

**Minutes  
Minnetonka City Council  
Monday, Aug. 23, 2021**

**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 Susan Carter, Deb Calvert, Brian Kirk, Rebecca Schack, Kissy Coakley and Brad Wiersum were present.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Kirk moved, Schack seconded a motion to accept the agenda with addenda to Item 9.A. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**5. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. July 19, 2021 study session**

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

**B. August 9, 2021 regular meeting**

Calvert explained she spoke with staff about minor changes to the minutes.

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

**C. August 9, 2021 special meeting**

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

**6. Special Matters:**

**A. Retirement Recognition for City Manager Geralyn Barone**

Wiersum provided a presentation recognizing City Manager Geralyn Barone and thanked her for her 27 years of humble and dedicated service to the City of Minnetonka.

Calvert thanked City Manager Barone for her devoted service to the city and for leaving a positive and lasting imprint on the community. She thanked City Manager Barone for her consummate professionalism, patience, guidance, strength, perseverance, and advocacy for her staff. She explained she appreciated City Manager Barone's keen eye for talent, for managing with grace, and for stewarding resources well. She believed her colleagues both here and throughout the country owed her a debt of gratitude. She thanked City Manager Barone for planting seeds that will have a lasting impact.

Schack thanked City Manager Barone for her tremendous leadership and for being a strong mentor. She explained she was eternally grateful for City Manager Barone's patience and guidance over the years. She stated City Manager Barone would be dearly missed and thanked her again for her dedicated service to the city.

Kirk reported he was a newer councilmember. He thanked City Manager Barone for always being available and for answering his questions. He explained he also served as a planning commissioner for seven years. He stated he appreciated how City Manager Barone served the city with professionalism and grace. He thanked City Manager Barone again for her dedicated service to the city and stated she would be truly missed.

Carter thanked City Manager Barone for making her feel seen, important and possible. She stated City Manager Barone would be dearly missed but thanked her for preparing everyone to continue on.

Coakley thanked City Manager Barone for allowing her to sit in her office and have discussions, for listening, being open to new ideas and for being a straight shooter. She explained she was proud to be a resident of Minnetonka and stated this was due in part to the efforts of City Manager Barone. She thanked City Manager Barone for all of her help over the past year and a half.

Schaeppi thanked City Manager Barone for her tremendous leadership on behalf of the community. He explained he appreciated City Manager Barone's ability to process and work with all members of the community.

Wiersum reported the City of Minnetonka was the place he has worked longest in his career and noted City Manager Barone has worked here even longer. He explained he appreciated the strong relationship he has had with City Manager Barone over the years. He commended City Manager Barone for building a strong community, a strong culture and for hiring the right people. He stated he appreciated how solid and steady City Manager Barone has been over the years

and for always doing what is best for the city. He explained it has been a privilege to work with City Manager Barone. He thanked her for putting the city in a tremendous position to succeed going forward.

City Manager Geralyn Barone thanked the mayor and councilmembers for their kind words. She explained she has loved her career in public service in Minnetonka and has thoroughly enjoyed how she has been able to work with residents, councilmembers and staff members to affect change. She discussed the work she had done to impact natural resources and parks in the community, while also working to invest in the city's infrastructure. She stated she was also proud of the work that was being done to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. She appreciated the level of collaboration that had been achieved amongst her peer communities throughout the pandemic. Mostly, she loved Minnetonka, all of its natural beauty, with woods, wetlands, amenities, a strong commercial base, and actively engaged residents. She valued the time she spent with the park board and various task forces she served on. She thanked each of the councilmembers for their time and for truly wanting to make a difference in the community. She appreciated how the city council has respected her position and her as an individual. She thanked her leadership team for being bright, creative, courageous, selfless, caring, supportive and fun individuals. She stated she admired all of her employees for ensuring the wellbeing of the residents of Minnetonka. She explained this job has taught her a lot over the years, the first being patience because the public process takes time and all voices must be heard. In addition, this job has taught her to be more accepting, to have perseverance and to be courageous. She thanked the teachers, professors and people who had impacted her throughout her professional journey. She thanked all of the city councilmembers for making her a better leader. She thanked her staff members and directors for serving the community well. She thanked her family for giving her a strong sense of collaboration and support over the years. Lastly, she thanked her husband Michael, her children Teresa and Marcus for their understanding, sacrifices and love and for sharing her with the City of Minnetonka. She wished the City of Minnetonka all the best in the future. A round of applause and standing ovation was offered by all in attendance.

Wiersum presented City Manager Barone with a plaque on behalf of the city.

Carter excused herself from the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

## **B. Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation**

Kirk read a proclamation in full for the record declaring Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 to be Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Minnetonka.

**C. National Suicide Prevention and Action Month Proclamation**

Schaeppi discussed how suicide and self-harm has impacted his life. He encouraged people to speak up if they see someone hurting. He then read a proclamation in full for the record declaring Sept. to be National Suicide Prevention and Action Month in the City of Minnetonka.

Wiersum thanked Councilmember Schaeppi for sharing his experiences with the council. He encouraged the residents of Minnetonka to have the courage to say something if they see something, or to seek resources if in need of help.

**7. Reports from City Manager & Council Members**

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

Calvert discussed the draught conditions and implored residents to follow the water restrictions that were in place.

Calvert explained she served on the League of Minnesota Cities Improving Services Delivery Committee and commented on the groups recent activities.

Schaeppi thanked Public Works Director Manchester and his staff members for their tremendous work on the street improvement project, and for revisiting an issue with a property owner.

Coakley provided the council with updates from the League of Minnesota Cities Improving Local Economies Policy Committee and the Metro Cities Transportation Committee.

Coakley explained attended the West Metro Community Police BBQ in Plymouth last Wednesday and stated she appreciated the conversations that were held at this event.

Coakley reported she attended a rank choice voting garden party.

Coakley stated she hosted an event for Resilient Cities and Communities which focused on the BIPOC community where elected officials come together and discuss pressing issues.

Wiersum discussed the findings from the 2020 Census noting the city went from 11.4% BIPOC to 17.5%, which meant the community was becoming more diverse. He stated he was excited about this change.

Wiersum reported he met with Congressman Dean Phillips for breakfast where he received an update on the issues he was working on in Washington.

Wiersum explained he also attended the West Metro Community Police BBQ in Plymouth last Wednesday. He agreed this event was very well done. He stated the key takeaway was that we were all people and encouraged residents to get to know people who were different than they were.

Wiersum explained at last week's League of Minnesota Cities meeting he presented a President's Award to the state's first responders and thanked all police, fire and EMT's for their dedicated service to the communities in which they serve throughout the past year.

Carter rejoined the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

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

Kerry Gardner, 13370 Stanton Drive, explained she needed help with a nuisance noise that was impacting her and her neighbors. She indicated her neighbors have a woodpecker scaring device that broadcasts a wounded woodpecker sound. She stated this speaker broadcasts the sound all day every day. She indicated this screeching can be heard from inside her house and was causing her stress and quality of life. She reported she tried to resolve this matter with her neighbors. She commented she spoke with the police and learned this concern does not fall within the parameters of the noise ordinance. She reviewed the language within the city's noise ordinance and requested the council address this concern on behalf of herself and her neighbors.

Coakley thanked Ms. Gardner asked if community mediation has been considered with the neighbors. Ms. Gardner stated she believed this would be a waste of time because the neighbor has drawn a line in the sand and does not care that it bothers the neighbors.

Schaepfi questioned if the noise runs all night long. Ms. Gardner explained the noise runs from dawn until dusk.

Coakley commented community mediation may be beneficial because it brings in an outside person to assist with addressing concerns. Ms. Gardner believed this situation was beyond that point because it has now become a health and safety issue.

Carter stated it may be beneficial for the council to review the noise ordinance because technology has changed since the original language was drafted.

Wiersum asked for comment from staff. City Manager Geralyn Barone reported she spoke with Councilmember Schack regarding this matter. She explained staff can provide the council with additional background information and some

information regarding the noise ordinance. She indicated if there was enough interest from the council, the noise ordinance could be further addressed.

**9. Bids and Purchases:**

**A. Items related to Ridgedale Area Park Improvements project**

Recreation Services Director Kelly O'Dea gave the staff report.

Wiersum explained this project had come in slightly higher than anticipated. However, he was pleased that additional park dedication fees had come in to assist with the extra expense.

Schack commented it was disappointing that the project came in over budget, but she supported this worthy project moving forward.

Calvert agreed with Councilmember Schack and stated the bidding environment was extremely competitive at this time.

Kirk indicated he was indifferent about the Crane Lake Shelter fearing that this amenity was an odd duck on the wrong side of the road. He commented he would be willing to put this shelter back on the alternate list. He discussed the difficult time contractors were having in sourcing out projects and hoped that the climate would stabilize over time.

Schaeppi stated he supported the project where it was originally budgeted and noted he struggled with the added costs. He understood there was support for the overall project. He questioned if this project was a want or a need. He explained at this time, he did not support the additional amount.

Wiersum commented he was struggling with the increased cost as well, but after reading through the staff report he learned this area was under parked. He explained shopping malls were not a winning concept these days but Minnetonka was fortunate to have a shopping mall that was doing well. He stated this was due in part to the fact this mall had retail that was in demand while also have restaurant and entertainment options. He reported the residents living near the mall were greatly anticipating the park. He believed this park was important to city and to new residents that were moving into the Ridgedale area. He indicated he was sold on the park and he would be offering his support.

Schack moved, Calvert seconded a motion to award the agreement, approve the contract, and amend the CIP. Carter, Calvert, Coakley, Kirk, Schack and Wiersum voted "yes". Schaeppi voted "no". Motion carried.

**10. Consent Agenda – Items Requiring a Majority Vote:****A. Resolutions pertaining to levying the 2021 Special Assessments**

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-073, Resolution 2021-074, Resolution 2021-075, Resolution 2021-076, Resolution 2021-077, Resolution 2021-078, Resolution 2021-079 and Resolution 2021-080; order the preparation of special assessment rolls; and set the date for the public hearing. All voted “yes.” Motion carried.

**11. Consent Agenda – Items requiring Five Votes: None****12. Introduction of Ordinances:****A. Ordinances amending City Code 1120 (small cell wireless) and 1105 (driveways), regarding right-of-way management**

Public Works Director Will Manchester gave the staff report.

Kirk asked if the proposed ordinance change would have impacted any of the six recent small cell wireless towers that were approved for Verizon. City Attorney Corrine Heine explained she did not believe the proposed changes would have impacted the applications the city council heard for conditional use permits. She indicated this ordinance should have the effect of reducing the number of new poles that go into the city.

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to introduce the ordinances. All voted “yes.” Motion carried.

**13. Public Hearings:****A. Temporary on-sale liquor license for Unmapped Brewing, LLC, 14625 Excelsior Boulevard**

City Manager Geralyn Barone gave the staff report.

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

Schack moved, Kirk seconded a motion to hold the public hearing grant the license. All voted “yes.” Motion carried.

**14. Other Business:**

**A. Resolution amending Minnetonka Firefighters Relief Association lump sum pension benefit**

Finance Director Darin Nelson gave the staff report.

Calvert asked who this change would impact. Nelson explained this would only impact the department's paid-on call firefighters.

Kirk discussed how the pension fund had been positively impacted over the past nine months. He indicated the jump from \$8,000 to \$12,000 was quite substantial. He questioned if this was being done because incremental increases have not been done over time. Nelson discussed the increases that had been approved over time and commented on how the great recession had impacted the pension fund.

Wiersum explained he sits on the fire relief board and he has had the opportunity to discuss this increase at length. He commented on the importance of recruiting and maintaining paid-on firefighters. He discussed how the proposed increase would keep the city in line with neighboring agencies.

Calvert discussed the sacrifices and disruptions paid-on call firefighters have in order to serve their community. She stated she supported the proposed compensation adjustment and believed this adjustment would help keep the Minnetonka Fire Department competitive.

Carter asked if there was a plan in place to address future adjustments. Nelson commented he would be reviewing this matter on an annual basis going forward.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-081. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**15. Appointments and Reappointments:**

**16. Adjournment**

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Koosman

City Clerk