

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 28, 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, Wynfred Russell and Lisa Jacobson; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Deputy Police Chief Todd Milburn 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 there were a couple of comments at the last meeting. He stated a resident addressed the Council regarding 78th Avenue with concerns of people fixing cars and selling cars along 78th Avenue. He stated the resident was working with the Police Department and Code Enforcement staff to come to a good conclusion to address that issue.

He stated the other comment was regarding 93rd Avenue specific to concerns around a gas line and impact by construction going on there, overall speed on 93rd Avenue and the overall conditions of 93rd Avenue specifically between Zane and Regent.

City Manager Stroebel gave an update regarding 93rd Avenue and the intersection of 93rd Avenue and Noble.

He stated with the gas line concerns, staff reached out to CenterPoint Energy on the principal line that ran north/south on Regent Avenue and they said the line was in good condition and didn't have concerns with the construction impacting it. On the safety on 93rd Avenue, they were continuing to work with the Police Department enforcing the speed limits. He stated 93rd Avenue would be part of discussions early in the fall as part of the capital planning process. He stated the overall condition of the road compared to similar roads ranked 20/25 segments in terms of the overall condition. He stated that given the recent developments, there were other considerations for why improvement might be considered on that segment of the road compared to others. He gave an example where the city had spent a lot of time on 63rd Avenue improving the east/west connection. He stated that was a road that had greater issues in terms of road condition, safety, and pedestrian demands. He stated 93rd would be discussed early in the fall on potential improvements relative to other similar streets and said they got \$3 million a year for MSA roads, and those dollars would get stretched.

He stated that on the intersection of 93rd Avenue and Noble and based on information sent to the County, the County did believe it now warranted the possibility of having a new traffic signal installed there. He stated the City was getting pricing to design a potential traffic signal system at that intersection and would bring the potential designs service agreement to the Council in the summer if they wanted to move forward with looking at designs for putting a traffic signal there. He stated if that project were to go forward, it would be considered as part of the 2020 CIP plan in the fall and that improvement would be done early next year.

Council Member Mata stated he would like have discussion at the next work session on 93rd Avenue between Regent/Zane. He stated that putting it on the agenda in early fall meant they were not going to do anything about it until late fall and there would be snow again and no one was walking that street. He stated right now there were bikes there and walkers on that street and no sidewalks. He stated the Council could change the speed limit of that street and just had to put the signs up and match the other side of Regent from Noble Parkway to Regent Avenue. He stated if they waited too long with the development happening on that road, they should change the speed limit now.

City Manager Stroebel clarified there was nothing currently budgeted in the 2019 budget for road improvements on 93rd Avenue in terms of resources. He stated it was not in the approved CIP. He stated if the Council wanted to go forward with improvements on 93rd Avenue, it would have to come from other projects that had not already been contracted out or started.

Mayor Lunde suggested having that discussion at the work session.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Collette Guyott-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens. Asked to paint a crosswalk so people could go from Lennar homes to cross 93rd Avenue and to go to the Noble Parkway sports facility instead of having to drive there to be safe. She stated Tater Daze was coming up and had called police because traffic was a nightmare. Drivers used 93rd Avenue as an alternate road for TH 610 and was increasing. She stated that even with the stop sign, the cross walk was not safe for kids or group of bicyclist riding through that intersection. Stated the speed was 50 mph, Channel 9 had segment that said a person was three times more likely to die when hit at 35 mph than 25 mph. Senator Hoffman was more than happy to help getting speed down with MnDOT at lower speed. Stated tonight at 5:20 p.m., there was so much traffic backed up again and on 94th Avenue, cars pulled out in front because of being tired of waiting. Stated it needed a stop sign there and asked Council to add a crosswalk, change the speed limit, that didn't cost a lot but made it safe.

3A. MOTION WEST-HAFNER, SECOND JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK AND ADD ITEM 5.2. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

3B1 Interview Applicants for the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission.

Mayor Lunde and Council interviewed applicants to fill a vacancy on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission. No one attended.

3B2 Budget Advisory Commission Verbal Report

Chair Eric Pone gave the report. He introduced Commissioners Nancy Omondi and Teshite Wako, Benchmark Task Force gave an update on the performance measure and industry standards.

He briefed on: City Benefits – Comparison with other cities, Request For Proposals Process – Will be part of the Process, Benchmarking/Template, Department Benchmarking – Department Presentation Objectives and Questions, Suggestion – Park Bond and Transportation Projects.

3B3 Preliminary Year-End 2018 Financial Results

Finance Director LaTonia Green gave an update regarding the year-end results of 2018. She briefed on the following: Preliminary 2018 General Fund Budget Results, Revenue, Expenditures, General Fund Budget Performance (2015-2018).

4.0 MOTION MATA, SECOND JACOBSON TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS:

4.1 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-86 TO ACCEPT THE 2018 DEER HUNT RESULTS, AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE 2019 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE METRO BOWHUNTERS RESOURCE BASE TO CONDUCT THE 2019 HUNT.

4.2 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-87 TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF CONSULTANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK AND LYDIA MORKEN TO ASSIST IN ADVANCING THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE BECOMING AN AGE FRIENDLY BROOKLYN PARK RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-88 APPROVING TRANSPORTATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AGREEMENT (GRANT #TEDP-17-0015-O-FY18) WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TH 169 / 101ST AVENUE INTERCHANGE PROJECT; CIP 4042-19.

4.4 TO RELEASE THE ENGINEERING ESCROW (\$3,481.77) FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE "RIVER VIEW WEST ADDITION" PROJECT #18-119 LOCATED AT 9203 WEST RIVER ROAD N FOR CHANNADDA VIRASIH.

4.5 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-89 AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OSSEO SCHOOL DISTRICT 279 TO PROVIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES TO PARK CENTER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL, NORTH VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND OSSEO AREA LEARNING CENTER FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR.

4.6 TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR JUNE 24, 2019 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CHARTER COMMISSION AMENDING CHARTER CHAPTERS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 AND 14, AND ADDING SECTIONS 4.10 AND 14.01A OF THE HOME RULE CITY CHARTER.

4.7 TO CONFIRM THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF MIKE CARHILL OR ALTERNATE CHRIS SULLIVAN AS CITY TREE INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 2019.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.1 Rental and Business Licensing Manager Keith Jullie briefed the Council on the On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC dba Chipotle Mexican Grill, 5901 94th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park.

5.1 Mayor Lunde opened the public hearing to consider the on the On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC dba Chipotle Mexican Grill, 5901 94th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park.

5.1 The following individuals addressed the Council:

1. Collette Guyotte-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens. She asked the Council to say no to this action. She stated Maple Grove had a liquor license and would check who they were selling it to and not let them take it out of building but no one watched who was drinking it or leaving the building with it. She stated the exit onto 93rd Avenue, people were supposed to go right and not make a U-turn, but they did. She stated on April 22, at 9:15 p.m., someone decided to drive on the wrong side of island stop at 93rd Avenue and Zane. She stated it was before alcohol was being sold and it was a takeout fast food place. She stated on average people would stay and drink for 20 minutes and be on the road that had no sidewalks, no security for pedestrians, expecting people not to make U-turns, and people to be on wrong side of island was asking for a disaster.

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

5.1 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND WEST-HAFNER TO APPROVE AN ON-SALE INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSE FOR CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO LLC DBA CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL, 5901 94TH AVENUE NORTH, BROOKLYN PARK. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.2 Finance Director LaTonia Green briefed the Council on the Resolution for the Purpose of Consenting to and Providing Host Approval for Hampton Senior Care of Brooklyn Park, LLC.

5.2 Mayor Lunde opened the public hearing to consider the Resolution for the Purpose of Consenting to and Providing Host Approval for Hampton Senior Care of Brooklyn Park, LLC.

5.2 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 LUNDE, SECOND WEST-HAFNER TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-90 CONSENTING TO AND PROVIDING HOST APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE BY THE PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE BONDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HAMPTON SENIOR CARE OF BROOKLYN PARK, LLC. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.1 Planning Director Cindy Sherman briefed the Council on the Plat and Conditional Use

Permit and Plat for a Restaurant with a Drive-Thru at 5651 96th Avenue North.

6.1 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND JACOBSON TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-91 APPROVING PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT OF SIX TEN CROSSINGS SECOND ADDITION SUBDIVIDING 3.8 ACRES INTO ONE LOT AND ONE OUTLOT AT 5651 96TH AVENUE NORTH. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.1 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND PARKS TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-92 APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A RESTAURANT WITH A DRIVE-THRU AT 5651 96TH AVENUE NORTH. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Planning Director Cindy Sherman briefed the Council on the Final Plat to Subdivide 2.23 Acres into Five Single-Family Residential Lots at 7630 and 7646 Riverdale Drive.

6.2 MOTION JACOBSON, SECOND PARKS TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-93 APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF "SAMARA CIRCLE" SUBDIVIDING 2.23 ACRES INTO FIVE SINGLE FAMILY LOTS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 Planning Director Cindy Sherman briefed the Council on the Leopold's Mississippi Gardens – Variance to Allow for Fence within the Mississippi River Critical Area Setbacks at 9500 West River Road North.

The following individuals addressed the Council.

1. Jordan Leopold, applicant. He stated the application changed three times since applying for the fence. It started at 8.5 foot high fence, the Planning Commission brought it down to 7 feet, and now down to a 6 foot fence. He stated he owned the property since 2009-2010 and also acquired six additional properties. He stated he got the CUP in 2015 and had been in business for 3.5 years and showed where the building was located and where most of the ceremonies took place. He stated the border between 9432 West River Road was within 50 to 100 feet from the ceremony chairs. He stated in the summer they would do about 40 plus wedding ceremonies on the lawn, with over 6,000 attending by the river flats. He stated it was adjacent to neighbors and was a liability risk there and they didn't want people wandering as done in past and had expressed the liability concerns. He stated the last thing they wanted to see was their hard work jeopardized by some type of liability where kids were roaming around, guests or dogs from neighboring properties running free. He stated the fence also gave neighbors privacy when guests were there to be able to do things in their back yards.
2. John Mulholland, 9432 West River Road. Stated he supported the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the fence. He stated on the pictures, his property would be covered by the 6-foot fence and would not be able to look out their window. He stated the proposal made it where wildlife would not be able to wander along the corridor and opposed it. He stated he opposed it on the hill too and was not needed. He stated at the top of the hill where they wanted to put a fence, had deer there and the fence would become a hazard. He stated the section on the bluff where his house was located was narrow and close to the road and did not make sense there. He stated there were some concerns about liability and pets and he had a puppy and the liability was his responsibility and had not had issues with disrespecting their property and would not allow his dog to run onto their property. He stated he had issues with clients wandering onto his property

as they allowed them to go on fishing dock and take some wedding pictures which he voiced his concerns to them directly about respecting his property and not go over the property line. He stated his wife would be impacted by the fence and also opposed the fence. He stated he wanted to be part of the community and be able to walk his dog on the path between the parking lot and their property. He stated the city had bicycles and people walking dogs on that path and didn't understand the issue with liability of a pet. He stated he did not have problems with his guests wandering on their property and didn't believe it was a liability issue for them. He thought through mediation, which he was amenable to, could resolve the issue with a small sign that would say, "private property, please be respectful as a guest here," and not have 6,000 people walking onto his property. He stated a small sign would take care of that and was willing to put it up.

3. Carrie Osland, 9418 West River Road. She stated the Mississippi Gardens was a gorgeous property and the kind of business you want to have in a neighborhood. She stated the grounds were kept perfectly and they were very respectful to the neighbors. She stated she didn't want to have the fence in the neighborhood and opposed to the fence. She stated it would block their view to the river and the fence would be visible from their home. He stated all three properties had a stunning view of the river and adding a privacy fence would take away the view from them and change the character of the neighborhood. She asked the Council not to approve the variance.

6.3 MOTION PARKS, SECOND JACOBSON TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-94 APPROVING A VARIANCE TO CONSTRUCT A FENCE WITHIN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRITICAL AREA AT 9500 WEST RIVER ROAD.

Council Member Parks asked that when a fence like the one tonight comes before the Council, did it have to get approval from the DNR or anyone else that is on the river area.

Planning Director Sherman stated when they got the application, they reached out to the Corps of Engineers and DNR. She stated that neither regulated the fence and regulated more of the water surface and up to the ordinary high. She stated the fence was the city's regulation and called local land use control. She stated the city consulted with them, but they didn't act on it.

She stated they were the ones that recommended that any of the panels that were within 100 feet from the ordinary high have removable panels. She stated if there was a flood situation and got that high, the panels could be removed.

Council Member Pha stated she was not in favor of the motion to approve it. She stated that if she approved if for a particular applicant, that meant she would have to be prepared to approve it for any applicant that lived on the Mississippi River coming forward and asking for the same variance. She believed it would change the character of the landscape and there were many ways to put up barriers that did not include fences. She stated landscaping barriers could be used as an option instead. She stated for that reason she would not approve it tonight.

Council Member Jacobson stated they all wanted to see businesses in the community succeed and did not need that building to become another vacant business. She stated they also wanted residents to be happy in their homes and not leave the city. She stated the homeowner talked about mediation and if that happened, if the Council approved the fence, they went through mediation, there was a chance they could decide not to put up fence and that was an option.

Planning Director Sherman stated the action tonight didn't require the installation of the fence, it only allowed it.

Council Member Mata believed businesses should have some kind of barrier from a residential neighborhood and didn't like fences going all the way to the water and the proposed fence was not and was proposed to back itself further up.

He stated the two sections of the fence could be built regardless of what the Council did. He stated the owners of the business could plant some evergreens and in 15 years they could be 20 to 30 feet tall and would block the view. He stated they could do it for a buffer and were talking about a 6-foot fence. He stated he appreciated the clear view triangle in front of the property so at least they could back up and see. He suggested something different and something not solid because it was tough to back out of a driveway even with a 3 to 4-foot fence or whatever was being recommended. He stated the houses were higher up and was not sure on the building toward the bottom of the property. He stated he would vote in favor of the fence that it had been backed up from the water. He suggested they work well with their neighbors because they were the ones to deal with their neighbors. He stated if Mississippi Gardens builds a fence and there was no cooperation, there would be problems when having weddings. He stated the two would have to work together. He stated he would have said no at an 8-foot fence, but was seeing some concessions at the bottom could be done with some signage. He stated putting up a sign still didn't stop someone from walking there as people don't always read signs. He stated he would vote in favor for it and if it was house to house, he would not be, and thought there was a separation from the business to a residential property and concessions were made.

Council Member Russell asked if they could suspend the vote and allow them to go into mediation to see if the business owner and resident could resolve it.

Planning Director Sherman stated both parties had to agree to go to mediation and those steps were put in motion and was hopeful it would happen quickly. She stated they could extend the application for the variance to give more time under the 60 day/120-day rule under state law and see if it got resolved in that time frame. She stated they could ask the applicant if they were interested, but under the city rule, they could table the action.

City Attorney Thomson stated they could only suspend it. He stated law obligates the city to act on the application within the initial 60 days. He stated the city could extend that for an additional 60 days, but without the applicant's consent, the city was obligated to act on it one way or the other within 120 days. He stated the city did have some time to extend it the if the Council desired it. He stated without the consent of the applicant, and if mediation was not completed within that 120-day period, the Council would have to act on the application.

Mayor Lunde stated that having them coming together to talk that through was the best course of action. He asked if the city had anything that talked about views. He stated some cities had view ordinance that said where people could obstruct a view. He stated with the project Hotdish, people didn't want to look out their back window and see a big tall building and people had asked about the building on 93rd Avenue where they did not want to look out their back window and look at 3.5 story building.

Planning Director Sherman stated there was nothing in the ordinances that talked about views. She stated they did talk about it in the Comprehensive Plan under the river stewardship plan. She stated that was the purpose of the increased setbacks to preserve the view from the river and along the river. She stated that was the purpose of the 100-foot setback, which was in the

ordinance for structures.

Mayor Lunde stated he would support the motion and hoped the mediation would bring something. He thought about putting in the 12-foot evergreens and there were no views and even worse versus the fence.

City Attorney Thomson stated that before the Council voted, suggested to the Council to add two more "whereas" clauses to the resolution based on the discussion held tonight. He read the following additional clauses into the record as follows:

- "Whereas, the reason for the proposed fence is due to circumstances unique to the property, in particular, the steep slope and the proximity of the wedding ceremonies to the neighbor's property."
- "Whereas, the reasons for requested the variance is for security and safety reasons and is not based solely on economic considerations."

Council Members Parks and Jacobson accepted the additional two clauses to the resolution as a friendly amendment to the motion.

Mayor Lunde called for a roll call vote.

6.3 THE MOTION PASSED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES – WEST-HAFNER, RUSSELL, JACBOSON, PARKS, MATA, LUNDE; NO – PHA.

6.4 Planning Director Cindy Sherman briefed the Council on the Second Reading of an Ordinance to Rezone Specific Properties to Transit Orientated Development at Five Station Areas.

6.4 MOTION LUNDE, SECOND WEST-HAFNER TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT ON SECOND READING ORDINANCE #2019-1242 REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY AROUND TRANSIT STATION AREAS LOCATED AT: 1.) 63RD AVENUE AND BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD, 2.) BROOKLYN BOULEVARD AND WEST BROADWAY, 3.) 85TH AVENUE AND WEST BROADWAY, 4.) 93RD AVENUE AND WEST BROADWAY, AND 5.) OAK GROVE AND WEST BROADWAY TO TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.

Council Member Mata stated for the same reasons during the first reading he would be voting no due to not voting for something when there wasn't a railroad and light rail in the city and why were they changing something and believed the city was faced with a possible lawsuit for changing those areas not too long ago.

6.4 THE VOTE ON THE MOTION PASSED. (6 TO 1) MATA VOTED NO.

8.1 Fire Chief John Cunningham briefed the Council on the Fire Department Strategic Planning.

He briefed on the following: Strategic Planning, Operational Planning, a changing public service, Volunteer Fire Service Challenges, Benchmark by Eagan Fire Department, 2019 Budget Comparisons, Data Driven Decision Making, Strategic Objectives, Key Outcome Measurements, Response Zone Reliability, 18 Month Operational Plan, Improving Effective Response Force, Current Deployment Model, Effective Response Force Staffing, Critical Fireground Tasks,

Mutual/Auto Aid, East Station, Operational Staffing Options, Improving Effective Response Force, Training and Professional Development, Recruitment and On-Boarding, Community Risk Reduction, Fire Chief Recommendation, Funding Sources, Long Range Recommendation and Plan, and Council Direction.

Council Member Parks thought when they talked to NFPA and he did some research with their union president about what the standard was, if they went full time, they were short 15 to 18 people. He asked if what they were doing now was the minimum standards and not recommended by the NFPA.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated as of today's staffing model and based on what the center for public safety excellence model on the 16 firefighters, they didn't have that capacity on the existing framework and relied on mutual aid from partners to supplement it. He stated that the numbers the critical tasks we look at, was a better approach to look at on what were the task to be done on a structure fire. He stated they were not meeting those benchmarks on that time frame.

Council Member Parks stated when he looked the public safety budget between the Police and Fire, they were far apart. He stated when he was on the Fire Department, they didn't do medicals and were paid on call. He stated the medicals came to them from the Police Department. He stated the Fire Department now do more medicals than they did with fires and the budget seemed to be the same. He stated he was hoping to fully staff the four stations and paid on call would be about 30 to 60 firefighters. He stated when he was district chief, it took them a year to find three more people because people didn't do that anymore, and the people that did the paid on call wanted to be full time firefighters and went to other cities. He recommended somewhere down the line they had to get it fully staffed and that was 15 more firefighters and would like to see more of a diverse group. He asked if they could apply for the SAFER grant every year and after the three years would the city have to pay the firefighters salary.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated they could apply every year and didn't prohibit them from applying. He stated the number of firefighters was in their narrative and could request how many they thought they could justify with their plan going forward with the Council's support on what those numbers would look like. He stated it was a tiered approach that was 75 split and sometimes it was modified and over a staggered period of time that over the years, the city would start to pick up more of that salary and at the end of the term paid for the full salary and benefit.

Council Member Parks asked about the mutual aid slide, if it meant they were coming to the city 21 times on mutual aid or the city going there 21 times. He stated if they got Anoka/Champlin, they had to go through Osseo to get to the city and Osseo was not on the list. He stated when West Metro came to the city, they went through Robbinsdale and Brooklyn Center. He asked if they were starting to respond to Osseo again.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated it was minutes and it did not reflect the number of times. He stated it was only drive time minutes. He stated that how they came up with that number was how long did it take to mobilize their force, a lot of them were POC departments, get to the station and drive to the Central Fire Station from whatever station they were coming from. He stated Osseo had recently responded to house fires and were working to add them back in the

box. He stated the slide was just a sampling on who they could call.

Council Member Parks recommended they go with a paid Fire Department because the numbers they were asking for were low and will need to build it up. He stated the Council was talking about cutting the budget again and if they lost a firefighter or a life at all, couldn't put a price on it. He stated he was okay with cutting the budget, but the Fire Department needed to be built up. He stated he would prefer Option B.

Council Member Jacobson stated at one point in her Council career two years ago, she was skeptical about medicals until she witnessed two incidents. One was a man at Roasted Pear and the Fire Department was first on scene; the other was someone being hit on a bike on Highway 81 and the Fire Department was the only one there. She stated they needed to be doing medicals now. She stated when she read the Council packet that it talked about the dispatch center, having operational deficiencies, and asked if Hennepin County dispatch was moving to tiered response system in the near future.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated they had begun some work with implementing new technology to decrease the amount of time to process calls. He stated other counties had gone to that model and were completely automated with a computer voice, and when a call comes in it dispatches the call. He stated he wanted to move to a unit level dispatching to get a better control on who was going on a dispatch and not just from the stations but from a unit level. He stated it would cut back on the sleep deprivation with everyone having to listen to a radio, and there were some operational enhancements to that. He stated it was his priority and working with the dispatch center to increase that service. He stated he had not heard a lot of discussion about going to emergency medical dispatch and that was something he wanted to continue to strive for.

Council Member Jacobson stated that in past 10 years, the calls had gone up 70%. She stated if they looked at that again, they were not comparing apples to apples because they were not doing medicals back then and they were now. She stated she wanted to be cautious when they put those numbers out there and be real about it to the community because it caused alarm to residents to think that it had increased by 70% and doing business as they were then.

She agreed the East Station should reopened and be staffed equal to the other stations. She stated that in the Fitch and Associates report, one of the questions was around response times to someone in the corner and to the southeast corner of the city. She stated that on the two minutes and talking about someone having heart attack, she didn't want that person to be her relative, or herself, when two minutes would make all the difference and was not optional. She stated she went on a ride-along and didn't think two firefighters were enough. She stated the Fitch and Associates report talked about it and had a chart about the time of day. She stated it also depended if it was a fire or major medical versus a lift assist on a truck, but if they thought about the recommended model, asked if the recommended model needed was 24/7/365.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated there were different lenses to look at in that model, one was the unit hour utilization he was referring to. He stated it was when the calls happened and the ability to meet those calls. He stated where it fell short was the capacity of the network to handle any type of calls. He stated when someone called and said their house was on fire, the timer started and how to get those resources out. He stated that a fire service organization staffed for the fires and there was no community around to be able to staff for the large apartment fire, big strip mall fire or business fire and acknowledged that was a huge investment in resources. He stated

being able to handle those rooms and contents safely and effectively was the ability to put a ladder on a building and was a lifesaving tool not only to rescue a person that was trapped, but also if one of the firefighters got injured or stuck and getting out of the building without jumping from a window. He stated they could only do that if they had firefighters available to respond. He stated they talked about the unit hourly utilization that was being able to redirect their resources when they had capacity or not fighting a fire, not running to a motor vehicle crash or the typical fire call. He stated that was when they saw medical responses added to it, being able to respond to medicals, add additional training, would become more proficient but it went back to the fundamentals and philosophy of having resources to respond if someone called and their house was on fire and needed help.

Council Member Jacobson stated when she looked at the strengths, weakness, opportunities and challenges, there were a lot of things related to dollar signs. She stated she didn't see a lot of conversations around morale and knew there had been internal surveys. She asked where that was at and was it not talked about because there were outsiders in the room.

Chief Cunningham stated their employee engagement results showed they could make improvements in that area. He stated it went up over the last couple of years and could still go up more. He stated his goal was to get to the 80 percent mark and the ultimate goal was 100 percent and that was with the mutual cooperation at all levels. He stated what the organization had lacked was being able to commit to say "this is where the organization is going" and "this is how we are going to get there" and be committed going down that path. He applauded the community members, internal stake holders, and Council for going down that process because that instilled a lot of trust within the organization, within the community and hoped it started to build the morale up. He stated when they looked at their internal processes, training was big a piece of it and needed to be proficient, and being the best they could be. He stated they had an awesome team and how they did it better was to do it as a team.

Council Member Jacobson stated that two of the three options he had was dissolution of the Fire Relief Association. She asked where had that type of significant change taken place in another community and how that went. She asked what that would do for morale.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated they were in uncharted waters and the city had been first in a number of scenarios, the first was the model they were in today and making that step having full time staff and staffing stations with duty crews. He stated other cities had different models on what they were looking at. Some metro communities had a three-to-five-year plan phasing their transition program. He stated they were in position to make critical decisions on how they could continue to meet needs of the community. He stated he was there to make sure they could provide that service to the community and lead the organization forward. He stated that would be making bold recommendations and possible steps going forward.

On the dissolution of the Fire Relief Association, he stated he trusted the firefighters to understand and realize they were doing it in the best interest of the community and moving it forward. He stated that the structure of Fire Relief Association did not impact what the firefighters earned. He stated there were some things they had to do and work through on what it would look like and required the support from internal and from the Relief Association to do it. He stated his intent was to have a working group to work through some of those processes. He stated the State was looking at it because it could be a common occurrence. He stated there were some IRS laws that contradicted with state statutes and didn't make it through legislative

process. He stated they were actively working to push legislation to address those issues. He stated a city could preempt it, but the Relief Association could make the decision to support the city in that initiative because that was provided in the statutes and existing bylaws as it existed today.

Council Member Jacobson stated when they hired him she said she was not a firefighter and would have to trust him as the fire chief. She stated she knew a lot of work was needed to take place before they got to today and when residents asked about the East Station, she kept saying they had to trust in the strategic planning process and wait for it. She stated she trusted the fire chief and the option he chose and looked like it was option A and she would choose that too.

Council Member Russell stated the direction the fire chief was leading the department into was great for the city. He stated he would support the fire chief as best he could to see what was outlined in the plan come to fruition. He stated that identified in the SWOC analysis was about the weakness in the lack of diversity. He asked if the fire chief had a timeline to see that change or started to implement some diversity inclusion type programs.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated it was an important initiative that weighed heavily on the strategic planning team and discussions with Council and departments. He stated it was a goal they had. On the timeline, stated when they were looking at onboarding their next group of firefighters, one was onboarding and attract the best talent that would serve the community and represented the community. He stated to move that forward would require a change in the way they did business. He stated some larger communities had been successful in doing the recruit modeling program and would turn to the police partners who created a successful cadet program. He stated it was a long-term avenue to explore and would start immediately. He stated they had some initial discussions with the leadership team and had great feedback. He stated hiring the next group of firefighters was to put a lens on and recruit talent. He stated traditionally they recruited people that already had fire service experience. He stated the city did not represent a lot of the community from the makeup and diversity that a lot of communities had on their paid on call workforce. He stated they needed to change their recruitment strategies and develop their own training model internally to reap the benefits of the diversity piece but also onboarding firefighters from the beginning all the way to graduating them as Brooklyn Park firefighters for a successful career.

Council Member Russell stated the Police Department had the Multicultural Advisory Committee and asked if the Fire Department had anything comparable to that to partner with and engaging the community. He stated he had seen how the firefighters worked with the community, how they engaged and work with several special projects and different initiatives. He asked what sort of mechanisms were in place or a plan to be put in place to be intentional of engaging the community as a whole and if they were thinking about an advisory committee like the Police Department.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated they didn't have a formal program but worked with some of the existing city programs to some of the police initiatives, such as National Night Out. He stated his goal was to increase that and make sure it was a focus of their organization. He stated the Fire Marshal Division that handled inspections had been great at leading and expanding the community outreach in risk reduction.

Mayor Lunde stated to make sure to get the Fire Relief Association changes to those in the lobbying efforts because if they got an opportunity to meet with the appropriate legislators, they needed to explain it was important to the city and important enough for them to take it to next level. He stated it would be helpful if they could help breakdown that complicated issue and go to the legislators with it to get some changes. He stated that on the dispatch center, if there were efforts they needed to work on, especially with a new sheriff, they could tackle the dispatch center again if there were little things they could do and start the conversation over.

He stated no one had told him the Fire Department arrived slower, was less qualified and wanted them to get there in 30 seconds. He stated the residents wanted the fastest services they could get with the most knowledge at that moment. He stated if they tried to get it down to 3.5 to 4, the costs escalated dramatically and trusted the plan they identified, what the goals were, the measurements, and tried to hit them.

He stated as the plan started, developed, he had the concern of making sure the Fire Department represented the community. He stated his concern was if they hired 8 to 10 firefighters, they would get hired before they had the plan and would take a long time similar to when the city hired employees. He stated they would have 8 to 10 openings and with the cadet program like the Police Department suggested, it could be done at the same time. He stated he saw a lost opportunity, especially if they were hiring the new deputy chief who was in charge of training.

He stated a few weeks ago he was talking to high students about the Fire Department and a lot of them didn't know how to become a firefighter. He stated most schools were barely teaching it, and it used to be they could volunteer, it was paid on call, and worked their way up with certifications. He stated they would not look for it and the deputy fire chief was not just about the training but should also be to develop a plan to recruit firefighters like the Police Department. He thought the program would have to include what they did to come start working at the city and pay for them to work their way toward the goal of hiring them. He asked if they did Plan A, what would the fulltime numbers be and asked what the average was on turnovers on a yearly basis, one, two or five.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated it would be nine additional firefighters added on shift and would end up with nine firefighters on a battalion. He stated that typically in a high performing fire service organization, they would see a very minimal turnover, especially on the career side. He stated firefighters would stay with an organization if they saw career advancement opportunities. He stated when that saw a turnover, it was due to morale or no advancement opportunities.

Mayor Lunde stated that confirmed his concern about hiring nine firefighters and not having something in the works. He stated if they went out and recruited the 17-year-old kids that represented the community and there was nowhere for them to go, they are trained and then they would leave. He stated they had an opportunity to try and make that difference. He stated the Fire Department was now doing more medicals and more medical conversations about medical terms and hoped that a daughter or son was there to translate. He stated the more ability to use the community to help provide future firefighters, the Fire Department would be much better to respond to those calls.

He stated he would rather have the plan sooner than later because the sooner they hired and provided that great department, the morale was good and had a sense of belonging, they may

never get a chance to put some of that community into those roles. He stated he was leaning to the option he will call A/B; it was kind of B because he was concerned of the budget. He wanted to understand where that fit in the plan five years out on what they were seeing in the numbers. He stated that even if they hired nine firefighters, they would have to cut somewhere else. He stated having a plan would be something he would ask for just to get an idea what they were looking at for costs. He stated that even if they got the SAFER grant, it still went away and the city would have to pick it up.

He stated that on the Fire on the Go, he wanted it driven by data. He stated if most of fire calls were to apartments, he would love the Fire on the Go to be sitting at the apartments because it would be an opportunity to educate people to stop some of those calls. He stated that was where he wanted the Fire on the Go to go, wherever the data drove them and was where the Fire on the Go should be. He stated it was just like Rec on the Go, they go to where the kids couldn't go to a park. He stated he didn't care where the firefighters were staffed, if it made sense to put all in the north station. He stated all he cared about was to get people there as fast as possible. He stated he knew that on a given time, the east or west might be in the complete opposite side of the city according to what was presented, and it didn't matter where they started out of. He stated it was an opportunity to get that community in the Fire Department with the new hires making sure they are trained, were skilled, and the city could take care of that. Council Member West-Hafner stated she supported the recommendation knowing that it would evolve to Option B. She stated she liked the goals and priorities and setting out realistic expectations for the community. She asked about if the Fire Relief Association was to dissolve, what the process was and how long it would take.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated there would be some logistical challenges and recommended to setup a working group with the stake holders in the Relief Association, city staff, and the city attorney to make sure they were following through that process. He stated they were working on an FAQ document that answered some of those questions and the biggest thing was reassuring the money they had earned and was put in there was not in jeopardy. He stated it acted from the Relief Association, through the voting process and bylaws. He stated they would follow that with the state auditor's office and work through on how that looked. He stated that the time frame would be between now and the next few months to work through some of the logistical challenges. He stated the plan hinged on all those buckets and the costs associated with that. He stated there was \$350,000 and next year projected \$411,000 and would have access to it and that was counted to reinvest back in the program as a budget neutral option. He stated there were real financial ties to that and important to continue moving it forward and invest back into the fire service and do it in a quick fashion.

Council Member West-Hafner stated that after the Fire Relief Association part happened, then they were going to be moving into looking at stations and operations. She stated that if making a great fire station in the middle of the city made more sense and close everything up thought that was important to look at as a next step. She stated she was going along lines on hard work they put into that part of the plan and moving to the next step of reviewing and making sure facilities matched up so they could have that great ongoing Fire Department that kept firefighter's long term.

Council Member Mata asked how Bloomington was able to make it work with 115 paid on call firefighters. He asked if the city's full-time staff and full-time firefighters were in two pensions, Relief Association pension and the full time PERA.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated he couldn't attest how it worked and would be a question for the Bloomington fire chief on how their models worked. He stated he could comment on what the city did and where they wanted to move the organization. He stated it was fair to say when they looked at Bloomington, that for every success that was out there, there were many that didn't work. He stated the model Bloomington had was the large pension program and had been invested into for many years and had special legislation that allowed it to exceed the normal limits that were there and would see that in their budget, He stated Bloomington was also out for request for proposal for a master strategic planning studies on what their future looked like. He stated that regarding the pensions, the current model the city was in, they were able to participate both if they met the requirements.

Council Member Mata stated that in the chart presented to the Council, St. Cloud and Burnsville, one was \$8 million, and the other was \$9.3 million. He stated if Brooklyn Park went full time, asked why he would not think about the budget, because it was going to be budget neutral. He stated the city was \$5.8 million and the others were a couple million more. He asked how that would not cost the city more money. He stated the city had a larger population, ran more calls, and everything would say they couldn't be budget neutral doing that model and asked how they came up with the budget neutral.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated that the budget neutral option was accomplished with the goal of adding staff to open up and add staff to the East Station to add the additional capacity of an effective response force by adding 24/7 staffing. He stated that in order to make that by a pocket of dollars and showed slide presentation, Funding Sources, that by reallocating the funds from the paid on call program and including some internal savings from staff reorganization, was over \$1.1 million within the existing budget framework. He stated that possibly warranted further discussions on future staffing needs if they add additional staff and additional capacity. He stated it was within the existing budget framework of the true dollars they had today within their model.

Council Member Mata stated he didn't know when they implemented it that they were not going to be short and then would come back to Council and needed more in order to make it work. He stated when they put together the group of individuals for the study, with citizens and noncitizens, and asked if there were any paid-on-call firefighters because it said internal stake holders. He asked if there were any paid-on-call firefighters, that were not officer corps in that group.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated there were three paid-on-call firefighters and all ranking officers. He stated the opportunity was made available to every member in the organization including admin staff and paid-on-call firefighters. He stated the original goal was to have an equal representation from the paid-on-call and full-time staff. He stated they sent emails out and individual requests for people to participate and included those that stepped forward willing to participate in the process.

Council Member Mata stated that two of three part-time officers were also full-time in other departments. He stated it seemed like the total number of internal stakeholders was full-time members, which meant no representative from the 21 members from paid-on-call and one was an officer. He stated if the goal was to eliminate that side of the department, it was better not to have them at the table to discuss it. He stated some of things that were talked about was

creating a training officer and asked if they had a battalion chief of training now with training captains.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated that on the training, the battalion chiefs had equal responsibility where they were divided up in individual areas to focus on. He stated his goal for every battalion chief was to focus on running their shifts, running their battalions and making the team and effective cohesive response force. He stated they did not have anyone dedicated to training and professional development across in the Fire Department. He stated from a shift work, it was very hard to take one person working one 24 hour shift and then have them assigned to have tasks that had them transferred across the department including on today's model of paid-on-call response force.

Council Member Mata stated in the Values, under the word inclusion, "we are dedicated to reflecting and respecting diversity throughout our organization and our community." He asked if they were not going to keep it a community fire department, how were they going to have a value that reflected the community. He stated in his 20 years at the Fire Department in the city, that if you were 18 and lived in the city, turned in an application and if the chief at that time saw the quality in them, they were hired, paid, trained to go through firefighter 1, firefighter 2, first responder, and hazmat. He stated then another barrier came by making everyone EMTs. He stated those firefighters not wanting to do it quit or moved on and the rest became EMTs. He stated that tightened the applicant pool even more and didn't hire from the city and said people could live wherever. He stated there were no guidelines and someone lived in Chicago, and it was not a community fire department. He stated they had a lot of 911 calls and they were never going to solve the 911 problem if every community stakeholder didn't understand what the problem was.

He stated in the model presented, it stated it was not for apartment fires and not for larger room of content because as soon as they took eight people and administration resources, asked how they responded to the rest of other city emergencies because they were tied up in one emergency. He stated he would have to wait 18-20 minutes for another city to get there.

He stated that on the requirement to EMTs, the surrounding cities were not requiring firefighters to be EMTs. He stated that was a barrier to employment in the city and when they were all tied up, they would give a second-rate service to another city when responding to that call. He stated those were his concerns.

He stated the diversity was not going to happen because they were going to keep pool the same and didn't hear an answer on how that would happen. He stated they had those requirements already, which meant the pool of firefighter candidates was very small. He stated he had been asking for years to make the department look like the community.

Council Member Mata asked how many of those calls were no patient contact and how, if the truck never rolled, did they still record it as a call.

Chief Cunningham stated that at a work session a month ago, he said it was 550 calls, mostly mental health holds the Police Department went on. He stated they took it as information but able to extrapolate it and was about 600 calls a year they didn't roll on.

Council Member Mata stated when North Memorial rolled to a scene there was no reason for

the Fire Department to be there when a higher level of advanced care was there, but they still counted those as calls.

He stated there were a bunch of calls in the call volume that could be cleared out like the surrounding cities did. He stated Brooklyn Center, when they did not have a duty crew on, had eliminated going to medicals and letting North Memorial, the advanced care team, take care of medicals. He stated he was concerned the Fire Department was looking to adding things while the surrounding cities were finding ways to reduce things and letting the other advanced care teams take care of those calls.

Council Member Pha stated they talked about the six, seven and eight plus minutes travel time and which standards they should strive for. She stated she did not see a recommendation on a standard they would be looking at.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated the recommendation was based on data they had and was to maintain a six-minute drive time, which was factored in the response model today.

Council Member Pha asked if the recommendation was to open the East Station or was that still up for debate.

Chief Cunningham stated it would open the East Station. He stated all three options, A, B, C, factored in the ability to open up the East Station. He stated it was an existing facility and the technology and infrastructure was there. He stated that once they did their facility assessment on the cost of renovations or possibly building new fire stations and relocating things, they could have another discussion about what that looked like based on the costs to remodel and replace fire stations.

He stated it was increasing their effective response force with additional people, capacity, and investment in people while increasing the diversity. He stated that might have been missed, but as part of the plan, it was increasing the diversity in all of those models and eliminated those barriers that had been placed in doing their academy program, onboarding them and recruiting from the community. He stated that was part of all three options, open the east station and adding two fire fighters to the east fire station. He stated they didn't have the capacity at all fire stations to start adding more people from a facility standpoint and would add to the east and would increase their ability to respond to that district.

Council Member Pha stated she supported opening the East Station. She stated she heard nine new fire fighters would be needed to do Option A and asked if the nine new fire fighters were within the \$1.1 million they would have in funds or cost more. She asked if the nine new fire fighters were sufficient to staff all four stations, 24/7 or would he need more staff.

Fire Chief Cunningham stated it was factored into that dollar amount. He stated it was only the beginning of looking at what the organization would look like down the road. He stated they were factoring in mutual aid partners and the continuing evolution of what they could truly support with their response network today. He stated it was looking at the ability of putting structure fires out and all tasks that had to be accomplished at the same time or at various intervals. He stated the data was showing the faster they got there, the more they could put the fires out and keep the community and people safe.

He stated his recommendation was part of a long-term strategy, and during the budget process, they could look at if they could afford additional capacity and at what cost and was a Council decision. He stated he would continue to bring the recommendations forward based on the data and with the community engagement and outreach and what level of service they wanted to provide.

9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Jacobson stated she was the Council Liaison on the Tater Daze Committee and Tater Daze was less than two weeks away. She stated the Council would be serving root beer floats on Friday night.

Council Member Parks stated that if any resident got the opportunity to take classes the Fire Department was putting on, they would see a little bit of what they did and what they were talking about.

9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated that the garage sale event was being held on Thursday, May 30, through Saturday, June 1.

He stated the Council should be getting a meeting invite for next Monday, from 5 to 6:25 p.m. to go on a tour of a development project. He stated they would meet at City Hall and then go on to tour the project.

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Lunde adjourned the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

JEFFREY JONEAL LUNDE, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK