



Approved: March 14, 2022

**CITY OF ARDEN HILLS, MINNESOTA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2022
7:00 P.M. - ARDEN HILLS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor David Grant called to order the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Note: On January 12, 2022 the Mayor signed a determination allowing Councilmembers to participate in City Council meetings via telephone pursuant to State Statute 13D.021

Present: Mayor David Grant, Councilmembers Brenda Holden, Fran Holmes, Steve Scott and David Radziej

Absent: None

Also present: City Administrator Dave Perrault; Public Works Director/City Engineer David Swearingen; Finance Director Gayle Bauman; City Planner Jessica Jagoe; and City Clerk Julie Hanson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Holden moved and Councilmember Holmes seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried (5-0).

2. PUBLIC INQUIRIES/INFORMATIONAL

Kathryn Nelson, 3475 Siems Court, stated she has been a resident of Arden Hills for over 36 years. She expressed concern with the Old Snelling/County Road E project noting she uses this intersection several times a day. She encouraged the Council to reconsider the plans and noted it appears the County favors a roundabout. She understood a roundabout would assist with traffic flow but would greatly affect pedestrians, and reported this intersection needs to be safer for all users. She urged the City Council to speak with the County to discuss options as it is her opinion that a roundabout was not the best option for this intersection.

Kristine Poelzer, 1870 Indian Place, stated she had concerns with the fact the Council would be decommissioning two committees (Communications Committee and Financial Planning and Analysis Committee (FPAC)) this evening. She discussed these two committees and states she believed both should remain in place for transparency purposes. She commented on how the FPAC should be reviewing how the City allocates the ARPA funds the City received from the federal government. She proposed the Council table action on this vote for 90 days to allow for a concerted effort to recruit residents that would be able to serve on these committees.

Steve Erler, 1704 Chatham, stated at the City Council meeting on January 10 staff read a statement for the City Council in response to a question he had at the December 13 Council meeting. His question was what information the council has to support the assertion that increased housing density in Rice Creek Commons would result in tax increases for current Arden Hills residents. In the Council's response, it was noted tax rate increases were not the issue. He thanked the Council for this clarification. He indicated the Council's statement goes onto assert that increased density in Rice Creek Commons will adversely impact the quality of life throughout the City, and in particular, increased density on TCAAP could result in worsened traffic patterns throughout the remainder of the City. He discussed the City's AUAR and noted that the study said the City could support the increased traffic even in a maximum buildout scenario. He asked what information the Council has that suggests a higher density within Rice Creek Commons would create worsened traffic patterns throughout the City.

Gregg Larson, 3377 North Snelling Avenue, encouraged the Council to update the agenda format to ensure residents know meetings are now being held virtually instead of at City Hall. He then discussed an updated report on TCAAP stating he still doesn't know why the Council opposed more density and affordable housing. He indicated the Council has suggested this will create traffic congestion or add taxpayer costs. However, the AUAR determined that traffic was not a problem, even with 2500 units. He stated the City Administrator acknowledged last month that the issue with increased market rate housing density is not that taxes would increase throughout the City. He explained he learned that over \$4 million has been spent on this project since 1995, including the \$300,000 that the Council wasted defending the City in the Ramsey County lawsuit. He questioned when the residents would start to see a payback on the \$4 million investment in this development. He anticipated this would not occur until new Councilmembers were elected that cared about this development.

3. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES

None.

4. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 10, 2022, Regular City Council
- B. January 18, 2022, City Council Work Session

Councilmember Holmes requested a change to the January 10 minutes on Page 9, noting she made the statement about U-turns on the bridge at not Councilmember Holden.

MOTION: **Councilmember Holden moved and Councilmember Holmes seconded a motion to approve the January 10, 2022, Regular City Council meeting minutes as amended; and January 18, 2022, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried (5-0).**

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Motion to Approve Claims and Payroll
- B. Motion to Approve 2021 Budget Carryovers for Equipment
- C. Motion to Approve Acknowledgement of the Application of Ducks Unlimited North Suburban Chapter 239 for an Exempt Permit to Conduct a Raffle with the Drawing Being April 2, 2022 with No Waiting Period
- D. Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-004 Appointing Marie Hinton as Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee
- E. Motion to Approve Amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) Agreement – Mounds View Public Schools – Planning Case 21-028
- F. Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-005 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Ad for Bids – Snelling Avenue North Improvements
- G. Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-006 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Ad for Bids – Arden Oaks Street Improvements
- H. Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-007 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Ad for Bids – City Hall Parking Lot
- I. Motion to Approve HR Green Feasibility Study and Geotechnical Evaluation – Old Highway 10 Trail Connection (Lake Valentine Road to CR-96)
- J. Motion to Approve HR Green PSA for On-Call Engineering Services
- K. Motion to Approve Appointment of Customer Services Specialist (Job Share)
- L. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-001 Amending Chapter 2, Section 220, Subd. 220.06 and 220.07 and Authorizing Publication of Summary Ordinance
- M. Motion to Approve Proposal and Quote for Sanitary Sewer Root Treatment with Duke’s Root Control, Inc.
- N. Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-008 Supporting Safe Routes to School for the Mounds View High School Trail Improvements Project

MOTION: **Councilmember Holden moved and Councilmember Radziej seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented and to authorize execution of all necessary documents contained therein. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried (5-0).**

7. PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Radziej thanked staff for their time in getting him up to speed as a new Councilmember. He noted he attended the grand opening for Chick-fil-A and stated he was pleased to have this organization in the community.

Councilmember Scott congratulated Marie Hinton for being selected Chair of the PTRC.

Councilmember Scott welcomed Amy LaMere as the new Customer Service Representative at City Hall.

Councilmember Holmes also welcomed Amy LaMere to the City of Arden Hills.

Councilmember Holmes thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the city free and clear of snow this winter.

Councilmember Holmes noted she attended the Chick-fil-A grand opening event as well.

Councilmember Holmes thanked City Planner Jagoe for providing the new Planning Commission members with training.

Councilmember Holmes stated on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. Ramsey County would be holding a zoom neighborhood meeting on the Lake Johanna Boulevard trail.

Councilmember Holmes indicated she has been a member of the Communications Committee for many years. She noted this group had a difficult time finding volunteers for the past several years and for that reason, the work had been brought in house.

Councilmember Holden stated she was pleased the Planning Commission had found enough volunteers to serve with this group.

Councilmember Holden explained she also has served on the Communications Committee and noted this was a very time consuming group. She indicated she was willing to work with Ms. Poelzer to find volunteers, but she anticipated the workload from this group would continue to be too much for volunteers.

Councilmember Holden recommended the Council begin creating a list of how the ARPA dollars will be allocated.

Mayor Grant suggested this be addressed at a future work session.

Mayor Grant noted he has also served on the Communications Committee over the years and indicated this was a time consuming committee. He reported the City had to restructure and brought the work in-house. He encouraged residents with ideas for articles to contact City staff with this information.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Councilmember Holden moved and Councilmember Radziej seconded a motion to adjourn. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried (5-0).

Mayor Grant adjourned the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Julie Hanson
City Clerk

David Grant
Mayor