

# APPROVED

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNDS VIEW CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MOUNDS VIEW  
RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Regular Meeting  
September 11, 2023  
Mounds View City Hall  
2401 Mounds View Boulevard, Mounds View, MN 55112  
6:02 P.M.

- 
1. MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER
  2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  3. ROLL CALL: Cermak, Gunn, Lindstrom, and Meehlhause

NOT PRESENT: None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  - A. Monday, September 11, 2023, City Council Agenda.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Lindstrom. To Approve the Monday, September 11, 2023, agenda as presented.

Ayes – 4                      Nays – 0                      Motion carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Lindstrom asked to remove Item 5C.

- A. Approval of Minutes: August 28, 2023.
- B. Just and Correct Claims.
- ~~C. Resolution 9805, Authorizing Separation Compensation for Finance Director Mark Beer.~~
- D. Resolution 9802, Adopting a Special Assessment Levy for Reconstruction of an Existing Nonconforming Curb Cut.
- E. Resolution 9806, Annual Polling Place Designation for 2024.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Cermak. To Approve the Consent Agenda as amended removing Item 5C.

Ayes – 4                      Nays – 0                      Motion carried.

**C. Resolution 9805, Authorizing Separation Compensation for Finance Director Mark Beer.**

Council Member Lindstrom thanked Finance Director Beer for his dedicated service to the City of Mounds View and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Council Member Gunn wished Finance Director Beer a long and healthy retirement.

MOTION/SECOND: Lindstrom/Gunn. To Waive the Reading and Adopt Resolution 9805, Authorizing Separation Compensation for Finance Director Mark Beer.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**6. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**A. Quarterly Update – SBM Fire Chief Dan Retka.**

SBM Fire Chief Dan Retka provided the Council with an update from the SBM Fire Department. He stated he appreciated the relationship he was building with the Mounds View Police Department and thanked them for participating in a recent softball game. He commented on the staffing shortages that the department was facing and discussed how the new recruiting specialist was working to address this concern. He hoped to have his team where it needs to be by next year. He described how the department would be increasing its prevention efforts in hopes of reducing the number of structure fires. He stated home safety surveys have been jump started. He explained he would be completing an audit of the entire department in order to ensure he had equipment in the proper place after reorganizing the duty crews. Lastly, he spoke to the staffing challenges Allina ambulance services were facing in the metro area and commented on how this was impacting the fire department.

Council Member Lindstrom questioned where new recruits were being brought in from. Fire Chief Retka explained the majority were from Blaine, Spring Lake Park and Mounds View, noting only four were from outside these communities.

Council Member Lindstrom requested further information regarding the new staffing model. Fire Chief Retka described how the new duty crews were staffed and commented on the hours recruits would be working. He discussed the robust training that would be required from the duty crews.

Council Member Lindstrom thanked the fire department for having a ladder truck out on I-35W in remembrance of 9/11.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause stated he was pleased to see the SBM Fire Department was successfully moving to a new staffing model with duty crews.

Fire Chief Retka invited the Council to attend the SBM Open House on Saturday, September 23 at Aquatore Park in Blaine from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause thanked Fire Chief Retka for his detailed report.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob King, 7408 Silver Lake Road, encouraged residents of Mounds View to never forget what happened on 9/11. He reported the petition against the garbage haulers was turned into the City on Wednesday. He asked that the City be in communication with him if there was a concern with the number of signatures.

Rene Johnson, 7385 Pleasant View Drive, thanked the City for holding more neighborhood meetings and for working to improve communication between residents and the City. She discussed how valuable these meetings were to the community. She then discussed the children's book drive events she would be holding at the City's parks in October. She stated notice would be provided to each of the elementary schools regarding the book events.

Council Member Lindstrom thanked Ms. Johnson for her efforts on the book drive.

Brian Amundsen, 3048 Woodale Drive, discussed the damage the City's curbs were receiving from the plow drivers. He urged the Council to consider a rental program for curb edge markers for the winter months in order to protect the City's concrete curbs.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause reported he used to pick up posts from the Public Works Department in order to mark his curbs and noted the posts were free. He anticipated the program ran its course because people failed to return the posts. He stated having residents leave a deposit for the posts may prove to be more successful.

Julie Clark, 8005 Woodlawn Drive, explained a community meeting would be held on Thursday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center. She reported more information would be provided on organized trash collection as well as the community center proposal.

Chris Lillemo, 5132 Long Lake Road, commented on the number of political signs that are posted throughout the community. He suggested the City reconsider where signs can be placed on personal property. He feared that having to put signs back 15 feet from the street was ridiculous and noted no one follows this requirement.

Vince Meyer, 8380 Spring Lake Park Road, thanked the Council for having the police catching the speeders on his roadway. He stated he appreciated the fact his boulevard was being restored, but indicated the City should have done it correctly the first time. He requested that the stump grindings be cleaned up from the restoration area.

Dr. Jean Strait, 7728 Knollwood Drive, asked if there would be a warranty on the restoration work.

City Administrator Zikmund reported the restoration work would come with a warranty. He explained homeowners would be responsible for watering the hydroseeded areas after two weeks.

**8. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**A. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 1008; Amending Chapter 12 of**

**the City of Mounds View Charter by Adding a New Section 12.16 Adding a Severability Clause to the Chapter. ROLL CALL VOTE**

City Administrator Zikmund requested the Council adopt an Ordinance that would amend Chapter 12 of the City Charter by adding a new Section 12. 16 adding a severability clause to the chapter. He noted the first reading for this Ordinance was held on August 28. Staff commented further on the proposed Ordinance and recommended approval.

Brian Amundsen, 3048 Woodale Drive, explained this change was brought forward because some language was changed earlier that had severability. He reported the City Attorney advised language be considered for Chapter 12 that would add this new section in order to address the severability concern.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Cermak. To Waive the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance 1008; Amending Chapter 12 of the City of Mounds View Charter by Adding a New Section 12.16 Adding a Severability Clause to the Chapter.

ROLL CALL: Cermak/Gunn/Lindstrom/Meehlhause.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**B. Resolution 9794, Take from Table. Establishing exclusive negotiation period, organized solid waste collection.**

City Administrator Zikmund requested the Council adopt a Resolution that would establish the exclusive negotiation period for organized solid waste collection.

Rene Johnson, 7385 Pleasant View Drive, stated at 8:30 p.m. last week a representative from Ace knocked on her door and asked her if they could give her a better rate.

Council Member Lindstrom explained for transparency purposes he wanted the public to know he signed the petition. He believed the question warranted clear context and clarity as to what the contract is and isn't. He supported the City Council pursuing the details of the contract in order to provide the public with more information.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause explained he has supported the City pursuing this ever since he was elected to the City Council. He believed it was important to pursue this because the City has invested \$35 million in its streets. He supported the City taking care of its streets in order to make them last as long as possible. He indicated the City would learn a great deal from this process.

Bob King, 7408 Silver Lake Road, commented on how the haulers were managing their businesses in order to pursue new customers. He agreed the City should go through this process in order to see what price is offered for organized collection.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Lindstrom. To Waive the Reading and Adopt Resolution 9794, Establishing exclusive negotiation period, organized solid waste collection.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**C. Second Reading, Ordinance 1007, and summary publication; Prohibiting use of Cannabis in Public Places. ROLL CALL VOTE**

City Administrator Zikmund requested the Council adopt an Ordinance that would prohibit the use of cannabis in public places. He commented on the distance requirement language that was added to Section 1B and recommended approval of the Ordinance.

MOTION/SECOND: Lindstrom/Cermak. To Waive the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance 1007, Prohibiting use of Cannabis in Public Places and directing staff to complete a summary publication.

ROLL CALL: Cermak/Gunn/Lindstrom/Meehlhause.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**D. Resolution 9803, Authorizing Certification of the Preliminary General Fund Budget and Preliminary Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024.**

Finance Director Beer requested the Council authorize certification of the preliminary General Fund Budget and preliminary property tax levy for fiscal year 2024. He explained staff was proposing a 7.5% preliminary levy. It was noted this percentage could be reduced between September and December, but could not be increased. Staff commented further on the General Fund Budget and recommended approval of the budget and tax levy.

Council Member Lindstrom explained the proposed levy included the hire of a new Public Works employee. He commented on how the Council reviewed the budget line by line and the only thing that was being added was one staff member. He stated the percentage increase was also due to rising costs for gas and insurance.

Council Member Gunn reported the Council always goes to the max in September with the preliminary levy and the Council then works to reduce this percentage by December.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause stated another contributing factor to the levy increase was for COLA and negotiated pay increases for staff members.

Brian Amundsen, 3048 Woodale Drive, reminded the Council that Subdivision 1 of 703 talks about the Resolution to levy ad valorem taxes. He explained this statement reflects on all taxes. While he understood inflation was at 3.5%, he encouraged the Council to continue to work to reduce the proposed levy. He stated the City may have to consider cutting some services, given the fact the City was subsidizing the Community Center with \$300,000 on an annual basis. He feared that elderly residents in Mounds View would be taxed out of their homes if the City continued to increase taxes by 7+% each year.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Lindstrom. To Waive the Reading and Adopt Resolution 9803, Authorizing Certification of the Preliminary General Fund Budget and Preliminary Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024.

Council Member Lindstrom stated he would not be supporting a levy of 7.5% in December. He hoped the Council could work to reduce this down to 6% in the coming months.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause agreed and then reviewed the proposed tax levies for the communities surrounding Mounds View.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**E. Resolution 9804, Approving the Preliminary EDA Property Tax Levy Request and Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.**

Finance Director Beer requested the Council approve the Preliminary EDA property tax levy and budget for fiscal year 2024. He reported the levy would be for \$100,000, which was the same amount that has been levied for the past several years.

Council Member Lindstrom asked if this levy was supposed to have been increased to \$150,000 for 2024. Finance Director Beer reported this was the case.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause requested staff speak to the purpose of the EDA levy. Finance Director Beer explained in 2013 the City had three TIF districts that have since decertified, along with the funding from these districts. For this reason, the EDA established a levy to assist with marketing the City.

MOTION/SECOND: Gunn/Cermak. To Waive the Reading and Adopt Resolution 9804, Approving the Preliminary EDA Property Tax Levy Request and Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**9. REPORTS**

**A. Reports of Mayor and Council.**

Council Member Gunn reported the Tribute Park group would be meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Council Member Gunn explained Finance Director Beer would be recognized for his retirement at City Hall on Thursday, September 14 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Council Member Gunn indicated the Community Resource Fair would be held at the Community Center on Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Council Member Lindstrom stated he was very excited about the book drive that was being hosted by Rene Johnson. He supported the City paying for the freight cost to get the books to Mounds View from the Charitable Gambling Fund.

Council Member Gunn reported she could support the City paying the freight cost. Finance Director Beer indicated he would have to investigate this further to see if the gambling funds could be used in this manner.

Finance Director Beer questioned what the freight costs would be.

Council Member Lindstrom indicated the freight costs were estimated to be \$1,600.

City Administrator Zikmund asked what the size of the POD trailer would be. Rene Johnson, 7385 Pleasant View Drive, estimated the POD would be 20 feet long and 8 feet wide. She indicated the POD may be smaller. She asked that the City allow her to store the POD at a public park. The Council supported this request.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Gunn/Lindstrom. To direct staff to investigate the use of charitable gambling funds and if possible, to use these funds to pay the freight cost for the book drive.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Cermak indicated the Mounds View Police Foundation would be meeting next on Tuesday, September 12 at Hodges Park at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Lindstrom read a statement in full stating on September 4 the community lost a great friend, son and brother. He stated Dan and Carol Mueller have suffered the unimaginable with the passing of their son. He reported Dan asked that he make an announcement at this meeting and requested the public to be supportive, loving and praying for the Mueller family.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause offered his deepest sympathies to Dan and Carol Mueller. He wished them the very best as they work through the grief they are feeling.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause stated from Tuesday, September 12 through Monday, September 18 he would have no access to email. Any members of the public who were hoping to reach him should call his cell phone.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause reported he would be attending a Twin Cities Gateway Board meeting on Tuesday, September 19 and on Wednesday, September 20 he would be attending an NYFS Finance Committee meeting.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause stated there would be a mayoral candidate forum at City Hall on Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause reported a Mounds View School District Candidate Forum would be held at the Community Center on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Acting Mayor Meehlhause explained this was Finance Director Beer's last City Council meeting. He thanked Finance Director Beer for his dedicated service to the City of Mounds View and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Council Member Gunn stated a meeting was being held on Thursday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. at Silver View Park to discuss the stormwater pond at Silver View Park.

**B. Reports of Staff.**

Finance Director Beer thanked the Council for their kind words. He stated this has never been just a job for him. He believed the City was getting a great new Finance Director who would serve the citizens of Mounds View well. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

City Administrator Zikmund thanked Finance Director Beer for his dedicated service to the City of Mounds View. He explained he has worked with Finance Director Beer for his entire career and he considered him the finest finance director. He believed Mr. Beer's greatest gift to the City was that he was leaving the City with new brand new streets, a new water system, 70% of the sanitary sewer lines rebuilt, and on the verge of rehabilitating all storm ponds, with all the money to fund this. He stated it was extraordinary what has been accomplished during Mr. Beer's career and all with a levy cap in place.

City Administrator Zikmund spoke further regarding the number of ash and oak trees the City would be losing in the coming years. He explained the City was working to identify the trees that were on public property that needed to be removed.

City Administrator Zikmund provided the Council with an update on the renovations that were being made to the Big Dipper property.

City Administrator Zikmund commented further on the stormwater pond meetings that would be held on September 21 at Silver View Park and September 28 at Ardan Park.

City Administrator Zikmund reviewed the items that would be discussed by the Council at their upcoming workshop meeting. He noted the City has been asked to allow a private property owner to host a handful of crafting vendors and this matter would be discussed by the Council.

- 10. Next Council Work Session:           Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
  Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
Next Council Meeting:                   Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**



**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Transcribed by:

Heidi Guenther  
*Minute Maker Secretarial*