



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 Richfield, Minnesota
Special City Council Work Session

June 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 6:03 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Edwina Garcia; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann; and Ben Whalen.

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Pam Dmytrenko, Administrative Services Director/Assistant City Manager; Neil Ruhland, Communications and Engagement Manager; and Jared Voto, Assistant to the City Manager.

Item #1	RICHFIELD UNIVERSITY
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Communications and Engagement Manager Ruhland presented on a citizens' academy, tentatively titled *Richfield University*, to give residents a deeper understanding of the city's services, the goals of the program, and program research.

Council Member Garcia commented she had attended Richfield's citizen police academy and Hennepin County's citizen academy. She suggested titling it as Richfield Local Government Academy or Richfield LGA as a name for the program.

Communications and Engagement Manager Ruhland discussed the format of the program, and an overview of the program that includes six sessions covering every department of the city. Finally, he discussed graduation of the program and tentative dates for fall 2019.

Council Member Supple asked if there was an age limit, such as 18 or older, or if it was open to younger residents.

Communications and Engagement Manager Ruhland responded that had not been discussed and he was open to all audiences.

Council Member Trautmann commented if interpretation services can be included to open the opportunity to more residents.

Council Member Whalen stated he liked the idea and commented this is a good opportunity to show residents how city decisions are made and provided an example.

Council Members discussed the want for this in the community and the likelihood that it would fill up quickly with people and ensuring that people had an opportunity to attend, who may not be active with the City currently.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented she was excited for this program and is a good way to introduce the City to residents and tell the story through positive messages. She shared a few ideas

for the program including having each department share their most common questions for each department to bust myths and let people know how to contact the City.

Council Member Whalen suggested creating a graphic related to the City's use of tax dollars that shows a dollar and split it into how many cents go to each area of the City's services. He discussed the need to think about if this is a popular program from the start who gets to attend the first sessions.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented about having an evaluation of the program and an intentional outreach program to get areas of the community that might not be as engaged.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:48 p.m.

Date Approved: June 25, 2019

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kari Sinning
Deputy City Clerk

Pam Dmytrenko
Acting City Manager



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Meeting

June 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Edwina Garcia; Simon Trautmann; and Ben Whalen.

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Pam Dmytrenko, Administrative Services Director/Assistant City Manager; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director/Police Chief; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director/Planning and Redevelopment Manager; Rachel Lindholm, Richfield GreenCorps Member; and Jared Voto, Assistant to the City Manager.

OPEN FORUM

Ruane Onesirosan, 2421 W 65th Street, spoke regarding the events at a Planning Commission meeting on November 26, 2018, related to the NOVO project.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Supple, S/Trautmann to approve the minutes of the: (1) Special concurrent City Council and Housing and Redevelopment Authority work session of May 20, 2019; (2) Special City Council work session of May 28, 2019; and (3) Regular City Council meeting of May 28, 2019.

Motion carried 5-0.

Item #1

HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DEBBIE GOETTEL AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF DAVID HUTCHINSON'S OFFICE

Council Member Whalen welcomed Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel.

Commissioner Debbie Goettel provided an update on a number of topics including the façade improvement grant for Penn Avenue, youth sports grants, grant funding for swim lessons, the 66th Street Reconstruction project, the 77th Street Underpass project, affordable housing, resilient studies, an update to the County’s cost-sharing policy for road projects, and the County’s grants available to cities.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Commissioner Goettel for her support of Richfield in receiving the façade improvement grant that will have a positive impact on Penn Avenue.

Council Member Garcia thanked Commissioner Goettel for all that she has done and her support of the city and the Richfield school district.

Council Member Supple discussed the Southdale Library and appreciated Commissioner Goettel’s responsiveness to questions and issues that are being raised.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez reiterated the great work of Commissioner Goettel and commented that she has been a great asset to Richfield and a great resident.

Rob Allen, Chief of Staff for Hennepin County Sheriff, spoke regarding the mission of the Sheriff’s Office and initiatives of the department that include a wellness center for the Sheriff’s staff and families being served, informing residents of the duties of the Sheriff’s Office, and discussed the work of a Richfield police officer assigned to the Violent Offender Task Force.

Council Member Trautmann and Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke about missing Sheriff Hutchinson tonight but were thankful to see him at many events inside and outside of Richfield.

Item #2	GENE & MARY JACOBSEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 2019 AWARD
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Council Member Trautmann shared stories of the work Pastor Brice Eichlersmith with the City and in the community and thanked him for his service.

Kim Jacobsen, son of Gene & Mary Jacobsen, presented the Gene & Mary Jacobsen Citizen of the Year for 2019 award to Brice Eichlersmith.

Council Member Garcia thanked Kim Jacobsen for attending and remembered Gene and Mary Jacobsen and discussed their investment in the Human Rights Commission and the community.

Item #3	HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW
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Brett Stursa, Chair of the Human Rights Commission, presented a review of the work completed by the Commission that included a naturalization ceremony, Black History Month proclamation, attendance at Penn Fest, and awarding the Gene and Mary Jacobsen Outstanding Citizen Award.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Chair Stursa for her leadership and appreciated the progress and agenda of the Commission for the upcoming year.

Council Member Supple thanked the Commission for their work and welcoming new commissioners.

Item #4	SWEARING-IN OF CITY OF RICHFIELD POLICE OFFICERS KRISTIAN SCHULTZ-SANCHEZ AND ANGIE FIGUEROA.
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Chief Henthorne welcomed staff, residents, and guests. He thanked the family members of the officer in attendance and swore-in Officers Kristian Schultz-Sanchez and Angie Figueroa.

Council Member Garcia thanked all the family members that are in attendance and thanked the Police Department for leading efforts to diversifying their staff.

Council Member Trautmann thanked and welcomed both officers and shared a story of an interaction with Officer Schultz-Sanchez.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez welcomed and thanked both officers for serving Richfield, thanked the families for their support, and shared a story of her ride-along with Officer Schultz-Sanchez. She also thanked the other officers and firefighters in attendance to show their support.

Item #5	COUNCIL DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hats Off to Hometown Hits
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Council Member Garcia, Mayor Regan Gonzalez and the City Council thanked departing staff member Jared Voto for his service.

Council Member Garcia spoke regarding the grand opening of the Richfield Bandshell on Sunday, June 9, presented a slideshow of pictures, thanked members of the Bandshell Task Force and Friends of the Richfield Bandshell for their work on the project, and thanked Recreation Services Director Markle for her assistance in bringing it all together.

Council Member Trautmann spoke regarding the police and fire safety camp for children as well as recreation events that began today and shared his appreciation all the opportunities for kids in Richfield.

Council Member Supple spoke regarding a teen art show at Augsburg Library and the Richfield Arts Commission selected Rowan Popiel as the Teen Arts Fair winner and discussed his charcoal artwork; encouraged artists in the community to contact the Arts Commission if they are interested in displaying their work at city facilities; she discussed a youth liaison to the Transportation Commission that was leaving to go to college for civil engineering and invited students interested in being a youth representative to apply in late summer; and yesterday the Council had a joint meeting with the Richfield Public Schools School Board and invited residents to look into Community Education programming including going to Valley Fair or roller skating or free yoga in the park.

Council Member Whalen spoke regarding the joint meeting with the Richfield Public Schools, collaboration and joint initiatives, and the leadership of the School Board; and discussed getting to know more commissioners and is impressed with those he has met.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke regarding how well the grand opening of the Richfield Bandshell went and is looking forward to it being used in the future; and discussed the joint RPS

meeting; and invited residents to go to the city’s website to see all the events happening during the summer in Richfield.

Council Member Garcia congratulated Neil Ruhland on his promotion to Communications and Engagement Manager and discussed all the projects he has his hands in including social media and the city’s podcast.

Item #6	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Whalen, S/Trautmann to approve the agenda.

Motion carried 5-0.

Item #7	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider approval of a Community Celebration Event license, with a request for the fee to be waived, and a Temporary On Sale Intoxicating Liquor license for the Fourth of July Committee for events scheduled at Veterans Memorial Park, July 3-4, 2019. (S.R. No. 76)
- B. Consider approval of a Temporary On Sale Intoxicating Liquor license for activities scheduled to take place July 4, 2019, for the Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Post #435, located at 6501 Portland Avenue South. (S.R. No. 77)
- C. Consider adoption of a resolution amending a Final Development Plan and adoption of a resolution granting a subdivision waiver for property at 6540 Penn Avenue. (S.R. No. 78)

RESOLUTION NO. 11629
 RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDED FINAL DEVELOPMENT
 PLAN FOR A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AT 6540 PENN
 AVENUE

RESOLUTION NO. 11630
 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUBDIVISION WAIVER FOR 6540
 PENN AVENUE

- D. Consider adoption of a resolution granting a conditional use permit to allow a restaurant at 7120 Chicago Avenue. (S.R. No. 79)

RESOLUTION NO. 11631
 RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A
 TAKE-OUT ONLY RESTAURANT AT 7120 CHICAGO AVENUE

- E. Consider adoption of a resolution granting a Conditional Use Permit to allow a school at 7132 Portland Avenue. (S.R. No. 80)

RESOLUTION NO. 11632
 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO
 ALLOW A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AT 7132 PORTLAND AVENUE

M/Garcia, S/Supple to approve the consent calendar.

Council Member Whalen commented about his excitement for Reggae Foods coming to 7120 Chicago Avenue.

Council Member Trautmann seconded Council Member Whalen’s excitement.

Motion carried 5-0.

Item #8	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR
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None.

Item #9	PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS REMOVING UTILITY EASEMENTS WITHIN THE NOVO DEVELOPMENT SITE AT APPROXIMATELY 66TH STREET WEST AND QUEEN AVENUE AND APPROVING A PRELIMINARY PLAT OF THE NOVO ADDITION THAT WILL COMBINE EIGHT (8) PARCELS AND VACATED RIGHT-OF-WAY INTO A SINGLE LOT, IN ORDER TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. (S.R. NO. 81)
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Council Member Trautmann presented Staff Report No. 81 and opened the public hearing.

Luci Peterson, 2500 W 66th St #308, spoke regarding his approval of the project and stated his only issue is receiving limited communication from the developer and asked that the City Council consider using his building as a pilot project to have the developer provide better communication to residents.

M/Supple, S/Whalen to close the public hearing.

Motion carried 5-0.

M/Trautmann, S/Garcia to adopt a resolution vacating utility easements within the NOVO development site at 66th Street West and Queen Avenue and adopt a resolution for a preliminary plat of the NOVO Addition

RESOLUTION NO. 11633
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A DRAINAGE AND
UTILITY EASEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 11634
RESOLUTION GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF A PLAT FOR
NOVO ADDITION

Council Member Supple clarified that Russell Avenue will be extended to 66th Street.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez reiterated the importance of working and communicating with residents nearby, homeowners and apartments, although the city does not have purview over these communications.

Poehlman responded that it is correct there is nothing in ordinances that require communication, but that staff always recommends developers proactively communicate. She informed the Council know the developer is in attendance to speak to communication, if the Council requests.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez invited the developer to speak.

Todd Olin, with Bogart, Pederson & Associates, Inc. spoke on behalf of the developer, Broadway Investments, and stated they are committed to communicating with the neighbors as they plan to be a part of the community in the future. He commented the lack of communication was mainly due to gap between the original approvals and now. The developer realizes they should have reported to neighbors that things were progressing, even if they did not have other updates and they are committed to improving their communications moving forward.

Council Member Whalen thanked the developer for their communication efforts and asked if they have plans to host a meeting at Sheridan Court or nearby.

Mr. Olin responded that it might not be at Sheridan Court but they plan to hold meetings to inform residents what to expect and when to expect it, regarding construction. After there is more progress they will hold periodic meetings to share information.

Council Member Whalen asked the developer to ensure they make every accommodation for residents with disabilities who live nearby.

Mr. Olin agreed.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked for staff to give a brief description of this motion and discuss the next steps in the process for this development.

Poehlman responded the land use approvals for the apartment project were approved last fall and these items tonight are more of housekeeping items. She stated their approval was contingent on acquiring the property and combining the parcels. These items tonight are combining the properties into a single parcel and easements are being vacated as they will no longer be used. After this, the developer will continue to close on properties and then come into the City for their building and demolition permits. They do not have a timeline on this but it will be shared with residents, as Mr. Olin discussed.

Motion carried 5-0.

Item #10	CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY-WIDE ORGANIZATION OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING AND ORGANICS HAULING AND FUNDING OF A SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF RECYCLING SCORE FUNDS THROUGH HENNEPIN COUNTY AND EXISTING CITY FUNDS. (S.R. NO. 82)
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez presented Staff Report No. 82 and asked staff to share background on this item, Richfield’s rate of recycling in Hennepin County as it compares to other communities, the success of organics recycling drop-off program, and the difference between organized recycling and organized trash hauling.

Recreation Services Director Markle discussed Hennepin County’s upcoming mandate to require citizens to be offered curbside organics and discussed the options available to the City to fulfill the mandate. She shared that Richfield ranks 39 out of 42 with rates of recycling. She also discussed

the current organics recycling drop-off program that has over 700 households signed up. Lastly, she discussed this topic is only organized recycling, not trash, and that in Hennepin County there are only two cities that are not organized, Richfield and Eden Prairie.

Council Member Supple commented that she learned from the work session that 32% of our trash is organics and thanked the Organics Task Force for their work.

Recreation Services Director Markle agreed that it's interesting that almost one-third of our waste can be recycled and stay out of a landfill.

Council Member Whalen commented that he hears about this issue all the time, especially about the number of garbage and recycling trucks that are on the road. He thanked the Organics Task Force for their research into this topic.

Council Member Garcia thanked Recreation Services Director Markle and Richfield GreenCorps Member Lindholm, as well as the Organics Task Force, for their work.

Council Member Trautmann concurred with Council Member Garcia.

Council Member Whalen asked about what this would look like moving forward and the logistics of it.

Richfield GreenCorps Member Lindholm responded that much of this will be determined through a request for proposals (RFP) process. It is possible that recycling could show up on a utility bill, like in other communities, and it is a charge that is on the utility bill instead of a bill from a hauler.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented about her experience serving as the liaison to the Organics Task Force and appreciated all the information they reviewed. She discussed she is glad they are moving toward organized recycling.

M/Supple, S/Garcia to approve the organization of curbside recycling and organics hauling and the funding of a Sustainability Coordinator position to advance the work of organized recycling and organics in the City of Richfield through education, awareness, and outreach efforts.

Motion carried 5-0.

Item #11	CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez thanked Jared Voto for his service to the City.

Item #12	CLAIMS AND PAYROLLS
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M/Garcia, S/Trautmann that the following claims and payrolls be approved:

U.S. Bank		06/11/19
A/P Checks: 278031 - 278337	\$	996,633.34
Payroll: 145869 - 146187 ; 43048		<u>648,522.04</u>
TOTAL	\$	1,645,155.38

Motion carried 5-0.

OPEN FORUM

None.

Item #13	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:49 p.m.

Date Approved: June 25, 2019

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kari Sinning
Deputy City Clerk

Pam Dmytrenko
Acting City Manager