

## **Maple Grove City Council work session meeting**

### **meeting minutes**

**January 17, 2023**

#### **Call to order**

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a work session meeting of the Maple Grove City Council was held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Present were Mayor Mark Steffenson, Councilmembers Judy Hanson, Kristy Barnett, Kristy Janigo, and Rachelle Johnson. Present also was City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Community and Economic Development Director Joe Hogeboom, City Prosecutor Andrew Draper, Police Chief Eric Werner, Police Commander Adam Lindquist, Police Commander Jon Wetternach, Police Commander Travis Pobuda, Administrative Support Manager Theresa Keehn, and City Attorney Justin Templin.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

#### **Ethics and open meeting law for elected and appointed officials**

City Attorney Templin provided the Mayor and City Council with a presentation that covered ethics and legal obligations for ethical behavior by members of elected and appointed councils, boards, and commissions. He discussed in detail the state statutes, City Code provisions, and the city's personnel policy as they each pertain to ethics.

City Attorney Templin discussed conflict of interest, the prohibition on gifts, bribery, public official misconduct, illegally assuming office, unauthorized compensation, and permitting false claims as outlined under state statute.

City Attorney Templin further discussed how Maple Grove's Code of Ethics, found in City Code, overlapped with state law. He noted that there was a requirement to disclose private matters that might affect the city, such as disclosing ownership of real property (other than one's residence), 5% or greater ownership in a company or organization that does business in the city, or non-ownership positions with a company or organization doing business in the city. He cited examples of prohibited conduct.

City Attorney Templin noted that while the city's personnel policy contains information regarding rules of conduct and conflict of interest requirements, it does not apply to elected and appointed officials.

City Attorney Templin discussed open meeting law and the general requirement that meetings of public bodies are held after public notice has

been provided and meetings are open to the public. He explained that communication by phone, texts, or emails by a quorum outside of official meetings would be subject to an open meeting law violation.

**Police  
Department  
update and crime  
data review**

Chief of Police Werner provided the City Council with a Police Department update and reviewed crime data from 2022. He noted that the Police Department tracks performance indicators from the citizen surveys conducted by the city. He discussed service statistics and noted that three key performance indicators demonstrate the importance of the department's work and the overall community's evaluation of the Police Department's service.

Chief of Police Werner stated that the 2022 citizen survey resulted in 99% of residents reporting that they felt safe in the community, 91% felt they were receiving quality police services, and almost all residents reported feeling "very safe" or "somewhat safe" in Maple Grove during the day, including in their neighborhood, in downtown shopping areas, in other shopping areas and in Maple Grove's parks. About 9 in 10 people felt safe in their neighborhood after dark. Residents felt less safe in Maple Grove's parks and shopping areas after dark.

Chief of Police Werner discussed crime statistics and noted that data was presented in two formats due to a change in mandated crime reporting systems. He stated that in 2022, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault crimes declined from 2021. There was one homicide in 2022, which was an increase from none in 2021. Burglary crimes decreased in 2022, but larceny and motor vehicle theft increased.

Chief of Police Werner provided detailed statistics regarding traffic enforcement, gun crimes, drug overdose cases, and use-of-force incidents. He further discussed personnel recruitment and retention statistics as well as initiatives for 2023. He stated that key initiatives include an embedded social worker, a Community Center outreach officer, Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) community session, officer-wellness – peer support program, and a chaplain program.

**Other items as  
deemed  
necessary**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Steffenson at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson  
City Administrator