

**Maple Grove City Council meeting**

**meeting minutes**

**January 17, 2023**

**Call to order**

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Maple Grove City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on January 17, 2023 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Members present were Mayor Mark Steffenson and Councilmembers Judy Hanson, Kristy Barnett, Kristy Janigo and Rachelle Johnson. Absent was none. Present also were Heidi Nelson, City Administrator; Joe Hogeboom, Community and Economic Development Director; Brett Angell, Assistant Community and Economic Development Director; Ken Ashfeld, Public Works Director/City Engineer; and Justin Templin, City Attorney.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the city in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions or deletions to the agenda**

Mayor Steffenson asked if there were any additions and/or deletions to the consent agenda to which Heidi Nelson stated the following:

**Item amended to the agenda**

None

**Item amended to the consent agenda**

None

**Item added to the agenda**

None

**Item removed from the consent agenda for discussion**

3E. Accepting proposals for treatment and removal of ash trees

3F. Eagle Lake southwest channel dredging

**Consent items**

The following consent items were presented for Council's approval:

**MINUTES**

A. Regular meeting – January 3, 2023

**HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS**

No items presented.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS**

B. North Grove Medical Center planned unit development stage plan and final plat approval extension

Motion to extend the North Grove Medical Center planned unit development stage plan and final plat approval extension until January 17, 2024.

C. PetSuites Planned Unit Development concept stage plan, development stage plan, preliminary and final plat approval extension

Motion to extend the PetSuites Planned Unit Development concept stage plan, development stage plan, preliminary and final plat approval extension until January 17, 2024.

**ENGINEERING ITEMS**

D. 2022 Maple Grove Wellhead Protection Plan amendment approval - Resolution No. 23-016

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-016 approving the 2022 Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment.

E. Accepting proposals for treatment and removal of ash trees

This item was removed by Councilmember Janigo for discussion.

F. Eagle Lake southwest channel dredging

This item was removed by Councilmember Johnson for discussion.

G. Fernbrook Lane/Territorial Road Project No. 20-19 - change order No. 3

Motion to approve Change Order No. 3 to the Fernbrook Lane/Territorial Road Project No. 20-19.

H. Highway 610 Extension Project No. 19-24 authorizing condemnation proceedings - Resolution No. 23-020

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-020 authorizing condemnation proceedings for acquisition of perpetual street right-of-way easements, perpetual drainage and utility easements, and temporary construction easements across property needed for the Highway 610 Extension Project – City Project No. 19-24.

I. Resolution of support for funding Fish Lake interchange improvements - Res. Nos. 23-018 and 23-019

Motion to adopt Resolution Nos. 23-018 and 23-019, resolutions in support of the City of Rogers' 2022 Corridors of Commerce grant application, and the revised I-94 West Corridor Coalition's 2022 Corridors of Commerce grant application for funding of improvements to the Fish Lake interchange.

J. Sureties - January 17, 2023

Motion to approve the surety actions.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

K. Approve claims

Motion to approve claims totaling \$ 7,522,628.17.

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to approve the consent items as amended, removing items 3E (Accepting proposals for treatment and removal of ash trees) and 3F (Eagle Lake southwest channel dredging). Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Consideration of items pulled from the agenda**

The following items were pulled from the consent agenda.

Regarding Item 3E (Accepting proposals for treatment and removal of ash trees), Councilmember Janigo thanked staff for their efforts to address EAB in the City of Maple Grove. She asked if tree replacement was part of the EAB strategy. Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld reported the policy that was approved three or four years ago addressed removal and/or treatment as part of the EAB plan. He explained the plan did include the replacement of EAB trees lost on collector streets. He indicated the city would not be replacing trees within public right of way on residential streets.

Councilmember Janigo requested staff provide her with further information on the city's EAB strategy. Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld indicated he would pass this information onto each member of the City Council.

**Motion by Councilmember Janigo, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to accept proposal from Rainbow Treecare to treat public ash trees. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Councilmember Janigo, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to accept proposal from YTS Companies, LLC to remove public ash trees and stumps. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

Regarding Item 3F (Eagle Lake southwest channel dredging), Councilmember Johnson stated a group of homeowners have petitioned the city to complete a feasibility study to dredge the channel behind their homes that provides them access to Eagle Lake. She explained the cost for the study was \$19,700

and would be paid for by the city. She explained she pulled this from consent because she believed the project warranted more conversation. She supported the Council holding a discussion regarding the precedent that would be set if the Council were to dredge this channel and pay for the feasibility study. She questioned if the dredging should be considered a private improvement or public improvement. She supported action on this item be tabled to a future worksession meeting.

Councilmember Janigo stated she had similar thoughts on this item. She noted she met with one of the homeowners on a shorter channel on the southern part of Eagle Lake. She indicated this homeowner asked if there was an opportunity to coordinate the channel dredging work. She asked what would happen to the material that was dredged and questioned if the city could partner with Three Rivers on how to manage the silt.

Councilmember Barnett explained she spoke with residents that live on the lake, but not within the channel. She indicated the channel was put in for the homeowners and the residents she spoke with believed the city should stay out of this and let the lake association handle this issue. She noted she lived on a lake and she stated she could support this position. She questioned why the city should pay for this study given the fact the study would be on a private channel on the lake. She encouraged the residents on the channel to work together on this matter. She agreed a larger discussion would be required to address the precedent that would be set, should the city become involved in this project.

Mayor Steffenson suggested action on this item be tabled and that staff provide the Council with further information on what services have been provided to the city's lakes in the past. Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld explained the channel in question was constructed in 1967 by the developer of the development adjacent to the channel. He stated the plat has access to the channel. He appreciated how the Council was considering what the consequences would be if a decision was made to dredge this channel.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld asked if it would be appropriate for the City Council to receive the petition and table action on the item. City Attorney Templin reported this

would be an appropriate action.

**Motion by Mayor Steffenson, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to receive the petition. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

Mayor Steffenson requested staff provide the Council with further information on what funding the city has provided to lakes or lake associations in the past.

Councilmember Hanson requested staff also provide further information on what would be learned by the feasibility study. Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld commented on a feasibility study that was completed in 2001 and noted staff would provide the Council with information on what can be learned by a new study.

Councilmember Barnett asked how many of the residents on the channel would have to support the dredging in order for the project to move forward. Public Works Director/City Engineer Ashfeld stated statutorily 35% of the effected property owners creates an adequate petition.

Councilmember Johnson reported the residents that brought this petition forward were requesting the feasibility study be completed and were not agreeing to dredging. She noted if the city were to move forward with the feasibility study they would be risking no action after the study was complete. She indicated the Council would have to determine what a fair number or level of assessment would be for this project, especially considering not all of the residents on this channel support the dredging. She reiterated that these channels were created by private developers for specific residents and were not constructed by the city. She was of the opinion the private channels should be treated in the same manner as private roads. She reported she was not against the project, but she was against the city using its resources to fund the project.

**Motion by Mayor Steffenson, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to table action on this item. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

## Special business

### Open forum

There were no open forum issues brought before the Council at this meeting.

### Public hearings

#### **Project Next Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund DEED Application**

Assistant Community and Economic Development Director Angell stated Project Next involves the relocations of multiple locations for a medical-technology firm from a different Twin Cities community into Maple Grove. The business collaborates with healthcare agencies and device partners to manufacture medical devices. The business has been within the metro area for many years and has additional locations throughout the globe. The existing locations for the business throughout the Twin Cities metro are scattered across a few different communities. The proposed location within Maple Grove would relocate all operations under one roof and allow for the continued expansion of the business. The project includes the relocation of 188 existing employees to the Maple Grove location with plans to add approximately 33 additional employees within the first three years. Of the new jobs created, it is anticipated that the hourly wage for each position would exceed \$50/hour. The initial capital investment into the facility is approximately \$8 million including equipment purchases and leasehold improvements. The Maple Grove facility would serve as the business's headquarters. Staff commented further on the DEED MIF and JCF applications.

Assistant Community and Economic Development Director Angell reported as required by the application and Minnesota State Statute, a public hearing notice was published and posted on January 6 to allow for public comment on the MIF application. The city is requesting a MIF award of up to \$1,000,000 from DEED on behalf of Project Next. The potential award is dependent on the businesses choice of applying for a \$1,000,000 repayable award or \$260,000 forgivable award. The MIF funds will allow the company to purchase machinery and equipment for their new Maple Grove facility.

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to open the public hearing. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes**

**and no nays. Motion carried.**

Mayor Steffenson opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m. and asked if anyone would like to address this issue.

No public testimony was offered.

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to close the public hearing at 7:58 p.m. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to adopt Resolution No. 23-014 authorizing the city to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for a Minnesota Investment Fund award for Project Next. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Hanson, to adopt Resolution No. 23-015 supporting a Job Creation Fund application in connection with Project Next. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Community and economic development items**

**Report on upcoming community and economic development items**

Community and Economic Development Director Hogeboom updated the Council regarding the following:

- Staff noted Arbor Committee and Planning Commission applications are being accepted through Friday, January 20.
- Planning Commission interviews would be held on Monday, January 30 and recommendations would be considered by the Council on Monday, February 6.



- The Planning Commission would meet next on Monday, February 13.

**Engineering-  
public works  
items**

**Report on  
upcoming  
engineering  
items**

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld updated the Council regarding the following:

- Staff was preparing for another snow event which would occur Wednesday into Thursday.
- Staff was preparing for the 2023 Street Improvement projects.

**Administration  
items**

**Community  
Center  
Renovation and  
Expansion  
Project – Design  
Process  
Governance**

City Administrator Nelson stated following the November 2022 election and approval of the local option sales tax ballot question for the Community Center Renovation and Expansion Project, staff has been developing a project design governance model and project timeline. Staff anticipated there would be quarterly meetings between the Council and the Park Board over the next year. She commented further on the proposed governance structure, project timeline and requested approval from the Council.

**Motion by Councilmember Hanson, seconded by Councilmember Barnett, to adopt Resolution No. 23-017 Community Center Renovation and Expansion Project – Design Governance Model. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

**Report on  
upcoming  
administration  
items**

City Administrator Nelson explained that the Council has her Monday report if there are any questions. She updated the Council on the retirement receptions that had been planned for Ann Jacklitch and Kim Greninger. She reported on Wednesday, January 25 an I-94 West Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities event would be held at Rush Creek Golf Club over the noon hour.

**Items added to  
the agenda**

Susan Divine-Keene, resident of Maple Grove, noted she has lived in the community since 1988. She commented on how the community continues to positively change each and every year. She thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their efforts on behalf of the community. She requested the Council consider adding a community garden to Maple Grove as this would provide a place for residents to put their hands in the soil, to see the fruits of their labor and to see what a growing season is like. She believed gardening improved mental health and would help with creating a sense of community in Maple Grove.

Ms. Divine-Keene encouraged the city to make the renovated/expanded Community Center ADA accessible.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Mayor Steffenson, to adjourn to the regular City Council meeting on February 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Upon call of the motion by Mayor Steffenson, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. by Mayor Steffenson.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson  
City Administrator