryan Seibert and School Resource Officer Hunter Panning - Drone Program Update

Officer Panning explained since the past presentation, there was an open comment period. There was only one message received which requested info on the drone manufacturer chosen. The first mission was conducted on April 26, 2024.

Officer Panning pointed out an unmanned aerial device is most commonly known as a drone. It must be under 55 pounds and may not carry a human. He showed an image of the drone

owned by the City. He also showed an image of an indoor/outdoor drone the Police Department recently purchased.

Officer Panning reminded the Council of the requirements for drone use set up by the State. There have been 12 drone deployments in response to emergency situations, two for a public event with a heightened safety risk to bystanders or participants, zero to counter the risk of a terrorist attack, six related to national disasters, five to conduct threat assessments in anticipation of a specific event, six to address suspicion of criminal activity, zero for crash reconstruction purposes, 14 for officer training, seven for public relations, and zero at the request of government entities outside of law enforcement.

Councilmember Hubbard asked if the list is only for the Chaska Police Department. Officer Panning confirmed the data is only for Chaska Police operations.

Councilmember Huang asked if there is tracking for indoor use. Officer Panning confirmed there is data for indoor use, but indoor drones have only been used for training so far.

Officer Panning summarized various drone missions that have been completed. In April a drone was used to address a burglary at Oak Ridge Conference Center. A ladder was found propped up on an exterior wall to the roof. The drone was used instead of an officer climbing the building to inspect the roof.

Officer Panning stated in May 2024, a drone was used to assist investigations with a search warrant involving burglary of firearms and provided scene overwatch of suspect apprehension. Officer Panning showed video footage from the drone deployment. The initial crime occurred in Chaska, but the suspect was apprehended in another city.

Officer Panning noted a drone was used in June 2024 to find someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Also in June, Chaska used a drone to assist the Sheriff's Office in Chanhassen. A suspect barricaded herself in a bedroom after assaulting another resident with a knife. Through a second-floor window, the drone pilot was able to see the suspect drop the knife. In July, there was a crash on a bridge. A drone was used to check the water for victims. In August, the drone was used to assist the Fire Department with a house fire. He showed footage from the incident. Chaska was highlighted in a news story regarding the fire as well.

Officer Panning also showed examples of drone footage captured when monitoring flooding from the summer.

Officer Panning stated the Police Department will continue to maintain the fleet of drones and acquire new equipment as needed. The camera should last indefinitely, and the drone will only need to be replaced if seriously crashed. They also hope to implement a Certificate of Authorization which would allow them to self-certify pilots and drones. There is a plan to increase the number of pilots in the program and to collaborate with other public safety entities for training and mission aid.

The Council thanked Officer Panning for the presentation and expressed their support of the drone program.

Mayor Windschitl asked if the entire Department is supportive of drones. Officer Panning stated he hasn't heard any negative feedback, and there is a long list of officers interested in becoming pilots.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the August 19, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Huang to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2024 City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Hatfield noted the City Square West project is a combination of several small steps, referring to Consent Agenda Item B. Approve a Metropolitan Livable Communities Act Grant Agreement for City Square West. She looks forward to the continuing progress.

Mayor Windschitl asked what would happen should the City not use the funds. Assistant City Administrator Elise Durbin stated the funds would be returned.

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

A. Adopt Resolution 2024-69 Approving an Off-Site Gambling permit for Holy Family Catholic High School to conduct a raffle event on September 21, 2024 at Bavaria Downs.
Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-69 approving the Holy Family Catholic High Schools' request.

B. Approve a Metropolitan Livable Communities Act Grant Agreement for City Square West
Motion approving the amended Metropolitan Livable Communities Act Grant Agreement for City Square West and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the agreement.

C. On-Sale Liquor at Community Event – La Hermosa Restaurant
Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF24.05, for La Hermosa Restaurant, 222 N. Chestnut Street, Chaska, MN for Latin Music & Food Festival effective September 13, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

D. On-Sale Liquor at Community Event – Crooked Pint
Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF24.06, for Crooked Pint, 3210 Chaska Blvd, Chaska, MN for Latin Music & Food Festival effective September 13, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

E. Establish a Public Hearing for Proposed SSD 2025 Operating Plan, Budget, and Service Charges
Motion to set the public hearing for October 7, 2024, to review and approve the proposed SSD 2025 operating plan, budget, and service charges and direct staff to give notice of the public hearing.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

None.

9. Bills

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

The Council requested further information about bills on pages 5, 10, 14, and 15.

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 9-9-2024

10.B. SouthWest Transit Achieves Record Ridership for 2024 MN State Fair

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Pointed out September 18, 2024 is Coffee with a Cop.
- Noted The Loop has their fall golf rate.
- Stated the Latin Music Festival is September 13, 2024.
- Pointed out Chaska Cares Music Festival is September 20, 2024.
- Explained Bountiful Basket has a new logo, mission, and vision. They are an important part of the community.
- Added September is Suicide Prevention Month.

Councilmember Hubbard:

- Asked if the Clover Ridge monument sign is being redone. City Administrator Podhradsky confirmed it is being redone.
- Thanked the Chaska Community Center team for their hard work during the closure.

Councilmember Huang:

- Noted SouthWest Transit carried over 100,000 to the Minnesota State Fair. He shared more statistics about the ridership. There was also high customer satisfaction.
- Asked if there is any news about Cooper's. City Administrator Podhradsky stated Staff has been in contact with the owners. They are speaking with a potential grocer that is looking to finance purchase of the building.

Councilmember Grau:

- Thanked teachers and support staff in light of school starting up again. He reminded community members to be aware of new traffic patterns during school arrival and dismissal.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Stated the Fire Department hosted an open house that evening.

- Asked for an update on the Public Works Facility. City Administrator Podhradsky stated Staff requested for updated estimates from Xcel for moving some things around. The cost is significantly higher than the initial quote. The new location would serve the City well. The plan to move would have saved the City money instead of an addition.
- Asked for an update on the Public Safety Building. City Administrator Podhradsky stated they are about one month behind schedule due to the weather.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Motion carried.