



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Special Meeting

December 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Neil Ruhland, Communications Manager; Jay Henthorne, Police Chief; Jennifer Anderson, Support Services Supervisor; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Regan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #1	PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF 2020 CLUB ON-SALE AND SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSES FOR MINNEAPOLIS-RICHFIELD AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 435, 6501 PORTLAND AVE S (STAFF REPORT 182).
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez presented staff report 182 and asked if staff had any additional comments.

City Manager Rodriguez corrected the staff report in that the utility fees have been paid in full.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez opened the public hearing.

Tom Eckoff, 7508 11th Ave S, finance officer for Post 435, expressed his appreciation to the Council for taking time to have the meeting. He then gave a history of the Legion in Richfield.

Casey Ludwig, First Vice Commander, gave examples of the community events he has provided through the Legion and thanked the Council for their time.

Chuck Munson, member of the Executive Board, wanted the Council to know what an asset the Legion is to the City.

Jill Davis, President of Auxiliary, voiced her support for the Legion and gave examples of how they support veterans, local youth and the community.

Julie Schmandke, Legion employee, recognized the rules and regulations but wanted to express the Legion is under new management and is working hard to make things right. She believes the community and veterans need the post. All members are committed to the community and need a place to come together.

Diane Miller, Legion Controller, thanked City Manager Rodriguez and staff for all their cooperation. She has shared a financial plan and they are ready to move forward. She is available to answer any questions or concerns.

M/Regan Gonzalez, S/Garcia to close the public hearing.

Motion carried 5-0

M/Supple, S/Garcia to consider a waiver to approve the renewal of 2020 Club On-Sale and Sunday Liquor licenses for the Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Post No. 435, 6501 Portland Avenue South.

Council Member Garcia recognized the Legion has been part of the City for a long time and how much they do for the community. She appreciated how they worked with staff and the transparency they have supplied.

Council Member Whalen thanked the Legion for everything they do in the community but wanted to remind them that tax dollars also serve the community. He wanted to see more of how they will be moving forward.

Diane Miller came on staff March 1st and noticed right away the bookkeeping was not up to par. She referenced the letter provided to Council via their CPA. The Board has put in the hours to come up with a plan. She emphasized the dedication everyone is to making improvements. She went on to give some examples of what they will be doing to avoid this situation in the future.

Council Member Whalen thanked Diane Miller for the humility and honest explanation and would like to continue open conversations going forward.

Council Member Supple expressed appreciation on the letter from the CPA and how it greatly influenced her opinion to approve the waiver.

Council Member Trautmann thanked the Legion for their service and how they are an institution in the community.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez also thanked all the Veterans for all they have done and being a foundation in Richfield. She also would like to keep communication pathways open in the future.

Motion carried 5-0

Item #2	ADJOURNMENT
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:08 p.m.

Date Approved: January 14, 2019

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kelly Wynn
Senior Administrative Assistant

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager