

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Kirby presiding. Council Members present: Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Also participating: City Administrator, Joe Roby; Newell Krogmann; Andy Grice, BerganKDV Auditor

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Williams to agenda as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Presentations:

4A. MMPA Annual Report

Mr. Newell Krogmann presented City Council with the annual MMPA report beginning with a brief history of the MMPA. The MMPA's mission is to provide reliable power at a competitive price. Mr. Krogmann provided City Council with the natural gas resources and renewable sources that provide energy to the MMPA. Net income for 2022 was \$7 million but is expected to be lower due to higher gas prices in 2022. Mr. Krogmann presented that Minnesota is one of 14 states that has a carbon free electricity law with the expectation that 60% by 2030 will be carbon free electricity, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040. Currently, 43% is carbon free electricity. Mr. Krogmann spoke on the plan for the future that includes solar and wind sources near the members of the MMPA.

5. Consent Agenda: Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the following consent agenda as presented:

5A. City Council Minutes 08/14/2023

5B. Disbursements Through August 28, 2023 Meeting

5C. Personnel Action- Public Works Operator

Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Public Comment: None

7. City Administrator Update:

There was an EDA meeting prior to the City Council meeting and the housing study results were presented. The study found that senior living, market rate housing, and single family housing were needed in Le Sueur. Looking for points of recommendation for campsites at River Park. Public Service Director position has been posted for the past week and will be posted another week. Interim Police Chief Stier has been active in the community and Police Chief interviews will begin this week.

8. Regular Agenda:

8A. 2022 Financial Audit Report

City Auditor, Andy Grice, from BerganKDV, presented City Council with the 2022 audit findings.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the 2022 Financial Audit as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8B. MMPA Solar Project -Letter of Consent

Administrator Roby presented a draft letter to City Council to approve a plan from MMPA to create a five megawatt solar renewable energy facility located in Ottawa Township. It was presented that there will be around 9,000 panels, which will be no greater than 20 feet tall and not interfere with the airport.

Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Huntington to approve the drafted letter to Le Sueur County concerning the proposed MMPA Solar Project. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8C. Second Reading Ordinance 600 – Amending Zoning Map for Mound Cemetery

Administrator Roby presented City Council with ordinance 600 for a second and final reading, which amends the zoning of nearly 10,000 square feet purchased by Mound Cemetery from Steven King, who owns 500 Elmwood Avenue. The land was purchased to correct the lot line between the two properties but in doing so, the land needs to be rezoned to PI from I-1.

Motion by Council Member Williams seconded by Council Member Sullivan to waive and approve the second and final reading of ordinance 600 as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8D. Second Reading Ordinance 601 – Amending Zoning Map for 404 Turril and 811 S. 4th Street

Administrator Roby presented City Council with ordinance 601, amending the zoning map for 404 Turril Street and 811 S. 4th Street. The amendment will change the current zoning of R-2, single family, low density residential to R-4, multi-family, high density residential.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Touhey to waive and approve the second and final reading of ordinance 601 as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8E. Second Reading Ordinance 602 – Amending Zoning Map for 219 S. 2nd Street Parking Lot

Administrator Roby presented City Council with ordinance 602, that amends the zoning map for the parking lot located north of 219 S. 2nd Street from PI to B-1B. The parking lot is no longer owned by the City of Le Sueur and can no longer be zoned PI.

Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Touhey to waive and approve the second and final reading of ordinance 602 as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Comments/Reports/Items of Appreciation:

- Huntington: School is back in session, keep to 25mph on Ferry Street, for the walkers and bike riders
- Schlueter: Attended Region 9 meeting. Reminder that Le Sueur County Officials meeting starts again in September and Le Sueur will host the first meeting.
- Sullivan: Nothing
- Swanberg: Good Luck to all the school faculty and staff and have a wonderful school year!
- Touhey: Tip of the hat to the schools for the test scores results

- Williams: Pioneer Power was well attended.
- Kirby: See everyone in September

Motion by Council Member Huntington to adjourn meeting at 7:17pm. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

Lindsey Dhaene
City Clerk