

1. Call to Order. The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rogers was called to order by Mayor Ihli on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Rogers Community Center, 21201 Memorial Drive, Rogers, MN, 55374 and online in the Zoom application.

Council present: Rick Ihli, Shannon Klick, Kevin Jullie, and Amy Enga
Council excused: Mark Eiden

Staff present: Stacy Scharber, Assistant Administrator/HR Director (via Zoom); Bridget Bruska, Finance Director; Dan Wills, Chief of Police; Patrick Farrens, Fire Chief; Doran Cote, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Brett Angell, Community Development Director; Bob Vose, City Attorney; and Stacie Brown, City Clerk.

2. Open Forum (occurred at end of meeting)

Ashi Wahba, 13475 Red Fox Road – Mr. Wahba expressed concerns (also shared by his tenants) with Duffy Development’s ongoing timeline for the senior apartment project on Main Street. He noted that discussions regarding this project have been in process for over three years, and he would like Council to set a deadline. He added that the expenses are growing with each delay, and he would like to know what to expect relative to the properties he owns on Main Street.

3. Presentations

None.

4. Approve Agenda

Set as submitted.

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approval of the March 12, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 5.2 Approval of Bills and Claims**
- 5.3 Approval of Special Event Permit Application for Rockin’ Rogers; June 20-23, 2024**
- 5.4 Approval of Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Rogers Lions Club for Rockin’ Rogers; Liquor Sales from June 20-22, 2024**
- 5.5 Approval of Application from the Rogers Lions Club to Conduct Charitable Gambling at Rockin’ Rogers, Located at 21201 Memorial Drive, Rogers, Minnesota**
 - **Approval of Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling at Rockin’ Rogers, June 20-23, 2024**
 - **Approval of Resolution 2024-35; Providing Municipal Approval to the Issuance of a Minnesota Gambling License to the Rogers Lions Club for Rockin’ Rogers**
- 5.6 Approval of Resolution 2024-28, a Resolution Authorizing Rockin’ Rogers Day Parade and Support Services for the Event**

- 5.7 Approval of Resolution 2024-22, Granting Approval of the Preliminary and Final Plat for Uptown Rogers 3rd Addition**
- 5.8 Approve the Purchase of Replacement Combination Goal Frames and Posts for North Community Park**
- 5.9 Approve Professional Services Agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for the Condition Assessment for Sewer Collection Lift Stations**
- 5.10 Approval of Resolution 2024-30, a Resolution Recognizing Public Works Week for 2024**
- 5.11 Approval of Resolution 2024-32, a Resolution Restricting Parking for Segments on 129th Avenue North from Oakwood Drive to Main Street**
- 5.12 Approval of Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Appointments**
- 5.13 Approval of Items Related to Skye Meadows Seventh Addition Final Plat**
 - Approve Resolution 2024-33, a Resolution Approving Final Plat of Skye Meadows Seventh Addition**
 - Authorize Execution of Subdivision Agreement for Skye Meadows Seventh Addition**
- 5.14 Approve Purchase of Fire Department Uniform Items**
- 5.15 Approval of Resolution 2024-34, a Resolution Recognizing April 8-12 as Severe Weather Awareness Week**
- 5.16 Accept Resignation of Paid-on-Call Firefighter Ezekiel Castro**
- 5.17 Setting a Workshop of the City Council for April 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rogers Community Room, 21201 Memorial Drive, Rogers, MN**
- 5.18 Approval of City Administrator's Annual Performance Review**
- 5.19 Approval of Resolution 2024-29, a Resolution Declaring May 18, 2024 as Rogers Clean-Up Day**

Councilor Klick moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Public Hearings

None held.

7. General Business

- 7.1 Approval of Resolution 2024-36 Accepting Donation from Nissan North America**

Fire Chief Farrens explained that Rogers Firefighter Matthew Kro works for Nissan, and the company donates vehicles to schools and public safety agencies for training. The company has offered a Nissan Leaf to the Rogers Fire Department for the purpose of extrication training. The value of this donation is \$4,000, and the agreement specifies that the vehicle may not be driven. Once it has been used for training, Burda's Towing has agreed to take it to a scrap yard. Farrens noted that it has become more difficult to get used cars for training due to increased prices.

Mayor Ihli expressed appreciation to Nissan North America, Inc. for this donation to the Rogers Fire Department.

Mayor Ihli moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion approving Resolution 2024-36, Accepting a Donation from Nissan North America. Motion carried 4-0.

7.2 Authorization to Hire Jennifer Williams as Communications Coordinator

Assistant Administrator/HR Director Scharber provided a background on the hiring process for this position. She explained that after the previously selected candidate withdrew, two additional candidates were interviewed, and Jennifer Williams was selected unanimously for the position. Scharber shared details on Ms. Williams' education and professional experience, and stated that her anticipated start date will be April 15, 2024.

Councilor Klick moved, Councilor Jullie seconded a motion granting authorization to hire Jennifer Williams as Communications Coordinator. Motion carried 4-0.

7.3 Approval of Resolution 2024-24; Approving Preliminary and Final Plat for Stieg Woods

Community Director Angell presented details on the Stieg Woods site, including location, total area, and current use of agricultural purposes. This property is zoned as R4, and is guided for mixed residential and protected resources (natural areas). Angell shared a map of the area, and reviewed past actions related to the property. The preliminary and final plat before Council tonight divides this property into six different outlots. Outlot C would be retained by the Stieg family, with no current plans to make alterations to that property. Outlot A would be the road corridor connecting to County Road 116, Outlots D and E would be for future stormwater/floodplain needs, and Outlot B and F would be woodlands and a protected park. Angell added that any future potential plans for a subdivision or development on Outlot C would have to go through the full development/planning process. He shared that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this item.

Mayor Ihli noted this project has been on the horizon for some time, with a grant having been received from the State for it. This will be a nice setting for the community. Councilor Jullie asked for a recap for the ownership of the Outlots. Public Works Director/City Engineer Cote explained that the Stiegs currently retain ownership of the entire parcel, and the City has a letter of intent to purchase all but Outlot C, which the Stiegs would retain post-purchase agreement. Jullie asked if Outlot A would become right-of-way when the time comes to extend the parkway to the west, and Cote confirmed that is correct.

From the audience, resident Jim Kelley asked how much the City is paying for this. Mayor Ihli explained that the City isn't paying for this as a grant was received from the State to pay for it. Cote added that the grant received was the Lessard-Sams Open Space Heritage Council Grant administered by the Department of Natural Resources, in the amount of \$1,000,020. Councilor

Jullie inquired about the timing of the purchase. Cote explained the purchase would be made before the roadway is put through, and dedicate it as right-of-way when the roadway is built.

From the audience, resident Jim Kelley asked if the City will we get this grant every year, or if it happens by accident. Council and staff clarified that this grant was awarded through an application process. Angell added that each grant has a set allocation on a yearly basis, and applications are scored as they are received by the State. Awards are dependent on how much funding is available each year.

Mayor Ihli moved, Councilor Klick seconded a motion approving Resolution 2024-24, Approving Preliminary and Final Plat for Stieg Woods. Motion carried 4-0.

7.4 Approval of Resolution 2024-31, a Resolution Supporting Retention of City Zoning Authority

Community Development Director Angell presented Resolution 2024-31, which states the City's position against a bill which is currently under consideration at the House and Senate. The bill in question has been discussed by Council and staff over recent weeks, and is commonly being referred to as the Missing Middle Housing Bill. The authors of this bill have presented it as an attempt to address housing shortages and increase affordable housing within the entire state. However, some of the language and provisions could be seen as extremely concerning from a City and staff perspective. As a result, a number of cities across the metro, the League of Minnesota Cities, and Metro Cities have started to speak out against this bill.

Angell reviewed the areas of concern with this bill, including elimination of single-family zoning, allowing for duplexes, triplexes, quads, and in some areas more units on residential lots. Other concerns include the reduction (or elimination_ of off-street parking requirements, reductions in garage stall requirements, lesser ability to enforce or implement height restrictions on buildings, and removal of any ability enact sod requirements. This bill would also create an administrative approval process, removing the public process. Angell stated there are many points of concern with this bill, and a lack of understanding of the impacts it could have on infrastructure, including utilities and roads. It also ignores many decades of planning, which would have to be redone. If allowed by right, this would remove public participation and the ability for people to speak out with concerns. The proposed Resolution states the City's position against the proposed bill as it moves through consideration with the House and Senate.

Councilor Klick noted that Representative Danny Nadeau has stated he will vote against this bill, and asked if the City has heard from Senator John Hoffman. Angell replied that to his knowledge, the City has not heard from Senator Hoffman (as of last week). He added that recently, there has been more public opposition to this bill. However, it has had bipartisan support.

Mayor Ihli expressed that this is alarming for development and communities, giving all the power to St. Paul.; and it's going to affect a lot of people. He stated that he definitely approves of this

Resolution, as the City needs to do whatever can be done to stop it. He added that he has sent a note to Senator Hoffman, and has not heard back. Councilor Enga shared that she also sent Senator Hoffman a note, and did hear back from him. His response indicated that he is taking her perspective into consideration, as well as the other stakeholders on this bill. Councilor Enga added that this bill was likely brought forth to address the shortage of affordable housing, which is a nationwide issue. However, she doesn't agree with removing the local community's ability to plan, and doesn't think this is the way to address it.

Councilor Klick shared that in recent discussion on LinkedIn, someone from Housing First said that specific cities are doing this poorly, which is what it is aimed at. However, she does not feel that Rogers is doing it poorly. She is in favor of the Resolution, and feels it's a shame that is how government operates, with everyone having to do things the same way. Councilor Enga expressed support for the Resolution as well.

Councilor Klick moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion approving Resolution 2024-31, Supporting the Retention of City Zoning Authority. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Correspondence and Reports

No action taken.

10. Adjourn

Mayor Ihli adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacie Brown
City Clerk