



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

BUCKHAM WEST 19 DIVISION STREET W.	TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024	6:00 PM
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Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin Voracek at 6:05 pm. Councilors in attendance included Sara Caron, Adama Doumbouya, Royal Ross, Tom Spooner and Chuck Thiele. Councilor Peter van Sluis was absent. Also in attendance was City Administrator Jessica Kinser, City Clerk Heather Slechta, Police Chief John Sherwin, City Engineer Mark DuChene, Public Works Director Travis Block, Parks and Recreation Director Paul Peanasky, Communications Manager Brad Phenow and Community and Economic Development Director David Wanberg.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Ross, seconded by Doumbouya to approve the agenda as presented and carried unanimously.

Presentations/Introductions – None

Approve minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting and the May 28, 2024 Special City Council Meeting (Closed Session)

Motion by Thiele, seconded by Ross to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting and the May 28, 2024 Special City Council Meeting (Closed Session) and carried unanimously.

Requests to be Heard – None

Consent Agenda

- A. List of Claims to be Released
- B. Vacation Policy Exceptions as of 5/31/24
- C. Approve Letter of Support for the Twin-Cities-Albert Lea Passenger Rail Corridor
- D. Approve Letter of Support for the San Antonio- Kansas City- Twin Cities Corridor
- E. Approve Applications and Permits for 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce
- F. Resolution 2024-109 Approve Street Closures and Use of North Alexander Park for Run Baby Run
- G. Resolution 2024-110 Accept Donations to the Parks and Recreation Department
- H. Approve Petition and Waiver of Assessment for Water Service Repair at 216 6th Ave. NE

- I. Approve Use of Central Park for Somali Cultural Festival
- J. Resolution 2024-114 Approve Minnesota Department of Transportation Contract No. 1055383 for Cannon River View Trail
- K. Resolution 2024-117 Rescind and Replace Resolution 2024-090 Approve Street Closure for Elks Family Fun Day
- L. Approve Yard Waste Composting Agreement with Rice County
- M. Resolution 2024-118 Authorize Payment as Recommended by the Charitable Gambling Board to the Rice County Agriculture Association
- N. Resolution 2024-119 Authorize Payment as Recommended by the Charitable Gambling Board to the Faribault Chamber Trust
- O. Resolution 2024-120 Authorize Payment as Recommended by the Charitable Gambling Board to the Jefferson Elementary School PTO
- P. Resolution 2024-121 Approve Hiring Wastewater Treatment Operator

Motion by Ross, seconded by Thiele to approve Consent Agenda Items A-P and carried unanimously. Mayor Voracek thanked all those that donated to the Park and Recreation Department.

Public Hearings – None

Items for Discussion

Resolution 2024-111 Approve a Sign Variance at 227 Central Avenue

Community and Economic Development Director David Wanberg stated that the United Way of Rice County doing business as Books on Central requested a sign variance to install a business sign on the former Dandelet building at 227 Central Avenue. The sign plan proposed using letters cut out of vinyl adhered to the façade. The sign design resembles the lettering style used by the Dandelet Jewelry store which occupied this storefront from the 1960s through 2005. The proposal requires two variances of the Downtown Sign District standards: vinyl lettering where sign materials may only be wood, metal, stone, glass, masonry, or tile, or material with a similar appearance; and, vinyl letter that is not raised or recessed from the sign face.

In summary, Books on Central demonstrates appropriate and sufficient findings for a general sign variance and meets the criteria for a historical variation from the Downtown Sign District standards. The building façade features art deco-era, vitrolite tiles, which the City's historic building inventory identifies this building as significant for its distinctive and intact vitrolite storefront. Instead of drilling into the vitrolite tiles and potentially cracking them, or using adhesive backed on wood or other material that could irreparably damage the tiles, the applicant proposes using cutout vinyl lettering, which has a significantly lower impact on the tiles and mimics the material and spirit of the font style used by the Dandelet Jewelry store's sign. Based on the reasoning above, this sign is eligible for a historical variation. Additionally, the proposed sign design emulates the sign used on this storefront since the 1960s and will fit the essential character of the downtown sign district and the heritage preservation district.

The Planning Commission discussed the proposal during a public hearing on June 3,

2024. After public comment from the applicant and minor discussion, the Planning Commission voted unanimously recommending the City Council approve the request with conditions. The Planning Commission's recommendation is supported by the Heritage Planning Commission through a granted Certificate of Appropriateness and positive support from the Development Review Committee at their May 21, 2024, meeting.

Councilor Spooner asked if the condition to maintain the sign is in the resolution, Wanberg stated that it is in the resolution.

Motion by Thiele, seconded by Caron to approve Resolution 2024-111 Approve a Sign Variance at 227 Central Avenue and carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-115 Approve Plans and Specifications and Establish Bid Date for Cannon River View Trail - City Contract 2024-05

City Engineer Mark DuChene explained that the City's 2024 Capital Improvement Plan included the construction of the Cannon River View Trail from 20th Street NW to approximately 1,000 feet north of East View Drive. This project was awarded up to \$275,000 in a federal grant through the Carbon Reduction Program, a competitive grant program administered by MNDOT as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The project includes removals, grading, aggregate base, bituminous trail and related construction for a trail segment that will connect Two Rivers Park to the north industrial park area via existing and proposed trail segments as well as connect directly to the planned Twin Oaks Subdivision, a Rice County work force housing development and park planned for just north of the Rice County Public Safety Center.

The total cost of the improvements is estimated to be \$360,500.00 with 80% of eligible construction costs to be paid for by the grant and the remainder of construction costs and engineering fees to be paid from the Park Improvement Fund.

Resolution 2024-115 approves the plans and specifications for the improvements as have been prepared by the City Engineering Department and establishes a bid opening date of July 17, 2024. Work is scheduled to start in September and be completed by mid-November.

Mayor Voracek asked if there would be any wayfinding signs in this project, DuChene stated that there hasn't been any concrete plans and staff have not done anything, however, if the Council directs staff, they can add this to budget discussions. Mayor Voracek stated that they could take small bites to get it done, DuChene stated that they have discussed using QR Codes directing people on the trails.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Doumbouya to approve Resolution 2024-115 Approve Plans and Specifications and Establish Bid Date for Cannon River View Trail - City Contract 2024-05 and carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-116 Name a Park Located at the Intersection of Division Street Northeast and 1st Avenue Northeast

City Administrator Jessica Kinser explained to the Council that the Parks and Recreational Facilities Naming Policy defines the name of a park as that which is assigned by resolution of the City Council. She explained that the we are at an ideal time when a name for the new regional park to be located near the viaduct is necessary to assist with the fundraising effort and begin the branding/identification of this destination.

Park names were initially discussed in June 2023, and included following a request from the public for names, but no decisions were made at that time. The conversation was renewed at the May 21st work session. The discussion mostly involved the name "Viaduct Park" with the direction to bring this name forward for a vote at the June 11th City Council meeting. It is important to note that this name complies with the Park and Recreational Facilities Naming Policy, which has historic places and local landmarks as a category for naming consideration.

Additional naming options were provided to the Mayor and Council on the June 4th bus tour. Resolution 2024-116 included a blank where a name would ultimately be inserted if the Council is ready to do that at this meeting. If the Council would like additional discussion, she recommended tabling the item to the June 18th work session.

Through much discussion it was the consensus of the Council to name the park Viaduct Park, this was also the choice of the Park Board.

Motion by Thiele, seconded by Caron to approve Resolution 2024-116 Name a Park Located at the Intersection of Division Street Northeast and 1st Avenue Northeast as amended with the name Viaduct Park inserted and carried unanimously.

Bids

Resolution 2024-112 Accept Bids for Downtown Area Park Bid Package #1 - Multi-Purpose Building and Resolution 2024-113 Accept Bids for Downtown Area Park Bid Package #2 - Site Improvements

City Engineer Mark DuChene explained that bid Bids for the Downtown (Viaduct Area) Park were received and opened on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Bid Package 1 (Building) low bidder was Robert W Carlstrom Co. and Bid Package 2 (Site Work and Splash Pad) low bidder was BCM Construction. The results were discussed at the February 20th, 2024 Special Work Session, the recommendation from Staff was to not move forward with the bids but to work with the low bidders to identify cost savings measures for bid packages 1 and 2.

Following the March 6th, 2024, Work Session, Council directed staff to engage the apparent low bidders for Bid Packages 1 & 2 for the Downtown Area Park Project to develop cost-saving measures and other value engineering ideas to try and bring the total project costs down. This included directions to place Bid Package 3 (Skate Loop) on the shelf for at least now and remove all related components to the ice system. The City Council authorized a professional services contract with the architect to redesign a portion

of the proposed structure to reduce the building footprint and remove the ice system refrigeration and resurfacing equipment rooms. The revised architectural drawings for Bid Package 1 (Building) as well as marked up drawings for Bid Package 2 (Site Work and Splash Pad) were shared with the apparent low bidders and revised pricing was submitted to the City.

The apparent low bidder for Bid Package 1 agreed to hold their bid by mutual agreement with the City as this process has borne out. At this time, based on Council direction from the May 21st, 2024 work session staff is recommending that the City Council award bid package 1 to RW Carlstrom based on the apparent low bid of \$3,867,000.00 and then negotiate a change order with the low bidder based on the revised design changes for a reduction in construction costs of \$811,366.00. Funding for the project is to come from an internal loan through the Sanitary Sewer Fund (602).

The apparent low bidder for Bid Package 2 also agreed to hold their bid by mutual agreement with the City as this process has borne out. At this time, based on Council direction from the May 21st, 2024 work session staff is recommending that the City Council award bid package 2 to BCM Construction based on the apparent low bid of \$3,272,272.00 and then negotiate a change order with the low bidder based on the revised design changes for a reduction in construction costs of \$941,265.50. Funding for the project will also come from an internal loan through the Sanitary Sewer Fund (602).

Assuming Council award of the contract, City staff will work to get contracts and construction schedules coordinated with the low bidder as well as bring back to council a professional services agreement for construction administration and testing services which are required and to be provided by the City.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Doumbouya to approve Resolution 2024-112 Accept Bids for Downtown Area Park Bid Package #1 - Multi-Purpose Building and carried unanimously.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Spooner to approve Resolution 2024-113 Accept Bids for Downtown Area Park Bid Package #2 - Site Improvements and carried unanimously.

Boards and Commissions Reports, Announcements and Project Updates

Mayor Voracek asked for an update on the FACC, Parks and Recreation Director Paul Peanasky stated that they are continue to work on it, crews have cut through the bottom of the pool and a crane will be arriving tomorrow, they continue to remove the water using two pumps. Crews are hoping to repair the pipes on Friday, re-bond the wires on Monday and pour concrete on Tuesday and Wednesday using a special additive. The water then should be added in two-weeks with a goal of opening at the end of the June. Mayor Voracek stated that Heritage Days is this weekend, with the Mayors Reception on Thursday from 5-7 pm at Central Park, he will be presenting a plaque to the Citizens of the Year and the parade will be on Saturday, there are many activities taking place.

Adjournment

Motion by Caron, seconded by Doumbouya to adjourn the City Council meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Heather Slechta

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Heather Slechta
City Clerk