

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 12, 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, Amy Enga, and Mark Eiden

Staff present: Steve Stahmer, City Administrator; Stacy Scharber, Assistant Administrator/HR Director; 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; Alec Henderson, City Planner; and Stacie Brown, City Clerk.

2. Open Forum

No persons addressed the Council.

3. Presentations

None.

4. Approve Agenda

Set as submitted.

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approval of the February 26, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 5.2 Approval of Bills and Claims**
- 5.3 Approval of Salary Grade Change for the Position of Assistant City Administrator/HR Director**
- 5.4 Approval of New Massage Therapist License for Sharon Peace**
- 5.5 Approval of Resolution 2024-23; a Resolution Approving Amendments to the Designated Municipal State Aid (MSA) Street System for the City of Rogers, Minnesota**
- 5.6 Approve Payment No. 3 and Final for Basswood Lane Improvements, City Project No 2210**
- 5.7 Items Related to Interstate Trucking**
 - **Resolution 2024-27; Release of the Development Agreement for Interstate Trucking**
 - **Resolution 2024-21; Accepting Improvements and Authorization to Release the Letter of Credit for I-State Rogers**
- 5.8 Resolution 2024-26; a Resolution Providing Support for the Proposed Dayton, MN Fire Department Training Facility**

Councilor Klick moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Public Hearings

None held.

7. General Business

7.1 Authorization to Hire Nicole Pearson as Executive Assistant to Chief of Police

Chief of Police Wills shared a background for the approval of this position as part of the 2024 budget. With the advertisement of this position, 71 applications were received, and 31 of the applicants were interviewed. Ultimately, Nicole Pearson was selected as the unanimous top candidate for the position.

Chief Wills provided details on Ms. Pearson's educational and professional experience, noting that her hiring is conditioned upon successfully passing a background investigation, which is in progress. Her anticipated start date would be April 22, 2024.

Councilor Klick moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion granting authorization to hire Nicole Pearson as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police. Motion carried 5-0.

7.2 Authorization to Hire Andrea Hunt as Records Management Technician (Backfill)

Chief of Police Wills recalled the acceptance of Machell Bentley's resignation from the Records Management Technician position, which will take place within the next couple of months. With the Council's approval to backfill the position, Andrea Hunt has been selected as the top candidate for the role. Chief Wills shared details on Ms. Hunt's educational and professional experience, adding that she came highly recommended by several law enforcement contacts. Her hiring is conditioned upon successfully passing a background investigation, which is in progress. If approved, her anticipated start date will be April 22, 2024.

Councilor Jullie moved, Councilor Klick seconded a motion granting authorization to hire Andrea Hunt as Record Management Technician (backfill). Motion carried 5-0.

7.3 Approval to Hire Jacob (Jake) Bendiske for Public Works Engineering Technician (SWPPP)

Public Works Director/City Engineer Cote presented a background on the approval of this position as part of the 2024 budget process. At the December 27, 2023 City Council meeting, the position description and authorization to advertise were approved. Three candidates who met the minimum qualifications were interviewed on February 23rd., and Jacob Bendiske stood out as the top candidate.

Cote provided details on Mr. Bendiske's credentials, including completion of the Water Environment Technology program at St. Cloud Technical College, and subsequent experience and certifications he has attained. Cote added that all pre-employment conditions have been met, and the start date for this position will be April 1, 2024.

Councilor Eiden moved, Councilor Jullie seconded a motion granting authorization to hire Jacob Bendiske for Public Works Engineering Technician (SWPPP) Motion carried 5-0.

7.4 Approval to Purchase Single Axle Hook and Plow Truck

Public Works Director/City Engineer Cote explained that the item before Council is consideration of a deviation from the approved Capital Equipment Plan. Currently, the Plan includes the replacement of a tandem-axle plow truck in the amount of \$320,000. Staff are seeking authorization to switch that to replace an existing single-axle plow with a hook, which is used for interchanging different body types on equipment. There have been significant mechanical problems with the existing truck, resulting in \$25,000 in engine and exhaust system repairs over the last five years. These are common problems for international trucks of the same vintage.

Councilor Eiden asked if the accessories the City has will work with this new vehicle, and Cote confirmed they are compatible. Eiden asked if this would be a tandem-axle truck allowing more capacity. Cote clarified that this would be a single-axle truck replacing the existing single-axle, and the purchase of a tandem-axle would be deferred.

Councilor Jullie moved, Councilor Enga seconded a motion approving the purchase of a single-axle hook and plow truck. Motion carried 5-0.

7.5 Consideration of a Purchase Agreement for the Acquisition of 12708 Main Street

Community Development Director Angell shared details regarding the property being considered for purchase, which is .29 acres in size and includes a single-family home built in 1964. Angell explained that the City has previously expressed interest in acquiring the property. The owner has unfortunately passed away, and the family members would now like to sell the property.

Angell noted the property's guidance for parks and open space, proximity to City-owned properties, and potential for inclusion into Lions Central Park. Acquisition of the property would also provide immediate opportunities for Police and Fire training. He shared details on the purchase, including a price of \$300,000, due diligence, closing and contingencies.

Councilor Klick asked if these affordable houses which are being considered for demolition are not salvageable. Angell replied that he has not been in the house that the City currently owns, however with the age of this house, there is likely asbestos in it, and potentially lead-based paint. His understanding is that it's not fully uninhabitable, however it is on the lower-tier of homes for sale at this time. A full building assessment would be needed to make a determination.

Councilor Jullie asked how this purchase would be funded, and Angell replied that it would be paid through Park Dedication funds collected through developments. He estimated the average cost for demolishing a single-family home being \$14,000 to \$22,000. Jullie asked if this would be a timely process, to discourage un-authorized occupancy. Angell stated his intent would be to

secure the property, allow for any fire and police training opportunities, and demolish the home as soon as possible. Councilor Eiden asked if these homes would be candidates to be moved, being ramblers. Angell explained that sometimes it doesn't make financial sense to move a home, depending on the condition, which could be evaluated by a house mover.

Councilor Jullie moved, Councilor Klick seconded a motion approving a purchase agreement for the acquisition of 12708 Main Street. Motion carried 5-0.

7.6 Resolution 2024-25 Acceptance of Donation of Water Rescue Raft

Fire Chief Farrens explained that during a review of the Rogers Fire Department's equipment and ice rescue training, a need was found for a water rescue raft. These rafts are designed to support swift water and ice rescues; traditionally used in retention ponds. Freedom Church wished to make a donation to the Rogers Fire Department, and the idea of donating a raft was provided to them. They subsequently donated a NRS Rescue Raft and quick fill device, amounting to a donation of \$3,335.05.

Councilor Jullie asked if there have been any close calls with the weather this winter. Chief Farrens replied that a car went into the river, however there has not been a trend. Councilor Eiden asked if there will be issues with inflating if it sits unused for a period of time. Farrens replied that a number of other fire departments have these, and have not had any issues. Proper storage should allow for a 10+ year lifecycle. Eiden acknowledged this gracious donation from Freedom Church.

Councilor Eiden moved, Councilor Klick seconded a motion approving Resolution 2024-25; Acceptance of the Donation of a Water Rescue Raft. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Correspondence and Reports

No action taken.

10. Adjourn to Closed Session

10.1 Adjourn to Closed Session for the Annual Performance Review of the City Administrator

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:26 p.m. to conduct the annual performance review of City Administrator Stahmer.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn

Mayor Ihli adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacie Brown
City Clerk