

## REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers  
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jeffrey Lunde

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey Lunde; Council Members Tonja West-Hafner, Susan Pha, Terry Parks, Mark Mata, and Lisa Jacobson; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Deputy Police Chief Mark Bruley and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Wynfred Russell (excused)

Mayor Lunde introduced Girl Scout Troop #18171, Brooklyn Park, and they led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Stroebel stated there was one public comment at the last meeting regarding concerns of speed and pedestrians along 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. He stated that the Council knew they were taking steps in terms of adding a new stop light at 93<sup>rd</sup>Avenue/Noble, and in the fall, as part of the budget process, they would review potential additional measures to improve safety and speeding issues along 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

### 2B PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Collette Guyott-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens. 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Asked what the date was for changing the speed limit on 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. She stated the neighborhood was fed up with hearing the racing not only on 93<sup>rd</sup>, but when they came out of the stop sign, they raced to the first block of Regent Parkway. She stated the Pultec developer at the northwest corner and the Planning Commission requested a third lane for a left turn lane on 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue or that road be redesigned. She stated with starting the construction there would be more traffic of construction workers, apartment and townhomes owners and should reduce the speed before that traffic started. She stated they should also have signage from both directions 94<sup>th</sup> and from Regent and from Zane so people would know the speed limit.
2. Rich Xiong, 4034 Foxglove Avenue North. Spoke on behalf of residents in the Foxglove and Pinebrook Neighborhoods. He stated they lived by the Park and Ride and there was a squatter in corner. He thanked the Police Department and Council Member Jacobson for responding to their concerns. He stated they kept asking the squatter to leave, but he kept coming back, and the residents worked with the city to get him off there and thanked everyone involved. He stated he also met with Council Member Jacobson regarding this concern after the incident and expressed the desired to see that property zoned Public Institution and it would be only a matter of time for development. He stated they wanted Noble Parkway as a gateway to city, wanted the city to maintain the property and showcase it and not become an eye sore, and to help maintain property values. He stated they were requesting more police patrols in the area and more signage for commercial parking.
3. Tom Paul, 4017 Foxglove Avenue North. Spoke on behalf of residents of the Pinebrook Neighborhood. He stated semi-trucks and dump trucks parked at the Park and Ride and reported it to the Police Department. He stated the entrance into parking lot used to have

a barrier, but during the day and night, it was a big problem as they had seen some criminal activity, sexual activity and a few other things. He stated some of the trees were nice and underneath them was a tarp that had stolen stereo equipment. He asked the city to clean that up and cut the bottom of the trees to help with the property maintenance. He stated it used to be nice bus stop but now there is punched out glass windows and there are no lights around it. He stated the bottom of the pole was falling apart and asked it to be removed if it was not used. He stated there were no lights in the parking lot and it was a dark area. He stated they worried about things in the past and what could happen in the future and would like to work with the Council to solve the situation.

3A. MOTION WEST-HAFNER, SECOND JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3B. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

3B1 Presentation – Grand and First Place Winners of the Summer Blossom Garden & Landscape Recognition Program. Theresa Freund, Community Development, briefed the Council on the winners and presented pictures.

The Mayor and Council recognized the Grand and First place winners of the Summer Blossom Garden & Landscape Recognition Program.

3B2 Mayor's Proclamation of September 17-23, 2019 as "Constitution Week" in the City of Brooklyn Park.

Mayor Lunde read a proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2019 as Constitution Week in the City of Brooklyn Park. She introduced Sue Anderson, Anoka Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and she briefed on the Daughters of the American Revolution.

3B3 Human Rights Commission Interviews

Mayor Lunde and Council interviewed applicants to fill vacancies on the Human Rights Commission.

4.0 MOTION WEST-HAFNER, SECOND PARKS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS:

4.1 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-139 ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS FOR OCTOBER 14, 2019.

4.2 TO SET THE TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET MEETING AS MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-140 AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

FOR THE 2020 TOWARD ZERO DEATHS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT.

4.4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2018 AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

4.4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2018, AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

4.4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2018, AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

4.4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2019, AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

4.4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2019, AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 7.1 Sister City Agreements Approval.

Assistant City Manager Wokie Freeman-Gbogba briefed the Council on the Sister City Agreements.

Mayor Lunde thanked the committee attending. He stated he had broken bread with them and other many different things to talk about the possibilities. He stated when they did the first Sister City, the Council learned so much about how to be better. He stated the policy was designed so that they could structure a Sister City relationship that was realistic but also had goals and visions. He stated he appreciated the work Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba and the committee did in pulling it together because it made it more impactful and meaningful when they talked about what they wanted to do with it.

He stated for the public, who always asked him why the city did sister cities and why did they spend the time that he always invited them to come, like the Liberian festival or to come in two weeks to the signing ceremony if it passes tonight to understand the relationship that the city formed with the different communities was important. He stated the benefit to city was they got to connect with leaders and do a better job of being a host to different members of the community and understanding all the different needs because the community was unique. He stated it was the largest most diverse city in the State of Minnesota. He stated that 20 percent of the city was foreign born, had many languages and there were so many different dialects and religions. He stated when the Sister Cities where structured correctly, they had the ability for the city to form bonds that were important. He thought about how far the city came from the Liberian Sister City and had high hopes that they would do the same with tonight's Sister City. He stated he would tell people it was worth it to do them because the relationships became tighter; the openness and the ability to learn from each other helped the city.

7.1 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND PHA TO APPROVE THE SISTER CITY AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A NEW SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GAROWE, SOMALIA.

Assistant City Manager Wokie Freeman-Gbogba stated the ceremonial signing of the Sister City agreements with the Mayor of Garowe would be held on October 10. She stated she would let the Council and community know when all details have been arranged.

The following individual addressed the Council:

1. Hassanen Mohamed. Stated he appreciated Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba working with them and coming up with something that was mutually acceptable to everyone. He stated in attendance was the Board of Confederation of Somali Communities and Minnesota House of Representative Mohamud Noor, who was the previous Executive Director of the Confederation of Somali Communities, and other members from the Friends of Garowe. He stated not many were in attendance tonight because they were waiting for the real event in October.

Council Member Jacobson stated she had conversations with the Mayor, City Manager and Assistant City Manager on the item. She stated she was not against it. She thought the Council needed to make sure as they moved ahead in the future and because the Council would look different in the future. She stated right now there were signs for windows that said, "all are welcome here." She stated she didn't want the Council to get to a day when a Council said no to a Sister City because the city had enough of them. She stated the Oromo community could come forward or the Hmong community could come forward and that future Council didn't really understand the way they were voting tonight, and they would say no. She stated they were potentially going to divide the community again as some would feel like they were special because they were part of a Sister City and others might feel like they were turned down from being a part of a Sister City. She just wanted to caution the Council about moving it forward. She stated it was a concern of hers in doing it and believed it was carefully laid out in the policy and procedures.

Council Member Mata stated he was at the work session where they talked about it and the Council found out the city had a Sister City they didn't know about and no one did anything for many years. He stated that once they start bringing forward Sister Cities, asked if that was the only way they were going to be accepting someone if they were a Sister City. He thought it was wrong. He stated there were a bunch of communities that lived in the city and people that came from different countries and different places and asked if the Council was saying they didn't respect them, didn't like them, didn't agree with them, or not going to support them. He stated absolutely not. He stated he had watched the one the city had already and had a lot of extras being spent on it, wasting taxpayer money, where the city had to provide police protection, had to stay overnight in hotel rooms, and equipment leaving the city to support another place. He stated nothing ever came back to the city and was just give and give and that was the taxpayers resources that he felt they could do more things with the community that lived in the city as opposed to sending it overseas or outside the community. He stated he had respect for every individual who lived in the city, but to create a Sister City was not something he wanted to do so that the city had 100 of them and at some point, in time somebody would they were not going to invite someone to be a Sister City. He stated he was not in favor of having Sister Cities because it was not a two-way street for him.

Council Member Pha stated she was not against having Sister Cities at all. The city was the second most diverse city in Minnesota. She stated it would be awesome to be the city that had the most number of Sister Cities in the State because the city had such a diversity. She stated

having them all over the world was to connect with other people and were not doing anything with them other than cultivating friendships, understanding, and cultural respect. She stated sponsors like the Friends of Garowe were the sponsors of the relationship and they were going to manage the relationship. She stated the city would do their part, Friends of Garowe would do their part and the Sister City would do their part. She stated she didn't see it as a one way relationship and was a two way relationship. She stated it was whole community coming together to embrace something and if many other cities and other countries would like to be Sister City of Brooklyn Park, she would hold that as an honor and a privilege to be able to do it. She stated she was not worried having 10 or 20 coming forward and hoped they did come forward; because they would be a great opportunity for the city to be able to cultivate those relationships and culturally understand them. She stated she was not concerned about it and hoped more would come forward and when they did, she would support it.

Council Member Parks stated he had no issue with the Sister City and the difference now between it and the ones they had done a Sister City with before was that they didn't have an agreement or policy in front of Council on how to get there. He welcomed the representatives the city and welcomed their families and the city family to break bread together.

7.1 THE VOTE ON THE MOTION PASSED. (5 TO 1) MATA VOTED NO.

7.1 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE SPONSOR AGREEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF GAROWE IN MINNESOTA COMMITTEE AND THE CONFEDERATION OF SOMALI COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA. MOTION PASSED. (5 TO 1) MATA VOTED NO.

Assistant City Manager Wokie Freeman-Gbogba stated on October 10 there would be a ceremonial signing of the Sister City Agreement. She stated the Mayor of Garowe was expected to be at the ceremony and she would let the Council and community know when all of the details had been arranged.

#### 9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Mata stated the Park and Ride at Noble/TH610 was used for the State Fair and now it was not used. He stated the one at 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, parking was difficult. He stated that now that the city owned the Park and Ride, to ask the Met Council to run it again for the State Fair.

He stated during the public comment, residents spoke about why trucks were parking there. He stated the city should be charging them to use the city's land.

Mayor Lunde agreed about the State Fair buses as he was hearing a lot of comments about the Park and Ride at 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue where they were waiting two hours for buses to arrive and suggested being proactive on what the city could do.

#### 9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel briefed on the following events:

- September 14, at 8:00 a.m. Wiggle Butt 5K Run/Walk Check-In; and 9:00 a.m. Run/Walk starting at the Brookdale Dog Park with the Bark Park Expo from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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- September 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. was the Historic Eidem Farm 40-Year Anniversary as a Historic Site event.
- September 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. Rotary Beer Fest, at the BP Community Activity Center, supporting Rec on the Go and BrookLynk programs.

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Lunde adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

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JEFFREY JONEAL LUNDE, MAYOR

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DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK