

**MINUTES
MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Callison called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL.

Councilmembers Dick Allendorf, Terry Schneider, Bob Ellingson, Brad Wiersum, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, and Jan Callison were present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

City Manager John Gunyou reviewed the addendum. For item 9B, consideration of bids for an electric ice resurfacer, memos from the city attorney and recreation services director were attached.

Thomas moved, Wiersum seconded a motion to accept the agenda with the addendum. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

6. SPECIAL MATTERS:

A. Presentation of 50th Anniversary painting.

Callison explained the process that resulted in the painting being done to commemorate the city's 50th anniversary of being incorporated as a village. The mural depicted Minnetonka's past and present landmarks.

David Halter from Short, Elliott, & Hendrickson presented the original watercolor painting to the city. He thanked the members of the 50th anniversary committee and the fund raising committee that included David Hackensen, Betty Johnson, Katie Lee, Brian Smith, Lloyd Pauly. He also thanked Jacque Larson, staff; the artist, Nancy Patrick Carney, and Your Arts Desire for donating framing for the painting.

Halter explained that numbered prints will be produced and sold to provide an every day reminder of the unique and beautiful

community that residents live in. The scenes include Gray's Bay, Oak Knoll, Glen Lake, City Hall, and Burwell House.

Nancy Patrick Carney stated that she enjoyed working on the painting. She learned a lot about the history of Minnetonka. She congratulated Minnetonka on its anniversary. Callison thanked Carney for her work.

Halter presented the commemorative painting to Callison on behalf of SEH. The copyright to the painting was also given to the city. Callison was pleased to receive the painting on behalf of the city and its residents. Everyone involved in the project did excellent work. The painting will be placed in a prominent location.

B. Community survey results.

Gunyou provided an introduction to the community survey results. He believes the survey serves as a useful benchmark for the city to judge how well it is doing in meeting its citizens' needs. The scientific sample provides more valid feedback than simply relying on comments received from daily interactions.

Dr. Bill Morris, Decision Resources, explained the survey process and provided the results:

- Four hundred random residents were surveyed.
- The non-response rate was 3.5%.
- Residents spoke to the surveyors an average of 26 minutes on the telephone. Ten percent of residents spoke to the surveyor over 90 minutes.
- Quality of life was rated as excellent or good in 99% of the responses. There were no unsure responses, which is very unusual. Minnetonka is one of the top four cities in quality of life. The other three cities are Shoreview, Woodbury, and Egan.
- When asked what the respondent likes most about Minnetonka, 31% responded location, which means it is a convenient location to everything that matters to them. Over 30% of the respondents value the natural resources in the community. Strong neighborhoods, excellent housing, availability of housing, city services, safety, and large lots were also mentioned.
- When asked what the respondent liked least about Minnetonka, 29% of respondents stated "nothing." That is a fantastically large core of boosters. High taxes and traffic congestion each received 10% of the responses. Road construction, too much growth, lack

of diversity, and lack of a downtown were also mentioned.

- In response to the awareness and participation of city services, 21% had used and 39% were aware but had not used Minnetonka Mike. That response is very high among cities for that type of service.
- The survey found that 75% of residents use curbside recycling; 41% use leaf drop off; 48% use brush drop off; 51% utilize special drop off dates; 11% participated in EcoFair; and 13% participated in the 50th anniversary celebration.
- City service evaluations received very positive responses. Police protection received 86% excellent or good and 3% negative responses. Trail maintenance received 76% excellent or good and 4% negative responses. Park maintenance received 79% excellent or good and 5% negative responses.
- Pavement repair received 49% positive responses and 49% negative responses. This is the typical response for cities throughout the metropolitan area.
- Community planning received a 6:1 favorable to unfavorable ratio. Animal control showed a 10:1 ratio of satisfied to dissatisfied. Fire protection's ratio equaled 79:1. Water and sewer services equaled 89:6. Uniformly, ratings tended to be very positive.
- Recreational programs received an 80% favorable rating to 1% negative rating which is the highest across the metropolitan area. Recycling services are also highly regarded.
- Snowplowing was rated 92% excellent or good and 8% negative.
- Morris noted a pattern throughout the suburbs that the excellent ratings had dropped this year compared to last year, except in regard to senior services.
- In regard to increasing taxes to maintain services, 45% supported, 37% opposed, and 18% were unsure. Residents are recognizing that the state's policies are increasing reliance on local property taxes.
- When asked about preferences for a 1% budget increase, 46% chose to spend it on street repair.
- In regard to environmental protection, 76% feel that the city is doing about the right amount. There has been a statistically significant change in responses from 2004 to 2006. The satisfaction rate is slowly decreasing.

- The amount of natural, open space areas are considered about right by 75% of the respondents. Two percent see too much open space and 18% see too little.
- When asked about the balance between the environment and property rights, 68% feel that the city has been successful and 12% feel it has been unsuccessful.
- Minnetonka has one of the highest ratings, 71%, when residents are asked whether they are provided appropriate opportunity to provide input into city decisions. Gunyoun noted that the survey was done at the end of February, shortly after the city had dealt with the Glen Lake redevelopment project. He was encouraged the response was still so favorable.
- When asked about density tradeoffs, 39% were more inclined to support a project that included affordable housing and 40% would be less likely to do so. 2006 results were less supportive than in the previous year.
- When asked if the city contains an adequate mix of housing, 56% responded "yes" and 29% responded "no."
- Recreation facilities maintained high positive ratings. The senior center, trails, community center, Gray's Bay Marina, and art center maintained a 10:1 ratio. These are among the strongest ratings across the park system in any community over the past couple years. The Williston Center had less support - positive to negative ratio is now at 3:1.
- Thirty-five percent of residents participated in recreational programs. Ninety-eight percent of people are satisfied with the programs. The main complaint was bad decisions by referees.
- Satisfaction decreased by 13% in regard to the park renewal process. Twenty-seven percent responded that they received notification and 29% indicated that they returned the survey.
- Sixty-eight percent of residents rated city staff excellent or good, 13% rated staff more critically, and 20% had no interaction. The positive to negative ratio was 5:1, which put Minnetonka in the top10% of the metro area.
- The surveyor asked respondents about their interaction with staff at city hall. The waiting time was rated positively by 96% of the respondents. The courtesy of the receptionist was 97% positive. The

ease of reaching a staff member who could help and the efficiency of staff were 88% positive. The courtesy of staff still remains among the highest of the metropolitan area. The good will built up by contacts with city hall remains a very important asset in the community.

- One third of the respondents had contact with the police department in an official capacity. Almost 90% indicated an excellent or good rating. That is outstanding and at the top of the metropolitan area ratings.
- Only eight percent of respondents felt there are unsafe areas of Minnetonka. That is very, very low for a Hennepin County city. Parks and trails, Ridgedale, anywhere after dark, and scattered streets were specified. These results are remarkable.
- The greatest public safety concerns for this year are speeding and traffic. Even though it ranked at the top of the 2004 and 2005 surveys, it diminished as a concern in 2006. Since 2005, the number of residents who responded that the issue is not serious doubled. The problem of speeding seems to be going up everywhere in the metropolitan area except Minnetonka. In 2004, 65% responded that speeding was a concern. It dropped to 58% in 2006.
- When asked about main sources of information, 61% considered the *Minnetonka Memo* their primary source, 17% named the *Sun Sailor*, 2% use friends and neighbors, and 4% watch the cable news station. Seventy percent of respondents preferred the *Minnetonka Memo* and mailings.
- In regard to the main ways respondents receive information on road projects, 33% named the *Minnetonka Memo*, 16% the local newspaper, 21% being on the road, 3% by word of mouth, and 5% cable television.
- Regarding timely notification of road projects, 60% rated the city positively and 30% rated the city fair or poor. Other cities usually receive 40% positive responses.
- Ninety-five percent of respondents received and read the *Minnetonka Memo*. That is outstanding compared to other cities. Ninety percent rated the newsletter excellent or good; only 8% were critical.
- Twenty-five percent recalled seeing articles on environmental issues; 61% felt the articles on

environmental issues were excellent or good. Forty-five percent of the respondents changed their behavior to be more environmentally conscious after reading an article.

- In regard to the recreation services brochure, 80% of respondents recalled receiving it. It received an excellent or good response from 83% and a fair to poor rating from 10% of the respondents. It is a very effective communications device.
- Cable television is subscribed to by 74% of respondents. The core audience consists of 7% of respondents. Frequent and occasional viewers equal 31% of the respondents. Other suburban communities have a larger core audience, but Minnetonka has a higher percentage of frequent and occasional viewers.
- Eighty-four percent of respondents have access to the internet. Among those who utilize the internet, 55% access the city website. The norm for this is 20% across the metro area. More people in Minnetonka are online and, of those, far more are accessing the city web site. Eighty-four percent rated the web site positively. The ease of navigation was rated positively by 72%.

Morris stated that, in general, residents seem to be concerned with the tax level. Residents are beginning to feel the bite of the property tax shift from the state, and that is beginning to take a toll on how they perceive the city and services it provides. The evaluation of city services stayed very positive. Another concern is traffic congestion and road repair. Minnetonka has now reached the metropolitan area's normal response. Patience regarding road repair is reaching the limit. One resident stated that road repair "will never end."

Morris stated that the survey found the city still has a strong reservoir of good will. Almost 30% of residents said that there is nothing they dislike about the community. Many of the residents challenged the surveyors for having the temerity to bring up imperfections. The survey portrayed a city government that is well respected. Residents feel linked and informed to what goes on at city hall. Citizens saw positive environmental and natural resources preservation. Residents did have a small, lingering concern driven by external actions outside of city government in regard to rising taxes.

In response to Wagner's question, Morris reported that 70% of Woodbury respondents, 65% of Shoreview residents, and 60% of Eagan residents were concerned with speeding.

Thomas commented on Morris' statement that cable television viewing was higher in cities that have their own news shows. He asked if that had been considered before. Barone explained that the expense related to producing a news show compared to the ratings was previously determined not to be a good use of resources. The northwest suburbs pool their cable franchise money to fund the production of a news show.

Callison recalled that the cable provider had a mobile production studio, but it was sold as one of the franchise changes. Gunyou said a studio was available in Eden Prairie. The Southwest Cable Commission had discussed selling the studio since it is being underutilized, considering the cost associated with its operation.

Thomas acknowledged residents without internet service and felt cable television should be looked at to determine if it is worthy of increased utilization.

Gunyou stated that he would raise the issue at the next cable commission meeting. He noted that cities with a higher percentage of television viewers were cities that tended to have more conflicts during council meetings. The meetings provided entertainment value.

Wiersum stated that the report is good. There is a lot to be pleased with, but there is some erosion similar to what is occurring in other cities. He asked if there is anything that indicated the cause of the erosion in terms of overall resident satisfaction. Morris explained that twice a year a general suburban survey is completed. There is growing ambivalence to government. It started at the federal level, then the state level, and now has affected the way people view local government. The state legislature was rated excellent or good by less than 12% of respondents in terms of being efficient and effective. City and township government positive ratings have gone down from 75% to 62%. Cities still lead every other government level, including school districts, but overall, there is more ambivalence toward every level of government.

Allendorf recalled a cable news program that was rated very high. It could provide a basis to determine cost and number of viewers.

Schneider was surprised with the number of loyal council meeting viewers. No matter how well produced the programs are, the cable news programs he has seen come across as hokey. A schedule posted in the *Minnetonka Memo* that lists half hour shows on specific subjects might attract residents who would not normally tune into cable. A loyal enough base might be able to support a news program. Gunyou liked the idea of providing a program guide that would indicate the dates and times. A transportation needs video is currently playing on the cable station, but it would be good to let people know what the topic is and when it will be on.

Wiersum was concerned with the ambivalence toward government. The mayor and councilmembers cannot control what is happening in Washington D. C. or St. Paul, but if the city reaches out to its residents, it may be able to stop the erosion before it reaches the local level. Keeping residents as well informed as possible will help the city get in front of the trends that are impacting local government.

Callison asked whether the survey determined if poor road conditions or delays caused by road construction was the main cause of the fear that traffic congestion will never end. Morris stated that 35% of respondents said that the potholes need to be repaired. Current road repair was cited 14% of the time. So, potholes and current poor road conditions are the greater causes of road dissatisfaction.

Callison asked Morris if respondents supported a city owned and operated wireless internet service supported by subscriber fees. Morris reported that 57% were in favor, 18% were opposed, and 26% were unsure. It is noteworthy that there is a majority in favor. Three out of 4 suburbs had decisive majorities in opposition and considered it not a city function. He thought the responses correlated with the high number of Minnetonka residents who have internet access. In some cities, a philosophical aversion to the city undertaking that function existed. Minnetonka has a high level of access and very limited philosophical bias.

City Attorney Desyl Peterson also serves as the city's representative to the Suburban Rate Authority. She stated that the Suburban Rate Authority looked at the availability of DSL and found that Minnetonka has numerous dark areas that may contribute to some users wanting wireless service.

C. Proclamation declaring April 22, 2006 as Earth Day in Minnetonka.

Ellingson read the proclamation declaring April 22, 2006 as Earth Day in Minnetonka.

D. Proclamation declaring April 28, 2006 as Arbor Day in Minnetonka.

Thomas read the proclamation declaring April 28, 2006 as Arbor Day in Minnetonka.

7. REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Gunyou reported on the schedule for upcoming council meetings. The board of review meeting will be held April 26, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Gunyou will be attending a conference, and will not be able to attend the May 8, 2006 council meeting.

8. CITIZENS WISHING TO DISCUSS MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

No one appeared.

9. BIDS AND PURCHASES:

A. Consideration of bids for the 2006 Pavement Rehabilitation Program.

Gunyou provided the staff report. Council had previously reviewed and approved the program.

Schneider moved, Wiersum seconded a motion to award the bid for the 2006 Pavement Rehabilitation Program, Project No. 4429 to Northwest Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$2,679,232.18. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Consideration of bids for an electric ice resurfacer.

Gunyou reviewed the addendum.

Thomas moved, Wagner seconded a motion to award the bid for a new electric ice resurfacer machine to Frank J. Zamboni, Inc. in the amount of \$79,824.07. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

10. CONSENT AGENDA (Items Requiring a Majority Vote):

A. Claims for council authorization – April 24, 2006.

Wiersum moved, Allendorf seconded a motion to approve the April 24, 2006 claims which includes checks numbered 196206 through 196484, totaling \$686,630.16. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Resolution amending Council Policy 11.10 pertaining to Civic Center athletic field use.

Wiersum moved, Allendorf seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2006-34 amending Council Policy 11.10 pertaining to scheduling and use of new athletic fields located in Civic Center park. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. Resolution pertaining to the Municipal State Aid Street System within the city of Minnetonka.

Wagner asked if the city will receive the same amount. Gustafson stated that the amount will go up slightly.

Ellingson asked if the designation will have any impact on the design of the Shady Oak Road and State Highway 7 intersection improvement project. Gustafson explained that the only impact that the designation could have would occur if the city and the county terminated the connection to Shady Oak Road. If there is a termination, it would have to be undesignated at that time.

Wiersum moved, Allendorf seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2006-35 pertaining to the Municipal State Aid Street System within the city of Minnetonka. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING FIVE VOTES: None.

12. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance amending the city code regarding various criminal provisions.

Peterson provided the staff report.

Allendorf moved, Thomas seconded a motion to introduce an ordinance AN ORDINANCE amending City Code Sections 925.005, 925.105, 930.065, 945.005, 1040.005, 1040.015, 1305.005, and 1305.010 regarding animals, exhibition driving, aircraft, harassment, definitions, and penalties. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

14. OTHER BUSINESS:**A. MERIT Organizational Component.**

Gunyou presented the results of the MERIT organizational program. This is the city's annual report card. The ratings are equally based on input from the city council, advisory boards, and the community survey results. The program is tied to the city's seven strategic goals and the grades help staff determine what the city could do better in the coming year. The results included:

- The natural environment score slipped from a low "A" to a high "A-". This category includes protecting wetlands and streams, preserving open space, and expanding and maintaining trails.
- Public safety received a strong "A". It slipped a little in the personal safety and business areas. Residential speeding is the number one safety concern, but that concern has actually gone down in the last couple of years.
- Transportation remained an "A-". Councilmembers' ratings were a little higher than citizens' ratings, possibly because councilmembers are aware of the steps taken to improve transportation. Citizens may not notice the improvements for a year or two.
- Allendorf commented that it seemed like speeding in residential areas had decreased at the same time the number of pot holes and poor street conditions had increased. He suggested that the two conditions correlate with each other. Gunyou noted that citizens clearly preferred to spend more on street maintenance.
- Development received an "A-" with 75% positive responses in the city's ability to balance property owner rights with community interests. The trade off of density for affordable housing was now generally equal. Schneider saw a possible correlation between the frustration with traffic congestion and declining attitudes toward density. Gunyou noted that despite testimony at controversial development hearings, the overall community felt that it had appropriate input into development decisions.
- The *Minnetonka Memo* received an extraordinarily high rating. Residents also mentioned the western edition of the *Star and Tribune*. It is significant that the number of people accessing the website has steadily grown. However, the rating for ease and quality of information did slip. A new website will be launched summer of 2006. The strong support

for the city owning and operating its own wireless broadband internet service was surprising to staff.

- Gunyou referred to Morris' statement about Minnetonka's very high quality of life. He stated that the quality of life in Edina is rated more highly, but the quality of services is rated lower. Minnetonka is one of the top four cities rated consistently highly in both areas.
- Public service continued to receive a solid "A" rating. Residents were reacting to recent property tax increases.
- The organizational excellence score went up. The positive ratings were very high in teamwork; communication and innovation were not quite as high. The response to, "Is the city of Minnetonka a great place to work?" was overwhelmingly positive.
- Quality of life received an exceptional rating. Respondents liked Minnetonka's natural setting above all else. Schools rated surprisingly low, which could reflect the declining number of households with school-age children.
- Gunyou noted that areas needing attention were already being addressed. Roads will receive more funding and improvements in the near future. Web-based communication was being improved.
- The overall score this year is a low "A."

Gunyou explained that he presents the survey results to city employees. At that time, the MERIT committee distributes the merit checks and refreshments are provided. He truly appreciated council's support of the program. The merit program is now included in every bargaining agreement.

Callison asked staff to provide options that could be used to decrease excessive speed incidences in high complaint areas. She encouraged proactive action. Wagner agreed. Motorists traveling above the speed limit were a concern for residents at a neighborhood meeting that he attended in Sherwood Forest. Neighborhoods could work closely with staff to test the effectiveness of prevention methods.

Schneider was somewhat supportive, but cautioned that sometimes the perceived speed is not accurate. Callison agreed that initial monitoring and testing of solutions in high complaint areas would be beneficial.

Thomas is an advocate for traffic safety, but he felt that speed bumps may be too extreme. He invited councilmembers to travel 30 miles per hour on a residential street and see how many vehicles try

to pass them. He has experienced it numerous times on Williston Road. The speed trailer may help. Increasing traffic enforcement in certain areas for a while might be beneficial. Vehicles traveling over the speed limit are a real problem in Minnetonka.

Wiersum had a similar tailgating experience on Williston Road. The speed trailer is a very effective tool. He asked if it would be possible to get more. Awareness can go a long way. The cost for the technology may have gone down. It also sends a message that Minnetonka takes speed violations seriously. Part of compliance with speed laws is enforcement, and part of it is awareness.

Wagner noticed that some communities have community service officers in marked squads in visible areas during times of peak traffic to serve as a deterrent. Early morning and when the kids come home from school are times of greatest concern.

Callison requested that staff propose speed violation prevention options for the council. Gunyou suggested that options be considered during the budget discussion. Callison clarified that she did not necessarily mean expensive remedies, such as pavement reconstruction or narrowing of the road. She noticed in Plymouth that sticks were added to narrow the pavement. Callison acknowledged support from councilmembers to discuss the issue and directed staff to work on possible solutions.

Schneider asked that street reconstruction be discussed at the capital improvement plan study session. The traditional strategy of doing larger neighborhoods at the same time may need to be reconsidered so that more resources could be channeled to streets that are in the most serious need of repair. That may go a long way toward addressing residents' perceptions. Gunyou explained that cost efficiency and minimizing neighborhood disruption had previously been priorities when planning street improvements.

Allendorf recalled that the original pavement management plan focused on fixing the streets in order of the ones that needed it most. Gunyou agreed.

15. APPOINTMENTS and REAPPOINTMENTS: None.

16. ADJOURNMENT.

Allendorf moved, Wiersum seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Magrew
City Clerk