

CITY OF WACONIA
June 3, 2024

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Waconia was called to order by Mayor Waldron at 6:00 p.m.

The following Council Members were present: Nicole Waldron, Randy Sorensen, Steve Yetzer, Jeff Grengs, and Nick Gleason.

The following staff were present: Shane Fineran, Jackie Schulze, Nicole Meyer, Lane Braaten, Justin Sorensen, and City Attorney Mike Melchert.

2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3) **ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion by Yetzer second by Grengs to Adopt the Agenda as Published.
MOTION CARRIED.

4) **PUBLIC HEARING**

Public Hearing - Zoning Accommodation Request - Battlefield Ministries

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[Battlefield Ministries Response Letter](#)

[Sober House Addendum to request for reasonable accommodation](#)

[John Curtiss Expert Report Letter 05-08-24](#)

[Jen Romero Carver County Health and Human Services Letter 05-07-24](#)

[Jessica Hart NorthStar Regional Treatment Center Letter 05-09-24](#)

[Tim Groth Letter w Attachment 05-08-24](#)

[Letter from the Landlord 05-07-24](#)

Lane Braaten gave the Council background on this item stating the Council attended a work session and discussed reasonable accommodations for Battlefield Ministries located at 415 1st Street West. Staff sent out a Public Hearing Notice and received many public comments which were provided to the Council. The applicant is requesting to keep the Public Hearing open until the next Council meeting scheduled for June 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. as they are waiting on an expert to make a presentation to the Council.

Motion by Sorensen second by Yetzer to open the Public Hearing.
MOTION CARRIED.

Braaten explained to those present that the public hearing will remain open, and this will not be the only opportunity to speak in front of the Council.

Ailisha Titus, 415 1st Street West. Has been a resident at this address for 10 months. Explained to the Council the importance of this house and the importance of this community.

Kayla Stidger, 415 1st Street West. Provided a brief history of her journey before coming to Battlefield Ministries. Due to circumstances, she no longer wanted to live and after a long stay in the hospital, came to this sober home for recovery. Thanked the Council for their time and requested this accommodation be approved.

Randy Weinziert, 415 1st Street West. Has over 22 years in recovery and has lived in Waconia for more than 20 years. Resident has opened their home to the residents of Battlefield Ministries and has trust in each person living at the sober home. This is a sober living house and went to a website titled Carver County Crime Viewer and there has not been one police call this this house.

Motion by Gleason sec by Grengs to continue this public hearing tot the June 17, 2024, City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

5) [VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE](#)

NONE

6) [ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA](#)

6.1 [Approve May 6th and May 20th, 2024 City Council Minutes](#)

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[May 6, 2024 City Council Minutes](#)

[May 20, 2024 City Council Minutes](#)

6.2 [Approve June 3, 2024 Expenditures](#)

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[June 2, 2024 Council List-Expenditures](#)

6.3 [Contractor Pay Request #1 - Waconia Downtown Reconstruction - Phase 2](#)

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[Pay Request #1 Downtown Phase 2 05-29-2024](#)

6.4 Capital Equipment Project #588 - Skidsteer Replacement

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[Resolution No. 2024-120 Approving Quotes for Capital Equipment Project #588](#)

[Ziegler CAT 272D3XE Quote](#)

[Ziegler CAT BU118 Quote](#)

[Midwest Machine Kage Plow Quote](#)

6.5 Accepting Cash Donations for Fire Safety and Prevention Efforts and Approving Pass Thru to the National Fire Safety Council

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[Resolution No. 2024-121 Accepting Cash Donation for Fire Safety and Prevention Efforts and Pass Thru to National Fire Safety Council](#)

6.6 Accepting Cash Donation for Parks Department War Memorial Annual Maintenance Plan

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[Resolution No. 2024-122 Accepting Cash Conation for Parks Department War Memorial Annual Maintenance Plan](#)

6.7 Accepting Donation and Approving Pass Thru Recommendation - Waconia Fire Relief Association

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[Resolution No. 2024-123 Accepting Donation and Approving Pass Thru from Waconia Fire Relief Association](#)

6.8 Performance Measures and Report for 2023

[Cover Page](#)

[Resolution No. 2024-124 Approving Performance Measures and Report for Local Results and Innovation](#)

Performance Measures 2023

- 6.9 Approve Premises Permit Application and Lease for Lawful Gambling Activity for the Waconia Lions club

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Resolution No. 2024-125 Approving a Premises Permit Application Lawful Gambling Waconia Lions Club

7) COUNCIL BUSINESS

61. Cedar Point Park Pickleball Request

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Cedar Point Park Location Map

City Administrator Shane Fineran gave the Council a brief description of the agenda item stating this is a discussion and direction item regarding the court surface at Cedar Pointe Park. Earlier this year staff met with the applicants for the possibility of restriping the court to accommodate up to six pickleball courts. Currently it is striped for two tennis courts and two pickleball courts. Staff received a quote from a vendor the City has worked with previously for a total of over \$17,000 and this item is not in the 2024 operating budget.

They are requesting the City pay for the restriping improvement with the promise that the funds will be fully or partially refunded to the City. The request also is for the tennis striping to be completely removed from the court surface and used as a pickleball only facility at this location. Fineran also stated there is not an active and official pickleball association being represented in this request, the community and neighborhood have come to expect that tennis is available at this facility, and the group is offering to purchase nets and to have the nets be portable and locked onsite when not in use by area pickleball players.

John DeVille spoke on behalf of the pickleball group stating the group brought this request to the Park Board about one year ago. The applicant explained to the Council that there are 17 tennis courts in the City and losing two to pickleball court there will still be ample tennis courts available. As parking is an issue we have been recommending the Pickleball group to park at Bayview; however the group feels that is the best park for pickleball in regards to noise. The group has now formed a board, has articles of incorporation and have filed for non-profit status with the Secretary of State.

As of now, the group has raised \$13,500 with a goal of \$20,000 toward this project. The group is requesting the Council dedicate Cedar Pointe Park for pickleball only. Also asking for the Association to Manager the courts, and to keep the four pickleball courts on the capital project list.

Waldron questioned what the Association will do to manage the courts. Darrel explained the Association would designate time the Association only would play with the majority being open play.

Greta Bruckelmeyer, 17380 142nd Street, Hamburg. Stating the people who come to Waconia to play pickleball remain in the City and utilize the restaurants and stores and bring business to the community.

Chris Johnson, 110 Golden Finch Drive. Represents the Waconia Tennis Group and stated the group plays 4-5 times per week at Cedar Pointe Park. Requesting to speak tonight to voice their collective concerns regarding the recent petition submitted by the pickleball group. Realizes pickleball is growing; however, do not support this petition and requests alternatives be considered. This park should remain a multi-use park including basketball, fishing, walking, tennis, paddleboarding and canoeing. Also, the memorial benches overlooking the tennis courts are frequently used to overlook and enjoy a peaceful view of the lake. Turning this into a pickleball only court would exclude many residents. Tennis players would lose the only City managed tennis courts in the City. Also, the parking concerns are great and will impact homeowners surrounding the park. Requesting the Council turn down this request to keep the multi-use design of the park which allows an equitable distribution of resources catering to a large range of interests and promotes a community environment.

Tom Nessa, East Lake Street requested to share with the Council the noise issue is a real deal with pickleball. This is a neighborhood and should be treated as a neighborhood.

Mary Ryan, Minnetrista. Shared with the Council that there are new pickleball paddles and wiffle balls that are designed to muffle the noise.

Council directed staff to bring this item to the next Park Board Meeting for review and a recommendation to the Council and to include costs for permanent nets

8) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

9) STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Justin Sorensen presented the Council with the 2023 Fire Department Annual Report.

The officer core remained mostly unchanged for 2023, outside of the addition of two new officers. The number of calls in 2023 was 1,129 calls for service. This number continues to rise. The strategic Priorities will continue to be staffing, service delivery and resources. Some of the staffing accomplishments for 2023 include the Assistant Chief Badge Pinning, the movement from probationary firefight status and the retirement of Firefighter Adam Weiland after 31 years on the Waconia Fire Department. The major accomplishments for 2023 are the new Fire Station and the arrival of Utility 11. The

Department continues to provide outreach including the school lunch program, fire prevention month and National Night Out. The average response time for 2023 was two minutes 30 seconds with a call volume of 1129 total calls. This is a 10.4% increase over 2022. This includes 1036 calls in the City, 35 calls in Laketown Township, 43 calls in Waconia Township, and 15 mutual aid calls. There was a 2% increase in response hours in 2023. This is due to increased focus on 24/7 staffing of the duty officer and also the addition of two duty crew nights. Chief Sorensen also provided the Council with a detailed breakdown by incident type, equipment usage and training hours. Then reviewed the goals and priorities for 2024 which includes the completion and operation of the fire station.

Carver County Sergeant Tyler Stahn presented the Council with an update for May 2024. Total activity for the month of May was down by about 6%, being mostly traffic stops. In May crime rose very slightly with a total of 35 criminal events compared to 30 at this time last year. A large increase in the number of thefts this May and is asking the public to take steps to be sure your valuables are kept safe. Non-criminal events were up slightly with 303 this past month and were mostly medical calls.

10) BOARD REPORTS

Sorensen: Will be attending the CIP Committee meeting.

Yetzer: Attended a chamber Lunch with State Senator Julia Coleman regarding Public speaking.

Gleason: Nothing to report

Grengs: Will be attending the next Planning Commission Meeting.

Waldron: Nothing to report.

11) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fineran introduced Jon Haukaas, the New Public Services Director, to the Council. Jon Haukaas gave a brief summary of this day with the City.

Assistant City Administrator Jackie Schulze reminded the Council of the Upcoming Music in the Streets.

12) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Yetzer second by Gleason to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:23 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED.

Nicole Waldron, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Sue Schwalbe, Office Assistant