

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
CITY COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Ham Lake City Council and Economic Development Authority met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Ham Lake City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmembers Gary Kirkeide, Al Parranto and Jesse Wilken

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Jim Doyle

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney, Mark Berglund; City Engineer, Tom Collins; and Deputy City Clerk, Dawnette Shimek

1.0 CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M. – Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kirkham called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Kirkham stated that people were here to talk about the Road Committee recommendations and stated they could speak during public comment.

Colin Crawford, 1222 Constance Boulevard NE, was present before the City Council to discuss the Road Committee's recommendation regarding the Buchanan Street NE connection at Constance Boulevard NE. Mr. Crawford stated he and his family moved to their home three years ago and were not aware of the proposed project. Mr. Crawford stated that he has attended meetings where this road has been discussed. Mr. Crawford stated this road alignment does not meet the goals of the residents and that many of the service roads in the area are constructed on Lincoln Street NE or Ulysses Street NE. Mr. Crawford stated that with the construction of Buchanan Street NE, the City is limiting any development of these affected properties. Mr. Crawford stated that the Buchanan Street NE connection will have a negative impact on the local business's such as Scooters Coffee, Victory Auto, and 651 Carpet. Mr. Crawford stated that they have approached these businesses and they are not in favor of the Buchanan Street NE connection and neither are the affected property owners. Mr. Crawford stated that none of the businesses or properties affected have received any notice regarding this connection. Mr. Crawford stated that their proposal is more efficient and cost-effective solution is to realign the service road to Lincoln Street NE. Mr. Crawford stated that the Lincoln Street NE proposal would line up with Bunker Lake Boulevard and Lincoln Street NE intersections. Mr. Crawford stated that this would better allow for future development of properties. Mr. Crawford asked the City Council if they have seen all of the proposed alignments and the City Council said they have. Mr. Crawford stated that a round-about with the Lincoln Street NE alignment would be a better solution.

Kris Daniels (owner of Scooter's Coffee), 1365 Constance Boulevard NE, stated he would also be in favor of the service road being constructed further east of Buchanan Street NE. Mr. Daniels stated that he understands that there is an ideal distance setback from Highway 65, but has noted that it is not always followed. Mr. Daniels stated he is also concerned with the future construction of a median on Constance Boulevard NE. Mr. Daniels stated that he is in favor of a round-about being constructed with the Lincoln Street NE alignment. Mr. Daniels stated that construction of a median will be detrimental to the businesses and asked the City to not support construction of a median on Constance Boulevard NE west of Highway 65 NE.

John Sheehan, 572 Theis Drive, Shakopee, MN, stated that he is representing Cathy Montain at 1160 Constance Boulevard NE. Mr. Theis stated that he grew up in Ham Lake and has watched the area grow. Mr. Theis stated he has a copy of the City's Comprehensive Plan and there are details and vision based on what is best for the community. Mr. Sheehan stated that water value comes up frequently in the Comprehensive Plan and open spaces. Mr. Sheehan stated that according to the City's Comprehensive Plan that area of the proposed service road is planned to be residential in 2040. Mr. Sheehan stated that the proposed road impacts the properties. Mr. Sheehan stated that the amount of road being constructed appears to be the same whether it is Buchanan Street NE or Lincoln Street NE. Mr. Sheehan stated concern with added costs for land acquisition and the effect on wetlands if the construction of Buchanan Street NE moves forward.

Mayor Kirkham stated that he would first address the concerns of Mr. Daniels regarding the raised median on Constance Boulevard NE; and Mayor Kirkham stated he does not support the raised median either but that is not in the City's hands and it also is not in the Anoka County 5-year plan. Mayor Kirkham stated Constance Boulevard NE is one of the last areas of Central Avenue NE that needs to be addressed and with Dollar General coming in, that has created more of the problem. Mayor Kirkham stated that he originally thought that Johnson Street NE would be the connection at Constance Boulevard, but in 2014 a map that was adopted by the City moved the road to Buchanan Street NE to connect further to the north in the future. Mayor Kirkham stated that the City has been taking steps to acquire right-of-way. Mayor Kirkham stated that they have had meetings with residents that are affected by this road alignment. Mayor Kirkham stated he is not in favor of the Lincoln Street NE alignment. Mayor Kirkham stated that the City Council would be acting on the recommendation of the Road Committee to approve directing the City Attorney to proceed with negotiations to acquire additional right-of-way to complete the Buchanan Street NE connection at Constance Boulevard NE. Mayor Kirkham stated that there may be a change to the north alignment of Buchanan Street NE. Mayor Kirkham stated that he does not see this affecting the businesses where Scooters and Victory Auto are located at this time. Councilmember Wilken questioned the Lincoln Street NE connection and how far south it would go. Councilmember Wilken clarified that the City would only be acting on directing the City Attorney to proceed with negotiations to acquire additional right-of-way and not approving the road project.

3.0 SPECIAL APPEARANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

3.1 Kari Lund, Executive Director of the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce - Update

Kari Lund, Executive Director of the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce, was present before the City Council. Director Lund stated that there are two sides with the chamber: one being the general side and the other being the gambling side. Director Lund stated that chamber membership has gone from 125 to 155 in 2023. Ms. Lund stated that the Chamber will hold five major events in 2024 that include the Farmers Market, Freedom Festival, Golf Tournament, Brew Fest, and Hometown Holiday. Director Lund reminded

the City Council of the monthly networking lunches that are held the second Wednesday of each month. Director Lund stated that gambling proceeds in 2022 were just over \$330,000 and increased in 2023 to \$446,325. Director Lund stated that they hold charitable gambling licenses at Moonshine Whisky, Ham Lake Lanes, and Majestic Oaks. Director Lund stated that the Chamber focuses on youth and North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf (NACE), Director Lund hopes to maintain the momentum through 2024. Mayor Kirkham thanked Director Lund.

3.2 6:01 P.M. – Public Hearing – to consider the vacation of a portion of the roadway easement located at 2152 South Ham Lake Drive NE and adoption of a Resolution No. 24-01

Mayor Kirkham opened the public hearing for comment at 6:42 p.m. and with there being no comment, Mayor Kirkham closed the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the property where the vacation is occurring affects his neighborhood. Councilmember Kirkeide stated he would be abstaining from voting on this item. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the property being vacated will cause a cul-de-sac to extend 1,100 feet in length limit in an abutting development. Engineer Collins displayed a drawing showing other right-of-way previously vacated in the 1980's and this would be a connection to the vacation. Engineer Collins stated that if the property were developed in the future, they would have to dedicate right-of-way and construct the roads. **Motion by Parranto, seconded by Wilken, to adopt Resolution No. 24-01 approving the vacation of a portion of the roadway easement located at 2152 South Ham Lake Drive NE. Mayor Kirkham and Councilmembers Parranto and Wilken voted yes. Councilmember Kirkeide abstained. Motion carried.**

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

These items are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence. (All items listed on the Consent Agenda are recommended for approval.)

- 4.1 Approval of minutes of December 18, 2023
- 4.2 Approval of claims in the amount of \$324,088.39
- 4.3 Approval of changes to the Ham Lake Fire Relief Association Bylaws, Appendix C for a pension increase from \$5,000 to \$5,200 per year of service, effective January 3, 2024
- 4.4 Approval of designation of appointment of representative and alternate to the Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Team (Nicole Wheeler and alternate Jennifer Bohr)
- 4.5 Approval of designation of official newspaper
- 4.6 Approval of designation of official depositories: 21st Century Bank, Falcon National Bank, RBC Capital Markets, PMA Financial Network/PMA Securities, Inc., Mortenson Capital Markets, LLC, and UBS Financial Services, Inc.
- 4.7 Approval of Resolution No. 24-02 accepting the low bid for the 2024 Overlay Project
- 4.8 Approval of Resolution No. 24-03 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for equipment for the City of Ham Lake Fire Department
- 4.9 Approval of Officer appointments of District Chief for Station 3 and Captain for Fire Stations 1 and 3
- 4.10 Approval of Officer appointments of Captain for Fire Stations 1 and 2
- 4.11 Road Committee Recommendations:

- 1) Approval of directing the City Attorney to proceed with negotiations to acquire additional right-of-way to complete the Buchanan Street NE connection at Constance Boulevard NE

Councilmember Wilken pulled items 4.3 and 4.10 from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Parranto, to approve the January 2, 2024 consent agenda without items 4.3 and 4.10. All present in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Kirkham, seconded by Parranto to approve items 4.3 and 4.10 of the January 2, 2024 Consent Agenda. Upon vote duly taken, Mayor Kirkham and Councilmembers Parranto and Kirkeide voted yes. Councilmember Wilken abstained. Motion carried.

5.0 PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – None

6.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – None

7.0 APPEARANCES – None

8.0 CITY ATTORNEY – None

9.0 CITY ENGINEER – None

10.0 CITY ADMINISTRATOR – None

11.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

11.1 Committee Reports – None

11.2 Consideration of appointment of Acting Mayor, Committee liaisons and liaisons with other organizations: Acting Mayor, EDA President (1), EDA Vice President (1) Personnel (2), Economic Development, Met Council & Metropolitan Council reform effort Committee (2), Law Enforcement (2), Fire Department Liaisons (2), North Central Suburban Cable Communications Commission (and alternate), Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce (2), Road Committee (2), Ham Laker Task Force (2), Audit (2), Building/Energy Committee (2), Park Committee (2), Fire Relief Association Board of Trustees (3), Code Review Committee (2) (and alternate), Building Department Committee (2), Public Works Committee (2), CERT Committee, and Equipment Committee (2)

Motion by Kirkham, seconded by Wilken, to amend the Fire Relief Association of Trustees and remove Andrea Murff and replace with Angela Brumbaugh, remove the CERT Committee in its entirety and add Watershed Management Organization Liaison (1) and appoint Mayor Kirkham to the Committee, with all as noted below for 2024:

- **Acting Mayor (1): Councilmember Wilken**
- **EDA President (1): Mayor Kirkham**
- **EDA Vice President (1): Councilmember Wilken**
- **Personnel (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Doyle**
- **Economic Development (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Parranto**
- **Met Council & Metropolitan Council reform effort Committee (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Kirkeide**
- **Law Enforcement (2): Mayor Kirkham and Councilmember Wilken**
- **Fire Department Liaisons (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Parranto**

- **North Metro Telecommunications Commission (1): Councilmember Wilken
(alternate: Councilmember Parranto)**
 - **Chamber of Commerce (2): Mayor Kirkham & City Administrator Webster**
 - **Road Committee (2): Councilmembers Kirkeide & Doyle**
 - **Ham Laker Task Force (2): Councilmembers Parranto & Wilken**
 - **Audit (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Doyle**
 - **Building/Energy Committee (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Kirkeide**
 - **Park Committee (2): Mayor Kirkham & Councilmember Parranto**
 - **Fire Relief Association Board of Trustees (3): Mayor Kirkham, Fire Chief Raczkowski &
Finance Director Angela Brumbaugh**
 - **Code Review Committee (2): Councilmembers Kirkeide & Wilken
(alternate: Mayor Kirkham)**
 - **Building Department Committee (2): Councilmembers Kirkeide & Parranto**
 - **Public Works Committee (2): Councilmembers Kirkeide & Doyle**
 - **Equipment Committee (2): Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmember Gary Kirkeide**
 - **Watershed Organization Liaison (1): Mayor Brian Kirkham**
- All present in favor, motion carried.**

11.3 Discussion of North Metro Telecommunications merger

Councilmember Wilken stated the Cable Commission meets quarterly rather than monthly now. Councilmember Wilken stated that at the September Cable Commission meeting a Blaine Commissioner informed the Cable Commission that the City of Blaine was exploring and going to have a workshop about North Metro Telecommunications merging with CCX Media. They have asked to get the City Councils consensus if they would like to pursue the merger. The City of Blaine has two reasons to consider the merger: 1) Executive Director Arneson is retiring and they are talking about who will be her replacement; and 2) Because of streaming services depleting funds. Councilmember Wilken does not see a benefit to the merger. Mayor Kirkham stated that the City of East Bethel does their own streaming and maybe that is something that should be looked into. **It was the consensus of the Ham Lake City Council to not support the merging of North Metro Telecommunications with CCX Media.**

11.4 Announcements and future agenda items – None

Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Parranto, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.

Dawnette Shimek, Deputy City Clerk