

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2024
6:02 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Pro Tem Xp Lee

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Xp Lee; Council Members Boyd Morson, Maria Tran, Christian Eriksen, Tony McGarvey and Nicole Klonowski; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Tolar Siobhan; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz; Recreation and Parks Director Brad Tullberg; Deputy Police Chief Bill Barritt and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Mayor Hollies Winston (excused)

Mayor Pro Tem Lee opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Stroebe stated there were 4 public comments at the last council meeting. 1. Kari Palistino, had concerns around garbage along city, county and state roadways. He stated Michelle Peterson, Environmental Health, was in attendance and spoke with Ms. Palistino with regard to how the city was going about addressing it as well as individual actions she could take, like notifying the city to make sure it was on top of the locations she was seeing the garbage. 2. Andrea Perez Maikulla from the Human Rights Commission, provided some feedback to the council with regard to HRC's request for a cease fire resolution on Gaza and wanting to give her perspective and tie how she felt like that resolution was responsive to the city. 3. Collette Guyot Hempel was encouraging the council to consider putting a referendum on the ballot this fall related to investing in various amenities in the city, examples, basketball courts, senior center, etc. 4. Mr. Dotson, and his comment did not need additional response this evening with regard to that comment.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Collette Guyott-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens. Asked the council again to place a referendum question on the ballot for amenities this fall. She stated there was no time to waste in order for residents to vote in November. She stated the park referendum in 2018 was not sufficient funding to complete the promises of amenities made. She stated at the March 7 community meeting, there were some things mentioned about matching funds. She asked the following questions:
 - a. Does that mean the city needs to provide matching funds equal to what has been provided by the state bonding?
 - b. What resources has the city investigated for their matching amount?
 - c. If the city is unable to secure their match, what happens to the \$5 million funding received from the state of Minnesota.
 - d. Will the state of Minnesota keep the funding available until the city is able to match it?
 - e. Is there a timeline from the state of Minnesota of when this needs to be done by?
 - f. Since all the options for the community activity center renovation include the entrance way, does the city have the funding needed to complete this project?

- g. If not, what funding sources has the city applied for or will apply for to fill in the gap? To include the swimming pool and senior center.
She stated there was a Star Tribune article in March, Brooklyn Park was not the only city asking for funds from the state and many showed the need for city referendums and sales tax and state input.
1. Valeda Huff, 8451 Fairfield Road. She stated that to help her, Brooklyn Park residents and others have a clear understanding of the chain of events that transpired from when the city submitted the original funding request for the Community Activity Center improvements of where they were presently, she had the following questions.
 - a. Did the council vote on the original language and the fund request before Senator John Hoffman submitted the initial bill?
 - b. Did the original language precisely outline the what and the why of the funds you requested and if so, please reiterate the details of those specifications.
 - c. What subsequently prompted the council to ask Senator Hoffman to change the language in its initial bill to be more flexible?
 - d. What did you mean by flexible regarding the conversion of rink #1 into basketball courts?
 - e. Do Brooklyn Park residents have the right to gain access to how individual city council members voted on policy issues impacting our city? For instance, for each council member voting on past and future Community Activity Center improvement recommendations, and if so, what is the process to request such information?
 - f. What is the proper protocol for the council members to respond to emails and phones messages from Brooklyn Park residents? Is there presently a protocol or expectations that I can have as Brooklyn Park resident when I reach out to my council members because based on my past experiences and believe the experiences of other residents, we do not get responses at all or only a few other council members are responding which is leaving me to feel I'm not valued, my voice does not matter on the concerns I present to the city council.
 - g. If there is no expectations or protocols, again based on my personal experience, I would recommend that you please put or establish some in place so I can know and others can know what we can expect for our city council who reach out to you.
 2. Howard Dotson, Minneapolis. Stated he brought concerns about transparency and accountability. He stated three times now he had been attacked and maligned for asking valid questions. He asked the council to consider censuring mayor Winston for his continued violation of their rules that is read before he gave public comment. He stated where it all began for him was, a few months ago with Minnesota Acts Now and the concerns about the wage theft of former employees of that vendor. He stated he then found the mayor intervening and undermining the current vendor who has now termed out. He stated the mayor's housemate, Nicko was working for Village BP and it was undermining the current vendor. He stated he had an email from the city manager saying that mayor Winston was directed not to interfere with the internal affairs of one of the current vendors. He stated he knew about the inauguration event and the intended recipient of those funds that only got \$350. He stated they wanted to see the donor lists, wanted to see the accounts, and wanted to see the accounting of that inauguration event. He stated that was transparency and accountability. He stated he also knew about a campaign manager who was stiffed by mayor Winston, and he was turning it over to the media and feds. He stated he had emails from the city manager regarding Village BP and had Council member Xp Lee's email about the mayor being counseled about violating the standing rules, He stated that twice after that, he was attacked and

maligned. He stated for the residents of Brooklyn Park, when they saw a city official operating that way, asked if they thought people would want to give public comment. He asked if they thought it might be stifling the voice of their residents and the democratic process, He stated he still had questions about the double homicide at 73rd Avenue and Zane Avenue on Halloween, the Purple Shirts, Restoration Ministries, who were in Huntington Place and not Village BP, the current vendor at that time, the mayors relationship to Restoration Ministries; his relationship to MIB, and the mayor advocating for MIB that have the contract instead of Village BP. He stated the mayor's housemate Niko, was working for Village BP and undermining the vendor. He stated the mayor compromised public safety in the days leading up to a double homicide and was time for the council to censure him or for the residents of Brooklyn Park to recall Mayor Winston.

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

3B PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

3B.1 Mayor's Proclamation Declaring May 4, 2024 as "Arbor Day" and the Month of May as "Arbor Month" in the City of Brooklyn Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee read the proclamation declaring May 4, 2024 as "Arbor Day" and the Month of May as "Arbor Month" in the city of Brooklyn Park.

3B.2 Planning Commission Annual Report and 2024 Work Plan.

Planning Commission Chair Liam Cavin presented the 2023 Planning Commission Annual Report and the 2024 Work Plan.

Council Member Tran asked if they could look at the international residential rental housing like the guidelines in the city of Crystal rental regulations so they could adopt something for the residents like the flexibility.

Planning Director Mogush stated that was probably a reference to the International Property Maintenance Code, which, most cities adopted, and Brooklyn Park had adopted that too. He stated Crystal had it and was using it as a guiding code for housing rules and enforcing livable conditions in rental housing. He stated it was outside the prevue of the Planning Commission but was the ordinance the city had adopted.

Council Member Tran stated there was a housing shortage and asked if the city could adjust it, like permits, like one bedroom or two and maybe add one more and try something so the family was not divided. She stated something temporary at the time it was constructed. She stated this housing shortage was not just locally, and found out at the national conference she attended, that all other states had the same problem. She stated they had to come up with a way to deal with it something temporary while waiting for more new buildings.

Planning Director Mogush stated there was a housing shortage both locally and nationally and why it was encouraging as they saw more housing being built in the city and region as a whole. He stated there was a need for multi bedroom units for families and saw some of those in the Decatur north and south building that Chair Cavin presented. He stated that was something they

keep encouraging developers to build when approaching staff, Planning Commission and the Council with development proposals because it was an huge and important need.

Council Member Tran asked how the housing code protected renters from neighbor's abuse. She stated marijuana was legalized everywhere and should put in code on rentals, just like tobacco where no one could smoke and smoking areas to protect the population like children, pregnant women, and elderly.

Planning Director Mogush stated it was still in the early days when it came to sorting out what all the regulations were going to be for legalized marijuana in Minnesota. He stated there was a lot more to come both at state level and discussions with the council on how it will be regulated. He stated the planning commission's prevue there would be to make recommendations related to land uses and zoning whether that intersected with marijuana dispensaries and other land uses that might show up in the zoning codes. He stated when it came to the important issues of regulation, that would happen through the proper channels and not the Planning Commission.

Council Member Morson asked if they chronicled businesses that came to the city, wanted to operate and build their business and rejected and if planning was still in contact with them in any means to try to resurrect their vision for the city.

Planning Director Mogush stated once the proposal got to the Planning Commission and council it was staff's intent, they had done whatever they could to work with the applicant to get the application to a point the council felt comfortable approving. He stated they didn't always get there but always did. He stated they were not seeing a lot of denials for those applications from the planning commission or the council. He stated what they also tried to do was bring forward as staff and some examples were, Chair Cavin shared on the regulations. Sometimes a business might not be able to do what they wanted to do, something not allowed by the zoning code. He stated staff was always looking for those opportunities to proposed to the council and planning commission to change a rule to make it easier to do business in Brooklyn Park, examples were outdoor storage and accessory structures they worked on last year, so they were not having to say no to something that a business wanted to do that seemed reasonable to the community and council.

Council Member Morson stated he recalled a minority business that approached the council with a plan to build a dentist office and was turned away. He asked if he had intentions to build in the community and turned away by council if efforts were being exhausted to revisit his opportunity to build in the city.

Planning Director Mogush stated that example, the council denied the waiver from the moratorium that was in place at the time and that moratorium was no longer in effect and development could move forward in that area. He stated they had received a contact from the from property owner looking to get something going there again.

Council Member Tran stated there were a lot of old apartments in the city and were missing the sprinkler system. She asked if they could update them for the resident's safety.

Planning Director Mogush stated the sprinklers was another safety measure and important and would love it if property owners took that step to provide those additional safety mechanisms. He stated those were now required for new construction and in the case of buildings in place for decades, once they received a certificate of occupancy for their building permit back then, under the law, cities couldn't impose new building code requirements on them.

3B.2 MOTION KLONOWSKI, SECOND MCGARVEY TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING COMMISSION 2024 WORK PLAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3B.3 Budget Advisory Commission 2024 Workplan.

Teshite Wako, Budget Advisory Commission Chair and Akeem Adeniji, Budget Advisory Commission Vice Chair presented the 2023 Budget Advisory Commission Annual Report and the 2024 Work Plan.

Council Member Morson asked about the mission statement. He stated he didn't see where it said equitable and equity in spending in the city for variety of diverse projects and ongoings in the community. He asked if there was a reason why equity and equitable was not included in the mission statement to support and substantiate transparency and equity across all lines of what the city did in the community with the taxpayer dollars that was diverse.

Chair Wako stated in terms of the mission they had for the commission, it came from the charter commission and the BAC didn't set their mission. He stated the reviewed their bylaws and how to govern their meetings. He stated that in terms of mission, that was something the council should look into or charter commission look into and was not within their domain to look into the mission. He stated as he understood, the mission was given to them.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee asked if the council could keep the questions to the scope of presentation tonight and thought that would be the best and more efficient use of their time.

Council Member Tran stated recently the state had set a new level for the homestead credit, from \$345,000 to \$550,000. She stated with a lot of residents in the city, their homes were older and less value and lost credit for many years paying taxes. She asked what could be done to help them.

Finance Director Green stated that would be for the 2025 values and not for 2024. She stated the 2024 values were already in place. She stated when the council was going through the budgeting process for 2025, the homesteads would be calculated on the new calculated maximums for the homestead credits.

Council Member Tran stated that meant this year they would not get the credit refund and hard on them to pay taxes. She stated a lot of people relied on that refund to pay for the present years. She stated it would be hard; because we have a lot of housing in city; owned and less valued than that level; most are elderly and seniors not working anymore

Finance Director Green stated that was something the city was aware and the city did not have power to make those changes. She stated if it happened at the state, the state gave the city authority to sets the values and the state was the one that determined what the homestead credits would be.

Council Member Tran asked if the council should think about making a loan to provide for those homeowners, seniors, and elderly who were having problems. She stated this year they lost credit refunds to pay for this year and asked the council to think about it.

Finance Director Green stated she was not aware if that would be a public purpose and would look into it and have the city attorney look into it and get back to the council with that information.

3B.2 MOTION MORSON, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION 2024 WORK PLAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.0 MOTION KLONOWSKI, SECOND MCGAREY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS:

4.1 TO REMOVE OMOSOLA OLALEYE FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

4.2 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-41 APPROVING THE REVOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS OF MUNICIPAL STATE AID STREETS IN THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-42 APPROVING THE BID AWARD FOR THE 2024 SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK SIGNAL LIGHT SYSTEMS TO KILLMER ELECTRIC COMPANY INC.

4.4 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-43 TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH INCONTROL FOR SCADA OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

4.5 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-44 APPOINTING CRAIG RUNNAKKO AS DIRECTOR AND KEEPING LATONIA GREEN AS ALTERNATE DIRECTOR OF THE SUBURBAN RATE AUTHORITY FOR 2024.

4.6 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-45 TO APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR THE 2024 STREET TRAFFIC CENTERLINE STRIPING PROJECT ON CITY STREETS TO WARNING LITES.

4.7 TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR BROOKLYN PARK LIONS FOR THEIR SMELT FRY TO BE HELD APRIL 24-26, 2024, AT THE ARMORY GYMNASIUM, 5500 85TH AVENUE NORTH.

4.8 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-46 APPOINTING TARA VANDEVORT AS DEPUTY REGISTRAR FOR THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK.

4.9 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-47 TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DESIGN BY MELO FOR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$287,910 FOR ZANEWOOD RECREATION CENTER.

4.10 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-48 APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT "CHANSOMARY ESTATES" AT 7016 DUTTON AVENUE.

4.11 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-49 TO ACCEPT BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHING OF WELLHOUSE #10 BUILDING, PIPING AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO AMERICAN LIBERTY CONSTRUCTION

4.12 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-50 APPROVING THE BID AWARD FOR THE SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY OF

BROOKLYN PARK CITY OWNED SIGNAL LIGHT SYSTEMS TO PREMIER ELECTRICAL CORPORATION.

4.13 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-51 TO ACCEPT A COMMUNITY CRIME INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND AMEND THE 2024 GRANT FUND.

4.14 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-52 SUPPORTING PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES A BIOTECH INNOVATION DISTRICT AND VALUE CAPTURE AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICTS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None.

6. LAND USE ACTIONS-None.

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS.

7.1 Appointments to the Human Rights Commission

7.1 Mayor Pro Tem Lee briefed the Council on the appointments to the Human Rights Commission.

7.1 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO APPOINT JULIA DAMMER TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE CITY AT-LARGE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, FOR THE BALANCE OF A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE APRIL 1, 2025. (REPLACING AJA KING)

7.1 MOTION LEE, SECOND KLONOWSKI TO APPOINT MALLORY KNIPE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE EAST DISTRICT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, FOR THE BALANCE OF A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE APRIL 1, 2026. (REPLACING OMOsula OLALAYE)

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS – None.

9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Eriksen wanted to address a frequent public commenter at the council meetings. He stated Mr. Howard Dotson appeared a number of times before the council, addressed the council and departed. He wanted to give the public some context and make a request of Mr. Dotson. He stated Mr. Dotson had emailed the council over 40 times and in the last 4 months, presented weekly at council meetings, and cast numerous dispersions against the mayor and maybe staff. He stated Mr. Dotson had insinuated the council of being negligent in not holding the mayor accountable for those things. He encouraged Mr. Dotson, if he had evidence he claimed to have, and claimed to share it with the FBI and Justice Department and wanted the council to do something about it, that he shared the evidence with the council. He stated he didn't think the council was prepared to act against anyone without evidence. He thought it was unfair for anyone whether, they sat at the dais or in the audience to make accusations against anyone without evidence being presented to the authorities that were in the

power to investigate those things. He stated whether it was campaign finance, abuse of power or fraud or simple misconduct against a council member, they didn't make unfounded accusations against each other and that included anyone who walked in the chambers. He stated it was a fair standard to expect Mr. Dotson, to share the evidence or asked Mr. Doston to stop distracting the council from its business.

Council Member Morson stated that he asked the city manager for a couple of responses he didn't get via his email. He stated one of those emails was asking him what the word belittling meant, if that was attacking him and then asked him what the process was for council members when they had a complaint against the mayor and mayor Pro Tem. He stated those were the two questions he had been waiting on.

Had stated he had an outstanding time at Zanewood the other week for game night and families showed up. He stated he had seen so many things that transpired at Zanewood that required the council act responsibly for the diverse desires of the community. He stated there was a young lady walking through hall, Saphi, playing her flute, wasn't playing hockey or basketball and she just wanted to learn how to play music. He stated there was bingo and prizes given away from the city and excited about those prizes. He stated pizza was here to eat and thanked those who were serving and gave kudos to staff working at Zanewood that night.

He stated at the conclusion of the evening, there was a discussion amongst staff and he was able to sit and be part of that and was about brainstorming on what happened that day, takeaways and things to look forward to the future and build upon it, programming for youth outside hockey/basketball. He stated that was the reason for a multipurpose facility needed now for those that needed those outlets to use, such as music, skateboarding or just a matter of the city providing a multipurpose use facility to provide a safe haven for the kids that lived in the community to provide them with an outlet to be kids.

He stated he got a report from the chief that supported and substantiated the crime rate amongst kids not involved in after school and out of school programming, who didn't have fair and equitable facilities to allow them to be kids and was staggering. He stated he would present that before the council to let them know that kids that did not have things to do in community were are subject to increased crime violence within the community and in neighborhoods.

He stated there was also an incident where someone was disrespecting someone's religion. The girl got so upset and he took her to the Zanewood Center because someone was trying to pull her hijab, as she was Muslim and was Ramadan. He stated she was mad and held by staff from her going after the guy. He stated he had a conversation with Director Tullberg and staff, to think of something for that kid pulling on the hijab, to not come back to the center because he wouldn't leave. He gave kudos to staff on how they handled it and resolved without incident. He stated he reach out to the police department and spoke to Officer Becker who followed up with the girl. He stated at that point she was ready to go home and wanted to get her brothers and go back to Zanewood for that guy and didn't want anything to manifest in the city. He stated Officer Becker reached out to the girl and family and told him everything was okay and thankful for the follow up and the incident didn't happen within the city. He stated everyone needed to be mindful of the kids when around different people, of different religion and races.

Council Member Tran stated she got an email from a resident regarding the recent hot topic on the ice rink and basketball courts. She stated the resident stated there was too much emphasize on basketball and needed to be balanced. She stated the child development was not just about the physical but also about mental and academics and needed to balance both mental and

physical and should try to find a way to deal with a solution. She stated they didn't need to divide the residents and should unite them. She stated if they didn't have enough funds, that it would take time and needed to be strong to deal with whatever was facing the city. She thanked the resident for the email. She stated if children miss a day to play basketball was no problem, they could make up another time but could not miss a day at school and thought parents should encourage children to invest more into academics to dream big to implant in their mindset. She stated there was need in lawyers, doctors, teachers and the academic level and encouraged children to read and put more time in the academics than just focusing on the physical or sports; and needed to be balanced.

She stated she attend the congressional city conference, March 11 through 13 and had a good time learning and met some legislators. She stated that public safety and shortage on housing was not just a local problem. It was a national problem as other states had the same issues like the city. She stated she spoke to other elected officials and could have someone come to the city and talk about the how they were dealing with the housing shortage.

Council Member Tran stated with the economy going down, it affected public safety and the high crime affecting the shortage of housing. She stated a lot of the population instead of working, paying taxes and living independently, gave up on the job and lived on welfare and housing. She stated the high crime not only hurt the victim but hurt the system and nation and have to be aware of the deep root cause and not just the affect. She stated other elected officials shared at the conference was public safety, housing shortage, female especially of color, why females still struggled with sexism and racism nationwide in their work environments. She stated after the women suffrage's movement and the adopted 19th amendment in August 18, 1920, asked how far had they gone after a century since the 19th amendment was adopted.

Council Member Morson wanted to give a big kudos to Denise of Task Force Inc. as he was at the food distribution the past weekend and cars were wrapped around her building. He stated she served 150 families needing food services and showed the council they couldn't forget people who fit that category because they were part of community. He stated she provided boxes of apples, oranges, beef sticks, cheese and he had some food in his truck to drop off at Zanewood for after school snacks for the kids. He stated she was also one of the recipients of the ARPA dollars from the city to reach out to the diverse population she served in the city.

Council Member Lee reminded the council members that any questions or comments or criticisms of staff should not be aired to the council. He stated there were different channels and those should be the way they handled it. He stated it was not something they should do publicly at the council meetings.

He agreed with Council member Eriksen's comments around Mr. Dotson and believed in freedom of speech and why the public comment was for. He stated the attacking was repeated and asked the attorneys at what point it became harassment or slander from the member of the public to come and abuse their public comment section to continuously go after an elected official.

City Attorney Thomson stated as he indicated there were first amendment rights that needed to be protected and why there was an open forum. He stated it was possible for them to go too far and would need to look into it. He stated many things Mr. Dotson addressed were not within the purview of the council such as campaign finance violations. He stated whether a council member or individual had allegedly done some other activities outside the realm of the city, it was not the realm of the council. He stated on the issue a with council member speaking or

responding to a person during public comment was not a code of conduct issue, it was a policy they had on the agenda. He stated there were times when council members had asked questions to people who had presented at the open forum and most of the topics Mr. Dotson was covering and concerned about during public comment was not within the purview of the council to respond to. He stated Mr. Dotson had made allegations to federal agencies and state agencies and free to do that but did not see what role the council had on any of the topics he brought up at the council meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee he would be interested in figuring out what the council could do to protect themselves and focus on that part where he thought Mr. Dotson was abusing the public comment of the council meetings.

Council Member Morson stated he agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Lee and Council Member Eriksen. He stated it surprised him when it first started off last year and kept saying to the mayor about when people who came to the podium and going after Mr. Bishop Harding Smith. He stated it was no different when going after him when I told him to stop that and allowing it to happen. He stated it amazed him no one had concerns when Mr. Dotson and others were going after Mr. Smith. The conversation at that point was allowing them to tell the truth. He stated he recalled that being said without any documents. He stated he supported the city attorney saying some of those things might not be relevant to the council. He stated that even if Mr. Dotson challenged him and wrote to the council about him being disrespectful and violating those things. It didn't provide the council an opportunity not to equally and equitably respond to or consider what he was saying but they didn't do the same thing when they were up there week after week attacking Mr. Smith and no one had anything to say. Tonight they were defending someone coming up and allowing the platform be utilized for their public display and now was of concern.

Council Member Klonowski stated she supported what Council Member Eriksen and Mayor Pro Tem Lee said. She stated at one point it was harassment and felt it was abusing the rules. She stated if there were places Mr. Dotson needed to make his accusations to present to federal government, state election board, how did they encourage him to do that and move on. She felt it was becoming harassment of the council and mayor. She asked at what point was it liable and harassment because he had come up repeatedly and accusations of any one of the council members over and over without proof. She stated on the issues happening around MN Acts Now, the council was emailed things and conversations were happening behind the scenes and there was no proof that had been provided.

City Attorney Thomson stated liable and slander was a personal claim and the individual made against someone and not a claim a group or body could make. He stated he understood the point on harassment and stated he would spend some time looking into that on what an appropriate action the council should take if they felt the public comment portion of meeting was being abused by an individual.

9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated he wanted to reiterate that the Council Chambers was not a place for public criticism of city staff including himself and why the mayor intervened at that last meeting. He clarified, Council Member Morson's questions that he did send an email requesting him to define the word belittle. City Manager Stroebel stated he replied back to Council Member Morson requesting him to give him a call so they could discuss that and the call was not placed and did not hear from Council Member Morson. He stated that on what was the process to

report the concerns against the mayor, mayor pro tem or any member of the council, the council approved the city council code of conduct at the beginning of each year. He stated that could be placed as a formal complaint and would come before the mayor, city manager and city attorney to initiate that complaint.

He stated Ms. Palistino was one of the public comments from last meeting who was in attendance tonight. He stated he had a chance along with Director Berggren and Director Ruiz to speak with her in the lobby. He stated Michelle Peterson, Environmental Health team did provide some information and answered some of her questions last week and not all questions were addressed, and they took the opportunity tonight to answer her questions, around the sentence to serve resources that the city had in her in community as well to address concerns she had on Highway 610 and 94 to Minneapolis. He stated they also provided resources with regard to how she could report a complaint in the complaint portal for Environmental Health and contact information for Ms. Peterson, Director Berggren and Director Ruiz.

He stated at the council retreat around prioritization issues, some council members did raise question on concerns on the uptick on litter. He stated it had been a winter where there had been very little snow. He stated the communications team, Operations and Maintenance staff, and Environmental Health staff; were developing a campaign to address litter like adopting a street program. He stated they already had adopt a park program and the campaign should be finalized shortly so they could get it out there because it was a concern they had heard from community members and council members.

City Manager Stroebel stated on Friday, from 5pm to 7pm was Movies in Brooklyn Park at the community activity center at no cost. He stated it was a great opportunity for families to take on a free movie night.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee stated he along with the Mayor, city manager, Director Berggren were at Iftar dinner last week at the Brooklyn Park Islamic Center and said happy Ramadan to everyone celebrating it. He stated it was educational and one of two mosques in city. They had a great dinner and a good time to connect and learn more about other culture and religions in the city.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

XP LEE, MAYOR PRO TEM

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK