

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Kirby presiding. Council Members present: Huntington, Schlueter, Swanberg, Sullivan, Touhey, and Williams. Also participating: City Administrator, Joe Roby; Public Service Director, Foster Transburg; Public Works Manager, Joel Schmidt; Human Resource Director, Stacy Lawrence

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Williams to approve agenda as presented. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **Public Hearings:** Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Swanberg to open the public hearing. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.
 - 4A. Alley Vacation
No members of the public were present to speak during the public hearing.
Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Swanberg to close the public hearing. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.
5. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Williams to approve the consent agenda as presented:
 - 5A. City Council Minutes 10/09/2023
 - 5B. Disbursements Through October 23, 2023 Meeting
 - 5C. Off-Site Gambling Permit – St. Peter Hockey Association
 - 5D. Personnel Action – Season Recreation Office Assistants
 - 5E. Personnel Action – Seasonal Zamboni DriversVoting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.
6. **Public Comment:** None.
7. **City Administrator Update:**
Administrator Roby thanked community members who attended the Future of the City Forum. RPAC meeting was held and the campsites at River Park were discussed. Administrator Roby along with Mayor Kirby presented to the Capital Investment Committee in Mankato to ask for \$31 million in funding for a new community center. The presentation went well! Senator Klobuchar visited with Councilmembers, City Staff, and Fire Chief Wenisch at City Hall. LGA/property tax committee meeting tomorrow, a MnDOT Aeronautics meeting in Rochester on Wednesday, a Fire Commission Meeting and Le Sueur County Officials Meeting Wednesday evening. City Clerk Dhaene will attend the Le Sueur County Officials Meeting so Administrator Roby can attend the Fire Commission Meeting. Administrator Roby will be out of the office Friday and Monday.

8. Regular Agenda:**8A. Resolutions R2023-036: Approving Public Alley Vacation**

Administrator Roby presented to City Council resolution R2023-036 that would vacate the public alley in block 32 that lies between two commonly-owned parcels. Building Good Downtowns applied for vacation of the alley and a public hearing was held without any member of the public speaking.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve resolution R2023-036, approving public alley vacation as presented. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

8B. River Park Campsites

Administrator Roby presented to City Council a recommendation from RPAC to allocate \$4,000 in the 2024 budget for Public Works to create six primitive campgrounds at River Park.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Schlueter to approve the allocation of \$4,000 in Public Works 2024 budget toward establishment of 6 primitive campsites at River Park. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

8C. 2024 Public Works Capital Equipment

Administrator Roby presented to City Council an update on the previously discussed CIP for Public Works that included replacing the aging plow truck. The market for plow trucks has changed significantly and turnaround time for getting a brand new truck is about two years, which would put that out to the 2025-2026 winter season, so staff is recommending the purchase of a used plow truck for \$105,000. Staff is also recommending the purchasing of two pieces of equipment that would allow staff to complete more street repair type projects in house. The equipment being recommended is a used asphalt paver and a new asphalt reclaimer at a cost of \$102,000 and \$273,000 respectively. Discussion was held between City Council and staff about equipment necessity, costs, and potential cost savings.

Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Schlueter to approve the purchase of a used plow truck, used asphalt paver, and new asphalt reclaimer at a total price not to exceed \$510,000 to be funded via issuance of equipment certificates. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, and Williams. Voting no: Touhey. Motion passed 6-1.

8D. Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time Policies

Administrator Roby presented to City Council that in the last legislative session, MN lawmakers passed the Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) Law, that requires all Minnesota employers to provide paid leave to eligible employees. Eligible employees must work at least 80 hours per year and will accrue one hour of ESST for every 30 hours worked. Administrator Roby provided City Council with reasons why an employee could use their ESST as well as a list of approved people that the employee could use their time for. A discussion was held regarding how the City of Le Sueur will be handling this new policy which includes keeping the ESST separate from other PTO hours, as well as paying out ESST to temporary or seasonal employees but not to full or part time employees. Motion made by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Touhey to adopt the ESST policies as presented. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

9. Comments/Reports/Items of Appreciation:

- Huntington: Nothing
- Schlueter: Attended two Region 9 Meetings. No Planning Commission Meeting was held due to not having a quorum. Thank you to all the community members who showed up for the Future of the City Forum. Le Sueur County Officials meeting this Wednesday and on Thursday a Climate Smart meeting.
- Sullivan: EDA meeting held tonight. Was able to attend the visit with Senator Klobuchar. Fire Commission Meeting on Wednesday.
- Swanberg: Approved a year contract with CEDA at the EDA meeting.
- Touhey: Attended the Future of the City Forum and it was well done, well attended with interesting conversations. Thanked Stacy for her work on the ESST.
- Williams: HRA meeting last Wednesday. Attended the Forum and Senator Klobuchar visit.
- Kirby: Thank you to everyone for their work on the Forum and Senator visit. Thanked Mr. Roby for his presentation to the Capital Investment Committee.

Motion Huntington to adjourn meeting at 7:43pm. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

Lindsey Dhaene, City Clerk