

**Minutes
Minnetonka City Council
Monday, January 25, 2021**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brad Wiersum called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Approval of Agenda

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to accept the agenda with addenda to Items 10.D, 14.A (tabling the item to February 8, 2021), and 15.B. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A. November 30, 2020 study session

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

B. November 30, 2020 closed meeting

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

C. December 21, 2020 regular council meeting

Calvert noted she had provided staff with a small correction to the minutes on Page 4.

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

D. January 4, 2021 regular council meeting

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

6. Special Matters: None

7. Reports from City Manager & Council Members

City Manager Geralyn Barone reported on upcoming city events and council meetings.

Kirk explained the Southwest Light Rail Places Committee met and discussed art. He noted there would be delays in placing art in Minnetonka due to the amount of construction surrounding the light rail corridor.

Wiersum reported one of his childhood heroes, Hank Aaron, died recently. He stated as he read the press reports he learned a great deal about the racism this champion faced. He thanked Hank Aaron for rising above the racism he faced and for remaining a kind, decent and loving human being. He encouraged the residents of Minnetonka to understand there was racism in America and to fight against these intolerable actions.

8. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters not on the Agenda: None

9. Bids and Purchases:

A. Bids for the Ridgedale Drive Watermain Improvements project

Public Works Director Will Manchester gave the staff report.

Calvert stated this situation took her by surprise. She discussed how retail businesses have been impacted by COVID and questioned when the project would be rebid. Manchester explained staff would be looking at adjustments that can be made to the project and would be ready to rebid the project shortly if the market could support it.

Calvert commented on how the market has changed and questioned if costs would continue to rise if the city chose to wait. Manchester stated this was always a concern. He discussed what staff had learned from the bid and noted adjustments would be made to the project design to assist in bringing the bid prices down.

Wiersum understood some design changes would make the project more efficient and these changes would be made prior to the project being rebid. Manchester reported this was the case.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to reject all bids. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda – Items Requiring a Majority Vote:

A. Resolution for naming the new park at Ridgedale

Schack moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-004. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Resolution for Ridgedale Area Park Improvements

Schack moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-005. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. Resolution authorizing easement acquisition for the Opus Lift Station Secondary Forcemain Improvements

Schack moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-006. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

D. Ordinance repealing and replacing City Code 310.03, Telecommunication Facilities Regulations

Calvert requested this item be pulled for further discussion.

E. Resolution for the Ridgemount Avenue Improvements Project

Schack moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-007. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

F. Resolution for the Groveland-Bay Improvements Project

Schack moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-008. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

D. Ordinance repealing and replacing City Code 310.03, Telecommunication Facilities Regulations

Calvert reported this ordinance was being amended due to federal rule changes. She explained this does affect the city's ability to control where small cell technology is located. She indicated the city has been working very hard to beautify the city by burying infrastructure. She commented this meant other poles may have to be erected to support small cell technology.

Wiersum understood residents liked and needed technology, but noted these technological improvements came at a cost.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-01. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

11. Consent Agenda – Items requiring Five Votes: None

12. Introduction of Ordinances:

A. Items concerning Minnetonka Station at 10400, 10500, and 10550 Bren Road East:

- 1) Major amendment to the master development plan;**
- 2) Site and building plan review;**
- 3) Preliminary and final plat;**
- 4) Vacation of easements**

City Planner Loren Gordon gave the staff report.

Kirk thanked staff for putting a slide together showing the projects in this area that would be coming forward. He asked what action would be taken on the lot north of this (Minneapolis Mart). Gordon reported staff spent a lot of time planning for the Minneapolis Mart site. He explained this may be one of the last sites to redevelop due to the current ownership of the property.

Kirk questioned if the Minnetonka station would play against the lot to the north. Gordon commented he anticipated more development on the Minneapolis Mart site that was similar to what was being proposed with the Linden Street Partners. He anticipated buildings with many stories would be constructed and noted staff would continue to consider building to building relationships going forward.

Kirk stated the council considered shadow studies for a recent project. He recommended the council take into consideration now the property to the north of the Minnetonka station may impact the site through shadows.

Schack discussed the city's affordable housing goals within the comprehensive plan and requested further comment from staff on how the city was doing with respect to affordable housing. Community Development Director Julie Wischnack stated staff was considering the right mix and the right number for the community. She explained as the development proposals continue to come to the council staff will better understand what the proper mix should be. She

understood the city needed more 50 and 80 AMI. She reported staff did not understand how to solve this, but would keep these factors in mind as the Opus site develops.

Wiersum appreciated the fact the city had its best staff members working to address this matter.

Calvert commented on the stormwater management requirements for this property. She stated she supported the floating of ideas and noted the north side of the building was somewhat monolithic. She recommended the city take a chess and not checkers approach to the features from site to site within this development. She wanted to be assured the buildings made sense from 360 degrees.

Wiersum stated there was a lot of exciting things taking place in Opus. He explained people were already moving into the Dominion project. He indicated he was struggling with the notification area for this project. He suggested the notification area be expanded for Opus projects given the number of significant changes occurring within this property.

Schaeppi agreed with Mayor Wiersum.

Kirk moved, Schack seconded a motion to introduce the ordinance amending the master development plan and refer it to the planning commission. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

13. Public Hearings: None

14. Other Business:

A. Items concerning Dick's Sporting Goods at 12437 Wayzata Boulevard:

- 1) Amendment to an existing master development plan;**
- 2) Site and building plan review;**
- 3) Sign plan amendment**

The applicant requested this item be tabled to the February 8, 2021 City Council Meeting.

B. 2040 Comprehensive Plan

City Planner Loren Gordon gave the staff report.

Kirk thanked Councilmember Calvert for attending all of the comprehensive plan committee meetings. He stated he was happy to be a part of this committee as well.

Calvert discussed the committees she serves on with Metro Cities. She explained she appreciated city staff and all who served on the comprehensive plan committee. She stated she was proud of this document and how it would guide Minnetonka into the future.

Coakley commented on the number of residents in Minnetonka that paid more than 30% of their income for housing. She encouraged the city to continue to think about how to bring diverse and affordable housing into the community. She suggested the city also make new homeowners aware of the resources available from Land Trust West.

Schack thanked all of the community members who served on the comprehensive planning committee. She stated there was a diverse group of individuals that served on this committee and noted these people gave a great deal of time to this process.

Wiersum thanked former Mayor Schneider for chairing the committee. He thanked staff for all of their diligent work on this document.

Kirk moved, Schack seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution 2021-009 approving the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. Update on ranked choice voting implementation

City Attorney Corrine Heine and Administration Manager Moranda Dammann gave the staff report.

Calvert thanked staff for the detailed report. She stated she understood early voting would begin on September 17, 2021 and an article on ranked choice voting (RCV) would be printed in the *Minnetonka Memo* September 25, 2021. She suggested this article be printed earlier in the year to assist in properly educating the public.

Wiersum supported the council making suggestions to staff about how to educate the public regarding RCV. He indicated the council may want to consider printing a special edition of the *Minnetonka Memo* for RCV. City Manager Geralyn Barone reported an RCV article would be published in the *Minnetonka Memo* on August 25, 2021, which would occur prior to early voting.

She commented further on the comprehensive voter education that would occur in the coming months.

Schaeppi requested further information on if the ordinance would require something to be mailed to homeowners. Heine discussed the requirements within the St. Paul ordinance noting the city clerk was required to mail information to residents at least eight weeks prior to the election. She explained if this requirement was included in the ordinance, city staff would meet this requirement. Further discussion ensued regarding the information that would be provided to candidates interested in filing for candidacy.

Kirk asked if the city would be collaborating with any other cities on this initiative. Dammann reported staff would be collaborating with St. Louis Park to discuss their voter education efforts. She noted all of the city's efforts would be branded and specific to the City of Minnetonka.

Kirk questioned if Minnetonka should move forward with only being able to vote for three candidates with RCV. Heine recommended the council set a number within the ordinance. She discussed how complicated the ballots became if the council allowed residents to vote for up to six candidates. She recommended the council be extremely clear within the ordinance in order to not have residents raising questions regarding the election system.

Kirk requested further information regarding exhausted ballots. Heine explained exhausted ballots depend on a number of different variables. She stated if only three candidates run and only three ranks are allowed, there would still be people who only vote for one candidate. She indicated this could lead to an exhausted ballot. She reported if there were 20 candidates and six ranks were allowed, the city would have fewer exhausted ballots.

Kirk stated he supported the city only allowing three rankings within RCV.

Coakley commented on the St. Louis Park ordinance as it allows for three, but no more than six rankings. She recommended Minnetonka consider this same option. She suggested the city consider educating the public at parent teacher conferences.

Schack asked if the city has looked into the number of rounds that it takes to find a majority candidate for RCV.

Carter questioned if this dialogue was building towards some formal action when this was an update item.

Wiersum stated this was a discussion item and no formal action was required. Barone reported staff was looking for guidance on how to draft the ordinance.

Wiersum inquired if the council would have the flexibility to make changes to the ordinance after holding its first RCV election. He asked if this has occurred in Minneapolis or St. Paul. Heine commented Minneapolis has modified their ordinance three times and now provides for batch elimination of candidates. She explained this reduces the number of rounds that has to be performed. She advised the council would be able to make changes to its RCV ordinance through an ordinance amendment.

Schack thanked staff for the information regarding batch elimination and commented she was comfortable with allowing three rankings. She explained she had the utmost faith that staff would properly educate the voting public on RCV and information on this did not have to be included in the ordinance.

Calvert agreed with Councilmember Schack. She indicated she was somewhat conflicted about the number of rankings that should be allowed, but noted she supported three rankings. She also had the utmost faith in city staff and their ability to educate the public on RCV. She recommended that candidates not be allowed to withdraw in the middle of voting or ballot counting.

Kirk and Schaeppi concurred with Councilmember Calvert's comments.

Coakley stated she did not support candidates being allowed to withdraw from the counting. She indicated she would like to see the rankings be three but no more than six, as was done in St. Louis Park. She thanked staff for laying out a detailed plan for voter education and encouraged staff to partner with the school district.

Carter commented she has agreed with what has been said about communications. She reported there was no reason a candidate couldn't conduct education about RCV within their campaign. Heine advised this would be allowed.

Carter stated she supported three rankings within RCV. She indicated her only concern was that if this was limited to three the process may not be open enough. She understood that changes could be made in the future if three was not adequate.

Calvert explained she had some of the same hesitation. However, she noted all names would be placed on the ballot and no one would be eliminated in a primary. She stated the rankings were only limited to three not the candidates. She indicated she supported the city partnering with the school district in order to engage families in RCV.

Wiersum commented it was important to clarify the number of candidates was not limited, just the number of rankings would be limited to three. He stated he

supported the recommendations that had been made by staff. He noted RCV would be a big change and he wanted to make it understandable to the general public. He understood it was important to get this right, but appreciated the fact that the city would not be painted into a corner. He explained he was pleased the council could refine the RCV process after the first election was held.

Provided comments to staff. No formal action required.

15. Appointments and Reappointments:

A. Appointments and reappointments to Minnetonka boards and commissions

Wiersum gave the staff report.

Wiersum moved, Carter seconded a motion to approve the recommended appointments and reappointments. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Appointment of representatives to various advisory boards, commissions and committees

Wiersum gave the staff report.

Wiersum moved, Calvert seconded a motion to approve the appointments. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

16. Adjournment

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Koosman
City Clerk