



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Karin Derauf, Deputy City Clerk

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

[City of Forest Lake - Livestream and Recorded Meetings](#)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|---------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Mara Bain | Mayor | Present | |
| Sam Husnik | Councilmember | Present | |
| Hanna Valento | Councilmember | Present | |
| Leif Erickson | Councilmember | Present | |
| Blake Roberts | Councilmember | Present | |

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve the Agenda (Action)

Comments:

Motion to: Approve the Agenda

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Leif Erickson, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

5. Open Forum – Citizen Petitions, Requests, and Concerns

The Open Forum is available for residents to express personal opinions for any item of business. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

Comments:

Tyler Kroschel, Resident, commented on the budget planning items regarding the Parks and Recreation budget. He noted that he is part of the youth baseball program and highlighted the need for maintenance on the Fenway Fields and fencing at Kulenkamp Park.

Sonia Kaiser, Resident, commented about the budgeting concerns for the parks. She also commented on improvements at Fenway Fields, specifically lighting.



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Al Hauge, Resident, thanked the City for the fields and noted there are maintenance issues that need to be addressed. He specifically commented on the greatest need for the ag line to be filled. He also commented on lighting, fencing, and parking issues at Fenway Fields.

Eugene Huerstel, Resident, commented on pickleball and communication with the Jamie, Parks Supervisor. He noted that communication has been difficult and that no one was here when he came to the office at 1 o'clock. He also commented on being very careful with the budget. He commented that the pickleball players would also like lighting on the courts.

6. Consent Agenda Considerations (Action Items)

Comments:

- a) Approve City Bills
- b) Approve Minutes from September 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting
- c) Approve Minutes from September 18, 2023 Council Workshop
- d) Forest Lake Hockey Association - LG220 Gambling Exempt Permit
- e) Forest Lake Blue Line Club – LG220 Gambling Exempt Permit
- f) Water Treatment Plant No. 4 – Contractor Request for Payment No. 16
- g) Professional Services Agreement for Woodrow McBride
- h) 2023 Crack Filling and Seal Coat Project – Contractor’s Request for Payment No. 3 and FINAL

Motion to: Approve Consent Agenda Items 6. a. through 6. h.

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Sam Husnik, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Blake Roberts, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

7. Regular Agenda (Action Items)

- a) **Resolution 09-25-23-07 – Preliminary 2024 Levy Consideration**

Comments: Finance Director Knopik commented on the resolution presented to Council noting that the resolution is for the preliminary tax levy and setting the date for the final budget and levy adoption in December.



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Mayor Bain commented on the work that has gone into the preliminary budget. Councilmember Erickson commented that good work was achieved at the workshop last Monday. Councilmember Husnik commented on the information that was heard about parks during Open Forum. He indicated he is open to consider these requests. Councilmember Valento commented that there have been numerous conversations noting that there are many needs and wants for the community. She indicated she would like to see the parks funding increased. She also commented on the Community Service Officer position noting that there was some agreement to not add that position. She noted that she would like additional information on that position prior to the final levy and budget adoption. Councilmember Roberts commented on the 6 to 7% increase that the City has no control over. He also commented that the levy number has to be between 12 and 13% to consider funding for parks. He also noted that the other proposed positions need further consideration of if they are needed.

Mayor Bain commented that there has not been a cut to the funding for parks noting that the original proposal was from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per year and that in working through budget items, that proposed \$500,000 was reduced to \$250,000. She indicated that Staff and Council is making efforts to get caught up on the delayed needs of the City. She thanked the Councilmembers for the hard work so far. She noted that it's important to find consensus on the needed items. She noted that the 10-year plan is a big step beyond the myopic 1-year plan of the past. She also thanked Staff and community members for their contributions.

Councilmember Husnik commented that he is happy to support the resolution with the proposed levy at this time. Mayor Bain suggested workshop sessions for individual items, such as parks, and streets to learn of importance of these items.

Motion to: Approve the Preliminary 2024 Levy and Set the Public Hearing Date for the Final 2024 Budget and Property Tax Levy

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Mara Bain, Mayor |
| SECONDER: | Sam Husnik, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

b) Washington County Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Environmental Center

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman noted that a land swap is still necessary for the County to move forward on construction for the hazardous waste and



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environmental facility. She presented three resolutions that speak to the development of the properties. She noted these documents are to the land and will transfer to the County once the land swap happens.

Councilmember Erickson asked about the stormwater management and who is responsible for that. Community Development Director Wittman noted it would be the county would be the responsible party. Councilmember Roberts asked why there is a delay on the land swap. Community Development Director Wittman noted that it's procedural timing.

Motion to: Approve Resolution 09-25-23-02 – Wetland Easement

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Sam Husnik, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

Motion to: Approve Resolution 09-25-23-03 – Vegetated Wetland Buffer and Habitat Maintenance Agreement

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|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Leif Erickson, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Blake Roberts, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

Motion to: Approve Resolution 09-25-23-04 – Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Agreement

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Mara Bain, Mayor |
| SECONDER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
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c) Fire Relief Association – Benefit Level Increase Request

Comments: Fire Chief Newman provided explanation of the request for benefit level increase to fund the retirement accounts. Mayor Bain commented on this account and the lag that happened several years ago. She also noted the increase will not impact the general fund. She indicated that retirement is a key element to the firefighter employees as the city invests into a paid on-call model. Councilmember Husnik asked how long individuals have to be employed to access the retirement funds. Chief Newman explained there is a minimum 10-year service obligation and provided detail of the progression of payout.

Motion to: Approve Fire Relief Association Benefit Level Increase

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|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Mara Bain, Mayor |
| SECONDER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

8. Discussion

a) Republic Services Presentation

Comments: Bev Mathiasen provided a presentation on the refuse services the City receives from Republic Services. She commented on information regarding the services provided as well as the costs that Republic can control versus the county and state fees that are not under the control of Republic Services.

b) Broadway Avenue Bridge Lighting

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman commented on the costs for the lighting of Broadway Avenue Bridge will be approximately \$10,000. Councilmember Erickson commented on the promotion of events, and would like the Chamber to be a partner in this project. He noted it is in the City’s best interest to support this project. He noted that he would like to pursue the project with the Chamber promoting it. Mayor Bain commented on the funding. Councilmember Erickson commented that funding would be from the community. Councilmember Roberts commented on a scaled-down version that would only cost \$4,400 for purchase of lights and installation. He commented on the City paying for the electricity for the lights as well as be responsible for the collection of any donated funds. Councilmember Valento asked about an estimated cost of electricity noting that her preference is that the City doesn’t provide any funding based on the



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budget requests. There was additional conversation regarding funding, costs of lights, installation, and electricity. Mayor Bain commented that she appreciates the idea, however, she feels it is awkward for the City to be soliciting donations to fund this project without having a fundraising partner for 2023. Councilmember Erickson indicated the bridge lighting is to build on the Hometown Holiday event in December. He commented that he doesn't think \$4,400 is too much to ask. Public Works Director noted that November 10, 2023, is the earliest that the contractor can install the lights so the decision has to be made by the October 9 Council Meeting. Mayor Bain asked Councilmember Erickson what the fundraising efforts would look like. Councilmember Roberts commented on the Chamber and feedback he received on the street dance at Mallards earlier in the year. Administrator Casey clarified that the City would not be involved in the solicitation of the donated funds. There was further discussion regarding the timeline of fundraising and permitting. Community Development Director Wittman commented that Patrick Casey will be the point of contact as she will be out of the office until October 6. Administrator Casey asked for the update on the Wednesday prior to the meeting of October 9.

9. Staff Updates

Comments: Deputy Clerk Derauf provided brief comment on the presenter for Republic Services and the reason she presented at this time, noting the contract ends in December 2024, however, this is the time we would generally provide an RFP for a change to the contract. Community Development Director Wittman said congratulations to Ken Roberts, City Planner, for his 1-year anniversary with the City.

10. Mayor and City Council Updates

Comments: Councilmember Valento commented she attended the Shoreline Study Meeting. Councilmember Erickson commented on communication. Mayor Bain thanked Staff and Council for their work on the budget and levy.

11. Closed Session

Motion to: Move into Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §13D.05 Subdivision (b) for Preliminary Consideration of Allegations or Charges Against an Individual Subject to the City's Authority

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Sam Husnik, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Hanna Valento, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
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Motion to: Close the Closed Session and Open the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting Session in Council Chambers

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Sam Husnik, Councilmember |
| SECONDER: | Leif Erickson, Councilmember |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| NAYS: | |
| ABSTAIN: | |
| ABSENT: | |

12. Adjourn

Comments:

Motion to: Adjourn

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | |
| SECONDER: | |
| AYES: | Bain, Husnik, Valento, Erickson, Roberts |
| ABSENT: | |