

Council Chair Charles Zelle

Council Members

Abdirahman Muse

Deb Barber

Kris Fredson

Molly Cummings

Phillip Sterner

Reva Chamblis

Susan Vento

Chai Lee

Francisco J. Gonzalez

Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson

Peter Lindstrom

Raymond Zeran

Robert Lilligren

Wendy Wulff

Christopher Ferguson

Judy Johnson

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 28, 2021 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers

### IN ATTENDANCE

Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

### ABSENT

Gonzalez, Lilligren

### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Zelle called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Not Recorded:1 Atlas-Ingebretson

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Zelle noted that a roll call vote is not needed for approval of the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vento seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 Council meeting.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Not Recorded:1 Atlas-Ingebretson

## CONSENT AGENDA

### Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 1-6)

#### Consent Agenda Adopted

- 2021-66:** Proposed Action That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the 6th amendment to continue CAA-13P075 with US Bank Center LLC for a 3-year lease extension of skyway-level storefront space at 505 E 5th Street, St. Paul MN 55144 in an amount not to exceed \$97,100, to include rent and supplementary cleaning and maintenance costs. The total cost with this amendment exceeds \$500,000 over the life of the lease.
- 2021-68:** That the Metropolitan Council:
1. Approve Ramsey County's Battle Creek Regional Park – Pigs Eye Lake Master Plan Amendment.
  2. Require Ramsey County to continue to coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan Council during the development and implementation of the island monitoring plan.
  3. As represented by Ramsey County, acknowledge the Corps' responsibility for monitoring and determining ecological success for the restoration projects it constructs for up to 10 years following project completion, including financial responsibility.
  4. Require Ramsey County, prior to initiating any development of the regional park unit, to send preliminary plans to the Environmental Services Assistant Manager at the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Division.
- 2021-80:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P305 with Electronic Data Magnetics, Inc., to supply transfer tickets for use by Metro Transit customers in an amount not to exceed \$568,620.
- 2021-81:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a lease agreement (Council #201088) with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority for the Robbinsdale Transit Center in the amount of \$688,857.
- 2021-88:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
1. Authorize the City of Lake Elmo to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  2. Revise the City's forecasts and sewer-serviced forecasts upward in 2030 and 2040 as shown in Tables 1 and 2 in the Review Record.
  3. Revise the Thrive MSP 2040 Community Designation of the subject area from Rural Residential to Emerging Suburban Edge for the area shown in Figure 2 of the Review Record.
  4. Revise the City's affordable housing need allocation for 2021-2030 to 1,040 units.
  5. Find that the amendment renders the City's comprehensive plan inconsistent with the Council's housing policy and that the City is therefore ineligible to participate in Livable Communities Act programs.
  6. Require the City to submit a copy of the Wastewater Intercommunity Flow Agreement between Cities of Lake Elmo and Oakdale to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services once it has been executed.
  7. Advise the City:

- a. That to be consistent with Council housing policy, the City needs to increase the inventory of land guided to support the development of low- and moderate-income housing for the 2021-2030 decade by at least 15 units by guiding enough residential acres with sufficient minimum densities.
- b. To implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Parks, Forecasts, and Land Use.

**2021-89:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract to Omni Materials Inc. for lime kiln dust delivered to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant. This contract will be for a period of four years with a total procurement not to exceed \$1,476,000.

It was moved by Ferguson, seconded by Lee.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Abstained: 1 Vento

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Not Recorded:1 Atlas-Ingebretson

## **BUSINESS**

Community Development – Reports on consent agenda

Environment

**2021-91:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the acquisition of all easements and fee interests necessary for the ongoing maintenance of the 1-MS-100 interceptor sewer, liquid waste receiving operations and future construction to rehabilitate the interceptor and associated facilities in the vicinity of Third Street and Commercial Street in the City of Saint Paul, and adjacent to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail and Nature Sanctuary (Subject Area).

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Chamblis.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Not Recorded:1 Atlas-Ingebretson

**2021-92:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 809700 per Resolution No. 2021-15.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Barber.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Not Recorded:1 Atlas-Ingebretson

Management

**2021-86:** That the Metropolitan Council approves the Non-Represented Plan changes effective December 26, 2020, incorporating the revisions summarized in the business item

It was moved by Ferguson, seconded by Johnson.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

**2021-93:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Local #432 (Full-Time Police) effective for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023

It was moved by Ferguson, seconded by Sterner.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Transportation

**2021-87 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into negotiations and to execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) funding the Travel Behavior

Inventory (TBI) Transit On-Board Survey for an amount not to exceed \$1,140,000 and

- To enter into negotiations and to execute a contract with ETC Institute to conduct the Transit On-Board Survey for an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Cummings.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

Joint Report of Environment and Community Development Committees

**2021-67 JT:** Proposed Action That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee

1. Authorize the City of Savage to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. Advise the City to:
  - a. When available, provide to the Council the dates that each of the Watersheds approved the LWMP, and the date the City adopted the final Local Water Management Plan. Council staff also request that the City provide the Council with a copy of the final adopted Local Water Management Plan that will be included in the final Plan document that the City adopts.
  - b. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Transportation, Land Use, and Water Supply.

Recommendation of the Environment Committee.

1. Approve the City of Savage's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Direct Council staff to initiate discussions with the City related to the acquisition of the trunk sewer system that is to provide service to Credit River within 12-months after the local adoption of its comprehensive sewer plan.
3. Require the City to:
  - a. Submit to the Council a copy of the Big Sky Lift Station Feasibility Study.
  - b. Submit to the Council a copy of the intercommunity service agreement between the City and Credit River, once executed, that clearly define how costs associated with the municipal wastewater charges are to be collected or reimbursed by the two communities.

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Barber.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Gonzalez, Lilligren

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

Update on Metropolitan Council's Pandemic Response (Phil Walljasper, 651-602-1787; Marcy Syman, 651-602-1417; Matt LaTour, 651-602-1174)

Phil Walljasper, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, Marcy Syman, Director of Human Resources and Matt LaTour, Director of Audit gave an update on the Council's pandemic response. Phil began with background information, review of the Incident Command Structure, phases of response including continue with Council services, contract tracing, testing, vaccinations and return to office for teleworking staff. Matt LaTour talked about return to on-site work planning and documents created including pandemic preparedness plan, emergency policies and procedures, division-level strategies, developing tools for managing return to work, timeline and next phase. Marcy Syman talked about remote work in the long term and transition employees back in the office.

Councilmember Vento asked for clarification on hotel spaces and if there will be financial implications. She also asked if surveys have been sent to employees and about future mask-wearing. Marcy responded the hotel space is a temporary space for employees to work and doesn't think there will be financial implications. Matt responded surveys have been sent to employees and we will be sending another in the coming weeks, and we monitor CDC requirements and follow their guidance. Councilmember Atlas-Ingebretson stated there are climate benefits with remote working and cost savings. She also supports training and encourages looking at partner agencies for resources. Councilmember Lindstrom asked if any jobs will require employees to get vaccinated. Phil responded we encourage people to get vaccinated but not required. Councilmember Johnson appreciates and commends staff for the pandemic planning and all the work they've been doing. Mary Bogie acknowledged the work that has been done early in the process that fell to the operations chiefs and Information Services staff that kept the essential work going and there is a lot of work done behind the scene.

## **REPORTS**

Chair Zelle shared they are in the process of establishing a new Climate Action Work Group and would like to identify those who are interested in participating. He also shared there was a news article in Pioneer Press that had nonfactual information. Chair Zelle clarified the article is not true and the Pioneer Press story failed to separate the routine operating grant agreement request for 2021 from the larger policy issue. Councilmember Cummings is looking forward to a deeper discussion.

Acting Regional Administrator: none

General Counsel: Ann Bloodhart acknowledged there is a tension between the technology we've been using to conduct virtual meetings and the open meeting law. They are looking into it going forward and understands how important to be flexible.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm

## **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council Meeting of April 28, 2021.

Approved this 12 day of May 2021.

Liz Sund  
Recording Secretary