

MINUTES
REGULAR WASECA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022, 7:00 PM
AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1. The regular Waseca City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Srp at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present:	Daren Arndt	Mark Christiansen
	Jeremy Conrath	John Clemons
	John Mansfield	Allan Rose
	R.D. Srp	

Staff present:	Lee Mattson, City Manager
	Nate Willey, City Engineer
	Alicia, Finance Director
	Tina Wilson, Economic Development Manager

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was Recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. City Manager noted a correction regarding the address of property under consideration for the Residential Tax Abatement. The correct address is 1008 11th Avenue SE, City of Waseca. Motion to approve the agenda as submitted was made by Arndt, seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 4.
- A. Grant Whissmore, 609 7th Avenue NE, Waseca; requested that the city consider supporting financially the annual Memorial Day program. Organized by the Waseca Memorial Day Association, it has been 5 or 6 years since they have asked the city for assistance. After discussion with City Council, Mansfield moved to direct staff to add \$1000 for the benefit of the annual event, seconded by Srp; motion carried 6-0
- B. Audra Veroeven, 28189 70th St, Waseca; as manager of Palmer Bus Service, voiced objections to the addition of the 4th stop sign recently placed at the intersection of 4th Street, NE and 7th Avenue NE. Veroeven believes this stop sign will cause a hazardous safety issue when 11 buses following each other will have to stop at the new stop sign. Issues have also been caused by parked cars at the intersection. Veroeven requests the city to consider removing the stop sign and/or declaring a no parking zone. After discussion with council, Mayor requests Staff to research and place topic on the next city council agenda.
- C. Cindy Gilmore, 406 4th Avenue SE, Waseca; stated her displeasure with council comments at the last meeting. Gilmore's concerns were related to actions unbecoming to a councilmember. Mayor Srp commended Gilmore on exercising her right to Freedom of Peace and applauded the fact that she had the courage to come and speak to council. Without taking sides, Mayor noted that Freedom of Speech is allowed and takes place on both sides of table. Social media exercises that right of free speech frequently.

D. Dean Spies, 9174 SW 168th Street, Hartland, MN; spoke to his expertise as an addiction recovery specialist and being against THC products being sold in Waseca.

E. Jim Folley, 421 10th Avenue SE, Waseca; spoke to council of appreciating clear, direct, plain, and simple speech to be used by council when discussing topics during meetings. Mr. Folley is against THC products being sold in Waseca.

F. Darrin Spies; 14116 Timber Lane, Waseca; spoke to everyone getting along, be civil and he is not supportive of any type of recall of city council members. Social media has stirred up folks.

G. Andy Isker, 203 11th Street SE, Waseca; spoke as pastor and individually as to his support for city council's actions at the last meeting. Isker objects to THC being sold in Waseca or anywhere.

REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.

- A. Representative John Petersburg, District 24A; gave council a legislative update from the last session. Rep. Petersburg apologized for taking so long to come and give the legislative wrap up report. As a long-time resident of Waseca, he is happy to serve as the legislator for District 24A.
- B. Junior Achievement Presentation: Vanessa Jensen spoke on behalf of the Junior Achievement. The JA presentation was provided in a previous city council packet. Jensen express appreciation for the financial support the city has shown to JA over the years.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mansfield, seconded by Rose.
Motion carried 6-0

ACTION AGENDA

7.

- A. Motion was made by Conrath to approve the RCCA to direct staff to proceed with necessary actions to extend the Residential Tax Abatement program 2 years.
- B. Motion was made by Conrath to approve the RCCA for Project Final Payment for 8th Street SE to Heselton Construction, seconded by Rose. Motion carried 5-1 with Mansfield voting no.
- C. Motion was made by Rose to approve the RCCA for the Langer Aviation FBO Contract, seconded by Mansfield. Motion carried 6-0

REPORTS

8.

A. City Manager's Report

1. We expect SMMPA to approve a 15.6% increase in the energy charge (kWh) wholesale rate which will be effective on November 1. They are also considering an additional 6% rate increase to be effective February 1, 2023. These rate increases are in response to substantial increases in the price of electricity. Staff will come back with more information regarding any rate increase as it becomes available.

2. Daniel Marx from Flaherty and Hood will be appearing at the next Council Meeting to discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that the city is considering with the MPCA covering testing for PFAS chemicals. PFAS, or polyflouroaklyl, is a type of "forever

chemical" that has been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1940s. This chemical cannot be removed from the water. If we don't discuss or negotiate the MOU, MPC will set their own regulations and we will be stuck following

3. Work continues on the Johnson Pavilion. Minor grading work remains but the main sledding hill is now graded. We don't know if the completion schedule of early November will be met or not.

4. Waseca Fire Department is now looking to hire paid on call fire fighters.

B. Commission Reports

1. Heritage Preservation Commission presented by Mayor Srp: Julie Anderson, the new Chair of the HPC is the best chair in a long time. Anderson recently attended the statewide conference in Duluth, providing a detailed report along with a list of action items. The HPC has set out a list of priority projects they want to handle over the next year.
2. Airport Board presented by Councilman Rose: the board met 9/27; Nate reported back on his inspection and needed repairs to the JFM hanger. The old FBO hanger was inspected, and repairs needed were discussed. Also under discussion was the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan, crack sealing and the fuel card reader. The sky divers were there to discuss the possibility of removal of hazardous powerlines near the airport that are encroaching on their sky diving activities. The new FBO contract was discussed, it was a 3-0 in favor of Langer Aviation
3. Park Board presented by Councilman Christiansen: the park board talked about Gaiter Lake will hold a workshop on October 18 at 5pm at the Park Shop, work session at 6pm to discuss the potential of a park at Gaiter Lake. The board wants to be proactive when it comes to a park at Gaiter Lake. They will bring a recommendation back to City Council for action, hopefully by January 2023. The Downtown Walkway was also discussed with varying ideas. Something needs to be done because it is an eyesore. There will be a Howl-0-Ween fundraiser for the Dog Park on October 29, 12 to 3; there will be activities for humans and canines. Please check out the Clear Lake West Shoreline Project, it has been completed and looks wonderful. The facilities in the parks are currently being winterized and should be completed by the end of the month. The fishing piers is assembled but won't go up until next year. Bathrooms will be closing in a couple of weeks, there was an incident at Trowbridge Park, all will be shut down by the end of the month. Beach house is completed. Clear Lake pavilion almost completed.
4. Mayor called City Manager to give complements on Sonnenbird Lane
5. Fire Relief Board presented by Conrath: The have recently handed out the community Axes, the new fryers are in, and they will be holding a fundraiser in the very near future to test out the new equipment. The Community Support Axes have been given out; you may see one of them behind the counter at Kwik Trip, Demo Ford and Waseca Glass.

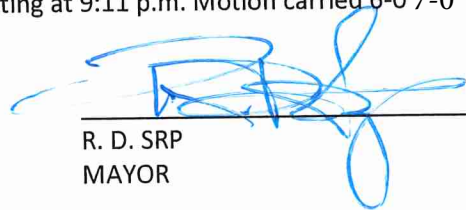
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mayor pointed out that it was Breast Cancer Awareness Month by noting LB's pink tie. It is important to support this cause.
2. Councilman Christiansen was in Sioux Falls with the Band last weekend, they won 4 or 5 trophies, the band is attending the Youth in Music competition this weekend. Regarding the Art Center, a fundraiser coming up on October 29, 6pm- 9pm, at the Art Center. It is Halloween themed, and costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$35 each for food, music, and fun. He received several calls about campers parking on grass. Councilman Christiansen would like the ordinance that defines what is legal about parking or not parking on grass. He feels maybe the city is letting ordinance

enforcement slide on this issue. City Manager will locate ordinance. Councilman also received a call about a certain establishment being open and serving alcohol on Sunday before it was legal. City Manager noted that it is against the law to serve alcohol on Sundays before 10am. Councilman Christiansen wondered if the council should reconsider it now that some sporting events on Sunday, start earlier than 10am.

ADJOURNMENT

9. There being no further business to be brought before the Council, it was moved by Arndt, seconded by Christiansen to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried 6-0 7-0



R. D. SRP
MAYOR



LEE A. MATTSON
CITY MANAGER