

BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 14, 2023

Monday, August 18, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers  
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Hollies Winston

PRESENT Mayor Hollies Winston; Council Members Boyd Morson, Christian Eriksen, Xp Lee, Maria Tran, and City Manager Jay Stroebe; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz; Recreation; Deputy Police Chief Bill Barrit and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Nichole Klonowski (excused)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Council Members Xp Lee and Maria Tran.

Mayor Winston opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager stated there was one public comment at the last council meeting from Ms. Guyotte-Hempel, largely providing feedback to the council.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

Mayor Winston stated before the council approved the agenda, that only items the Council would be acting on at today's meeting were agenda Item 4, Consent and agenda item 7.1, Canvass the August 8 special election.

He stated Items 3B.2 and 8.1 would be considered at the August 28 council meeting. Agenda Items 3B.1 and 5.1 would be considered at the September 11 council meeting and agenda item 7.2 would be considered at the August 21 special council meeting.

Council Member Morson requested item 4.1 pulled from the Consent agenda.

3A. MOTION LEE, SECOND MORSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY CLERK WITH ITEM 4.1 PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGNEDA FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

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

4.0 MOTION ERIKSEN, SECOND LEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS: (Item #4.1 was removed for separate consideration.)

4.2 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-88 APPROVING THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 279 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGING AND ADMINISTERING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NOVEMBER 7, 2023,

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SPECIAL ELECTION.

4.3 TO APPROVE CHANGES TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SECTION 7.02 ALCOHOL/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TESTING POLICY (NON-DOT) AND SECTION 10.10 PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY.

4.4 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-89 AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON AIR FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT DRONE FLIGHT TRACKING SOFTWARE

4.5 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-90 TO APPROVE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH LYNDE & MCLEOD, INC. FOR YARD WASTE DROP OFF SITE SERVICES AT THE MAPLE GROVE YARDWASTE SITE FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027.

4.6 TO APPROVE A 3.2 MALT LIQUOR OFF-SALE LICENSE FOR NOBLE GAS INC. DBA NOBLE MOBIL, LOCATED AT 9500 NOBLE PARKWAY NORTH, BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55443.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

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

4.1 Request by Mayor Winston to Travel to and Attend the Midwest US Japan Association Conference in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan on September 8 – 15, 2023.

Mayor Winston gave an overview of the trip. He stated he was invited by Governor Walz to participate in a trade mission and attend the Midwest U.S. Japan Association Conference in Tokyo Japan, September 8 through September 13 and Osaka Japan, September 14 through September 15, 2023.

Council Member Tran stated she got an email from a resident suggesting the mayor could wait until next year because the conference was coming to the area next year. She stated she also didn't feel comfortable with the city manager going too and needed one of them to stay.

Council Member Lee stated he opposed and was confident in his abilities as Mayor Pro Tem the other directors, and Dr. Angel Smith as the assistant city manager the city would be okay. He stated the speed of business was fast and would make a difference in millions of dollars of investments.

4.1 MOTION LEE, SECOND ERIKSEN TO APPROVE MAYOR WINSTON TO TRAVEL TO AND ATTEND THE MIDWEST US JAPAN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN TOKYO AND OSAKA, JAPAN FROM SEPTEMBER 8 – 15, 2023.

Council Member Eriksen stated he was in favor of the motion as stated. He thought there was significant, practical, symbolic; and raised the city to a different stature. He stated it gave the city leadership networking opportunities and was too important to pass up.

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Council Member Morson stated he didn't want to stop any council member to travel and there was 4 months left in the year. He stated the event was coming up next year in Chicago and would be a good opportunity to attend. He stated there was 2% diversity in Japan not African Americans who and hold a 32% minority in the city. He stated if those companies chose to come to the city, it would be a strategical decision for them. He stated the email sent was not personally addressed to the mayor or city manager and included only to all mayors in the email he read. He didn't think it was an undertaking the taxpayers should be endured. He stated it would be coming up next year, 4 months from now, and was not the right time or right moment and appeared like it was a political move and he was not on the council to play politics.

City Manager Stroebel stated the letter was sent to all the mayors in Minnesota that had Japanese companies and there were 40 to 42 cities that had companies. He stated invitations were sent to the cities. He stated he had conversations with the deputy commissioner, DEED and others scheduling the trip and they had significant interest in Brooklyn Park being part of the trade mission for a number of reasons as highlighted in the staff report. He stated Brooklyn Park was one of the few cities that had 3 Japanese companies and found out the city had 4 Japanese companies in the city. He stated it was to promote this destination for future investments from those existing companies and potentially future companies.

He stated Takada company had a current presence in the city for several years and had been considering an expansion at the city facility to bring in additional high paying jobs and additional investment in the community. The stated the trade mission was critical to get that expansion in the city versus other locations and Takada had presence around the globe. He stated there were allocation of dollars the council approved as part of the budget process and highlighted in the staff report there were dollars within the council travel budget to accommodate that expense. He stated there were also additional dollars within the administration budget to accommodate the travel by the city manager to join the mayor as requested by the mayor.

Mayor Winston stated it was important for city to go because the city had 4 Japanese companies. He stated it was also an opportunity to build stronger relationships with the Governor of the State in terms of the city was increasingly going to the capitol and asking for things for the city. He stated the Governor was also part of that process and was a potential to build on that relationship and talk business to the leader of the state. He stated it was also an opportunity to build out relationships with companies in the city's own back yard. He stated he didn't particularly care of the diversity within a country if they were willing to do business in the state, in the city and bring those dollars to the city, things he was most concerned about was being able to bring in more jobs, more revenue, and a stronger tax base to the city. He stated the could push it off to next year but this year those companies reached out to the city and made it clear they would like for the city to attend. He stated they would be touring those companies before they went on the trip and was an opportunity to understand how they did business back home in their country and an opportunity to find out what they were looking for in their country and establishing that relationship was important.

Council Member Lee stated whether the vote passes or not, he would like to address two items on what Council Member Morson said. He stated they were uncalled for by bringing in the topic of politicization and didn't think it had anything to do with politics. He stated it was about growing the businesses in the city and was unnecessary and uncalled for. He stated the mayor was the mayor and there was a lot of outreaches to the mayors and the city to participate. He thought it was a political move in itself to bring up politics. He stated he was offended by Council Member Morson to bring up race in terms of Japan. He stated the city had sister city relationships with

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countries in Africa. He stated he wondered what the percentage of API was in those sister cities relationships, what the diversity numbers were in internationally based companies that were here in the city. He stated if and when they made that official requisite for doing business then maybe that could be brought up. He stated to say that because Japan did not have enough black people for the city to extend an arm for the partnership and then to vote down a business development trip to that country, he would take it personally if he didn't already know there was politics involved like he said previously.

Council Member Tran stated the council should take into considerations of the resident opinions seriously about the traveling. She thought the mayor could make the trip if he wanted to go this year but did not think the city manager should leave too. She stated to add things to the fact, he locked her out of the office last month and he ordered the IT communications manager to tell her to only come there on Monday.

Mayor Winston stated the vote was not about the city manager.

Council Member Tran said it was her time to speak and she stated he locked her out, an elected official, from the office.

Mayor Winston stated the vote was not about the city manager.

Council Member Tran stated the mayor was shutting her off.

Mayor Winston stated it was not about shutting her off, it was about protecting the city. He stated the council had a complaint process to do that.

Council Member Tran stated the mayor only did that to her.

Mayor Winston stated no one was specifically going after employees. If they had a specific complaint about an employee there was a process to do that. He stated if she did it through the way she was doing it tonight, it could cause issues for the city.

Council Member Tran stated it was troubling her when the mayor and city manager tried through a system and start to do a lot of vacations and now traveling abroad. She stated she doubted there was another reason behind it. It was not about business and was about family invitations and was not appropriate for the city manager to approve this trip by public funds.

Mayor Winston stated the vote was not about the city manager going. The vote was about him going. The city manager was using different dollars. He stated the vote was about only him, the mayor, going and not about the city manager.

Council Member Tran stated the city manager accompanied him in the city system and they had two hats, mayor and city manager and both were going.

Mayor Winston stated if she understood the vote they were taking now was not about the city manager, it was only concerning him attending the trip. He stated it was for allocating dollars for him to attend and just for the mayor to go. He stated the vote today was about that, just him. He stated the council got her point about how she felt about the city manager but just to focus on the agenda item. He stated to be fair to the residents, it was just about him being able to go to the trip to Japan for business development.

Council Member Tran stated she got it.

Council Member Morson stated that on Council Member Lee's perspective, which he was entitled to, still didn't negate his personal view or opinion and still held true to the fact there was a conference coming up next year and could be done next year. He wanted to make it clear that he was not opposed to council members traveling to where they wanted to travel. He stated he was trying to determine the benefit it yielded the city and was something unknown at this time. He stated he didn't say he saw it that way, he said the residents reached out to him and said it looked like a political agenda. He stated Council Member Lee interpreted those were words coming from his mouth, which he didn't say that and repeated was what the residents reached out to him and said to him. He stated for Council Member Lee to be that upset, disappointed or offended, that was okay. He stated Council Member Lee just did not hear what he said that the residents had reached out to him and said that. He stated he understood that in the email they received, it said the city manager and mayor would be traveling. He stated Council Member Tran was correct on what she was speaking about. Now it was the mayor attending and was still up to the council to decide regardless of his opinion. He stated if it passes, it passes; if not it didn't. He stated networking out of the country with businesses out of the country he supported that and supported the mayor traveling in those capacities because he was the mayor and could do those things, however, he was not in agreement today to travel to Japan now when there was an opportunity next year to do the same thing.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

4.1 THE VOTE ON THE MOTION PASSED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES-TRAN, LEE, ERIKSEN, WINSTON; NO-NONE; ABSTAINED-MORSON.

## 7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

### 7.1 Resolution Canvassing the City Special Election Held on August 8, 2023

City Clerk Montero briefed the council on the results of the August 8, 2023, special election.

7.1 MOTION MORSON, SECOND ERIKSEN TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-91 CANVASSING THE SPECIAL CITY ELECTION HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2023.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

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

## 9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Tran stated the council had a new council member in West District as it had been vacant for 7 months. She stated she was happy for Mr. McGarvey to join the council and he had been present to many council meetings and was dedicated to the job he ran for.

Council Member Morson congratulated Mr. Tony McGarvey and looked forward to working with him on the council. He stated it would bring the council to a full council and looked forward to

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the seventh opinion the people elected him for.

He stated he was in Washington DC on Monday as part of a conference and was assigned to a task force on clean energy. He stated it would help with federal dollars going to the community and affordable housing. He stated he would be at the table to bring dollars for clean energy and was free money. He stated he received a scholarship to attend and was well worth the effort. Council Member Lee stated he was in North Carolina and was an invitation to a retreat organization out of Washington, DC called, 21 Collective. He stated they did a report on health disparities in the Hmong community. He stated they organization invited elected officials and health equity professionals for the national event to reflect on research, to strategize on framework and move forward to help the community recover now that the pandemic recovered. He stated there was also strategies to work with other communities and the BIPOC communities. He stated they knew native Americans, blacks, undocumented individuals were hit hard and had a lot of disparities, and all learned to share to help the city better engage in areas. He stated he was proud of the city to host a large-scale vaccination sites at Starlight Center, was the first site in Minnesota, to start the test to treat program in the state. He stated the diversity was the city's strength and would continue to grow and develop. He stated he did not seek reimbursement through the city as the 21 Collective reimbursed his trip.

Council Member Morson stated on Tuesday, he took a Brooklyns tour with the NW Tourism Board and the tour began at Leopolds Mississippi Wedding Center and ended at 5 p.m. He stated it was an opportunity to see all of the event centers in both cities, toured all the hotels and rooms. He stated the city had nice hotels and the tour gave insightful information and what the hotels were looking for in the future to continue to bring in future guests to both cities. He stated they went to Top Golf, played golf, met the staff, and were great things going on in Brooklyn Center. He stated they toured the golf course at Edinburgh USA and toured Diamico catering, and they showed their spaces and talked about availabilities for events/weddings and things going on in the community. He stated it was helpful to have that information to be able to tell the residents who were looking for venues within the city. He stated they had lunch at the Marriott in the city, well attended and was a good trip.

Council Member Tran wanted to share with residents that the Brooklyn Park library in the city, there were 11 board members all white and just 2 blacks. She stated she wanted to see more diversity in this system and wanted to see more people at the end of this year. She stated she wanted to see more diversity in the Brooklyn Park library board members.

#### 9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel thanked Mayor Winston and Council Member Tran for hosting the West District townhall meeting last night. He stated they had updates and nice conversations. He stated there would be on in the East District, August 22, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers and in the Central District, September 7 at 6 p.m. and invited everyone to come out and engage with Mayor and Council.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 12:56 a.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

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DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK