

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting Date: July 12, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Deb Barber, District 4
- John Pacheco, Jr., District 5

- Robert Lilligren, District 6
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Gail Cederberg, District 11

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public Invitation

No public comment.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 1-4)

1. **2023-116:** That the Metropolitan Council accept the Regional Parks System state fiscal year 2024 operation and maintenance report, as shown in the business item.
2. **2023-117:** That the Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source agreement with Wabtec to program Northstar SCADA and PACIS into the existing Light Rail systems in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.
3. **2023-131:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source Contract 23M005A with Wabtec Railway Electronics to establish a maintenance support agreement for the NorthStar Commuter Rail Positive Train Control system in an amount not to exceed \$990,000.
4. **2023-139:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 - Recommendations of the Community Development Committee



1. Authorize the City of Independence to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
 2. Revise the City's sewer household forecasts as shown in Table 2 of the Review Record.
 3. Revise the City's affordable housing need allocation for 2021-2030 to 54 units.
 4. Revise the Community Designation mapping to show Emerging Suburban Edge residential land uses near Maple Plain as shown in Figure 3 of the attached Review Record.
 5. The City needs to provide the date that the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission approved the Local Water Management Plan.
 6. Advise the City:
 - a. To implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for forecasts, land use, housing, and water supply.
 - b. That all supplemental information provided during the review process for completeness needs to be included in the City's Final Plan submittal. The Final Plan must be submitted and determined consistent with the information provided during the review process prior to Council's review of any comprehensive plan amendments.
- Recommendations of the Environment Committee
 1. Approve the City of Independence Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
 2. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater:
 - a. The Plan identifies the need for a future improvement to serve new development areas south of Maple Plain via L63. This improvement would be a regional interceptor connecting to L63 and extending to a yet to be determined location. Some of the areas to be served through this future improvement are timed within the 2020-2030 staging plan. For this interceptor to be built to accommodate the projected development needs, coordination between the Council and the City for the interceptor will need to occur so that it can be planned, designed, and constructed. This may require the need for the City and Council to enter into a cooperative construction agreement whereby the Council reimburses it for the associated regional costs.
 - b. The Plan offers a "Preferred Population, Household and Employment Forecasts" that reflects greater household forecasts than those in Table 26 which reflects those which are the basis of the Council's approval. The City should be aware, however, that prior to the Council providing service beyond those forecasts listed in Table 26, the City would first need to amend their Plan revising the sewer forecast and submit that amendment to the Council for authorization. Requests for increased forecasted growth may or may not be granted, consistent with the Council's policies.
 - c. Advise the City to implement the remaining advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lindstrom.

Council Member Johnson recognized the City of Independence and staff for their work on the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

Community Development

1. **2023-138:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Award 12 Tax Base Revitalization Account grants totaling \$2,369,600 as shown in the business item.
 2. Authorize its Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Vento.

Motion carried.

Environment

No reports.

Management

No reports.

Transportation

1. **2023-132 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Work Order #12 (22I003L) issued under 22I003, the Master Partnership Contract (“MPC”), with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”). Under the Work Order, the Council will receive approximately \$2,400,000 from MnDOT for preliminary design services for Trunk Highway 65 to be completed in coordination with the METRO F Line project.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-125 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P400 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for engineering and construction administration services for the METRO F Line project and associated roadway improvements in the amount not to exceed \$17,382,828.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by T. Carter.

Motion carried.

Other Business

1. **2023-148:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve the standing committee assignments as shown in the business item recommended by the Chair, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.
 2. That the Metropolitan Council approve Reva Chamblis as Vice Chair of the Council, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article I.
 3. That the Metropolitan Council approve the special and advisory committees, commissions, and boards assignments, as shown in the business item and recommended by the Chair and pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.

It was moved by Zelle, seconded by Johnson.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scenario Planning Tool

Lisa Barajas, Executive Director of Community Development, introduced an overview and background of the sustainability outcome direction set in Thrive 2040, the Climate Action Work Plan, and the 2050 Regional Development Guide. Barajas also shared information about the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which encourages states, air agencies, municipalities, and Tribes to work together to create comprehensive pathways for reducing pollution and ensuring that investments maximize benefits, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities. Mauricio Leon, Senior Researcher, Community Development, then introduced the Greenhouse Gas Strategy Planning Tool, an analytical model that quantifies how specific strategies may reduce future greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to a 2018 baseline at the city and township level. This tool combines baseline data, forecasted assumptions, and theoretical emissions reductions modeled for selected strategies to help contextualize the potential impact of different interventions and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This was a three-year collaborative development process, which expands local capacity for climate action. Leon also shared a demonstration of the live tool.

Council members had questions and comments regarding policy change and future progress tracking, business use, tracking carbon footprint and non-motorized transportation, and engaging communities around the region.

2. Scenario Planning and Land Use

Baris Gumus-Dawes, Planning Analyst, Community Development, shared information about scenario planning and land use analysis. Scenario planning involves planning for an uncertain future and preparing for different possibilities. Gumus-Dawes shared examples of different futures, such as population and employment per acre change. Scenario planning also has implications for land use development and policy development.

Council members had questions and comments regarding job creation and locations, agricultural assets and development, and statistical forecast modeling uncertainty.

3. 2022 Population Estimates

Matt Schroeder, Principal Researcher, Community Development, shared lessons learned from the 2022 population estimates. Schroeder began with an introduction to population estimates. Estimates balance four considerations: fairness, accuracy, responsiveness, and transparency. The population estimate calculation is based upon the housing units, change in housing stock, occupancy rate, and average household size. From 2020-2022 the region has experienced slower, less spatially-balanced growth. Housing construction remains strong, but household occupancy rates and household sizes are down since 2020. The COVID pandemic also resulted in fewer individuals living in group housing such as dormitories and prisons. Schroeder also shared information about possibilities for 2023 population estimates.

Council Members had questions and comments regarding the current population distribution across urban, suburban, and rural areas, community feedback, birth rate trends, and attracting and retaining workers.

Reports

Chair Zelle shared that the July 19 Committee of the Whole will be canceled. The Regional Administrator, General Counsel, and Council Members did not have any reports.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 12, 2023.



Approved this 26th day of July, 2023.

Council Contact:

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