

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Hollies Winston

PRESENT Mayor Hollies Winston; Council Members Maria Tran, , Xp Lee, Christian Eriksen; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Strategic Management Coordinator Zack Kramka, Police Chief Mark Bruley, Fire Chief Shawn Conway, Planning Director Paul Mogush, and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Council Member Boyd Morson (excused)

Mayor Winston read a statement regarding meeting via interactive technology.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Council Member Nicole Klonowski

Mayor Winston opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager stated that there were two comments at the last meeting. 1). Guyott Hemple urging support on a referendum bond or levy to build additional indoor amenities for community members, and interest around building supporting the youth to create more structured activities. She mentioned using some of future marijuana funds the state would give to the city and direct those funds to park and recreation to combat efforts for people using drugs and other similar activities. 2). Howard Dotson, encouraged the city to run the seven dispensaries around legal cannabis and use those dollars to help with restorative justice efforts. He also had other comments not needing responses.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Howard Dotson. Requested the council follow the rules for public comment as he experienced on January 8. He continued to have concerns about the former employees who there were victims of wage theft with the vendor before Village BP. He had concerns about campaign finance violations, conflicts of interests, and quid pro quos. He was concerned about the safety at Huntington Place because Village BP was not able to provide de-escalations services which was adjacent to where there was a double homicide. He asked about who the purple shirts were and who was funding them; and the relationship with the city and how it complicated things. He had concerns about the council last meeting where Roberts Rules was not followed. He stated they were supposed take nomination from the floor. He stated his first amendment was infringed upon when the rules were not followed with public comment. He stated that previously on WCCO, it was said that there would be a recusal when there were items involved with legalized cannabis and was brought to his attentions it was not followed. He stated any elected official whose got a financial gain on matters before the city needed to recuse themselves.
2. Collette Guyotte Hemple, 9277 Trinity Gardens. Asked the council to request the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission that meets this week to prepare a

referendum for indoor facilities for the city. She stated the legislative packet asked for money but there was a significant gap between the amount necessary to fund the remodel of activities center, at \$13 million, the teen center at \$6 million for the city to pay and some of that was from the previous referendum. She stated the senior center was \$8 million which was over and above the referendum money. She stated if the price was similar to the teen center, the total cost there was no aquatic center was discussed so kids had the ability to call the #3 of registration and still able to get a lesson. She stated the recreation and parks staff provided a high quality program but to keep up with metro cities, smaller and large, the city needed to build amenities to be a regional destination like Plymouth, Maple Grove, Woodbury, Bloomington, and Duluth. She stated Brooklyn Center and Champlin both had indoor pools with public access and were a third the size Brooklyn Park. She stated Maple Grove, Bloomington and Duluth had indoor pools and beaches that residents had access to. She talked about the state surplus and the city needed to ask for its share. She suggested a sales tax, which seemed regressive, but not having the opportunities for the kids that were low income was more regressive. She stated she created a chart and gave a copy to the city manager to make copies for the council. She stated that to increase the city's tax base, it needed had to have amenities so that people who worked in the city and lived in the city had facilities in the city. She stated there was 6 months of winter and was important the city provided opportunities to kids and provided mentors for the kids and was an opportunity for them to see government working for them. Of the people, by the people and for the people.

3A. MOTION LEE, SECOND MCGARVEY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

3A. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES-LEE, ERIKSEN, TRAN, MCGARVEY, KLONOWSKI, WINSTON; NO-NONE..

3B PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUES, SECTION 465.03.

4.2 TO FULLY RELEASE THE DEVELOPERS' ESCROW (\$123,602.29), AND TO FULLY RELEASE THE PERFORMANCE BOND (\$237,700.00) FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE "610 JUNCTION 2021 UPDATE" PROJECT #21-103 LOCATED AT 9360 DECATUR DRIVE NORTH.

4.2 TO FULLY RELEASE THE LETTER OF CREDIT (\$1,133,100.00), TO FULLY RELEASE THE DEVELOPERS' ESCROW (\$34,936.01), TO FULLY RELEASE THE PERFORMANCE DEPOSIT (\$59,600.00) FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE "NORTHPARK 8TH ADDITIONS/BUILDING 7" PROJECT #21-109.

4.2 TO FULLY RELEASE THE DEVELOPERS' ESCROW (\$28,688.77) FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE "SPERO ACADEMY" PROJECT #21-115 LOCATED AT 7600 HUMBOLDT AVENUE NORTH.

4.2 TO FULLY RELEASE THE LETTER OF CREDIT (\$4,354,600.00), TO FULLY

RELEASE THE PERFORMANCE DEPOSIT (\$396,000.00), AND TO PARTIALLY RELEASE (\$131,076.32) THE DEVELOPERS' ESCROW FOR A NEW TOTAL OF (\$50,000.00) FOR SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF THE "NORTHPARK BUSINESS CENTER 7TH ADDITION" PROJECT #21-123.

4.2 TO FULLY RELEASE THE PERFORMANCE BOND (\$74,000.00), AND TO PARTIALLY RELEASE (\$48,171.48) THE DEVELOPERS' ESCROWS FOR A NEW TOTAL OF (\$50,000.00) FOR SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF THE "610 JUNCTION WEST" PROJECT #22-112 LOCATED AT 9500 DECATUR DRIVE NORTH.

4.3 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-5 APPROVING THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK'S SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING.

4.4 TO APPROVE A TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC) LICENSE FOR UP ADAMS LIQUOR CORP., DBA UP NORTH LIQUOR, 9570 NOBLE PKWY N., BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55443

4.5 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-6 TO RENEW AN AGREEMENT WITH CORNERSTONE TO PROVIDE VICTIMS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH ADVOCACY SERVICES.

4.6 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-7 RELATING TO COUNCIL/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES.

4.7 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-8 RELATING TO BUSINESS EXPENSES OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

4.8 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-9 AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ATTEND APPROVED MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS.

4.9 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-9 ESTABLISHING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD, APPOINTING ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD JUDGES FOR THE MARCH 5, PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION PRIMARY, AUGUST 13 PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND APPOINT ALL MEMBERS APPOINTED AS THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD TO ACT AS THE BROOKLYN PARK ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD FOR THE MARCH 5, AUGUST 13 AND NOVEMBER 5, 2024 ELECTIONS.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

4.0 THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES- ERIKSEN, TRAN, MCGARVEY, KLONOWSKI, LEE, WINSTON; NO-NONE..

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None.

6. LAND USE ACTIONS-None.

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS-None.

8.1 Brooklyn Park Community Plan Steering Committee

City Manager Strobel briefed the council on

8.1 MOTION WINSTON, SECOND LEE TO APPOINT THE MAYOR, COMMUNITY LONG-RANGE IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION COUNCIL LIAISON COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, AND COUNCIL MEMBER TRAN TO THE BROOKLYN PARK COMMUNITY PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

8.1 THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES-TRAN, MCGARVEY, KLONOWSKI, LEE, ERIKSEN, WINSTON; NO-NONE.

8.2 City Manager's Presentation on the Trade Mission to Japan. He briefed on Preparation, Brochure, 53rd Annual Japan-Midwest Joint Conference, Context for US Midwest and Japan Relationship, Promotion, Networking and Business Connections, Tokyo Business Visits, Osak Chamber of Commerce, Follow Up and Next Steps.

Mayor Winston stated it was great to have the city manager there and was extremely helpful. He stated when they saw other people there, they had staff there too. He stated there was a lot of information to grab onto, a lot to do and track from the work force perspective. He stated one of the big questions they had, when they talked to a number of Japanese business people, they were concerned about the work force in United States and the city if they were going to work with the city. He stated many were impressed with the Brooklynk Program. He stated the program had a 100 people going through that and working to connect more youth with some of the medical device manufacturing or manufacturing companies in the city. He stated some of those jobs, when graduating from high school could make \$52, 000 to \$60,000 a year. He stated it was a wonderful opportunity for them who might not go on the college path. He stated they were working o increase that but there were limitation on funds the city had. He stated part of the legislative asks the city had his year was asking for more funding to grow out Brooklynk because they knew that would be a necessary tool to make sure the work force was prepared if there was greater Japanese investments or even as they seek to bring biotech and other businesses here specifically to Brooklyn Park.

He stated he always made the pitch to people that Brooklyn Park was 60% people of color and saw a lot of disparities within the city. He stated they were leaning into Brooklynk and connecting people who didn't always have those opportunities to those jobs. He stated it would help to cut into those disparities and over time it would stabilize areas where they saw people struggling in the city. He stated that led to people living in the city longer, stayed here and moved to other areas but stayed within the city. He stated that regarding the Africa trade mission, they had folks from the African Diaspora here and were constantly trying to find ways to do business back home. He stated as part of that mission needed to make those connections. He stated Minnesota was an agricultural giant within the Midwest. He asked how did they use some of the expertise and resources here in Africa and how could use it for businesses back and forth to grow the business opportunities Brooklyn Park. He stated that given the strength of the African immigrant communities here, they should be leaning into that and creating avenues to the trade and know some of the sister cities were expressing interest.

He stated they would be working on that for businesses interested not just African immigrant but business that had something to offer as they went through this process. He stated the businesses should reach out to the city offices because if there was an opportunity to have them on this trade mission for them to make a pitch in terms of what you did, and increased those opportunities that was what it was exactly for.

Council Member Tran stated she applauded that kind of relationship for the city's economy. She stated St Paul was a sister city with Nagasaki Japan and every year except the time of covid held a Japanese festival in the middle of august. She stated a lot of people attended and enjoyed the culture exchange, food, dance and had an awesome drum/dance team, performed by women. She stated people should be aware that Japan had a system the way they looked to biracial children of the population and different than the United States. She stated the law in Japan didn't have a lot of respect for that population like us here and was a social problem. She stated the economy was very good.

Council Member Eriksen asked what tangible benefits they imagined from the African trade mission in terms of direct investments in Brooklyn Park. He agreed Minnesota was an agricultural powerhouse but asked how it expressed itself in the city.

Mayor Winston stated they had to get the conversations started. He stated there were people who were beginning to bring cash crops in Africa and bring to Minnesota and finding ways to grow them and work with University of Minnesota to do that. He stated those would be the people interested in the trade mission and people that were beginning to start tech companies in Africa because the low cost of labor and training them to do that. He stated it was an opportunity to set up infrastructure to allow them to grow some of the game changing businesses or relationships which was more difficult to do with an advanced country like Japan, the third largest economy with a population the third size of the United States. He stated it was an opportunity to get the lay of land and start conversations and see how their businesses could that. He thought the University of Minnesota should be there, Kurita who did water purification could help and medical device companies could go over there. He stated he would like Brooklyn Park to be the center of that since the city had the largest African immigrant population who was happy to show the ropes there. He stated part of the process to prepare a trade mission, was to the interest, and where the state came in and other partners and say there were some of the opportunities they saw and here were some of the companies they could take over there and an agenda to promote those discussions and help them solve some of the issues they were dealing with while they helped Minnesota solves some issues it was dealing with. He stated it was a process versus knowing everything ahead of time.

Council Member Eriksen stated he was not opposed to it and as a country had underestimated Africa. He stated they had seen China and other opportunistic players going in whole hog and was obvious the potential was there, they had neglected it. He thought it was worth articulating clearly early on if the council was going to spend city money through trade delegations, the residents deserved to know what the thinking was.

Mayor Winston agreed and hoped they could use as little city money as possible. He stated the city manager was pointing out on the Japan trip they saw what was happening and said what would that look like if they were to bring something like that back to the city and then go to Africa, Nigeria, Gambia, or Liberia, some of the countries, that were well represented in the city and have connections. He stated it was just the beginning to say what would that look like and what would the process be. He stated they knew there was a longer process to establish that value and see if there was value there. He stated he tended to believe there was value just from

seeing some of the businesspeople in the city. He gave an example, in Japan, they would come back with, Takata company was there, saying they were going to allocate \$40 million for expansion and they talked to Teketa and they were going to be growing, expanding at one of the sites in the city. He asked if they understood that the \$40 million would be pumped in and it was an ongoing relationship they had to build. He stated if they had the opportunity 10 years from now, where someone was putting together a \$50 million deal for a Brooklyn Park company was a big win for the city. He stated it took time to build that and what they were seeing with Japan, was that conference that had been running for some time.

Council Member Tran agreed with Council Member Eriksen and stated the mayor had passion to touring in other countries for that project but to keep in mind, China and Vietnam sent the labor to other countries. She stated it now looked like a lot of people were missing because they tried to run away but turned out a lot of persons disappeared and looked like a crime from criminals. She stated the city could only take care of direct citizens but if from another country it was complicated.

Mayor Winston clarified that he didn't have passion to help third world countries but had a passion for the city and helping people struggling in the city. He stated he believed in in developing countries and from his understanding and what he was seeing was a ton of opportunities. He stated a \$2 million investment in farmland in Kenya and or setting up a tech shop in Kenya might go a lot farther than somewhere else. He stated it would help people in jobs but the American businesses doing business with them would also benefit. He stated if they talked to the African immigrant populations in the city doing business over there or they understood the opportunities, they would say there was a big opportunity for profits and not just for the united stated but for the countries they would be being going to. He stated for him it had to be a win/win, if anyone was losing, it was not a sustainable thing. He stated he was looking at the business opportunities and was hearing what the people on the ground were saying and wanted to find out if was a real opportunity. If it was, he would like to move on that opportunity before other people moved on it so the city would have that advantage.

Council Member Lee stated he was glad to hear the trip went well and made great connections, got to know some of the companies in the Brooklyn Park better. He stated it also continued to strengthen those relationships and spurring other ideas in terms of our possible economic growth and engagement in the future. He stated it was about the city's future, growth and potential. He stated the economical growth was part of it and diversity continued to be the city's with multiculturalism and multinational backgrounds. He stated they were growing the sister city relationships and could be strategic in that. The northwest corner and 610 corridor had wonderful potential. He stated it was about flexing the city's strength and being able to turn that into prosperity for everyone, big business, small business, residents, neighbors, youth, recreation and parks and public safety in a cohesive vision moving into the future. He stated there were some naysayers in the beginning and will continue to be naysayers in the future. He stated that was where the city was heading and if they did not capitalize those opportunities in the next few years, they would miss the boat and couldn't miss the boat on those economic opportunities that would bring work force, investment, and growth opportunities for the city and looking forward to more in the future.

9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Lee stated he attended the Northwest Mayors Association meeting last week. He stated he heard updates from other cities in the area, policy updates, recreation and park updates. He stated it was great to see the association continue to grow. He stated the focus

was on transportation and legislative work at the capitol. He stated on the city's priorities on Highway 252 and Blue Line, some of the work was now being started with the Highway 169 project on the west side, was being looked at with some of the infrastructure in terms of looking for funding. He stated the association said they could write a letter to support in any way, to just ask. He stated to utilize the association for support when they could. He stated he gave updates were excited about the Mississippi Gateway treetop trail opening soon. He stated he put in plug for the small business center.

Council Member Tran stated she looked into the crime report on statistics and found Brooklyn Park was number 1, Minneapolis, number 2, St. Paul, number 3 and Brooklyn Center, number 7. She was thinking of a new strategy for the new year, and had been working with the neighboring cities, Brooklyn Center for crime prevention and intervention. She suggested joining other cities with low crime, like Crystal and Blaine to make a spider web, wider for crime prevention to be more effective.

She also said, the Luna New Years was hosted by the Vietnamese community at the Burnsville mall, on January 27 and 28, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on January 27 and on January 28, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. She stated there would be a lot of Asian foods, bands, games and a Karaoke contest and everyone was welcomed to attend.

Mayor Winston stated he wasn't sure what the city was number 1 on anything on what Council member Tran said on crime.

Chief Bruley stated they were in the midst of finalizing their final report of crime statistics for 2023 and after reviewing it, there was no change slightly but appeared they would fall 8 to 10 percent below historic levels of crime, total crime, that is all crime aggregated, would be lower than it had been in 30 plus years, which was good news. He stated in somewhat disappointing news, they were trending up about 9 percent, and would have the final numbers and bring to the council when he gave the annual report, and that was in violent crimes, rape, robbery, murders and aggravated assaults. He stated it was aggravated assaults that had driven that up. He stated those numbers were a small portion of crimes, but impact of community track on violent crimes separately and that number did trend up in 2023.

Mayor Winston asked if that was just in the city or was he seeing a trend in other cities.

Chief Bruley stated most cities had not reported their crimes. He stated it took most of January and part of February to make all the cases come in. The reports filed in December were still being investigated and cleared. He stated that until all those came through, they didn't know the true crime statistics for the year and was the same for all police agencies. He stated the police agencies didn't know their total crime reports until mid to late January at the earliest and hadn't seen agencies reporting out on them yet.

Mayor Winston stated that even if it was trending up for everyone which was what he heard in terms of the violent, still thought they wanted to under index that. He stated it would be nice to know where the city was on that contextually and knew it took time to get that. He stated when the council got the annual report, he wanted to hear more about that. He stated there were some things they were doing around alternative response bringing in the violence interrupter work in house to guarantee that quality control, the city had not been able to do that with the vendors.

9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated there were 5 Mondays in January and would have a council meeting next week, January 29. He stated the first half hour would start at 5:30 p.m. with a closed meeting to review proposed union contracts, from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and then the council meeting at 6 p.m. He stated they might need to do a brief work session afterward to touch base on a couple of things including the racial equity principles the council initially looked at a couple of weeks ago.

He stated for the February 5 regular work session, proposed they use it as a priority setting session with senior staff, similar to what was done last year, to talk about priorities for the upcoming year.

He reminded the council about the council retreat on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 7:16p.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK