

**MOUND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Mound, Hennepin County, Minnesota, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Centennial Building.

Members present: Mayor Jason Holt, Council Members Sherrie Pugh, Kevin Castellano, Michelle Herrick, and Kathy McEnaney.

Members absent: None.

Others present: City Manager Jesse Dickson, Deputy City Manager Maggie Reisdorf, City Attorney Scott Landsman, City Engineer Matt Bauman, Orono Police Department Sergeant Ryan Spencer, Bob and Cindy Castellano (Shorewood, MN), Kelly Kiser (3043 Tuxedo Blvd), Jay Nygard (Orono, MN), Ann Erhard (Isanti, MN), Lynda Cordo (2531 Lakewood Lane), Tyler Pieper (5504 Church Road), Wendie Bame (4940 Timber Trail), and Becca Sanders and Jan Holt (2448 Lost Lake Road).

Consent agenda: All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature by the Council. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence.

1. Open meeting

Mayor Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Oaths of Office by City Manager Jesse Dickson

Oaths were administered to: Mayor Jason Holt, and Councilmembers Kevin Castellano and Michelle Herrick.

4. Approve agenda

Dickson requested to add an item after the regular agenda item 8, related to the Edgewater Park Native Garden Project Proposal.

MOTION by Pugh, to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by McEnaney. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Consent agenda

McEnaney asked that items C and R be pulled for discussion.

Pugh asked that item L be pulled for discussion.

MOTION by McEnaney, seconded by Pugh, to approve the consent agenda as amended by removing items C, R, and L for further discussion. Upon roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

A. Approve payment of claims in the amount of \$1,104,701.39.

B. Approve minutes: November 26, 2024 Regular City Council

December 10, 2024 Regular City Council

- C. **(PULLED) APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01 APPROVING ACTING MAYOR FOR 2025.**
- D. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-02 APPOINTING CITY COUNCILMEMBERS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS FOR 2025**
- E. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-03 APPOINTING DEPUTY CITY MANAGER MAGGIE REISDORF AS THE ACTING CITY MANAGER FOR 2025.**
- F. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-04 APPOINTING FIELD OFFICER ANDY DRILLING AS ASSISTANT WEED INSPECTOR FOR 2025.**
- G. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-05 DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR 2025.**
- H. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-06 DESIGNATING THE LAKER AS THE 2025 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER.**
- I. Approve request for Commercial Kennel License for Mound Emergency Management Division & Waiving the fee.
- J. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-07 MAKING THE SELECTION TO NOT WAIVE THE STATUTORY TORT LIMITS FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE PURPOSES.**
- K. **APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-08 RECOMMENDING CONTINUATION OF CDBG FUNDING OF WESTONKA COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (WECAN)**

- L. **(PULLED & TABLED)** Approve resolution expressing support for CDBG funding for Senior Community Services.
- M. Approve Hennepin County Assessor Open Book Meeting for April 23, 2025 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM located in the City Council Chambers in the Mound Centennial Building.
- N. Approval of POSC commissioner Kim Blievernicht for a 3-year term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027.
- O. Approve re-appointment of Ben Brandy as City representative to Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD Board).
- P. Approval of DCC Commissioner Heidi Peterson – Non-Abutter for a 3-year term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027.
- Q. Approval of February 18, 2025 Concurrent City Council and Planning Commission Special Meeting Workshop at 6:00 PM.
- R. **(PULLED)** Approve appointment of Sheri Wallace to fill vacancy on Planning Commission with a term going until December 31, 2027.

S. APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-09 APPROVING SUBDIVISION EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY AT 5340 BARLETT BLVD.

PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 25-01 APPROVING ACTING MAYOR FOR 2025.

McEnaney asked that Mayor about what criteria he used to determine his recommendation for Acting Mayor.

Holt stated that in 2024, the Acting Mayor was then Councilmember Paula Larson. He informed that he has had a good working relationship with Castellano and believed he would be a good to step in as Acting Mayor if ever needed.

McEnaney stated that no criteria was used to back his recommendation.

MOTION BY MCENANEY, SECONDED BY PUGH, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-01 APPROVING ACTING MAYOR FOR 2025. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

L. APPROVE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CDBG FUNDING FOR SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES.

Pugh explained that in the past, this funding helped support the local Gillespie Center and no longer does. She asked staff if this is still relevant and to determine if the funds are used elsewhere in the City of Mound.

Dickson stated that staff would get clarification and recommended tabling the item until more information could be researched on this topic.

MOTION by Pugh, seconded by Herrick, to approve table this item until further information could be researched on this topic. Motion Passed 5-0.

R. Approve appointment of Sheri Wallace to fill vacancy on the Planning Commission with a term ending on December 31, 2027.

McEnaney informed the she tabled this item so that the City Council could discuss how to navigate situations in which the City only receives one application for a vacant seat on a public commission/committee. She explained that this occurred with the Planning Commission recently where there was a vacancy on the Planning Commission and only one applicant was received and interviewed. She wondered if the City Council needed to review the Work Rules of the commissions/committees to provide clearer guidance on when this happens.

McEnaney stated that she has nothing against the candidate who applied and interviewed for the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. She informed that the candidate was an attractive candidate.

McEnaney asked the City Council what they think about reviewing the Work Rules to help provide clarification when these situations happen in the future.

Dickson confirmed that the Work Rules of the commissions/committees would need to be updated to provide clarification and guidance on these types of situations. He stated that he personally felt that if there was a good candidate that applied, it makes sense to consider them in the moment. He agreed though that if further discussion is needed to address concerns that the City Council should move forward with making a decision on how to do so.

Castellano expressed concern about pushing away good candidates when there are moments they are the only applicant.

Pugh informed that this happens from time to time. She informed that the Commissions and Committees can choose to not make recommendations to the City Council if they feel the applicant is not a good fit. She said that the vacancies can then be reposted to solicit more applicants. She informed that even the City Council can reject an applicant if they feel they are not a good fit.

McEnaney stated that she would like to review the Work Rules and determine if a change needs to be made. She asked staff to look into what other cities do.

Herrick agreed to the review.

Pugh asked that it be added to a future City Council Workshop for review.

McEnaney added that part of the discussion may be to decide whether the Planning Commission still needs to have nine members.

5. Comments and suggestions from citizens present on any item not on the agenda.

Kelly Kiser (3043 Tuxedo Blvd) introduced herself to the City Council as a resident of Mound. She informed that she had a domestic case that involved a response from the Orono Police Department in March of 2021. She explained that the response and ongoing response to her case has included poor treatment from the Orono Police Department. Kiser reviewed the failures and mistreatment of the Department in handling her case. She said that she filed a formal complaint against the Orono Police Department in October 2024. Kiser stated however that she has concerns that the Department is doing their own investigation into the handling of her case and feels that an outside third-party should be doing it to remove the conflict of interest. She explained that she recently went to the Orono City Council meeting as well asking them to consider a third-part investigation as well. Kiser said that she wants the City Council to be informed of her mistreatment.

Holt stated that the City will make sure that the concerns are brought up at the next Police Commission meeting. He said that he hopes to get more information at this meeting.

Jay Nygard (Orono, MN) introduced himself to the City Council. He informed that he has also been abused by the Orono Police Department. He reviewed his treatment over the years with the Department as a negative one. He said that Kiser came to him for support. He said that the City of Mound needs to protect its residents and that there are other options for police services other than the Orono Police Department.

6. Orono Police Department Activity Report – December 2024

Sergeant Spencer introduced this item to the City Council. He informed that the report includes the month of December 2024. He said that calls for services have as expected for the time of year. He informed that the Department has been proactive with watching snow events and making sure cars are off the street. He mentioned that there is a Polar Plunge Event at Surfside Park on January 25, 2025.

Pugh mentioned the comments from Kiser, and asked Spencer about the Department's process and protocols in handling domestic calls. She said that she would like to know that information.

Spencer stated that he can ask the Police Chief to provide that information to the City Council. He informed that there are mandates depending on the type of situation.

Pugh asked about the Department's social worker and if they get involved in these cases.

Spencer informed that it depends on the case.

Pugh stated that domestic violence happens a lot and that it needs to be handled with sensitivity.

Castellano asked about how the training of the new police officer was going and if the Department was now fully staffed.

Spencer informed that the new officer is at Phase II of five phases of training. He said that they are now fully staffed.

7. Receive final plans and authorize bidding for Water Treatment Infrastructure Improvements – Phase 1, City Project PW 25-12.

Bauman introduced this item to the City Council. He informed that in the past, the City Council authorized the preparation and bidding for Water Treatment Improvements. He informed that Phase I of the Water Treatment Infrastructure Improvements has been prepared and is ready for authorization to advertise for bidding.

Bauman explained the project in more detail by stating that the project includes upsizing the existing water main on CSAH 15 from Cypress Lane to Chateau Lane and on Chateau Lane from CSAH 15 to the water tower.

Bauman said that the current engineer's estimate for the project is \$1,188,613.00. He stated that the desire is for the project to be bid and completed in the spring and done by mid-summer 2025.

Bauman said that staff is recommending that the City Council approve the attached resolution authorizing staff to advertise the project for bid.

MOTION BY MCENANEY, SECONDED BY CASTEALLO, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-10 RECEIVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE WATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – PHASE I. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

8. Receive engineering study and authorize bidding for CSAH 15 Sidewalk Improvement Projects: PW-25-08 and PW-25-09

Bauman introduced this item to the City Council. He informed that they 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the replacement of sidewalks along Hennepin County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15, Shoreline Drive, from Belmont Lane to the east city limits.

Bauman presented the engineering feasibility report for the project, that was previously approved, and stated that the report was prepared to determine the feasibility of reconstructing the sidewalks and

pedestrian ramps to American Disability Act (ADA) standards while partnering with Hennepin County for a cost share to do so.

Bauman reviewed the project would include concrete walkways that run parallel north and south along CSAH 15. He went into detail about where improvements would occur with regards to sidewalk replacements and improvements. Bauman reviewed total project costs in the amount of \$1,151,264 with a cost share between the County (\$625,113) and City (\$526,152).

Bauman said that staff is requesting that the City Council accept the engineering report and approve the included resolution that authorizes the preparation of plans and specifications for CSAH 15 sidewalks projects: PW-25-8 and PW-25-09.

MOTION BY CASTELLANO, SECONDED BY MCENANEY, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-11 RECEIVING REPORT AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE CSAH 15 SIDEWALKS PREPLACEMENT PROJECTS – BELMONT TO FAIRVIEW AND FAIRVIEW TO SETON: CITY PROJECT NO. PW-25-08 AND PW-25-09. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

9. Edgewater Park – Native Garden Expansion Project

Reisdorf introduced this item to the City Council. She explained that this item is coming to the City Council for review, consideration, and action with regards to a native garden expansion project at Edgewater Park.

Reisdorf said that a resident of Mound, Tyler Pieper, has, since 2021, done similar projects within City parks and that the City Council in the past has supported these project. She informed that in late 2024, Pieper approached the Parks and Open Spaces (POSC) Commission about this specific project idea that would expand the current gardens at Edgewater Park.

Reisdorf explained that the project was reviewed by the POSC and at the December 2024 meeting requested that staff send a letter to neighbors of the park inviting them to the January 2025 meeting to provide feedback. Reisdorf said that letters were sent and there was no one in attendance in person for the January meeting. She noted however the she received a phone call from a resident expressing concern about upkeep and maintenance of the gardens.

Reisdorf stated that the project was reviewed by the POSC at their January meeting and recommendations were made to address the concerns of the resident who called in. She informed that suggestions included putting mulch around the gardens to enhance curb appeal and the installation of informational signs to explain how the gardens work.

Reisdorf said that the POSC made a recommendation to the City Council to move forward with the project in the following manner:

1. That the City Council approve the presented design concept for the Edgewater Park Garden Expansion Project.
2. That the City Council approve that Pieper submit the grant application to the Hennepin County Good Steward Grant, and,
3. That the City Council approve an funding allocation of up to \$1,750 if the grant is received, as well as City staff support in the form of clearing and preparing the garden site, watering, mulching, and other minor tasks.

Pieper introduced himself to the City Council. He talked about the Hennepin Count Good Steward Grant and how the local Harrison's Bay Association applied for it in the past. He said that Harrison's Bay Association received funds to support a project that would reduce minerals from entering Lake Minnetonka. He noted that the bay in reference is classified as an "impaired bay".

Pieper talked about the endangered bee population and the work being done to bring them back and create places for them to thrive.

Pieper talked about the Edgewater Park location with a view of Lake Minnetonka. He said that he saw the project as a way to create a place where people can relax and enjoy nature.

Pieper reviewed the other active garden projects he has going on in other City parks and those commitments. He informed that this project would be similar in commitment and that he would volunteer his time to do so.

McEnaney said that project layout is nice. She asked about the times of year that are dry and how it would impact the plantings. She also asked about the concerns of the resident would be addressed as far as ongoing maintenance and upkeep.

Pieper recommended the installation of educational signs that would educate visitors on the gardens. He talked about the different seasons and how the various planting change seasonally. Pieper recommended mulch for the edging of the gardens. He talked about trimming maintenance and seed harvesting/reuse. Pieper stated that he is serious about the concerns and wants to make sure he is addressing those concerns and creating a park space that the neighbors are proud of.

Herrick said that the plan look beautiful, but stated that the park is currently an open space and if the City Council is ok with changing the use of the park. She mentioned that the City Council has considered selling park/open spaces and asked what would happen if the City sold the property. She asked if the planting would be able to be moved.

Reisdorf said that if grant funding is used for the project, that the City would have to adhere to the guidelines and timelines of the grant. She said there would be a commitment to that grant.

Pieper said that it would be at least a five year commitment. He said that staff sent letters to the neighboring property owners to ask for their feedback.

Herrick asked what the cost to the City would be long term.

Reisdorf said that year one of the project would include most time and financial cost. She said that staff time would be used to prepare the site and water the plants. She said that after the first year, Pieper reported that the plants would be established enough to not need watering.

Herrick expressed concern about the ability of Pieper to commit to the five years. She asked questions about if he moved or left the City. She wondered what would happen to the plantings in 5-10 years.

Pieper said he understood the concerns expressed and restated his commitment to keep working with the City and volunteer his time and help find a solution if that ever happened.

Pieper explained that there may be people who don't like the look of wild flowers and how they transition over the seasons. He said that he wants to educate people however and work with them.

Holt mentioned that the City Council had a workshop that evening on their goals and priorities for 2025. He said one of them was to look into the City-owned parks and open spaces to determine if any of them could be sold or used differently.

Pieper reiterated that it would be a five year commitment and one that would benefit that area. He asked the City Council to consider moving forward, even under times of uncertainty, even if there is a possibility for only a short term benefit.

Pugh stated that she is not in favor of selling land and noted that it is early in the process anyways and if the City Council was interested in selling land, it would take time.

Castellano said that he was in favor of the project. He liked that Pieper is so engaged in the community and willing to do something to benefit the community. He said that it is a small cost and that the Public Works Department has been supportive of these projects in the past.

MOTION by Pugh, seconded by Castellano, to approve the project, to allow Tyler Pieper to submit for the grant with Hennepin County, and to commit up to \$1,750 towards the project if the grant is received, as well as staff time and support. Motion passed 4-1 (Holt against).

10. Comments/Reports from Council Members:

Council Member Pugh – Stated that the local Gillespie Center is doing well. She said that they have a lot of activities going on. She reported that they do have long-term maintenance issues that they are navigating. Pugh stated that she is frustrated with the current dysfunction of at the State Capitol as far as State Representatives refusing to work together at the moment. She said that she called the City's representatives stressing the importance of working together and by them not working together, it is impacting not only the City of Mound, but others as well.

Council Member McEnaney – Mentioned the January 25, 2025 Polar Plunge event coming up.

Council Member Castellano – Nothing to report.

Council Member Herrick – Nothing to report.

Mayor Holt – Said that he recently met with the Mayor of the City of Orono that was recently elected. He said that they talked about the Orono Police Department contract. He said that they discussed fire service coverage in the region. Mentioned that upcoming, March 6, 2025, Day on the Hill event at the Capitol. He said that if anyone is interested in attending to let staff know. Mentioned the Lake Minnetonka Flats project that is underway. He informed that the first available unit is projected to be done by August 2025.

11. Information/Miscellaneous

A. Comments/reports from City Manager: Nothing to report.

B. Reports: Harbor Wine and Spirits – December 2024
Fire Department – November 2024

C. Minutes: November 14, 2024 Parks and Open Spaces Commission
December 3, 2024 – Planning Commission

D. Correspondence:

11. Adjourn

ACTION by Castellano, seconded by Pugh, to adjourn at 7:32 PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.


Attest: Kevin Kelly, Clerk


Mayor Jason R. Holt