

**ADDENDUM**  
**Minnetonka City Council**  
**Special Meeting of November 2, 2011**

***3. Vacancy in At-Large City Council Seat B***

Attached are:

- ✓ a timeline outlining options for replacement
- ✓ Survey information received from the city clerk from other Hennepin County cities on how they handled council vacancies
- ✓ Emails received from residents
- ✓ the city application form that was used during the last council vacancy/appointment

## OPTIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF COUNCIL AT LARGE SEAT B

	APPOINTMENT	SPECIAL ELECTION PLAN A	SPECIAL ELECTION PLAN B
<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	11/2 – Special cc mtg – select appointment process 11/4 – Post application on website Wk of 11/7 – Publish news releases in local newspapers 11/12 – 11/23 – <i>MEMO</i> article in homes 11/24 – <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i>		11/7 – Greves' resignation date 11/7 – special cc mtg – schedule special election 11/9 – Post filing info on website 11/15 – Publish official notice in <i>Lakeshore</i> & news release 11/14 – 11/25 – <i>MEMO</i> article in homes 11/24 – <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i> 11/30 – 12/14 – filing period
<b>DECEMBER 2011</b>	12/8 – application deadline 12/12 – Greves' resignation date 12/12 – Special cc mtg to screen applications & select candidates Wks of 12/12 &/or 12/19 – Special cc mtgs to interview candidates & select finalist 12/25 – <i>Christmas holiday</i>	12/12 – Greves' resignation date 12/19 – Regular cc mtg – schedule special election 12/21 – Post filing info on website 12/25 – <i>Christmas holiday</i> 12/27 – Publish official notice in <i>Lakeshore</i> newspaper & news release 12/30 – 1/10 – <i>MEMO</i> article in homes	12/16 – last day to withdraw 12/25 – <i>Christmas holiday</i> 12/30 – 1/30 – absentee voting
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>	1/1 – <i>New Year's holiday</i> 1/9 – regular cc mtg – appoint new council mbr & administer oath of office	1/1 – <i>New Year's holiday</i> 1/11 – 1/25 – filing period 1/27 – last day to withdraw	1/1 – <i>New Year's holiday</i> 1/31 – special election
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>		2/10 – 3/12 – absentee voting	2/6 – special cc mtg to canvass election 2/13 – regular cc mtg – administer oath of office
<b>MARCH 2012</b>		3/13 – special election 3/19 – special cc mtg to canvass election 3/26 – regular cc mtg – administer oath of office	
<b>COST</b>	No extraordinary costs	\$25,000 - \$30,000	\$25,000 - \$30,000
<b>NOTES</b>	4 week vacancy from 12/12 to 1/9 37 applicants for 2009 council vacancy	15 week vacancy from 12/12 to 3/26 No primary Filing opening day to election day: 9 wks (normal election is 25 wks) Winter election – low voter turnout expected	14 week vacancy from 11/7 to 2/13 No primary Filing opening day to election day: 9 wks (normal election is 25 wks) Winter election – low voter turnout expected

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**Memorandum**

**To:** John Gunyou, City Manager  
**From:** David Maeda, City Clerk  
**Date:** November 2, 2011  
**Subject:** Council vacancy survey information from other cities

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Here is information received from other Hennepin County cities on the procedures followed in filling council vacancies. The asterisk indicates there was an actual vacancy; the other cities provided either information from their charter, or procedures established by ordinance.

Our charter mirrors the statute (412.02 subd 2a) for statutory cities so like us, if there are less than two years left in the term, they have the option of conducting a special election. (Bloomington and Brooklyn Center have different language in their charters). The difference between the statute and our charter however is that the special election must be held at the time of the next city general election unless the council, by ordinance, specifies the circumstances it will hold a special election at a different time.

\*Bloomington: Charter requires appointment, and then special election at next election (either state or city election)

\*Brooklyn Center: Charter requires special primary and election if more than one year left on term

Crystal: Charter requires appointment if less than two years left in term, special election if more than two years

\*Edina: Less than two years left on term- appointment (just under 2 years left)

Excelsior: Less than two years left on term – appointment (If there is more than two years left on the councilmember's term and the deadline has not passed for filing for office, the city has a special two year term for the council seat on the ballot at the next General Election. In this case, an appointment to fill the vacancy is made for the short-

term. Whoever wins the election for the special seat takes office as soon as the election results are certified and the contest period ends and does not wait until the first of the year)

\*Golden Valley: Less than two years left on term- appointment (less than 1 year left)

\*Maple Grove: Less than two years left on term- appointment (1 year left)

\*Maple Plain: Less than two years left on term- appointment (1 year left)

\*Mound: Vacancy of less than four months- left seat open until the November election; Another vacancy that had just under a year left on the term filled by appointment

\*New Hope: Less than two years left on term- appointment (less than 1 year left)

\*Orono: Two years left on term- appointment (full 2 years left)

\*Plymouth: Vacancy September 2012, term ends in 2014- appointment until 2012 city election (special election for that seat)

\*Shorewood: Less than two years left on term- appointment (just over 1 year left)

\*Wayzata: Less than two years left on term- appointment (less than 1 year left)

\*Woodland: Less than two years left on term- appointment (less than 2 years left)

## Emails received from residents regarding council vacancy

**From:** [robertandresen@comcast.net](mailto:robertandresen@comcast.net) [mailto:[robertandresen@comcast.net](mailto:robertandresen@comcast.net)]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 7:57 PM

**To:** Terry Schneider; John Gunyou

**Subject:** City Council At-Large seat

Members of the Minnetonka City Council,

We write to you concerning the upcoming vacancy on the City Council. We strongly encourage you to hold a special election to fill the vacant seat instead of making an appointment. Two years remain in the term for that seat, which is the same term for which we currently elect State Representatives and members of Congress. The Council has done well in the past in making interim appointments, but we would prefer that you do the right thing and let the voters decide this time. With that said, my wife Jean and I support Joe Bodell for this vacancy. We have witnessed first hand his passion and overall concern for our great city of Minnetonka. His strong background in the city, state and national process is certain to be a big plus, for the ongoing success with this position. Joe is a wonderful family man, and has great energy and a strong work ethic, which lends to true and honest leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert and Jean Andresen  
5939 Woodland Circle  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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**From:** Bill Sorem <[bsorem@qwest.net](mailto:bsorem@qwest.net)>

**Date:** October 31, 2011 10:39:35 PM CDT

**To:** John Gunyou <[jgunyou@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jgunyou@eminnetonka.com)>

**Subject:** Amber Greves Resignation

Minnetonka City Council

I just learned that Amber Greves will be leaving the council. That will be a real loss since I feel she has been a valued representative of the people of the city. I know that council appointment has been used in the past to fill vacant seats, but i question the wisdom of that action. I strongly believe that the interests of the people of Minnetonka will be best served by the usual method of selecting our representatives, a special election. This is an at-large position thus representing the city as a whole and I think the people should decide this issue.

I strongly urge a special election be scheduled to fill the upcoming vacancy.

Sincerely

Bill Sorem  
4811 Spring Circle  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-938-8754 cell 952-239-1169

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**From:** Bonnie Bina <[bonnie.bina@comcast.net](mailto:bonnie.bina@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** October 31, 2011 10:22:26 PM CDT  
**To:** Dick Allendorf <[dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)>, Bob Ellingson  
<[bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)>, Tony Wagner <[twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)>, Brad Wiersum  
<[bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)>, James Hiller <[jhiller@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jhiller@eminnetonka.com)>  
**Cc:** John Gunyou <[jgunyou@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jgunyou@eminnetonka.com)>  
**Subject:** City Council vacancy

Thank you for taking time to read my email.

It has just been brought to my attention that Amber has tendered her resignation. I would like to encourage the council to hold a special election to fill the vacancy, as opposed to appointing someone.

Bonnie

Bonnie Bina  
3541 Rainbow Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55435

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**From:** Laurie Pryor <[laurie.pryor@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.pryor@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** October 31, 2011 10:01:49 PM CDT  
**To:** Terry Schneider <[tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)>, Dick Allendorf  
<[dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)>, Amber Greves <[agreves@eminnetonka.com](mailto:agreves@eminnetonka.com)>, Bob Ellingson  
<[bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)>  
**Cc:** John Gunyou <[jgunyou@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jgunyou@eminnetonka.com)>  
**Subject:** election for at-large seat

Dear Mayor Schneider and Members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I have heard that our Minnetonka City Council will be losing a much respected member, Amber Greves. I hope that the City Council will use a special election to fill this vacancy and not resort to an appointment. The person who will replace City Council Member Greves will serve for almost two years and will be making many important votes. It is important that the people of Minnetonka have an elected representative for that length of time.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie Pryor  
14180 Stonegate Lane MinnetonkaWard 1  
[952-931-0181](tel:952-931-0181) (hm)

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**From:** Deborah Calvert [<mailto:dacatajk@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 11:30 AM  
**To:** Terry Schneider; John Gunyou  
**Subject:** Please hold a special election for the City Council vacancy

Dear City Council Members, Mayor Schnieder and Mr. Gunyou:

It has come to my attention that, with the departure of Amber Greves, there will be a vacancy on the City Council and that this vacancy can be filled by a special election or by appointment. I also understand that there would be almost two years left in what was Amber's term once it is filled. I am writing to encourage you to call a special election to fill it.

Two years is a long time for an appointment. It is the equivalent of a Congressional term. A special election would reinforce confidence in our local government at a time when many people are skeptical about government at any level, or have some sense of dissatisfaction with parts of it. All politics are local. It's important for people to feel they are being governed by representation they have chosen, especially since so many of the difficult choices our local governments will be forced to make will surely be unpopular with many in this current economic climate. This is representative democracy at its most basic. In the end, the sense of ownership and transparency in the leadership in Minnetonka will be worth the expense.

Thank you for your service to our community, and for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Deborah Calvert

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**From:** Ansolabehere, Paul [<mailto:ansolabp@anagramintl.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** John Gunyou  
**Subject:** Amber

John

I heard that Amber has resigned. I am saddened to hear this but if it is so I would like to know if there will be a special election or if this will be an appointment as was the case when she was seated.

Paul Ansolabehere

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**From:** Lori Weissman <[lsw77@aol.com](mailto:lsw77@aol.com)>  
**Date:** November 1, 2011 11:28:20 PM CDT  
**To:** Terry Schneider <[tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)>, "[bellingsona@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingsona@eminnetonka.com)" <[bellingsona@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingsona@eminnetonka.com)>, "[bweirsum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bweirsum@eminnetonka.com)" <[bweirsum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bweirsum@eminnetonka.com)>, Tony Wagner <[twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)>, Dick Allendorf <[dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)>, James Hiller <[jhiller@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jhiller@eminnetonka.com)>, Amber Greves

<[agreves@eminnetonka.com](mailto:agreves@eminnetonka.com)>, John Gunyou <[jgunyou@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jgunyou@eminnetonka.com)>

**Subject: Request for Special Election to Fill Councilperson Greves' Position**

Dear Mayor Schneider, Members of the Minnetonka City Council, and Manager Gunyou,

I have heard that one of our elected City Council members, Amber Greves, has recently tendered her resignation. I personally worked to help elect Ms. Greves two year ago, and I hope that the City Council will use a special election to fill this vacancy and not resort to an appointment. The person who will replace City Council Member Greves will serve for almost two years and will be casting many important votes. It is important that the people of Minnetonka have an elected representative for that length of time.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lori Weissman

4461 Hunters Ridge Road

Minnetonka, MN 55345

Ward 1

952 932-9595

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**From:** Ansolabehere, Paul [[ansolabp@anagramintl.com](mailto:ansolabp@anagramintl.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 1:05 PM

**To:** James Hiller

**Subject:** Amber

James

I heard that Amber has resigned. I am saddened to hear this but if it is so I would like to know if there will be a special election or if this will be an appointment as was the case when she was seated. I favor the election but if not the process used to seat Amber was equitable.

Paul Ansolabehere

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**From:** Joe Bodell <[joe.bodell@gmail.com](mailto:joe.bodell@gmail.com)>

**Date:** November 2, 2011 12:39:22 PM CDT

**To:** Terry Schneider <[tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)>, John Gunyou <[jgunyou@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jgunyou@eminnetonka.com)>

**Subject: Please hold a special election**

Mayor Schneider and Mr. Gunyou,

Please distribute the message below to the City Council before tonight's meeting -- and thanks!

Members of the Minnetonka City Council,

I write to you concerning the impending vacancy on the City Council. Although it is within your powers under the City Charter to appoint an individual of your choosing to the position, I urge you to take the second path available to you: a special election.

It would be a different story if only a matter of months remained in the At-Large seat's term. Instead, whoever fills the position will hold it for nearly two years -- this is virtually the same term to which we elect members of Congress and State Representatives. Vacancies in such positions would in all cases require special elections to fill the remainder of their terms, and this seat should be no different. The costs associated with a special election are minor when compared to the value of building confidence in local government. In these uncertain times that value cannot be underestimated, and would be enhanced by letting the voters of Minnetonka elect their next City Council member.

Thank you for your continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bodell  
Ward 4

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From: Liz Bodell <lizbodell83@gmail.com>  
Date: November 2, 2011 1:54:51 PM CDT  
To: Terry Schneider <tschneider@eminnetonka.com>, John Gunyou  
<jgunyou@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: Vacant City Council Seat  
Good afternoon,

I am a resident of Minnetonka and it has come to my attention that Amber Greves will be resigning her at-large seat on the Minnetonka City Council. I am writing to urge you to hold a special election in place of doing an appointment for the seat. Due to there being two years remaining on the seat's term, I feel that an appointment would disenfranchise the voters who need to feel a deeper connection with and say in our local city government. I think this will also help to ensure the appropriate representation on the council by those chosen by the voters.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Liz Bodell  
Ward 4  
(952) 217-5962 home  
(952) 200-1424 cell

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Please return application to:

City of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952.939.8200 - Phone  
952.939.8244 - Fax

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been a Minnetonka resident? \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, would you plan to seek reelection to a full term?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Please explain:

**BACKGROUND**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Education:

Community service, civic and professional activities:

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Minnetonka City Council?

What strengths and abilities would you bring to the City Council?

What are the most important issues facing our community over the next two years? The next ten years?

What do you think the role of the City Council should be in addressing those issues? What do you think your role should be?

## POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Regular City Council meetings are always held on Monday evenings, with occasional other meetings on other days of the week. Please explain how you would accommodate any scheduling difficulties:

Are you or any of your family members presently employed by the city of Minnetonka or serving on any of the city's advisory boards?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conflicts of interest** may arise by the participation in any activity, recommended action, or decision from which you receive or could potentially receive direct or indirect personal financial gain. In accordance with this definition, do you have any legal or equitable interest in any business, however organized, which in the course of your role as a council member, could give rise to a conflict of interest?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please provide details on a separate sheet of paper.

Do you own any real property located in Minnetonka, other than your residence, in which you have a legal or equitable interest which, in the course of your role as a council member, could give rise to a conflict of interest?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please provide details on a separate sheet of paper.

As a city council member, what issue(s) might cause conflict between your civic responsibility and personal or professional interests? How would you manage these conflicts?

*Thank you again* for your interest in serving as a member of the Minnetonka City Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date