

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers
5200 85th Avenue North

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Hollies Winston; Central District Council Member Nichole Klonowski, and West District Council Member Maria Tran were sworn in by City Clerk Devin Montero.

Council Member Tran thanked everyone and would need the Council Member's continued help and support during her term in office. She stated she couldn't find enough words to thank the community for being elected as a Member of the Council and thanked everyone for their trust in her.

Mayor Winston thanked everyone for showing trust in him and the Council. He stated the wonderful thing about the city started with the residents and went to the founders and people who fought to make what the city was. He stated the residents were the real strength of the city and staff worked hard to do what they could for the city. He stated the Council had challenges and had some real strengths and wanted the residents to know the strength was the residents as they continued to be involved and put their trust to the Council.

At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Winston called for a recess.

At 6:54 p.m., Mayor Winston reconvened the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Hollies Winston

PRESENT Mayor Hollies Winston; Council Members Boyd Morson, Maria Tran, Xp Lee, and Nichole Klonowski; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz; Recreation and Parks Director Brad Tullberg; Police Chief Mark Bruley and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Council Member Elect Christian Eriksen (excused).

Mayor Winston opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Collette Guyott-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens. Stated tonight the Council would be discussing the legislative agenda. She stated many residents would like to see affordable housing centered for families. She stated overcrowded living spaces where too many people were living in single apartments created an environment with more domestic calls, loss of community as high traditional housing meant little connection to others in the complex and difficulties facing the challenges. She stated family apartments needed to reflect enough bedrooms at a price families could afford and one bedrooms claiming they were affordable at \$1,100 was not realistic for families of four or more. She stated buildings that have had maintenance deferred for 30 years needed assistance in replacing boilers, heating systems appliances and maintenance because their affordability for families was greatly dependent on other sources for some of those repairs that might not have been done by the previous owners.

She stated homestead credits needed to be adjusted or communities were chasing seniors out of their homes due to property taxes. She stated broadband needed to be accessible throughout the state for schools and businesses. Seniors needed to stop paying taxes on social security because they had already paid the taxes on that income.

She stated the emerald ash borer tax credits needed to be available for homeowners as the removal of a tree was up to \$2,000 to \$3,000 per tree. She stated for kids, they needed more educational funds for smaller class sizes, more electives and after school programming to support single parents and provide crime prevention. She stated due to the St. Paul people liking THC and Marijuana, there were great concerns about the mental health, the abuse, the addiction, car crashes and not to mention all of the other crimes and the black market related to the underage use. She stated the Dare 2 and 3 programs were needed so kids understood the consequences and health concerns those drugs raised. She stated more police officers were needed and to support the city's police officers, which hadn't been happening for the last few years to the way it should be because the city was losing staff. She stated the city needed funds for recruitment, retainment, and additional officers to face the challenges. She stated they lived in a society where ghost guns were used by teenagers and guns being used by 6-year-olds to shoot teachers they get mad at. Spanish teachers in Iowa were getting killed from teenagers for not liking their grades. She stated they needed to combat those issues and needed to give some refunds back to the people that made the surplus.

2. Hassanen Mohamed. Stated he attended a Council meeting a couple weeks back in support of transparency on the governance. He stated previously the Council meetings including the work group meetings were done in the chambers and were able to view it from the comfort of their homes and know the presentations from staff or anyone. He stated then there were some issues between Council Members and decided to move it away from public's eye and took the recordings away. He asked that now there was a new Council to increase the transparency of the Council with the residents of the city and all meetings should be done in public. He stated to bring it to the chambers so they would be able to view it, be able to look at it and be able to see the context of how the Council reacted to the information provided from staff and other subject matter experts. He stated the Council was transparent before and was not asking something that was not doable and asking for something that was legitimately known for governance, which is to be transparent.

3A. MOTION MORSON, SECOND LEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK WITH ITEMS 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10 AND 4.13 PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3B PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

3B.1 Introduction of New Employees

City Manager Stroebel introduced Dr. Angel Smith as a new employee to the Administration Department.

Police Chief Mark Bruley introduced Jessica Heinzen and Logan U'u as Police Cadets in the Police Department.

4.0 MOTION LEE, SECOND MORSON TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEM: (Items 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, and 4.13 were removed for separate consideration.)

4.1 TO CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF AKIHITO JACOBS, CHRIS SULLIVAN AND JASON NEWBY AS ASSISTANT WEED INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR 2023.

4.2 TO CONFIRM THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF AKIHITO JACOBS AND ALTERNATE'S CHRIS SULLIVAN AND MIKE CARHILL AS CITY TREE INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR 2023.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-1 DESIGNATING U.S. BANK AS THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK FOR 2023.

4.4 TO CONFIRM THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF DR. MATTHEW HOCKETT AS BROOKLYN PARK'S HEALTH OFFICER FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023.

4.8 TO SET THE LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION MEETING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

4.11 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-2 APPOINTING JESSE STRUVE AS DIRECTOR AND LATONIA GREEN AS ALTERNATE DIRECTOR OF THE SUBURBAN RATE AUTHORITY FOR 2023.

4.12 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DESIGNATE A DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, FIRE CHIEF, POLICE CHIEF OR THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER TO SERVE, IF NEEDED, AS ACTING CITY MANAGER THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

4.14 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-3 TO RENEW AN AGREEMENT WITH CORNERSTONE TO PROVIDE VICTIMS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH ADVOCACY SERVICES.

4.15 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-4 DESIGNATING REAL PROPERTY APPRAISERS FOR 2023.

4.16 FOR THE FULL RELEASE OF THE LETTER OF CREDIT (\$284,000.00) FOR SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF THE "A1 RELIABLE HOME CARE" PROJECT #20-109 LOCATED AT 6940 ZANE AVE N FOR A1 RELIABLE HOME CARE.

4.16 TO RELEASE THE ENGINEERING ESCROW (\$27,909.99), FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE "RASMUSSEN UNIVERSITY" PROJECT #21-107 LOCATED AT 5555 96TH AVE N FOR THE OPUS GROUP.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Member Morson stated the coverage of the community was underrepresented of community events and asked if the opportunity was extended to other newspapers. He stated he had been to a lot of events and never seen those events covered in the newspaper reflective of the community. He stated he would like to table the item to get more information and look at other options and return at the end of the month with a recommendation.

4.5 MOTION MORSON, SECOND LEE TO TABLE ITEM 4.5 UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Member Morson stated there was information missing from the item and approving something with other elements and not seeing what the contents were was unfair and should be presented with the elements in it before making a decision and was not clear about it. City Manager briefed the Council on the item.

Council Member Morson stated the item didn't say if a Council Member would be reimbursed for mileage for meetings and other events.

Council Member Lee stated the item was straight forward, the Council was paid a salary and would only be reimbursed if approved. He stated it was only about setting the non-reimbursed costs out of pocket as a tax deduction.

Council Member Morson stated if it said the Council wouldn't be able to be compensated for mileage, it needed further clarification and if it was for tax write off purposes, that should be shared in the information.

City Attorney Thomson stated the item did two things, out of pocket expenses were not reimbursed unless the Council approved it and it was considered a lawful business expense and could be deducted on income taxes.

4.6 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-5 RELATING TO COUNCIL/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.7 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-6 RELATING TO BUSINESS EXPENSES OF THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Member Morson stated he was not aware of the item and for two years it had existed and needed to discuss how the figure was established. He stated \$50 for a meeting and an 8 hour meeting, that was \$6 per hour to sit for training and the minimum wage was \$10 to \$15. He stated if it was done in the past, now was the future and should be changed. He stated further discussion was needed and should be tabled until the end of month. He stated it was a different time and age now and was not 10 years ago and should be equitable for Council Members to be compensated for decisions the Council of today made and not 20 years ago.

Council Member Lee asked where the \$50 figure came from and how it was decided.

City Manager Stroebel stated at some point previous Council identified it to be the amount and staff could go back and research it on how long it had been \$50.

Council Member Lee stated he knew in professional sectors they received per diems and was out there to look at. He stated the other thing he appreciated in the document was that historically many Council Members elected not to receive it. He stated the payment option was made known to Council Members but was provided only upon request. He stated they were talking about budgets and cutting back on a lot of things and he would fall into the category of not asking for the reimbursement. He stated it could be utilized as a tax deduction and leave the money with the city, it could be used for travel to conferences, registration fees and other things or could give to staff to support retirement funds, birthdays, food at a retirement. He stated he was not interested in the \$50.

4.9 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-7 AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ATTEND APPROVED MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS.

Mayor Winston stated the budget was set for 2023 and there was \$14,000 for Council Members to travel and did not leave much to raise it. He encouraged Council Members to use it for yearly trip for trainings. He stated he had no issues this year but next year it might make sense to benchmark it to see what other people in the region were doing and increase that level and program it in the budget.

Council Member Morson asked if it was already budgeted for this year.

City Manager Stroebel stated the Council conference and schools was under \$16,000 with a lot of variables and might get spent by the Council. He stated they did not anticipate the option of \$50 per day. If a Council Member attended a conference, the travel was paid, air fare/hotel. If the meals were not covered by the conference, then they were paid per diem. He stated the \$50 was an addition when there was travel.

Mayor Winston stated he would like to move forward with the motion and then consider a motion to benchmark it for the next budget cycle.

Council Member Lee stated the Council could also give a directive to the staff.

City Manager Stroebel stated staff would go back and research the history and would send a memo to the Council on that and it could be adjusted in the future.

City Attorney Thomson stated the provision was in the city code on compensation. If the Council was inclined to adjust it, state law said, any change in compensation wouldn't be effective until the next election. He stated they could look into it but it wouldn't become effective until the next election.

4.9 THE VOTE ON THE MOTION PASSED. (5 TO 1), MORSON VOTING NO.

Council Member Morson stated the item had been adopted since 2017 and neither one of the Council Members were there. He suggested assigning a task force to revisit and review each item and give an update to the Council on what they wanted to see the Council move forward be governed by the document and adhering to it. He stated it should be tabled for a task force to revisit the manual.

4.10 MOTION WINSTON, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO APPROVE THE ELECTED OFFICIALS RULES OF PROCEDURES AND CODE OF CONDUCT MANUAL.

4.10 THE VOTE ON THE MOTION PASSED. (5 TO 1), MORSON VOTING NO.

Council Member Morson stated he didn't have a problem with Item 4.13.

4.13 MOTION MORSON, SECOND LEE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT POLICY FOR FILLING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OR COUNCIL MEMBER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

6. LAND USE ACTIONS – None.

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Appointment of Council Liaisons to Commissions and Committees

7.1 MOTION WINSTON, SECOND MORSON, TO CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND COUNCIL OR STAFF LIAISONS TO COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 2023.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT HOLLIES WINSTON, CHRISTIAN ERKSEN AND XP LEE AS MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT MARIA TRAN AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT NICHOLE KLONOWSKI AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CHARTER COMMISSION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY LONG-RANGE IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT BOYD MORSON AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT HOLLIES WINSTON AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNTIL THE NEW WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER IS APPOINTED.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT XP LEE AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT XP LEE AS THE BROOKLYN PARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE (COUNCIL AND EDA).

7.1 (Updated) MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT NICHOLE KLOWNOSKI AS COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE BUSINESS FORWARD ADVISORY BOARD.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT MARIA TRAN AS PRIMARY LIAISON AND CHRISTIAN AS ALTERNATE LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BROOKLYNS YOUTH COUNCIL.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN AS PRIMARY LIAISON AND MARIA TRAN AS ALTERNATE LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE ALLIANCE.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT HOLLIES WINSTON AS PRIMARY LIAISON AND BOYD MORSON AS ALTERNATE LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MINNEAPOLIS NORTHWEST TOURISM BOARD.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT BOYD MORSON AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PROPERTY MANAGER'S COALITION.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT MARIA TRAN AND (FUTURE WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER) AS LIAISONS BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CRYSTAL AIRPORT JOINT AIRPORT ZONING BOARD (JAZB).

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT HOLLIES WINSTON AS PRIMARY LIAISON AND NICHOLE KLONOWSKI AS THE ALTERNATE LIAISON TO THE BOTTINEAU COMMUNITY WORKS STEERING COMMITTEE.

7.1 MAYOR WINSTON TO APPOINT HOLLIES WINSTON AS PRIMARY LIAISON AND NICHOLE KLONOWSKI AS THE ALTERNATE LIAISON TO THE METRO BLUE LINE CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Klonowski nominated Council Member Lee as Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Morson believed Council Member elect Eriksen should have been present to vote on the item.

Mayor Winston stated from his perspective as Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem was important. If he was not at meeting, the Mayor Pro Tem would step in and Council Member Lee had some seniority and needed to be urgently taken care of.

7.2 MOTION KLONOWSKI, SECOND WINSTON TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER XP LEE AS MAYOR PRO TEM FOR THE YEAR 2023. MOTION PASSED. (5 TO 1) MORSON ABSTAINED.

7.3 Resolution Ordering a Special Election

7.3 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT

RESOLUTION #2023-8 ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2023 IF NO MORE THAN TWO CANDIDATES FILE FOR THE VACANCY, OR TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2023 IF MORE THAN TWO CANDIDATES FILE FOR THE VACANCY WITH THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2023. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.4 Public Purpose Expenditures Policy Approval

7.4 MOTION MORSON, SECOND LEE TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-9 ACCEPTING THE CURRENT PUBLIC PURPOSE EXPENDITURES POLICY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Discuss Legislative Agenda for 2023

City Manager Stroebel briefed the Council on the Legislative Agenda for 2023. He gave updates to the legislative agenda for 2023; his Proposed Priorities were: Public Safety, Housing Investment and Reinvestment, Key Community Investments, Development Catalyst, Financial Stability.

Comments by the Council:

Council Member Morson stated he supported the Fire Department and was concerned about the amount of money requested to do upgrades and building a new fire station. He stated he asked previously for a proposal for building it upward, on the costs rather than tearing down the Hennepin County Library and old fire station. He asked what the cost would be and what the designs looked like.

He stated he didn't hear about the splash pads for the diverse youth for the summer programming and asked how to make that a part of the legislative agenda.

He stated he did not see anything on BIPOC, diverse population programming for seniors as the BIPOC senior activity did not participate in programs.

Council Member Morson asked about the funding allocated for the ballpark.

He asked about the schematic of the new proposals for the second level fitness center at the Community Activity Center and costs associated for residents to utilize it.

Council Member Morson stated that regarding the BIPOC senior program, on the legislative agenda, didn't see a line item to make it a reality for the community. He asked what findings and results the city was getting back from legislators and if there were ongoing efforts to make it a reality for the city.

He was concerned about the affordable housing projects they envisioned with the 30% AMI and asked how they would be moving forward to it differently than last year.

Council Member Lee stated on the fire house project, some of the Council Members and staff

took a bus tour to other cities and remembered Burnsville, the Bentley or the Rolls Royce of fire houses with great engine bays, training area, awesome residential area, office area that had a community access and cost a lot. He stated from that tour, the information was exciting and showed them what was out there. He stated they also stopped at the East Fire house, which needed a lot of work and gave kudos to the fire staff and firefighters for working with what they had as it need to be upgraded. He stated he knew the costs had been at the top of the Council's and staff's minds in terms of looking at what opportunities were ahead of them.

He asked about the proposed Community Activity Center design on the access road and when changing the door, if they would still keep the drop off area because it might present issues.

Council Member Lee stated he didn't see anything on clear energy. He stated the city was on step two of the clean city initiative and continued to get support from the state and federal level. He stated he was looking forward to the new legislature focus on climate change and addressing those issues.

He stated that under diversity, equity, and inclusion and affordable housing, to take a stance on renter's rights and tenant rights and not just residential and commercial. He stated he had seen threats to small commercial but there were also tenants in commercial sections too.

Mayor Winston stated in terms of immediate issues they were dealing with, asked how they could legislatively prioritize them so they could actually accomplish them. He stated given the struggles they had with apartment complexes and the infrastructure, asked how were they going to approach that, what was the coalition going to look like and what were the action items were.

On the water issue, he stated it might be an opportunity to take the lead regionally and heard from residents about addressing it.

On development, he stated as the city grew, historically, people looked at the city as an affordable housing hub. He stated that even as some people looked to increase it, it came with certain issues with infrastructure. He asked how they made sure with the remaining development if they were attracting the right development to the city.

On public safety, he thought they needed to be aggressive in terms of how they were going to fund it and make it as easy as possible for the city to afford the Fire Department by getting state dollars. He stated they also needed to take the lead in dealing with issues on juveniles the city was dealing with and was seeing that affecting the city.

He stated those were the areas they needed to prioritize and consistently communicate it so the state representatives, senators, commissioners, Commissioner Lunde and Met Council knew the issues for the city were the most urgent issues. He stated there seemed to be agreement on them and suggested to find a way to prioritize those areas, what were the action items, what were the steps, and what were the timelines. He stated he would like a better understanding on that so that they knew how quickly they had to get it in front of the state legislators. He stated as a Council, stepped in, approved, and helped where they were called upon as needed. He stated for him, those areas would be the priority areas that if they succeeded in those areas, they could address a lot of the other issues that they were dealing with equity and other things they were concerned about. He stated even 40% or 50%, they would change the landscape for the city in a positive way. He stated the legislative agenda was important this year because of the dollars

that were available at the state level.

He stated they went to Washington DC and talked to Secretary Buttigieg, Secretary Marty and even the President and was the understanding that a lot of resources were going to be provided to cities. He stated there had to be a concerted effort and very strategic in the cities they called to attend to introduce those resources. He stated that given what they were seeing at the state level and support at the federal level, this year for the five topics he spoke about was important they succeeded and focused on those. He stated it was a short period of time when that amount of money would be available and the amount of support was going to be available to do things at the city level and had to capitalize on, He stated he wanted more specifics in terms of what the strategy was, what the plan was and what the ask was. He stated that asking for a few hundred million for apartments, asked what the language looked like to put in front of the legislative bodies and his instinct from talking to state level representatives, was that the city had allies there. He stated things were moving quickly and people were already putting together an agenda and making a play for those resources. He stated they had to move quickly to get the resources they needed for the city because people were already trying to divide the pie and as the 6th largest city, there was a piece there but needed to move quickly to get the resource that were due for the city.

Council Member Klonowski stated she would like to see a couple areas addressed. She stated there was a lot in there about youth mental health, which was critical, and there was a correlation between mental health supports and the police department but to also address mental health with adults as well. She stated mental health and disabilities services, people with a family member or themselves having a cognitive or developmental disability, mental health condition, traumatic brain injury, it could be complicated to get or find access to those services from the state level or county level. She stated if they could put the legislative effort forward to say the city would like to see better resources to help families navigate that. She stated it was a good time, as they were having more conversations as a community about mental illness, mental health and how it impacted so many people.

She stated she would like to address the mental health resources support community needs. She stated it had a piece in there about stricter licensing for group homes and to also ask the state/federal governments to provide better pay for health and benefits to people that served in those roles that worked in group homes in support of positions for people with mental illness or disabilities. She stated it was hard to have employees but those were not well-paid jobs, and if they didn't have good health care and benefits and pay, there would be a lot of turnover, and not attract the best people to serve such vulnerable populations.

She stated affordable housing throughout the city was important and considered affordable and calling some of it attainable. She considered where the children would move when they moved out of homes, and where they could afford in the community. She stated housing prices skyrocketed and income had not kept up with housing prices. She stated that where her children were moving, paying \$1,000 for a two-bedroom apartment was expensive and consider the bills. She stated she would like to consider approaching affordable housing, attainable housing and more at a 60/90 level throughout the city as well as 30%, because the 30% AMI was underserved. With 60/90% and not have it all concentrated in one district and having it more spread out and incorporated it into a more market rate.

She stated she knew there was a policy in place for “X” number of units but to be vigilant on that and worked to attract some of those multifamily developers to build in the city. She stated it also supported some of the empty nesters, attracting more multifamily market rate and luxury homes. She stated there was 610 West, which had low vacancy rates. She stated when people wanted to sell their homes, as they might not want to maintain a larger house and would like them to stay in the city. She stated she also believed affordable and safe housing was critical and mental health, reducing crime rates, and it also helped reduce recidivisms, which had been proven, when people had somewhere safe, and affordable to go after they left the criminal justice system, it helped recidivism low and should be focusing on it.

She stated during the Public Comment, Ms. Guyott-Hempel spoke about the federal government not taxing the social security income, that benefits the senior population as well as the disability community. She stated they should also take a legislative stance federally to change how Social Security income and disability benefits, as they were currently based on a person’s work history, but if they had a mental illness or disability at a young age, they might not have a work history so the social security income they got every month would be low. If they had a mental health condition, chronic depression or bipolar condition, it was hard to afford apartments if on Social Security. She stated the government capped what they could make income wise and was hard to have job and maintain the Social Security benefit they needed to keep their mental health benefits and was an uneven balance. She thought the legislative document looked great and a lot to work on.

Council Member Morson stated he didn’t see a proposal for a youth center in the East or West District as the youth had to go to the Central District for programming. He stated funding from the legislators was needed to allocate a robust vision and create out of school time for the same youth involved in opportunities, with a consideration for the Rec on the Go van to shuttle the youth to the center to give them the same opportunities and have it schedule from the apartment complexes to have access out of school and after school activities.

Council Member Tran stated the homestead credit needed to be adjusted for communities because it was chasing senior out of their homes due to the property tax. She stated broadband needed to be accessible to after out of school students and businesses alike. She stated while working on her degree, she did not have internet at home or personal laptop and relied on the school public library computers and public internet to work on her degree. She stated seniors should not be taxed on social security funds because they already were taxed at the time they worked and paid for social security. She stated on the mental health services, the state government already paid for the health care budget yearly and monthly but looked like the funds had been abused by healthcare corporations when people had mental health issues and didn’t get the services. She stated the health care system kept pushing people for physical checkup and unnecessary tests, and if they had a mental health issue, they didn’t care and didn’t want to use funds for those services. She stated they needed state/federal funding in the city and they should make more peopled educated on how to get services for medical and for health insurance.

Mayor Winston thanked everyone for the presentation and answering questions. He stated what they needed when it came back to the Council was the timeline on how quickly to move and how to move on those specific priorities, action items and steps. He stated some of the neighboring communities were moving on them too. He stated he would like the next step on

the priorities they could achieve, what it looked like and timeline. He stated when it came to the youth piece, it would be important because coming out of the pandemic children had suffered and not have an opportunity to interact, what the youth infrastructure would look like and what they had on the mental health opportunities and working with juveniles. He stated he would support Chief Bruley and in line what he was supporting.

9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Morson stated he was excited today to see the change in the swearing in process today. He stated he submitted changes to the oath of office because when he was sworn in some of the language did not exist. He stated the sworn in Council Members were the first to take the oath that included residents.

He said Happy New Year to the residents and to all the families. He stated he was excited to welcome the new Council Members and congratulated each of them for being elected to serve and represent the residents of the city. He reminded everyone they were elected to serve and represent the people and their issues regardless of their socioeconomic or educational backgrounds, or whether they lived north or south of 85th Avenue.

He stated he wore his purple tie, because it was his mother-in-law's favorite color and she recently passed away. He stated he wanted to share that he was bringing her into the new year and thanked everyone for the prayers and thanked Tonja West-Hafner for the card.

Council Member Lee congratulated the new Council Members and he looked forward to 2023 and said Happy New Year to the residents and staff. He stated they had a lot of challenges and had a great group to take it head on. He thanked the Council for the privilege, the honor and support for nominating and electing him as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Winston said Happy New Year to everyone and was an honor to be up at the dais and thanked Council Member's Lee and Morson for the assistance they provided before stepping into office. He thanked city staff and City Manager Stroebel for assisting him. He thanked Council Member Klonowski for bringing up the affordable housing for youth.

He stated he attended two programs: one was with the Harvard School for Policy and the other was the Bloomberg Philanthropic Foundation. He stated it was for new mayors and they provided resources in term on what they could do as mayors. He stated Bloomberg was also looking to provide resources to cities as well. He stated he built some relationships with other mayors and from that grew the opportunity to go to the White House.

He stated they met some top leadership at the White House including the President and they were putting in a lot of hope in cities to get things done and was a very nonpartisan approach and was much about how to create infrastructure, how to deal with some of the issues with crime that they were struggling with and what federal resources were available for that.

He stated City Manager Stroebel attended as well and they would see some information coming out from them as they worked through those resources and see how they could use those resources to help the city. He stated the city was one of 450 to 500 cities in size and in relation to other cities throughout the country, the city was a sizable city. He stated they were invited to that not because of any political popularity contest but because Brooklyn Park was a city of

certain size that was dealing with some of the issues they were seeing across the country. He stated at the federal level people saw it and as a city also needed to realize, how to take advantage of those resources and opportunities that was due to the city of its size. He stated the city was not far from Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park was a big player in the metro area and needed to realize with that came with opportunities to solve some of the challenges the city had and how to lean into those opportunities.

9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel congratulated Mayor Winston and Council Members Tran and Klonowski. He stated in a few weeks Council Member elect Christian Eriksen would have his swearing in ceremony at the beginning of the EDA meeting on January 23 and looked forward to 2023.

He stated City Assessor Bauer-Anderson, asked to pass on about the Board of Appeal and Equalization Training. He stated Council Member Morson had done the training typically would like two or three Council Members do the training. He stated the training could be done online and he would send out an email on how to do it. He stated when the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting was held, the State and County encouraged the city to have two or three Council Members have the training for best practices.

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK