

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 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; Julie Grove, Economic Development Coordinator; and Mike Melchert, City Attorney.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

5. Proclamation

5.A. Manufacturing Month

Mayor Windschitl read the proclamation declaring October 2024 as Manufacturing Month.

5.B. Indigenous Peoples' Day

Mayor Windschitl read the proclamation declaring October 14, 2024, as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

5.C. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Windschitl read the proclamation declaring October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

6. Visitor Presentation

6.A. Southern Valley Alliance Rebecca Ribich - October Domestic Violence Awareness Month & Purple Patch Program

Rebecca Ribich, Board Member of Southern Valley Alliance (SVA), introduced herself and explained SVA is the only organization offering comprehensive domestic violence services for Scott and Carver County. She provided statistics on the services provided. Ms. Ribich added SVA launched transitional living facilities.

The Council thanked SVA for their service to the community.

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Councilmember Huang pointed out that manufacturing companies and employees make a substantial financial impact on the State. He provided some detailed statistics.

7. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

7.A. Approve the September 16, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Hubbard to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024, City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Huang stated the repeal of Chapter 5, Article 32 is confusing, referring to Consent Agenda Item 8.B. Adopt Ordinance 2024-1049 to Repeal Chapter 5, Article 32 of the Chaska Code of Ordinances. It sounds like an interested party would still need to announce any performances to the Council without being required to pay a fee.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained all sections of Chapter 5, Article 32 are being repealed, as reflected by the redlining. For historical tracking purposes, the previous text is included to show the changes.

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

A. Adopt Ordinance 2024-1048 Amending Chapter 5, Business Fees

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-1048 Amending Chapter 5, Article 4, Section 20 Permit Required; Fee by changing the permit and investigation fees as presented.

B. Adopt Ordinance 2024-1049 to Repeal Chapter 5, Article 32 of the Chaska Code of Ordinances

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-1049 repealing Chapter 5, Article 32 in its entirety of the Chaska Code of Ordinances related to Performances and Exhibitions.

C. Adopt Resolution 2024-75 Appointment of Election Judges for the 2024 General Election

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-75 appointing those persons listed on Exhibit A as Judges of Election for the General Election, Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

D. Awarding of Contract for Chaska Public Safety Facility

Approve the awarding of the contract and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the contracts.

E. Set Date for Canvass of Municipal Election Results

Motion to set the date for the canvass of local election results as November 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the Chaska City Hall Council Chambers.

F. Adopt Resolution 2024-77 City Bridge 10J42 Replacement for Beech Street

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-77, approving the Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement for state bridge bond funds to replace City Bridge 10J42.

G. 2025 Prosecution Contract

Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the 2025 County Prosecution Contract.

Motion carried.

9. Action Items

9.A. Adopt Resolution 2024-76, Public Assessment Hearing and Resolution Approving the Imposition of Service Charges for the 2025 Chaska Downtown Special Services District

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Economic Development Coordinator Julie Grove provided a presentation on it.

Councilmember Hubbard asked if the budget would be expanded should there be more businesses to participate. Ms. Grove stated the decision would require more discussion.

Dan Keyport, President of Chaska Downtown Business Alliance, explained the organization was initially a volunteer-run group. The idea of collecting funds from those within the Special Services District was pitched to the Alliance, and they canvassed multiple businesses. There is consistent interest in the concept, and they look forward to additional financial support for the Chaska Downtown Business Alliance's efforts and events.

Mr. Keyport stated he doesn't believe there would be a need to increase the budget as social media efforts would remain the same, referring to Councilmember Hubbard's question. Also, as more businesses join the Special Services District, it will decrease the cost for all participants.

Mayor Windschitl opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

John Siegfried, property owner of 218 Chestnut Street, explained some funds should be allocated to business recruitment and retention. There should also be consideration to hosting River City Days within the Special Services District again.

Councilmember Hubbard stated River City Days is run by a separate group of volunteers, and it isn't likely to pertain to the Special Services District's budget. The funds generated by River City Days are intended to support local nonprofits.

Mr. Siegfried added he has been improperly taxed for a parcel he owns. Mayor Windschitl stated the parcel is not the topic of the public hearing. Also, it may be inappropriate to speak about due to ongoing litigation.

City Attorney Michael Melchert confirmed the concern is being litigated.

Mr. Siegfried explained some of the improper taxes are allocated to the Special Services District. Furthermore, the basic ownership of a parcel should be established regardless of litigation status.

David VanOrden, property owner of 117 2nd Street W, agreed the businesses have been impacted negatively by the relocation of River City Days. There has been deterioration in the downtown area, such as an increase in homelessness.

Mayor Windschitl stated the process has been challenging to restore the park. They are awaiting approval from multiple entities. Not to mention, River City Days is a privately run event, and the Council doesn't have a say in where the event is held.

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Councilmember Hubbard noted there is an opportunity for the Downtown Business Alliance to collaborate with community-run events.

Councilmember Hatfield pointed out the paseos have received enhancements, and there is potential for new or improved events. The city is working on engaging students who are available to provide ideas for use of the paseos.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated one of the streets could be shut down to host an event that would bring visitors even closer to the businesses.

Mayor Windschitl added there aren't supposed to be events held at City Square Park according to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. Ultimately, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has more control over the park than the Chaska City Council does.

Mayor Windschitl closed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Councilmember Hatfield commended local businesses for their perseverance throughout the recent years. She pointed out the City contributes money to the Alliance and detailed specific impacts from the City of Chaska throughout the Downtown area. Councilmember Hatfield added there are some negative comments on social media regarding Downtown Chaska, but those are untrue and need to be counteracted.

Mayor Windschitl and Councilmember Huang shared examples of Chaska altering construction plans per the request of the Alliance.

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Huang to adopt Resolution 2024-76 Imposing Service Charges and Setting the 2025 Operating Budget and Plan for the Chaska Downtown Special Service District.

Motion carried.

10. Bills

10.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 7-10-2024

The Council requested further information about bills on pages 11, 12, 14, 17, 36, 37, 42, 48, and 50.

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further information regarding those bills.

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Grau 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.

11. Other Business

11.A. City Administrator's Report

11.A.i. Bi-Weekly Report 7-10-2024

Councilmember Grau:

- Asked for an update on banners for the Downtown Area. Ms. Grove confirmed the banners are completed and intended to reflect the story of Downtown Chaska and Chaska itself. These banners will remain up for several years because they will be located in the center median of Highway 41.
- Noted there will be candidate forums hosted by the League of Women Voters. The forums will be posted online as well.

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Stated Vote 411, *The Patriot*, and *Carver County Local News* are great resources for the upcoming election.
- Pointed out October 26, 2024 is the Halloween Jamboree and the Downtown Chaska Trick or Treat event.
- Noted the Chaska Police Department are hosting an event with Janie's Tacos on October 18, 2024.
- Added the Catrina Parade will be November 1, 2024.
- Stated SouthWest Transit served over 30,000 people for the Renaissance Festival.

Councilmember Huang:

- Pointed out Early Voting is open. More information is on the City website regarding locations and hours.
- Stated SouthWest Transit was awarded the State's Transit System of the Year Award.

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Noted October 26, 2024, stated there is a Trick or Treat at Chaska Commons.
- Stated October 26, 2024, is also the Fall Clean Up Day.

Assistant City Administrator Durbin:

- Celebrated Customer Service Recognition Week by thanking City employees for their services.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Pointed out Chaska Town Course's rates have been reduced for Fall.

12. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Huang, second by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Motion carried.