

**Minutes  
Minnetonka City Council  
Monday, March 22, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Brad Wiersum called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

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

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to accept the agenda with addenda to Item 13.C. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**5. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. February 22, 2021 regular meeting**

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

**B. March 8, 2021 regular meeting**

Schack moved, Calvert seconded a motion to approve 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.

Wiersum asked if the April city council meetings would be held in person or virtually. Barone stated the intent was to hold the April 12, 2021 meeting virtually and the April 19, 2021 worksession meeting in person. She explained staff was making arrangements so that May meetings could be held in person.

Carter offered her condolences and solidarity with the Asian community members, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders. She asked for all to stand against the insidious violence that has gone against this community and so many others. She encouraged people to find their voice and to stand beside the Asian community, who has been invisible and unrecognized. It was her hope the city could lead the community in this way.

Calvert echoed Councilmember Carter's comments. She stated there has been a great uptick against specific groups of people and unfortunately the Asian community was the latest recipient of this hateful attention.

Calvert wished everyone a very happy and healthy Passover, which starts on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

Schaeppi stated the seasons have changed and he encouraged Minnetonka residents to get outside and enjoy the city's park and trails. He reported an informal bicycle ride would be held in April across the city to look at infrastructure and bicycle parking. He thanked staff for promoting bicycling in the community. He noted he purchased an e-bike and used it to take his daughter to daycare this morning.

Wiersum thanked Councilmember Carter and Councilmember Calvert for their words. He stated he stood in solidarity with his Asian brothers and sisters. He noted there has been a rise in violence against Asian Americans that is irrational. He commented all bias and hate was irrational. He stated hate has no place in Minnetonka. He indicated the BIPOC community needs to be supported, along with the LGBTQ community. He commented prejudice and bias against anyone was un-American. He wanted to see this community welcoming and thriving in order to truly succeed. He encouraged people to speak up when they see things that are inappropriate.

Wiersum stated he had a positive meeting with Hennepin County Commissioner Chris LaTondresse.

## **8. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters not on the Agenda**

Jen Bouchard, resident of Minnetonka, thanked the council for their service to the city, especially over the past year. She discussed how challenging the last year has been. She thanked Mayor Wiersum, Councilmember Calvert and Councilmember Carter for their comments. She understood it was not always easy to take a stance on tough issues. She read a prepared statement to the city council and urged the council to issue an official statement. Her statement encouraged the council to denounce the anti-LGBTQ actions that have occurred in Minnetonka recently. She discussed how the recent hate crimes against the

Asian community has impacted the community. She noted the City of Hopkins and the City of Golden Valley had issued formal statements, along with the Hopkins School District. She commented further on how an issued statement would show support to all community members in Minnetonka. She thanked the council for breaking the silence barrier and for speaking out this evening.

**9. Bids and Purchases:**

**A. Bids for the Ridgedale Area Park Improvements Project**

City Manager Geralyn Barone gave the staff report.

Coakley requested further information regarding the role of a construction manager. Park and Trail Planner Carol HejlStone explained a construction manager would help staff look through the plans to find areas where project costs can be reduced, while also assisting with simplifying the scope of the project.

Coakley questioned how the construction manager would be appointed. HejlStone reported the city would receive proposals for construction management services. These proposals would be reviewed by staff and the council would make a recommendation on the construction manager. Barone indicated the city would hire a private firm to act as the construction manager, as was done with the public safety facility.

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

**10. Consent Agenda – Items Requiring a Majority Vote:**

**A. Resolution for the Excelsior Boulevard Storm Sewer Improvement Project**

Schack moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-024. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**B. Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Minnetonka and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. – Police Sergeants**

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

**11. Consent Agenda – Items requiring Five Votes:**

**A. Emergency ordinance relating to outdoor dining**

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-05. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**12. Introduction of Ordinances: None**

**13. Public Hearings:**

**A. 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funds – Urban Hennepin County Allocation**

Community Development Director Julie Wischnack gave the staff report.

Coakley asked if a resident does not have access to internet services, what ways does the city advertise these resources to the community. Wischnack explained people find out about the city programs after calling Resource West, ICA or the city. She anticipated most clients learn about programs and available resources by calling the city. She commented further on how staff determines which program will best suit the needs of each client.

Schack questioned if the transfer of title occurred because of a divorce or estate matter, would that be a triggering event. Wischnack reported this would depend on the situation and how the title needed to transfer. She indicated if there was a new mortgage this would be a prompting.

Coakley inquired if residents could apply for funds more than one time. Wischnack stated a resident could only have one CDBG loan at a time.

Wiersum asked what the income requirements were for these grant programs. Wischnack explained each program had different guidelines.

Wiersum opened the public hearing.

There being no comments from the public, Wiersum closed the public hearing.

Kirk moved, Schack seconded a motion to hold the public hearing, adopt Resolution 2021-025, and authorize the negotiation of any related agreements. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**B. On-sale wine and on-sale 3.2 percent malt beverage liquor licenses for Toma Mojo Grill, LLC., at 12977 Ridgedale Drive**

City Manager Geralyn Barone gave the staff report.

Wiersum requested comment from the applicant.

Michael Knox, the applicant, stated he was the owner and general manager of Toma Mojo Grill. He thanked the council for considering his request. He explained he has over 25 years in the hospitality industry. He stated he was excited to launch a fast casual restaurant in Minnetonka. He then reviewed the Spanish-Portuguese inspired menu with the council.

Wiersum opened the public hearing.

Schack stated she loved that a new restaurant was coming to Minnetonka in Ward 2. She believed this restaurant would be a great fit to the Ridgedale area.

Calvert explained she loved eating out and looked forward to having this new restaurant in the community. She appreciated the courage it took to open a new restaurant at this time and wished Mr. Knox all the best.

Schaeppi thanked the applicant for selecting and investing in the City of Minnetonka.

Wiersum discussed how the pandemic had impacted small businesses and restaurants over the past year. He noted a good number of restaurants had been lost. He reported now was an excellent time to clean the slate and start anew. He was pleased to see this new restaurant coming to the community.

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to open the public hearing and continue to April 26, 2021. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**C. Items concerning Duke's on 7, LLC., at 15600 State Highway 7**

**1) Conditional use permit, with setback variance, for an expanded outdoor seating area at 15600 Highway 7**

City Planner Loren Gordon gave the staff report.

Wiersum asked if the conditional use permit should be voted on separately from the liquor license. Gordon recommended the items be voted on separately.

David Benowitz, the applicant, thanked the council for considering his request. He stated he was looking to expand the current patio setup noting fencing would be installed.

Calvert stated she was looking forward to this new restaurant opening in Minnetonka. She reported the menu looked appealing and she appreciated the fact the restaurant was dog friendly.

Schaeppi thanked the applicant for their collaborative efforts and for reaching out to the city, along with the neighbors to the north. He encouraged the applicant to consider having bike parking for patrons that may wish to visit the restaurant in the summer months on their bicycle.

Carter thanked Duke's for coming in and being an example of how to work with the city, the neighbors, and also for investing in the community.

Wiersum agreed this was an exciting project. He welcomed Duke's to the City of Minnetonka.

Calvert moved, Carter seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-026 approving the conditional use permit, with variance. All voted "yes." Motion carried

**2) On-sale intoxicating liquor license for Duke's on 7, LLC, located at 15600 State Highway 7**

City Manager Geralyn Barone gave the staff report.

Wiersum reported the public hearing was open.

There being no comments from the public, Wiersum closed the public hearing.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to continue the public hearing from February 22, 2021 and grant the licenses. All voted "yes." Motion carried

**14. Other Business:**

**A. Police department mental health unit and Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) update**

Police Chief Scott Boerboom, Community Engagement Officer Scott Marks and Senior Social Worker Jessica Angeles gave the staff report.

Calvert noted these were unusual times and understood the pandemic has impacted mental health in Minnetonka. She hoped the pandemic would subside in the coming months and asked if the number of calls for mental health services would remain the same, or if the numbers would be declining. Marks explained he did not believe the numbers have leveled off yet. He commented the department was already seeing a rise in mental health calls prior to the pandemic. He was hoping to see things leveling off in the next several years. He commented on how there was a need for more mental health resources in the

community. Angeles reported the department was catching only a small portion of the cases that she could be working on. She noted the number of referrals last year was closer to 1,600. She stated after a big shared crisis, like the pandemic, she anticipated it would take two to five years to see the full impacts on individual's mental health.

Schack thanked staff for the detailed presentation. She stated she was very proud of the great work that was being done. She asked if people's perception of calls for service and the reclassification of these calls has changed how the general department walks into a situation. She questioned if there were any corresponding changes to the calls for service in the city. Marks reported the number of calls for service in the city has remained static for the past several years. He explained there has been an adjustment in how officers were walking into mental health calls. He noted officers were better trained and were looking for this. He stated there were more resources available, versus just sending them to the hospital or jail.

Schaeppi stated he deeply appreciated the great work being done by the police department and Ms. Angeles. He explained this was serious work that he has witnessed firsthand. He indicated this was a crisis and he anticipated there were a large number of mental health incidents that occur in the community on a daily basis where individuals do not call 911. He requested comment on the differences between self-harm and harming others. Marks described how the department views self-harm noting it was isolated away from suicidal behaviors. Angeles explained harm to others has more to do with psychotic symptoms.

Schaeppi asked if there was any funding available to assist the police department in providing mental health services. Boerboom explained the department received a grant from the Minnetonka Family Collaborative for the past two years, which helps pay a portion of Ms. Angeles contract. He stated he would continue to seek opportunities for dollars.

Coakley commended Officer Marks and Ms. Angeles for their great work on behalf of the community. She understood this was very difficult work, explaining she worked for 15 years as a case manager. She requested further information regarding the Crisis Intervention Training. She inquired if any culture specific training was being done in the department. Marks reported the 40 hour CIT training was put on by Minnesota CIT which was an organization run by law enforcement and mental health professionals. He indicated this was the most established CIT training organization in the state, noting it has been around for the past 20 years. He reported the cultural component was incorporated into the CIT training. He stated he was a licensed therapist and he gets asked lots of questions from officers regarding this matter.

Coakley questioned how this program addresses the killing of BIPOC individuals facing a mental health crisis. Boerboom reported this was a challenge the department has when responding to mental health calls, with or without weapons. He explained his officers are trained to slow things down because this allows officers to assess things in a different way. He commented officers need to assess why they were at a call and does the police need to be at this call. He discussed the new State Statute regarding police use of force that was approved on May 1, 2021. He stated absent the state law, his department works to slow mental health calls down. He reported he would continue to identify ways to address these calls in order to prepare officers how to address those facing a mental health crisis. He indicated he would continue to train in order to do a better job. Angeles commented part of this program was redirecting people to alternative services other than the police.

Kirk thanked the police department, its officers and Ms. Angeles for all they do to address mental health in the community. He appreciated the proactive approach the department took and believed it was being done in an equitable way. He asked if the calls for service for those under 18 was coming from the school and if so, what role did the SRO (School Resource Officer) play in these calls. Marks explained very few calls come from the schools. He noted some of the charter schools have calls for service, along with Omegon. He stated the department had one SRO remaining that worked at the Minnetonka High School. He explained a lot of the situations within the schools are being managed by the school and the officer is not involved, intentionally. He commented the presence of officers can escalate situations, and this is avoided in the school area when possible.

Calvert stated she had so much admiration and respect for this work. She indicated she was at a presentation that had to do with the availability of mental health services in Minnesota, and understood Minnesota was one of the most underserved states in the country when it comes to psychiatrists, psychiatric care and psychiatric beds. She believed the city needed to make it easier for people to enter this type of work. She discussed how the pandemic was adding to the stressors and isolation that triggers mental health episodes. She reported the state needs more money for mental health care.

Wiersum thanked Police Chief Boerboom, Officer Marks and Ms. Angeles for their detailed presentation and for their proactive work on behalf of the community. He indicated this was such an enormous topic and there was such a tremendous need for mental health services. He stated at the Regional Conference of Mayors he received a presentation on mental health and the transport of individuals in greater Minnesota. He anticipated the city council would continue to have to advocate for mental health resources given this was a pervasive issue.

Informational only. No formal action required.



**15. Appointments and Reappointments: None**

**16. Adjournment**

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.  
All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Koosman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Koosman  
City Clerk