

**Minutes
Minnetonka City Council
Monday, March 2, 2020**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brad Wiersum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Council Members Rebecca Schack, Susan Carter, Deb Calvert, Bradley Schaeppi, Kissy Coakley, Brian Kirk and Brad Wiersum were present.

4. Approval of Agenda

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the agenda with addenda to Item 14.A. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A. Feb. 10, 2020 regular council meeting

Carter moved, Kirk seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as presented. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Feb. 3, 2020 study session

Carter moved, Kirk seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as presented. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

6. Special Matters:

A. Recognition of Brent Weldon

Wiersum read a proclamation in full for the record recognizing Brent Weldon for his dedicated service on the Minnetonka Fire Department for the past 30 years. He wished him all the best in retirement. A round of applause and standing ovation was offered by all in attendance.

Brent Weldon thanked the council for this recognition.

7. Reports from City Manager & Council Members

City Manager Geralyn Barone reported on upcoming city events and council meetings. She stated the Presidential Primary would be held on Tuesday, March 3.

Schaeppi stated that on February 23 he attended the Groveland Elementary School PTO meeting. He explained a Walk and Bike to School Day was discussed and approved. He thanked Police Chief Boerboom for committing to support this school event. He discussed how the school was working to increase the number of students walking and biking to school. It was noted the Walk and Bike to School Day would be held on Wednesday, May 6.

Kirk reported he served on the Places Committee and noted the group recently met and discussed art surrounding the Southwest Light Rail Station. He explained the Huntington Pond neighborhood recently met and discussed the options for this pond.

Kirk encouraged all Minnetonka residents to consider attending the Empty Bowls event on Tuesday, March 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hopkins Center for the Arts.

Coakley stated on Wednesday, March 4 at the Capitol there would be a forum on housing from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Calvert commented she attended the Huntington Pond neighborhood meeting. She thanked the neighbors in the community for being engaged and respectful at this meeting.

Calvert thanked all who attended the ground breaking ceremony for the new public safety facility.

Wiersum stated he was in Baxter, Minnesota last Friday and Saturday where he attended a League of Minnesota Cities Leaders Institute Conference. He explained he got to meet a lot of officials from around the state.

Wiersum encouraged residents to consider attending the Empty Bowls event on Tuesday, March 10.

8. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters not on the Agenda: None**9. Bids and Purchases:****A. Bids for Replacement of the Ice Arena "B" HVAC and Roof Systems**

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea gave the staff report.

Kirk asked if staff believed the recommended HVAC system had the efficiencies the city needed. O'Dea explained the recommended unit was fully supported by staff.

Schaeppi questioned what other improvements the ice arena would need in the foreseeable future. O'Dea reported the refrigeration system in Arena B would be replaced in 2023.

Schack moved, Kirk seconded a motion to award the contract. All voted "yes."
Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda – Items Requiring a Majority Vote: None

11. Consent Agenda – Items requiring Five Votes:

A. Resolution adopting amended council rules of procedure

Wiersum stated he spoke with staff regarding this item. He requested further comment from staff on Section 6.3. City Attorney Corrine Heine explained the new paragraph in Section 6.3 was prompted after she attended several conferences that focused on First Amendment issues in public meetings. She reported the proposed language reflects the current practice of the council and indicated the time limit would ensure efficient conduct of the city council meeting.

Carter discussed the number of people that attended the city council meeting regarding the bike trail. She stated the council allowed all residents at this meeting to be heard for three minutes. She explained she supported this practice and the proposed language from staff.

City Manager Geralyn Barone explained the proposed change was not meant to limit speakers but provide flexibility when there were a large number of people the limits could be imposed.

Schaeppi thanked Ms. Barone and Ms. Heine for their comments and work on this matter. He appreciated the flexibility that had been written into this section of the council rules of procedure.

Wiersum explained the city council valued the comments and statements made by residents. He believed this rule allowed the council some flexibility when there were situations where 100 residents wanted to speak on a topic while still allowing the meeting to remain fair and efficient.

Calvert moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-027. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

12. Introduction of Ordinances: None

13. Public Hearings:

A. On-sale intoxicating liquor and Sunday on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses for Gold Nugget Tonka, LLC., dba Gold Nugget Tavern & Grille, 14401 Excelsior Boulevard

City Manager Geralyn Barone gave the staff report.

Wiersum opened the public hearing.

Gary Windschitl, 15290 67th Street South in Hastings, stated he was one of the five owners of Gold Nugget Tavern & Grille. He reported the restaurant would be run the same and he was looking forward to becoming more involved in the City of Minnetonka.

Casey America, 1324 Eagle Creek Boulevard in Shakopee, indicated she would be the manager of the Gold Nugget Tavern & Grille.

Wiersum wished Mr. Windschitl well in his new endeavor.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to open the public hearing and continue to April 6, 2020. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

14. Other Business:

A. 2020 Assessment Report

City Assessor Colin Schmidt gave the staff report.

Schaeppi thanked staff for the thorough presentation. He stated he appreciated having a better understanding on the health of Minnetonka's real estate and housing values.

Carter asked if the villas were considered single-family residents. Schmidt explained the majority were single-family residents.

Coakley questioned if affordable housing programs were assessed at the same rate as a typical single-family home. He reported affordable single family homes were taxed at the same rate, but portions of apartments qualified for a lower tax rate per state law.

Wiersum inquired if a resident were to go to tax court would they be required to have an attorney. Schmidt stated it was rare that an attorney would be involved for a residential tax dispute. He commented for commercial property or an apartment complex, an attorney was typically involved.

Wiersum thanked Schmidt and the city assessor's team for the valuable information.

B. Resolution for the Ridgedale Drive Landscaping project

Kirk reported he had a conflict of interest on this item and would therefore recuse himself for this agenda item and left the council chambers.

Public Works Director Will Manchester gave the staff report.

Schack asked if the Natural Resources Board would be weighing in on the selection of native plants. Manchester reported this group would be assisting with the type of plants that were selected.

Schaeppi questioned if the city would have any signage that educates the public regarding the plantings selected for this project. Manchester noted informational signs have been discussed with the watershed district.

Wiersum stated the landscaping proposed was very beautiful but asked if the city would be able to maintain these plants. Manchester commented this was something staff was taking into consideration within the landscaping plans. He reported the city was hiring an additional parks maintenance worker to assist with maintaining this area of the city.

Schaeppi inquired if any contributions had been made to the city from the Ridgedale owners. Manchester stated staff has spoken to Ridgedale Center and other property owners about the potential to maintain these areas. He indicated there has not been any commitment to date. Community Development Director Julie Wischnack reported the impactful needs to do all these improvements such as the right of way and the actual property, which was the give and most are in the donation category.

Schack commented this area of the city was in her ward. She stated she really appreciated the work that has been done in the Ridgedale area.

Calvert explained she appreciated the thoughtfulness in the mix of plantings included within the landscaping plan.

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-028.

Wiersum encouraged the new councilmembers to review the Public Realm document. He reported this document was very comprehensive and would assist councilmembers in seeing the vision for the Ridgedale area.

Schaeppi stated as the city works to make this area beautiful the council would have to continue to work to create trails and walkable routes to Ridgedale.

Kirk absent, Shack, Carter, Calvert, Schaeppi, Coakley, and Wiersum voted "yes." Motion carried.

15. Appointments and Reappointments: None

16. Adjournment

Schack moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Koosman
City Clerk

