

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 3, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jeffrey Lunde

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey Lunde; Council Members Rich Gates, Susan Pha, Terry Parks, Mark Mata, Bob Mata and Lisa Jacobson; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Police Chief Craig Enevoldsen and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Lunde opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Stroebel stated at the last meeting there was a question related to two potential facilities within the city and was trying to get an answer to that question, and once he got the answer, he would provide it to the Council and the resident.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

3A. MOTION GATES, SECOND PARKS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3B PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

3B.1 Introduction of New Employees

Community Development Director Kim Berggren introduced Breanne Rothstein as a new employee to the Community Development Department. Police Chief Craig Enevoldsen introduced Emily Market as a new employee to the Police Department.

3B2 Interview Applicants for the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission.

Council Member Jacobson stated she would recuse herself from voting due to personal interest relating to CCX and NWSCCC.

The Mayor and Council interviewed applicants for the NWSCCC.

4.0 MOTION GATES, SECOND PARKS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS:

4.1 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-170 APPROVING A 2.75% GENERAL PAY INCREASE IN 2019 FOR NON-REPRESENTED CITY EMPLOYEES AND ADJUSTING THE SHARED HEALTHCARE PREMIUM INCREASE BY THE CURRENT 60% EMPLOYER/40% EMPLOYEE SPLIT FOR 2019.

4.2 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-171 TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY SENTENCING TO SERVE PROGRAM (STS) FOR GENERAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-172 TO AWARD THE BID FOR A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE BOULEVARD TREE PRUNING CONTRACT TO OSTVIG TREE INC.

4.4 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-173 AUTHORIZING THE BROOKLYN PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED TO 2019 NCAA TOURNAMENT SECURITY.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.1 Rental and Business Licensing Manager Keith Jullie briefed the Council on the Renewal of the Currency Exchange License for SJB Enterprise Inc. dba Your Exchange Located at 7646 Brooklyn Boulevard North.

5.1 Mayor Lunde opened the public hearing to consider the Renewal of the Currency Exchange License for SJB Enterprise Inc. dba Your Exchange Located at 7646 Brooklyn Boulevard North.

The following individuals addressed the Council – None.

5.1 Mayor Lunde closed the public hearing and returned the item back to the table for consideration.

5.1 MOTION JACOBSON, SECOND B. MATA TO SOLICIT TESTIMONY AND RECOMMEND THE RENEWAL OF THE CURRENCY EXCHANGE LICENSE FOR SJB ENTERPRISE INC. DBA YOUR EXCHANGE LOCATED AT 7646 BROOKLYN BOULEVARD NORTH.

Council Member Gates stated for the past 12 years he had never voted for them because he didn't think they were good for the community. He stated he wouldn't vote on it or the next item as he had done for the past 12 years.

5.1 THE MOTION PASSED. (6 TO 1) GATES VOTED NO.

5.2 Rental and Business Licensing Manager Keith Jullie briefed the Council on the Renewal of the Currency Exchange License for Unbank Company LLP Located at 6319 Zane Avenue North.

5.2 Mayor Lunde opened the public hearing to consider the Renewal of the Currency Exchange License for Unbank Company LLP Located at 6319 Zane Avenue North.

The following individuals addressed the Council – None.

5.2 Mayor Lunde closed the public hearing and returned the item back to the table for consideration.

5.2 MOTION JACOBSON, SECOND B. MATA TO SOLICIT TESTIMONY AND RECOMMEND THE RENEWAL OF THE CURRENCY EXCHANGE LICENSE FOR UNBANK COMPANY, LLP LOCATED AT 6319 ZANE AVENUE NORTH. MOTION PASSED. (6 TO 1) GATES VOTED NO.

5.3 2019 Proposed Operating Budget and 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan/Capital Equipment Plan Public Hearing (Truth in Taxation).

Finance Director LaTonia Green briefed the Council on the 2019 Proposed Operating Budget. Budget Overview – Budget Objectives, Challenges and Pressures; Budget Summary; 2019 Total Expenditures by Fund; Strategic Investments; General Fund – General Fund Revenues and Expenses; 2019 General Fund Expenditures by Department; 2019 General Fund Expenditures by Type; General Fund Growth Drivers; Internal Service Funds – Chargeback Revenues; Chargeback Expenses; Utility Funds – Utility Funds Revenues; Utility Funds Expenses; Special Revenue Funds – Ice Arena; Brookland Golf Park; Enterprise Funds-Edinburgh USA Golf Course; Levies – Proposed Property Tax Levies; City Manager Final Proposed Levy.

Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz briefed the Council on the 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan/Capital Equipment Plan. General Overview; CIP/CEP Goals; CIP/CEP Process; Vehicles/Equipment; IT Support Equipment; Misc. Support Equipment; Proposed CEP Expenditures; CIP source documents; General Public Buildings; 2019-23 CIP Significant Projects; Utility Fences; 2019-23 CIP Significant Projects; Transportation Facilities; 2019-23 CIP Significant New Facilities/Enhancements; Franchise Fees; Franchise Fee 2016-18 Projects Map.

Council Member B. Mata asked about the Franchise Fees for the parking lot, if the franchise fee stipulated that it could only be used for road construction.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated the ordinance said transportation infrastructure including street repairs for rehabilitation. He stated it didn't say that it had to only be used for streets, although, that was the complete intent. He stated that was why with any deviation from the Council's approval of franchise fees, they were bringing it forward. He stated it was the Council's discretion to allow it or not.

Council Member B. Mata thought he remembered it as only for street overlays and reconstruction. He stated the franchise fees took the place of special assessment for properties and didn't know that it should be used for those parking lots and was not intended for that.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated they could continue to use the Heritage Fund for that and in his opinion could do a city parking lot overlay within reason using the franchise fees but they could do it either way.

Council Member Jacobson asked if they weren't doing the franchise fee and they were assessing neighbors for having their streets reconstructed, would they be assessing the neighbors to overlay the parking lot at the Operations and Maintenance building.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated they would bond for some of those projects and the general public would pay as part of the taxes for any bonding the city was to do. He stated the way franchise fee was set up, half of it was going to street reconstruction so that people didn't get assessed and the other half was going to overlays, which they could have bonded, assessed for, or a number of things. He stated it was the same pavement issues that they had in a few of the city parking lots they were addressing through the franchise fees with all of the city streets. He stated it was only a proposal and if they didn't use the franchise fee for the parking lot, then they would use the Heritage Fund.

5.3 Recreation and Parks Director Jody Yungers briefed the Council on the Recreation and Parks Facilities; 2019 Parks and Facilities Heritage Projects; 2019-23 OSLAD Projects; Community Priorities/Investment Costs; Park Bond Projects; Planning.

Mayor Lunde stated he had been to a few meetings on the parks and one of the solutions they tried to end up was with cameras on the park parking lots and they were not cheap and borrowed mobile ones from the Police Department. He asked if that was something they should start to budget for.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated they were working with the Police Department on it and had cameras in a couple of the park locations now. She stated they did have an extra mobile set from the Police Department when they had seen there had been some activity. She stated that as part of the trail, they had talked about lighting, security and improving safety and they could take a look at incorporating that in the plan. She stated they did plan as they developed and redeveloped parks and they incorporated the infrastructure to make sure they were set to put in the security for those redevelopments and tied into those broader developments.

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz briefed the Council on the Capital Improvement Plan 2019-2023; 2019-2023 CIP by Funding Source; CIP Financing Capital Funds; CIP Financing Utility Funds.

Council Member Parks stated they talked about rehabbing the fire stations and he would rather see more firefighters than rehabbing the fire station. He stated with River Park was getting more public, and talked about kayaking yet, they had a fire station that had two boats in it and didn't have firefighters for it. He thought it would increase calls over on the river with people who hadn't been on a kayak before that were jumping in the river and was concerned about it. He stated on rehabbing City Hall, asked if they had tried talking to Hennepin County, because the city was doing them a service by having the DMV at City Hall and thought they would want to have input on it. He stated if they did, he would like to see if there was some way to get them to pay for part of rehab. He stated that on the park bond if some of the things they had been talking about were considered in it.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated that in each project they would have to pay attention to the funding source. She stated when it said park bond, it was a park bond project specifically, but believed in their packet, it was also printed by the funding source on the projects. She stated those that said park bond would be the specific park bond projects.

5.3 Mayor Lunde opened the public hearing to consider the 2019 Proposed Operating Budget and 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan/Capital Equipment Plan Public Hearing (Truth in Taxation).

The following individuals addressed the Council :

1. Jerry Foss, 10116 Chestnut Circle. Concerned about property tax increase for his townhouse. Taxes last year were 9% and this year 12% and most of his neighbors had similar tax increases.
2. Al Schenkelberg, 10117 Chestnut Circle. Concerns with property tax increases; Market Values are not right for townhomes; the city budget needs to reflect a zero increase in expenditures over the next five years to keep levies/property tax levies stable; the city services of plowing snow and road maintenance needs to be extended to Association streets
3. Tom Lahound, 10114 Chestnut Circle. Sharp increases of 11% to 12% in one year does not make sense. They pay city taxes for snow plowing, seal coating, ice/snow conditioning on roads and they pay for those services out of their own association funds and asked why they were being charged by the city for services not rendered.
4. Ken Kutz, 10106 Chestnut Circle. His property tax went up 13.6%. There was a townhouse development on 101st, less than mile from them, that looked the same, same size and were \$500 to \$600 less in property taxes than theirs and asked how that could happen and was not fair. The system on assessment or taxes needs to be fair or equitable.
5. Wayne Berry, 8016 Perry Avenue North. Property taxes continued to increase, last year was 12% and this year up to 17.4%. Not fair and killing half of the residents in the city.

6. Pam Chandler, 10008 Northwood Lane. Her property taxes will be 27.4% taxes are going up and would like to know why.
7. Fred Klietz, 10154 Chestnut Circle. Last year had a 9% increase in property taxes and this year was a 12% increase.

5.3 Mayor Lunde closed the public hearing and returned the item back to the table. He asked if staff had answers to the questions that were raised by the speakers.

Finance Director Green stated staff would prefer to get back to the individuals who had spoken tonight. She stated each case was unique to each homeowner and the reason why they would get back to them was so they could look at the property tax statements and make a determination as to why their property taxes were going up. She stated the property tax statements received in the mail from County last week were based on the preliminary levy and they had decreased it since then. She stated the property tax statement they would receive in the spring of next year would be lower based on what Council decided to adopt on December 10 if the presentation they made tonight was accepted.

Mayor Lunde stated that a couple questions were asked, one, if the city could cap for certain people, and it could not. He stated State law determines how the taxes were apportioned meaning they couldn't take the conditions, whether a veteran, were low income, were high income, and it was just straight up and everyone was assessed on the value of their property and was State law.

He stated the other question was about applying the franchise fee to all residents whether on a private road or not. He stated that at that time the Council still left it open if a development wanted to petition the city to take over streets but there were a couple of conditions.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated when they had the discussions, the best case scenario was that the development was built to city standards for road width and setbacks to comply with city standards. He stated if the town home complex were to make changes to get to those standards, they would be considered equal with other city roads and by petitioning the Council could make that change.

He stated the other part of the question was why the seal coating was on a utility bill. He stated the seal coat and overlay program in fixing streets was on the gas utility and electric utility bill and were separate utility bills. He stated it went back to the Council at the time who chose to use that funding method for the streets. He stated it was very common and more than half of cities in States called it a franchise fee and was a tax. He stated it was a different revenue source dedicated to street repair, and based on the Council discussion, didn't think they would use the franchise fees for a parking lot and would keep it to city streets.

He stated that on the interchange project, it was a \$31 million proposed project through

competitive grants and getting some state bonding dollars. He stated they had collected \$22.5 million in grants and now at a \$8.5 million funding gap and they were looking to developers to contribute toward a portion of that gap.

Mayor Lunde stated it would be good for the residents in the Chestnut Development area talk to the Finance Director and staff because there were some specific questions about their development related to franchise fees and the letter on tax valuations which was done in the spring and the taxes were not on there. He stated it was just the value of the home being proposed and the process for the valuation.

Council Member M. Mata stated that for the residents in the Chestnut development, when their property value came in April, that would be the best time to come forward and attend the Council meeting because it would take four votes to determine what they ended up paying. He stated if they brought in examples, facts and figures was where they could get things changed. He stated that since 2008, the city budget went up \$1.8 million a year and looked like the city couldn't live within its means and again was \$1.7 million this year. He stated that not every Council Member voted for that increase and was up the residents at home and those attending tonight to pay attention to who voted for the increase because some Council Members felt their pain and didn't vote for the increase and tell staff to live within its means. He stated it was not his job to needle every single budget item but as a Council Member was to give direction to city staff to come up with a zero increase. He stated there were seniors on a fixed income and the social security didn't go up with the other expenses. He stated that on December 10 or the day they voted on the budget, the residents needed to pay attention on who voted for the increase. He stated he saw things in the budget he didn't like.

He stated that the Franchise Fees put in were because of bad tar and it was now moving to parking lots and would be decided on next year. He stated the Council would have two new members next year and right now were four votes. He stated it was for bad tar.

He asked about the \$31 million for the bridge and stated they had \$15 million for 2016 and \$15 million for 2020. He stated they knew there were other funds coming in but asked why those numbers were in the budget if they knew they were only going to have to do \$6 million and just worry about the \$6 million.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated the numbers laid out in Capital Improvement Plan were projected expenditures over the two-year project period. He stated the detail of the funding, as he mentioned, they had was \$22.5 million in grants. He stated they didn't have the full funding package to show the Council yet but led to believe there would be some development contributions. He stated they were also looking at potentially assessing some of the benefiting properties at the interchange and another funding source could be some EDA contributions.

Council Member Mark Mata stated last week they had the project come forward and said they were going to put it on hold and not talk about it until sometime next year. He asked why they wouldn't put it on hold because maybe in 10 years on the Maple Grove side of Highway 169, it would turn into a large metropolis and now needed a much larger interchange.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz clarified they were not on hold on the interchange project. He stated the interchange project was independent of any specific development, but it was needed for the overall development in that northwest corner of the city. He stated they were moving forward and their goal was to break ground on that interchange by the end of 2019.

Council Member Mark Mata stated they were going to put \$31 million in that interchange and he was saying to put stop lights there like Champlin where they had seven of them just to get to Anoka and would answer the question of the stop light costs and could be around \$600,000.

He stated that on Page 4, Provision, Section E, said sidewalk fill in additional. He asked if they knew in the city where all the fill in additions were because it was \$742,000 over the next five years.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated that as part of their Bike and Pedestrian plan, they had a map of potential fill ins for sidewalks. He stated the reason it was in the Provisional Project, they have not identified funding for it yet.

Council Member Mark Mata asked if they had to have them and if they could be cut out. He stated that by now if someone hadn't put a sidewalk in, they found an alternate route to get through. He stated the one at Edinbrook Center Drive, it came from the Golden Lion Grocery store and it stopped because the city had never put in their piece but every other business over there had to put a sidewalk in. He stated it had been like that since 2005 and felt the money got put in the budget and they were going to pull it to different places because something else needed to get done and the money was voted in there. He stated he was trying to find a way so staff could come back and say they could lighten that load from there.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated that project was a provisional project, and part of the reason why they put some provision projects in the capital plan was that they could be eligible to apply for grants. If they didn't have that page in their plan, there could be some grant dollars for sidewalks and trails that they wouldn't be able to apply for. He stated it was in there and it was not funded, and not spending city money. He stated they did have a number of projects identified along Brooklyn Boulevard, Brookdale Drive, 73rd Avenue, 76th Avenue, Hampshire Avenue and Kentucky. He stated they had a number of locations they would like to do but didn't have money but were looking for opportunities to partner and through grants.

Council Member Mark stated a project he didn't see in the plan when he was looking at new

facilities and asked if there was a projected line item for a 93rd Avenue and Noble Avenue stop light. He stated it was the most talked about controversial intersection with accidents and seniors trying to get out of that intersection. He asked if that was in the budget.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated that location was not specifically called out in the plan. He stated he knew it met a few warrants for a signal there, but it was something they had to coordinate with Hennepin County since it was a county road. He stated it was not one of the top priority locations with Hennepin County for a proposed traffic signal, but in the top 10. He stated he knew the past year with the Highway 169 construction, more traffic found its way on 93rd Avenue, which made it worse, but it did meet several warrants.

City Engineer Jesse Struve stated for traffic signals, it was Item 4005 on page 105 of the CIP for traffic signal addition. He stated they didn't have items specifically called out for specific projects and that intersection was not one that was in the 5-year CIP. He stated they had been discussing 93rd Avenue with Hennepin County, but had not gotten a final resolution or updated priority list from Hennepin County to see where it fell within the city.

Council Member Mark Mata clarified that for the next 5 years, the city couldn't get a stop light at that intersection.

City Engineer Struve stated the Council could reprioritize any of those funds. He stated they were spending funds for projects including traffic signals in the community, and the Council had the authority to redirect those funds to that interchange if that was what the Council decided.

Council Member Mark Mata stated he would make sure staff would come back to the Council to ask that question so they could make that decision for the residents who were asking that question.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated staff would need to bring forward the current list of the prioritized signal locations, and Council would be able to see where that signal fell in that list to make an informed decision.

Council Member Mark Mata asked about Page 3, on left hand side, Section D and E, Provisional, fourth line down, said field house dome for \$4 million for 2019 and additional turf sports field for \$4 million.

Recreation and Parks Director Jody Yungers stated that had funding and was to be determined since the passing of the bond referendum. She stated that included within the fund, they did have the capacity to look and prioritize their field reinvestments. She stated currently they were waiting on a potential partnership that might impact the decision around that issue. She stated the Osseo School District and Park Center had appropriated \$2 million toward the development two synthetic turf fields. She stated that with the passing of the bond

referendum, they had committed to putting lights on those two facilities. She stated they didn't know about a dome yet. She stated they would use some field park bond appropriation to support the field lights because it gave them access to two fields and would have spent \$2.5 million on it and now they were only putting in \$500,000 and getting access in the evenings, weekends and summers for those fields as part of that partnership.

Council Member Mark Mata, stated with the Osseo Schools and the Champlin Park School District too, he had the privilege of being a traveling baseball coach for youth in the city and traveled to other cities and played on varsity fields like Totino Grace, Minnetonka, Centerville, Mounds View and South St. Paul fields. He stated when they asked if they could play on the fields, Champlin and Park Center, a Brooklyn Park baseball team, which was a nonpaying tax entity in the city, paid by the city residents, inside the city, were never able to play on those fields.

He stated he was confused on how they wanted as a Council, to build facilities to assist them, but the city had its own kids wanting to play on those nice fields but had to go elsewhere to play. He stated he would rather take the money and put it into Northwoods Park and put lights there and make it so that the BPAA and other fields the city were nice fields. He stated the city also shared Evergreen field in Brooklyn Center, which was a nice field too. He stated if they were going to do things like that, he would think they should do it for the city because they could control them, otherwise, there was no control there. He stated they were going to not have youth coaches wanting to participate on those fields that would never be able to use it, but yet they were taxpayers and paying for it.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated that as part of the conversations on the partnerships, they would never go into a partnership where they didn't feel they had the ability to control the scheduling and the participation in the out of school time hours, evening time and then on summers. She stated that would be part of the agreement and the agreement would be brought to the Council and was specific to Park Center. She stated the other portion of the funds would be a reinvestment in advancing the hometown ball field at the Noble Sports Park. She stated that as part of the bond referendum, talked about the importance of a hometown ball field, one that they could take pride in and that was what the park bond would support. She stated they had a potential partnership that might bring a very significant complex to the community and would bring that sense of pride.

Council Member Mark Mata asked about the street sweeper for \$210,000 and asked if they got all of the leaves off the street before the cold and snow came this year.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated they were not able to complete the third round of street sweeping.

Council Member Mark Mata stated that because they were not able to accomplish that task

asked if anyone was going to get injured, would there be a loss of life, was there anything that could potentially be super negative because they did not accomplish that task. He stated the answer was no and asked if they need another street sweeper to accomplish the task because they failed and there was no harm, and they did the best they could. He stated they were putting another large ticket item in the budget and the taxpayers had to pay for the service they didn't need. He stated he was just giving ideas to the Council when it came time for the budget. He stated he would vote no again for the budget because it was an increase to the taxpayers.

He stated there was \$500,000 plus for a new fire truck and a new pumper truck. He stated his recollection of the new trucks was that the newest one they were using was the first engine out of Station 2, which was the main truck engine. The second newest vehicle was its backup which didn't make sense. He stated they had two other stations that were staffed, and he expected that vehicle to be there. He stated he knew the habits and past use of the vehicles if they had three newest engines that were the first out for all three of the stations and if that was not the case, asked why they needed a new one. He stated the old one was fine because it only had to pass a couple of tests and one of them was could it pump at a certain gallon and survive and believed they all did it. He stated that was another large ticket item Council could look at. He stated he was just looking to see where they could do less, because not everyone's income would be getting an increase, the State didn't have a COLA, the social security did not increase and the city gets more and more bills to pay. He stated he expected staff to come back with more technology friendly ideas, more ways they could do things cheaper and that was what he was looking for.

Mayor Lunde stated if they froze the city budget meaning no increase, it did not guarantee anything to any individual house A flat budget did not mean anything to the homeowner. If the value of their home went up higher than the average, they would pay more taxes in a flat budget and there was nothing the city could do. He stated five years ago that to guarantee every homeowner got a property tax cut, they would have to cut \$7 to \$8 million in the budget because everything was in direct proportion of how people paid in. He stated that was the Council 's challenge. They couldn't apportion it where some would get a cut because it was a flat rate. He stated whatever percentage of the overall value of the city's budget pie they had, they would pay that percentage. He stated that was the way it worked in Minnesota and there was no forgiveness when it came to commercial property. He stated the State got involved and that tax was divided four ways and not three, between school district, county, and the city. He stated the points about the townhomes and comparisons was worthwhile to see how they compared using new construction, at 18 months. He stated he would like that information for the next meeting or in the weekly read.

He stated he did want to move forward on the 101st interchange and thanked Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz, staff and the lobbyist because the city got \$22 million out of \$32 million for that project and got millions for other projects. He stated whether it was project

Hotdish or another project, it was still going to be based off that interchange project that came before it. He stated the Council had a choice, they could say they didn't want to do it and would have to turn everything back in, or say they were going to skip it and save money but the North Business Park did need that development.

He recalled the LGA and tax relief, and one thing they did and tried to do with LGA and for a while they held to it, was try not to depend on it, meaning no police officers, fire fighters or city workers got paid by LGA. He stated if there was a big budget crisis, the State could just wipe it out and go to zero and suddenly city services were directly affected. He stated it happened to the Council in 2002 when LGA was zeroed out and the Council had to have the pain of cutting people because city services were tied to that number.

Council Member Jacobson stated there were certain things affecting the budget the Council didn't control, for example, the increase of health care premiums of 12%, PERA was up by 8.4% and not putting in a 3% COLA raise. She stated they were putting less in for employees and hoped they didn't lose them to other cities who were giving higher percentages. She stated the city had a great staff and was the largest part of the budget. She stated she heard residents from the East District who wanted specific things, like the East Fire Station manned again and there was a cost to that and not a small one. She stated things like the light on 93rd Avenue, she gets worked up too about that light and spoke to Hennepin County Commissioner Opat who had his father live in that area and wanted a light there too and hoped to get a light on 93rd Avenue faster than five years. She stated it was important to ensure homes were being valued properly for the neighborhood residents that attended tonight, and staff to take a look and meet with those residents and see if we failed them in some way. She stated it was not an easy job, and to say they were not going to raise taxes was difficult thing for them when they had those things they couldn't control. She wanted the residents to know they were trying to watch out for them, but some things weren't optional to cut. She asked if they removed the Provisional List, did that mean they couldn't go after the grants and to make those happen.

Finance Director Green stated it depended on the grant and if it had a requirement that the city had allocated some dollars toward projects; otherwise, they would not be able to go for that grant.

Council Member Bob Mata stated he believed the property values were a problem in increases of the taxes. He stated it was the way the properties were assessed. He stated they had noticed it when they came back to the Council with evidence that the homes didn't go up as much as Assessors had said they had gone up. He stated they had been able to lower the values on their properties and reduce their tax base. He stated it was not the amount of taxes, it was the increase, and if the residents came back and debated the increase with evidence and proved the facts, then the Council would decide to help lower their rate on their value of their home, which would reduce their taxes. He stated he had voted against the \$1.7 to \$2 million increase in the budget for the last six years and would continue to do it. He stated it was the last chance

to get it down to somewhere he could vote for it, but unfortunately it was at \$1.7 million now and he couldn't do it. He stated he stood on it since day one and thought they needed to be able to find some place, some ways to better spend the money and if they had to reduce something, then reduce it and quit the wasteful spending to bring the budget down.

Council Member Pha stated she was not on the Council when the franchise fees were discussed that included the townhome owners. She stated that for a long time she had never agreed with it and if they had enough people who felt the franchise fees was unfair to townhome owners, they could always bring it back to Council for discussion. She stated it was unfair to the townhome owners to have the franchise fees equally. She stated she was not saying to eliminate it because they still shared the other roads with the rest of the city too. She stated their developments were not getting the roads plowed and maintained the same way as the homeowners and felt for the townhome owners in the city.

She believed the budget was getting too large and was an increase every year and did see where it was coming from and some of was out their control, such as the increase in health care, and the COLA to be competitive with other cities to keep the employees. She stated she also believed there were other places they could cut and had seen it often when it came across their desk where there were opportunities where they could cut. She stated there were different views by the Council and sometimes they agreed and cut certain things and sometimes disagreed and was a split vote or sometimes it was passed. She stated at the EDA meeting earlier today before the Council meeting, they voted to approve a \$1.5 million investment into the Edinburgh Club House and to her it looked fine the way it was but knew there needed other investments to it. She stated it was a lot of money to finance a private restaurant business to do business in the city. She stated if they were financing private businesses, asked about the about the small businesses in the city and why they didn't help them out. She felt there were ways they could cut the budget and believed there was some wasteful spending. She stated she would be careful looking at budget when it came up for voting as to whether she believed they cut where they needed to and to be responsible when it came to the budget of city and not letting it get too high.

Finance Director Green stated next week the Council would have a short overview of the budget and they could can make recommendations to change what was being proposed.

Mayor Lunde asked if they would have to December 17 if the Council needed it, if the Council next week had a bunch of questions. He stated if next week was it, then encouraged all Council Members, if they had questions, to bring them up at the December 10 meeting to remove, subtract or add and get the questions to staff so they would come to the meeting prepared; otherwise, they would have to wait one more week.

City Manager Stroebel stated he would be reaching out to each Council Member and talk about specific ideas they might have and address any questions they might have and be prepared as

best they could for next Monday.

7.1 City Manager Jay Stroebel briefed the Council on the 2019 Council and EDA meeting dates.

7.1 MOTION PARKS, SECOND LUNDE TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL AND EDA MEETING DATES FOR 2019 WITH THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. CHANGE THE JANUARY 7, 2019 WORK SESSION TO A REGULAR MEETING
2. CANCEL THE COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON JULY 1, 2019
3. CHANGE THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 WORK SESSION TO A REGULAR MEETING
4. CANCEL THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 23, 2019
5. WHILE THERE ARE NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS ON MONTHS WITH A FIFTH MONDAY, THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING, IF NEEDED.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Civil Engineer Mitch Robinson briefed the Council on the City of Brooklyn Park Americans with Disabilities Transition Plan for Public Right-of-Way.

7.2 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND PHA TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-174 ADOPTING THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Parks stated that on Saturday, December 8, there was a waffle breakfast sponsored by the Brooklyn Park Lions.

9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated that on Saturday December 8, there was an event to stuff welcome bags for all new homeowners and renters. He stated it would be held in the Council Chambers at 10 a.m.

He stated that at the next meeting at 6 p.m., there will be a recognition for Council Members Rich Gates and Bob Mata.

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Lunde adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

JEFFREY JONEAL LUNDE, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK