

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2025  
6:04 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Council Chambers  
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Pro Tem Christian Eriksen

PRESENT Mayor Hollies Winston (arrived at 6:20 p.m.); Council Members Christian Eriksen, Amanda Cheng Xiong, Shelle Page, Tony McGarvey and Maria Tran; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Tim Gladhill; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Acting Operations and Maintenance Director Greg Hoag; Police Chief Mark Bruley and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Council Member Nichole Klonowski (excused)

Mayor Pro Tem Eriksen read a statement relating to council members participating via interactive technology.

PARTICIPATING VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY: Council Members Shelle Page and Maria Tran.

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

2A RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Stroebel stated there was one public comment at the last council meeting from a resident thanking the Parks and Recreation staff for the numerous recreation and various other events they put on during the weekends and was an acknowledgement of that work.

2B PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Eriksen stated one public comment was submitted in writing earlier and was placed on the dais for each council member.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Eriksen called for a roll call vote.

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

3B PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

4.0 MOTION PAGE, SECOND MCGARVEY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEM:

4.1 TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR PALMER LAKE VFW FOR THEIR FALL FREEDOM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2025, FROM 2PM TO 9PM AT 2817 BROOKDALE DRIVE N

4.2 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-126 TO ACCEPT A MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT

4.3 TO APPROVE A TOBACCO LICENSE FOR FAMILY DOLLAR INC. DBA FAMILY DOLLAR STORE #26419, LOCATED AT 7638 BROOKLYN BOULEVARD NORTH, BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55443

4.4 TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-127 TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM HENNEPIN COUNTY FOR THE 2025-2026 HEALTHY TREE CANOPY GRANT PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.

4.5 TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 25, 2025 AT 6 PM FOR THE CITY'S INTENT TO ISSUE UP TO \$49 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION AND RELATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS, SUBJECT TO THE REVERSE REFERENDUM PROCESS.

Mayor Pro Tem Eriksen called for a roll call vote.

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

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None.

6. LAND USE ACTIONS-None.

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS.

7.1 Increase Fire Department Staffing.

Fire Chief Conway briefed the council on the increase of Fire Department staff. He briefed on Staff Model 2024, Current Leaves, Assessment-Hiring and Onboarding Timeline and 2025 Recommendations.

Council Member McGarvey stated he asked at the last meeting if overtime affected workers compensation and Chief Conway stated it affected the pension and wondered how much they could offset the cost of new employees by deducting whatever went into the pension based on all the excessive hours.

Chief Conway stated they were still working through that process. He stated the data mining for each firefighter was different based on their experience and what they were going to offer them in pay. He stated the PERA pension was percentage based and would be different for each firefighter. He stated they would be giving the council a percentage range.

Council Member Tran thanked the firefighter's service. She stated last year she had a chance to ride with the firefighters and saw how hard working they were in the city. She stated the team was usually a 5-person team but now only 2 and worked very hard.

At 6:20 p.m. Mayor Winston entered the chambers.

Council Member Eriksen stated he would be supporting the action. He stated for the benefit of the public because the fire department was often too humble to bring it up. He stated event with the additional 4 staff members; it represented a staffing level far below industry standards and many peer cities and other states. He stated it was a step in the right direction the city did need to reckon with the long-term sustainability of the fire department in terms of staffing. He stated there were real risks of increased injuries and burnout due to overtime and encouraged the council members to take that into consideration during the next few budget cycles.

Mayor Winston stated at the last meeting they discussed it and he supported it and seconded what Council Member Eriksen said. He stated as the invested where they needed to invest in people, they were going to have to begin to say, where did they slow growth within the budget or stop or make some difficult decisions. He stated he was fully in support of investing and making sure the employees had a reasonable workload and able to do the work effectively of the city. He stated he supported it but they were going to look at the budget and make some difficult decisions this year and next year on behalf of the taxpayers and residents.

7.1 MOTION XIONG, SECOND MCGARVEY TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-128 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE IMMEDIATE HIRING OF FOUR FIREFIGHTERS AND INCREASING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND DECREASING GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY, FUND BALANCE, OR BUDGET YEAR SAVINGS.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

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

7.2 Recommendation for Operations and Maintenance Director.

City Manager Stroebel briefed the council on the recommendation for Operations and Maintenance Director.

7.2 MOTION XIONG, SECOND ERIKSEN TO APPROVE THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF MARCUS CULVER AS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$195,749 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 12, 2025.

Mayor Winston called for a roll call vote.

7.2. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: YES-PAGE, MCGARVEY, TRAN, ERIKSEN, XIONG, WINSTON; NO-NONE.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Legal Contract Discussion.

City Manager Stroebel briefed the council on the legal contract. He gave a background of the legal services. Chief Bruley gave an overview of how the prosecution worked.

City Manager Stroebel stated they were asking the council to extend the current contracts for

legal services for next year; and giving staff direction to do that as well as the direction to provide an analysis of the pros and cons of considering moving some or all of those services in house. He stated other communities of the size of the city had different models providing legal services. He stated they would come back with a longer-term recommendation in the spring.

Council Member Tran asked why they needed a legal service contract.

City Manager Strobel stated there were a number of matters the city dealt with, development matters, city code matters or other matters that came before the council where they needed legal guidance with regard to making decisions. On the prosecution side, they needed attorneys to prosecute the crimes Chief Bruley highlighted. He stated to conduct the business of the city had a requirement of needing legal guidance to help them in many of the decisions they made.

Council Member Tran asked if there had to be two separate services and asked if one agency could provide both services.

City manager Stroebel stated he was not sure of a law firm that provided city services for both civil side of legal guidance and advice as well as the prosecution. He stated it was something that would be looked at as part of the analysis they would do.

Council Member McGarvey stated in the staff report, said that each firm was paid for retainer, in addition to hourly billing, and once certain thresholds of hours are reached during each billing cycle. He stated that for EDA projects, the billing costs were passed through to the developers while EDA recovered retainer costs. He asked if they were significant enough to outweigh the advantage of having in-house counsel or something they could work out or not much of a factor.

City Manager Stroebel stated there were some attorneys that could provide both traditional civil attorney legal advice guidance and could also serve as guidance around development matters. He stated that it wouldn't be atypical of an attorney having both skill sets. He stated if they were to bring someone in house, thought it would be a good combination to have someone to have that generic general background in municipal matters but also have someone who had a background with development matters as well.

Director Gladhill stated the analysis would figure that out. He stated most of the EDA matters except for when the EDA attorney was there, at the meeting was passed on to the developer. He stated they would provide the financials when they were done with the analysis, and the EDA impact was far less than the city's contract with the city attorney.

Mayor Winston stated he was satisfied with the legal counsel the city had, and the only considerations would be budgetary and see those numbers. He stated he had been satisfied with the advice that had been given to the council. He stated he would only be looking at if there were any type of savings, but those savings might not outweigh the quality of service they were getting. He stated when they talk more about the misdemeanor portion, there might be some real cost savings and maybe look more into that piece.

Chief Bruley stated they had been under a contract that had been very financially beneficial to the city. He stated they were getting very effective and cheap services and that contract was running out. He stated to for them to extend the contract to next year until they do the research would be increased to \$70,000 for that current provider to keep the service. He stated if they went out for bid, they would pay substantially more. He stated they were getting to the point now to look at bringing someone in-house and look at what that cost would be. He stated there were

a lot of advantages to have the prosecutorial services in the police department. He stated the current prosecutor were in a different building and used several attorneys. Those attorneys were trying to call the officers to get additional information, trying to get the officers in court to testify and there was a gap when they were in a different building. He stated many other cities had prosecutorial attorneys in their buildings, it was very effective and efficient. He stated it also have an enhanced level of service like ERPOS, emergency restraining orders for people who should not have guns and guns taken away; those attorneys were in inhouse to help craft complex search warrants, they could help giving legal advice to the officers a phone call away, whether they were on the street or trying to follow up on an investigative case. He stated having attorney access in the building also enhances certain aspects of the law enforcement capacity. He stated they were asking financially what it looked like, what impact they believed to have better enhanced services and bringing that information back to the council. He stated doing their do diligence on having the contracts because they were up, would help on what best served them in the future.

Mayor Winston stated that having the in-house attorney on the law enforcement side might have some synergies. He stated that sometimes when working with a contractor outside, we had less control or had more control in terms of the aggressiveness to pursue particular decisions. He stated his concern was, if they brought someone in house, were they going to have the same impact or the same input, gave an example, we need these to be charged in a particular way; or this is where we are going to focus. He stated it would seem obvious when they brought someone in they were going to do that. But that was not always the case. If they didn't, then there was a whole process they had to go through. He stated he would want to know more about that piece, because if they had a contractor that was very receptive or sensitive to what they were asking and moving forward on it quickly. That was the piece they needed be cognizant of and if they brought someone in-house they needed to be able to ensure they were bringing someone in-house that had that same sensitivity to what they were asking for as a city. He stated he had seen lack of sensitivity by prosecutors in other areas outside the city and wanted to make sure they were taking that into account when bringing someone in-house.

## 8.2 Council Chambers Audio-Visual Replacement Discussion.

IT Manager Keith Ehrlichman briefed the council on the Council Chambers Audio-Visual Replacement. He provided an update on the design in the chambers and asked for input from the council on the design and options. He gave an overview of the current equipment in the chambers, design highlights, cost estimates, options to consider.

Council Member McGarvey asked if it would clear up some of the space at the dais to give the council members room to set their things down on the dais. He asked if it was part of the replacement.

Manager Ehrlichman stated there had been discussions about doing some work on the back counters at the dais but was not part of the project. He stated there would be a device similar to what they had now, and the monitors would be the same size.

Council Member McGarvey stated the button to speak had speakers on the side and had to either move his label writing machine, or box of Kleenex or the telephone.

Manager Ehrlichman stated the new device would have a speaker on it and would get better audio coming back from the device in front of them than the ones they currently had. Mayor Winston asked about the funding source for the project.

Manager Erlichman stated the funding source would be coming from the franchise fees through CCX and got that funding every year and had been accumulating the funding to do the project.

Council Member Eriksen asked about the additional items if they would be above the franchise fee allotment.

Manager Ehrlichman stated if the council decided to do any of those options; once they got the actual pricing on it because they were just estimates. He would come back to the council again to see the actual pricing and have more conversation on it and make a decision if they would be included in the work of the bid. He stated if they were, they would also be covered by the franchise fees.

Council Member Tran asked if the upstairs conference rooms were used for the work session, if they could be videotaped if they changed from audio to video. She stated residents wanted to see the work session in video.

Manager Ehrlichman stated they currently didn't have any cameras in those rooms upstairs except for the Teams meetings. He stated if the work session were done through Teams, those could be recorded with video. If the council decided to do it, it could be done.

Council Member Tran asked if the system being replaced was only for the chambers and not the upstairs rooms.

Manager Ehrlichman stated there wouldn't be new equipment upstairs. He stated the only thing it would have was the ability to have the overflow broadcast the council meetings in those conference rooms.

Council Member Tran stated a lot of residents requested to make the change in the future and wanted to see the work session in video and not audio.

Mayor Winston stated as they moved forward with the project to help people understand that it was paid for and not asking for funding for the equipment and it was important for people to understand going forward.

## 9A COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Page thanked Mr. Hoag, O&M, for stepping up during a difficult time, appreciated the onboarding and giving her help and suggestions.

She also gave a big thanks to those who worked on Gus Macker basketball tournament. She stated it was a great weekend; weather was perfect. She thanked Lisa, Katie, and Peggy for inviting her to help and thanked everyone who was involved and volunteered.

Council Member Train stated the national night out event was awesome. She stated it was a good chance to listen to people; meeting people who didn't have time to come to the city or council meeting. She thanked everyone for sharing their stories and telling her she was doing better at her job. She stated it was a very good day for national night out this year.

## 9B CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel thanked all the staff, community and council members who were part of national night out. He stated it was always a big celebration for the city and kudos to Ms Czapar

and the police department in organizing it and the Fire Department, Operations and Maintenance. He stated it was a great night to celebrate with the neighbors.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK