

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the regular meeting of the Osseo City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Ashlee Mueller, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Public Works Director Nick Waldbillig and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: John Hall, City Resident; Preston Kroska, City Resident; Lissa Pew, Co-Founder of Maria's Voice; Twila Johnson, Executive Director of Maria's Voice.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Poppe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA [Additions - Deletions]

Poppe asked for additions or deletions to the Agenda.

A motion was made by Vickerman, seconded by Hultstrom, to accept the Agenda as amended adding Item 10F – Consider PSAC Member Appointment. The motion carried 5-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve February 26 Work Session Minutes
- B. Approve February 26 Council Minutes
- C. Receive December 5, 2023, Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
- D. Receive February 5 Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
- E. Receive February 29 Parks and Recreation Committee Special Meeting Minutes
- F. Receive February Fire Department Activity Report

Hultstrom commented on the February 26 Council minutes, noting on Page 14 the motion to table was not voted on.

Grams asked if this was for Item D on Page 14.

Hultstrom explained the motion was at the bottom of the page for Central Avenue. Grams indicated the motion was made on Page 14 and the motion was reflected at the bottom of Page 15.

Hulstrom supported the minutes being approved with the noted changes.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended by the noted changes to the minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

John Hall, 808 3rd Street NE, thanked Councilmember Vickerman, Councilmember Hultstrom and Mayor Poppe for voting to support the reclamation street project. He reiterated that he has spoken with an attorney and he would be attesting his special assessment, as would other residents in Osseo. He asked how the City would be utilizing the collected special assessments. He expressed frustration with the fact questions raised by the public during Matters from the Floor are not addressed by the Council at a public meeting. He stated this was raising concern amongst the residents of Osseo.

Preston Kroska, 601 Second Avenue NE, commented on a records request he made with the City and stated it was his understanding he would have the information shortly. He encouraged the Council to set the weight limits within the City per axle versus having a flat rate. He suggested the Council not have an ordinance in place that would not be enforced.

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. MARIA'S VOICE PRESENTATION

Lissa Pew, Co-Founder of Maria's Voice, thanked the Council for their time. She stated Maria's Voice is a local domestic violence prevention and awareness organization who honors her daughter Maria Pew, whose life was taken at age 28 by domestic violence in April of 2020. She explained Maria's Voice Prevention Network provides domestic abuse prevention education with national award-winning video education in English and Spanish to make for easy and accessible learning for employees/members of cities, businesses, organizations, and faith communities. The mission, vision and values for Maria's Voice were further discussed with the Council.

Twila Johnson, Executive Director of Maria's Voice, provided the Council with further information on the domestic violence education she would like to provide to Osseo employees. She explained over 100,000 were educated by Maria's Voice in 2023. It was her hope Maria's Voice would be able to provide Osseo's employees with training at no cost on domestic violence in order to promote a culture of safety, health and wellness. She hoped to host a lunch and learn training session with staff. She shared a major fundraising event would be held on June 22 in partnership with the Osseo American Legion. She stated this event would be a motorcycle ride from Wild Prairie Harley with several stops along the way and would end at the Osseo/Maple Grove Legion. She discussed how the Osseo American Legion has been a strong partner with Maria's Voice.

Vickerman thanked Ms. Johnson and Ms. Pew for the valuable presentation.

Hultstrom thanked Ms. Johnson and Ms. Pew for reaching out to her and for offering this training to the City of Osseo.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None
9. OLD BUSINESS – None
10. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE 2024 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

Grams stated Osseo Youth Sports will take place on Monday and Wednesday nights at Sipe Park. There will be two sports offered each night, for a variety of ages. Classes will begin at 5:30 pm with the youngest children and end at 7:40 pm for the oldest. Ages will range from 3-10. The summer schedule will be three four-week sessions. RevSports has found that this allows them to keep all their partners on the same schedule, so in the event coaches need to be moved around they can still ensure that the programming is consistent. Staff reviewed the proposed programming for the summer of 2024 with Council and recommended approval.

Mueller stated the Parks and Rec Committee discussed this matter at length and commented on how much the City is participating. She believed the youth sports programming was an asset to the community and she appreciated how Osseo was working to keep costs affordable both residents and non-residents.

A motion was made by Mueller, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the proposed 2024 Osseo Youth Sports Program.

Schulz indicated this was a really great program for the community and he appreciated how the City offered programming for youth. He thanked the Parks and Rec Committee for reviewing this matter in detail and for making the proposed recommendation to the Council. He commented on how important it was for the Council to look out for all residents of Osseo, which included seniors, young families and the youth in the community.

Vickerman commented on how youth sports programming cost more in other cities. She appreciated how Osseo worked to make these programs an affordable option for Osseo families.

The motion carried 5-0.

B. APPROVE 2024 MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK SERIES

Grams stated the 2024 Music and Movies in the Park calendar will have 9 dates over the course of the summer. This includes each Tuesday from June 11 through the end of August, with the exceptions of July 2 (4th of July week), August 6 (Night to Unite), and August 27 (reserved as a rain date). Staff has tentatively scheduled the nine performances, though contracts won't be sent for signature until there is official Council approval. This year the sub-committee focused on scheduling bands with Osseo roots.

The City will once again be partnering with Swank Motion Pictures to provide movie screenings at the series. The cost per movie is \$520 (\$490 movie, \$30 shipping).

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Mueller, to approve the proposed 2024 Music and Movies in the Park event series.

Vickerman thanked the City's community partners for supporting this program through their generous donations.

The motion carried 5-0.

C. APPROVE PURCHASE OF PUBLIC WORKS UTILITY PICK UP TRUCK

Waldbillig stated Public Works is replacing a 2009 standard cab light duty work truck as a part of a 15-year CIP replacement plan. This truck will be used in many aspects of the public works department including snow removal, asphalt patching, park maintenance and utility work. The truck Staff is trying to purchase is a 2024 3500 series standard cab with an 8' box. Staff has explored many options for this truck varying from different brands, light/heavy duty, and used. During this research Staff verified that the State bid process allows new trucks to be purchased well under local dealer pricing including used trucks. A new truck can be purchased on the state bid for the same price as a used truck 3-5 years old with 100,000 miles. Staff also verified the make and model truck will be versatile and very dependable. There are many examples of this vehicle in nearby utility departments and maintenance groups, where they have reported that they are very happy with the performance, low maintenance costs, and durability during snow removal. This truck will be purchased through Midway Ford Commercial Fleet & Government Sales, then outfitted with a snowplow and toolbox from Crysteel. It will then be taken to Action Radio for an emergency lighting package.

Poppe requested further information on how this pickup truck will be utilized by the Public Works Department. Waldbillig discussed how the truck would be used by his department, noting it would also have a snow plow to assist with plowing alleys.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the purchase of the Ford 3500 series truck for \$50,222.28 plus outfitting.

Mueller thanked Public Works Director Waldbillig for prioritizing his fleet, for taking good care of the City's equipment, and for giving more attention to the pieces of equipment that were more important to his staff.

Vickerman thanked Public Works Director Waldbillig for answering all of her questions earlier today.

Waldbillig commented on the ordinance the Council recently approved regarding the City's street weight restriction. He stated after speaking with neighboring communities, he recommended the tonnage be changed to five ton per axle. He suggested the Council further discuss this topic at a future workshop meeting.

The motion carried 5-0.

D. APPROVE 2024 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Grams stated each year City staff and the Risk Management Committee meet with our IT Consultant (Element Technologies) to discuss needed and planned tech upgrades to the City's overall system. We typically look at what physical machines or systems need replacement, what security upgrades we should consider, and other IT related items. This year, we propose the following upgrades:

1) City Council Laptop Computers - \$12,345.40

The City Council laptop computers are scheduled to be updated and replaced per the IT Replacement Schedule. The City will retain the current City Council laptops and re-use them as needed within the office. The proposal includes set up for the computers, Microsoft Business licenses, and Office 365 tools.

Grams provided the Council with additional information on the pricing for Surface tablets noting if the Council proceeded with this option, there would be a \$1,500 savings for the City.

Schulz stated the Council recently discussed its preferences when it comes to laptops versus a tablet. He explained he prefers using a tablet and this was a less expensive option. He supported the City moving forward with the tablets going forward.

Hultstrom indicated she struggled with this one given the fact Element was not always providing the best pricing. She feared the Council was not given enough options for the proposed purchases. She stated she owns her own iPad and she has never used a City computer. She believed more flexibility could have been offered and more bids should have been pursued. She recommended the Council pursue the tablets instead of the laptops.

Vickerman asked if a certain number of tablets had to be purchased. Grams stated a certain number was not necessary but explained the City typically replaced all of the units at the same time for budgeting and better purchasing power. He indicated the Council could pick and choose what they wanted to purchase.

Poppe questioned if Element had recommendations on when units should be replaced. Grams reported Element recommended all machines be replaced every six years.

Hultstrom indicated Councilmembers have their own cell phones and wi-fi networks. She stated she did not support the argument that all machines have to be replaced every six years.

Vickerman explained she appreciated the fact Councilmembers were provided with a device once elected to the City Council.

Hultstrom questioned why bids for iPads were not pursued. She reported iPads were much more secure than tablets. She indicated she has worked on her iPad ever since she was elected to the City Council and she has not had any issues. She believed if the City was spending this much money once every eight years, more options should have been provided to the Council and bids should have been provided outside of Element.

She stated she personally would not use a Surface tablet because she purchased her own iPad.

Poppe inquired if this purchase was critical in nature, or could other options be considered at a future meeting. Grams stated the replacement of the computers was not critical but was recommended by Element.

Mueller asked the agreement with Element required the City to use them for all device purchases. Grams reported the City did not have to use Element, but the City typically does, based on their recommendations.

Hultstrom commented on the purchases that were made in 2018 stating she recalled they were purchased through the State bidding process.

Schulz stated this was correct noting the State bid process was used in 2018. He explained he priced the Microsoft Surface on their site and noted the City would save \$50 per device if purchased through their website. He commented on how the Council didn't used to have devices, but they were purchased to save on printing costs. He indicated personally, he was not in favor of using an Apple product. He supported the Surface tablets being purchased and stated the Council could opt to not purchase a tablet for Councilmember Hultstrom. He understood the Council had the right to use their own device, but this also came with a risk of that device being subpoenaed.

Hultstrom indicated she only attends to work on her iPad. She stated she had the same argument in the other direction noting she was biased towards Apple. She suggested the Councilmembers be able to have a choice. She did not believe she should have to be forced to use a device she didn't want to. She explained there were plenty of cities that strictly went with Apple and carry iPhones.

Mueller stated she leaned towards having a tablet versus a laptop. She indicated she did not have a preference when it came to a Surface or an iPad.

Vickerman explained she uses the laptop provided by the City, but noted it was not convenient. She stated she would rather use a phone or tablet for convenience purposes.

Poppe supported the Council having more bid options prior to making a decision. He stated the Council had a lot of questions still. It was his hope having more bids would assist in driving down costs. He indicated he used his City provided laptop for Council work and this was burdensome. He supported staff receiving more bids and that this item be brought back to a future City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Mueller, to table action on this item to a future City Council meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

E. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams reviewed the Accounts Payable with the Council.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the Accounts Payable as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

F. CONSIDER PSAC MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Hultstrom stated on February 26, 2024, there was a PSAC member that came to the podium and spoke. She understood PSAC members have first amendment rights but she believed when residents serve on a Committee or Commission that they were in a different category when it comes to language and language used. She felt a personal attack was made on Police Chief Mikkelson and unnecessary language was used. She understood PSAC member runs a Facebook page asking for respectful communication. She was of the opinion the same respectful communication should be expected in the Council Chambers and from committee/commission members. She did not support this PSAC member continuing on the committee as a hostile environment has been created. She supported this PSAC member being removed for the benefit of Osseo.

Mueller explained she supported Councilmember Hultstrom's comments. She indicated she was taken aback by the comments that were made by the PSAC member on February 26. She understood everyone was allowed to have feelings, opinions and thoughts, but when comments are made at a public meeting, this unsettled her. Especially, when these comments were focused towards a department that was already being targeted in so many ways for just doing their job and serving the community.

Vickerman stated she was curious to hear the comments from the Council on this topic. She explained she was not inclined to remove someone from a committee or commission for having an opposing view. She saw value in having conversations and discourse. However, she also understood people had to be careful in what they were putting out there at a public meeting. She indicated she was uncertain where she stood on this matter at this time.

Poppe commented in his opinion, the PSAC members comments were in contrast of what the City was trying to develop. He also understood that differing viewpoints and perspectives help shape a better solution. He stated with something like this there might have been an over reaction or something going on at a personal level. He indicated he would rather give the PSAC member the benefit of the doubt, coach him up and have a conversation on how the City does things. If this behavior continues, then the Council could reconsider how to address this situation.

Hultstrom stated she agreed with the Mayor's comments wholeheartedly about the value of differing opinions. She understood differing opinions help us to see things we don't see on our own. However, she was very concerned about the personal attacks that were made on the Police Chief. She commented as the PSAC Chair, she has had some struggles to keep this PSAC member on agenda and often times, comments are made that are off topic. She feared that keeping this member would show complacency on the City's part.

Schulz indicated he spent a great deal of time thinking about this issue. He stated he wished that people who addressed the Council were more respectful. He believed the lack of respect fell to the Mayor and how he ran the meetings. He understood disrespectful comments have been made and the Mayor lets it go. He indicated when

people are not forced to be respectful, this type of event can occur. He was of the opinion the removal of this PSAC member was too punitive. He stated while did not agree with the PSAC members comments, he appreciated his volunteerism. He commented on how respectful dissension was important to the City's process. He did not believe the Council should always have the same thought process. He stated this was the reason the Council brought in community members to offer their voices. However, he noted he was embarrassed by the behavior of the people speaking during Matters from the Floor when the Boy Scouts were in attendance. He expressed frustration with the fact the Mayor has not dropped the gavel one time during Matters from the Floor. He recommended the PSAC members behavior be monitored and if it continues to get worse that further discussion be held by the Council. He indicated he did not support the removal of this PSAC member for expressing his opinion at an open meeting.

Vickerman stated the Council did not have policy in place that addresses the appropriate behavior for commission/committee members. While she shared the concerns raised by Councilmember Hultstrom and Councilmember Vickerman, she did not believe the Council had grounds to remove someone.

Poppe discussed how easy it was for people to take shots at the Council from behind a keyboard versus having an actual conversation. He stated this was really sad.

Hultstrom commented a personal attack was made on Police Chief Mikkelson. She did not believe inaction was an answer. She was in favor of the Council practicing what they preach, which was to preach respect. She discussed the City Council's code of conduct and how it called for a respectful workplace. She feared that if the Council continued to be complacent the PSAC committee would not properly function. She indicated she would have a really hard time continuing as Chair of this committee. She stated if this PSAC member was so adamant about his dislike for Police Chief Mikkelson, maybe the PSAC Committee was not for this individual. She stated she could not turn a blind eye to these actions and she did not like the hostile environment that has been created. She supported commission/committee members being held to some level of responsibility and believed their comments should remain respectful.

Vickerman stated in light of everything that Councilmember Hultstrom has brought up, the Council could ask this member to resign from PSAC. She indicated this would be a conversation that could be held with the PSAC member given his actions and the hostile environment that has been created.

Schulz explained behavior at meetings falls to the person presiding over the meeting. He questioned if Councilmember Hultstrom had ever chosen to gavel the PSAC member. He stated at Council meetings the council takes verbal abuse from the public because the Mayor does not choose to be confrontational. While he understood this was difficult, without teaching the public what was and was not appropriate, how would they know the difference. He stated he knew there were other factors at play with the PSAC member. He understood people say hurtful and hateful things at times. He was of the opinion the PSAC member could be counseled. He also understood that it would be Councilmember Hultstrom's choice whether or not she wanted to resign from PSAC.

Mueller indicated the entire Council has agreed there is value in differing opinions. However, she did have concerns with the fact a PSAC member spoke out against the Police Chief and the entire police department at a public meeting, stating there was a lack of trust. She stated all police departments have been getting a lot of heat over the past few years and the public safety departments don't deserve this. She explained for someone who has volunteered to serve on a Public Safety Advisory Committee and speaks opening about his lack of trust of the department, this was concerning to her. She thought perhaps, this PSAC member did not want to continue his service on the committee. She hoped that the members of PSAC could be a supportive voice for the Osseo Police Department. She supported the PSAC member being asked to resign or that coaching be offered.

Hultstrom explained she has had other committee members come and speak to her, but not once has she had them personally attack the Police Chief or other key City employees. She did not appreciate hearing the words this PSAC member did not trust the Police Chief. She supported Councilmember Vickerman's suggestion that the Council ask this PSAC member to resign. She indicated she had a really hard time allowing this type of behavior to continue in the Council Chambers, especially coming from a committee/commission member. She stated personal attacks should never be allowed. She questioned what the proposed coaching would look like and wondered if the PSAC member wanted to be coached. She understood the PSAC member was invited to attend this meeting and he was not in attendance. She feared the Council had become too complacent and was willing to accept this type of behavior.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Mueller, to adopt a Resolution, removing PSAC Member Kenny Nelson from the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The motion failed 2-3 (Schulz, Vickerman and Poppe opposed).

Hultstrom stated she serves on PSAC with Councilmember Mueller and they felt different about this matter than the rest of the Council. She asked how the Council wanted to address this matter.

Poppe suggested Councilmember Hultstrom hold a meeting with Mr. Nelson, along with PSAC and the City Administrator to address his behavior and ask if he still wanted to be a part of PSAC.

Hultstrom requested Administrator Grams work with her to schedule a meeting with Mr. Nelson.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Mueller, to direct Staff to schedule a meeting with PSAC Member Kenny Nelson, PSAC Committee Members and City Administrator Grams.

Schulz commented if the Council wants to establish correct, respectful and proper dialogue at meetings, this responsibility has to be pushed to those chairing the meetings.

The motion passed 5-0.

11. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Grams reported the City was successful in getting a \$500,000 federal grant for the Boerboom Park expansion project.

12. COUNCIL AND ATTORNEY REPORTS

Hultstrom wished a happy Ramadan to those who celebrate.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poppe invited the public to participate in the Red Cross Blood Drive that would be held on Wednesday, March 20 at the Community Center from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Poppe encouraged the public to attend the Easter Egg Hunt that would be hosted by the Osseo Fire Department on Saturday, March 23 at Boerboom Park at 12:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Schulz, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial