

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2023**

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, April 10, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Harold E. Johnson, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Community Management Coordinator Joe Amerman, and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: Kenny Nelson, City Resident; Karen Ruzicka, City Resident; Frank Ruzicka, City Resident.

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 Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve March 27 Work Session Minutes
- B. Approve March 27 Council Minutes
- C. Receive March 22 Public Safety Advisory Committee Minutes
- D. Approve Hire of Firefighters Seth Blomgren and Dan-Kha Michael Trinh
- E. Approve Hire of Police Reserve Officer Bobby Greene
- F. Approve Training Request for City Clerk for MCFOA Institute
- G. Approve Training Request for City Accountant for MCFOA Institute
- H. Approve Training Request for Community Management Coordinator for LMC Conference
- I. Receive March Building Report
- J. Receive March American Legion Gambling Report
- K. Receive March Fire Activity Report

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Hultstrom, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR – None

Kenny Nelson, 509 Third Avenue NE, encouraged the City Council to refrain from reviewing the EDA actions on the same night as the EDA meetings. He recommended the Council review the EDA actions at their second meeting in the month.

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. NO MOW MAY PRESENTATION – Zero Waste Advocates of Minnesota

Amerman stated the Zero Waste Advocates of Minnesota group has asked to provide the Council with a presentation regarding No Mow May. No Mow May is a movement that has gained popularity across North America over the last few years which advocates for people to pause mowing during the month of May each spring, allowing flowers to bloom in your lawn and help early season pollinators. The Zero Waste Advocates of Minnesota group will be presenting virtually to the Council on Monday night. The Mayor considered reading a proclamation which encourages Osseo residents and businesses to participate in No Mow May.

Ashley Kennedy, Zero Waste Advocates of Minnesota, explained the No Mow May campaign gives City residents the choice to opt out of mowing their grass for the month of May. She reviewed the numerous benefits of not mowing lawns in May, which included providing food for pollinators, reduces natural resources, and promotes bird reproduction. She discussed how No Mow May began and noted at least 25 cities in the metro area were participating in 2023.

Vickerman asked if residents should also wait to clean out their landscaped areas until later in May or June. Ms. Kennedy commented on how this was beneficial for pollinators.

Johnson stated having been a gardener for over 20 years he understood how hard people worked on their yards to keep them free and clear of dandelions. He anticipated some residents would be frustrated by the fact their neighbors would be allowing the dandelions in their yard go to seed. For this reason, he did not support No Mow May.

Hultstrom and Vickerman both supported No Mow May.

Poppe read a proclamation in full for the record regarding No Mow May and encouraged the residents of Osseo to participate.

B. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Grams stated the City has received the following donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount/Item</u>	<u>Designated Fund</u>
Osseo Fire Relief Association	\$500	Fire Equipment
Osseo Fire Relief Association	\$1,000	Night to Unite
Osseo Fire Relief Association	\$2,000	Music and Movies in the Park
Whittemore Chapter #283	\$150	Police
Osseo Lions Club	\$1,500	Night to Unite

Whittemore Chapter #283	\$150	Fire
Harold E. Johnson	\$750	Beautification

Staff recommended the Council accept the donations.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-20, accepting a donation from the Osseo Fire Relief Association, Whittemore Chapter #283, Osseo Lions Club and Harold E. Johnson. The motion carried 5-0.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

9. OLD BUSINESS – None

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONFIRM EDA ACTIONS OF APRIL 10, 2023

Grams discussed the actions of the EDA. He noted the EDA approved accounts payable, approved the updated EDA bylaws allowing for every other month meetings, approved an updated meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023, and discussed the EDA business survey project. He commented on how tabling action on this item would delay action on the business survey.

Schulz asked if the City Council needed to approve or confirm the actions of the EDA in order for Staff to take action on EDA items. City Attorney Tietjen explained this has been the past practice of the Council. She reported there was no legal requirement for the Council to confirm the actions of the EDA, rather this was a practice the City had in place.

Schulz questioned if the Council even needed to have this item on the Council meeting agendas going forward. City Attorney Tietjen suggested before this item was removed, that Staff be allowed to review this further. She recommended this item be revisited by the Council on April 24.

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to table action on this item to the April 24, 2023 City Council meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

B. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH RAINBOW TREECARE FOR EMERALD ASH BORER TREATMENT

Amerman stated in response to the growing incidents of Emerald Ash Borer infestations, both in Osseo and the wider metro area, Staff recently began looking at ways to take preventative action in the hopes of preserving the city's Ash tree population. In the last few decades, the Emerald Ash Borer population, an invasive beetle endemic to North-East Asia, has moved through the United States feeding on Ash trees with a nearly 100% fatality rate. In response municipalities across the country have undertaken efforts to preserve their trees, or at least mitigate the damage done by the beetle. The most effective means found so far is treat each endangered ash tree with a cocktail of insecticides once every two years. These insecticides are injected directly into the trunk of the Ash tree to kill the larvae, and recent studies have found

the treatment to be 99% effective. To make these treatments more affordable for public entities and private residents, many cities have begun partnering with tree care companies like Rainbow Treecare to provide injections at a reduced price. Minnetonka-based Rainbow Treecare has been treating Ash trees since 2004, and has partnered with more than 35 metro cities to provide this service to both public and private trees. Staff commented further on the cost of the tree care and requested the Council approve a contract with Rainbow Treecare to provide preventative EAB treatments.

Hultstrom asked if it would be a concern if the City does not treat their Ash trees and neighboring communities did. Amerman stated he was uncertain how the infestation spreads. He reported it was his understanding Brooklyn Park has set aside 20 years of funding to treat their Ash trees.

Vickerman indicated she was concerned about the percentage of the tree canopy that would be lost if the City did not protect the Ash trees. She stated she supported the EAB treatments in order to protect the City's tree canopy.

Johnson asked if the dead Ash trees would be removed as part of this agreement. Amerman explained this work would be completed after a tree assessment was completed by Rainbow Treecare.

Johnson questioned how the City would fund this expenditure, noting it was not included in the 2023 budget. Grams indicated this agreement would be funded by the CIP Parks Fund.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to approve an agreement with Rainbow Treecare to provide preventative EAB treatments in 2023. The motion carried 5-0.

C. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams reviewed the Accounts Payable with the Council.

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

11. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – None
12. COUNCIL AND ATTORNEY REPORTS

Amerman reported registration for youth sports was now open at DiscoverOsseo.com/Recreation.

Hultstrom explained the HR Committee held interviews last Friday for the Police Department.

Hultstrom indicated she was being appointed to the HR and Data Practices Committee through the League of Minnesota Cities.

Hultstrom sent her condolences to the Chetek and Cameron Police Departments.

Johnson reported the Osseo Historical Preservation Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Osseo City Hall.

Johnson stated the next Osseo 150th Anniversary Celebration planning meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Realife Cooperative. He noted meetings would continue going forward and would be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Johnson commented on the concerns he has received from residents regarding the City's utility rates.

Schulz stated he served as the liaison to CCX Media and noted he was recently elected Chair of their board. He explained Dave Kaiser who was promoted to Executive Director has decided to take advantage of a para phased retirement. He noted the Board has now appointed Shannon Slatton as the new Executive Director.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poppe stated the Osseo Clean Up Day would be held on Saturday, April 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Public Works parking lot.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial