

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2025**

4:45 p.m. Discussion of Draft Neighborhood Engagement Initiative

Mayor Mullin called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Council Members present in-person in the community room at City Hall offices: MacDonald, Parkhill, Plechash, and Sorensen. Also present: City Manager Jeff Dahl, Deputy City Manager Aurora Yager, Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser, and City Planner Val Quarles.

Mr. Dahl provided background on discussions between City staff and the Panoway District Committee (PDC) about expanding community engagement by replacing the regular PDC meetings with neighborhood meetings throughout the year. These meetings would complement new engagement efforts, such as the Mayor's Muni Meet Ups and the Chamber's Wayzata Business Council. The plan would be to host five neighborhood meetings over the year across the four sections of the City to get staff into the community and approach it as more listening based than sharing of information.

The Council was supportive of the initiative and highlighted the benefit of meeting the community where they are and stressed the importance of tempering expectations and closing the loop with those who attend them. The Council offered a few changes to the initiative including spreading the visits across two years instead of one and hosting the events in the warmer months and utilize parks as the meeting place.

5:00 p.m. Presentation of Board and Commission Annual Reports & Work Plans

Each year, staff invites all City boards to a Council workshop at the start of the year to review the previous year's activities and present their work plans for the upcoming year. Staff liaisons and board updates included the following:

5:00-5:10 Charter Commission

Commissioner Struck provided a verbal update. He indicated that there were no current initiatives that the Charter Commission was exploring and expressed their willingness to research and discuss issues based on Council priorities.

5:10-5:20 Heritage Preservation Board

Board Member Travanty reviewed the board's achievements in 2024, including the first Centennial Homes Event, annual Mayor's Award and James J. Hill Days traditions, and getting the board back to its full capacity for the first time in some years. She then presented some of the board's priorities for 2025, including a potential follow-up to the Centennial Homes Event focusing on properties between 75 and 100 years old. Councilmembers asked questions related to an upcoming project at the Retreat and funding for other initiatives that could be available through the Legacy Grant.

5:20-5:30 Energy & Environment Committee

Chair Lauren Lindelof summarized the Committee's accomplishments in 2024, starting with the completion of the municipal solar installations. All the solar installations are operational and creating energy for the city. The Committee has worked with staff to complete the LED lighting retrofits for the Fire Station and warming house. From the continued partnership with Xcel Energy to provide free Home Energy Squad visits, 20 residents took advantage of this program. For Earth Day, the Committee held an event with educational speakers to talk about pollinator/native gardens and eco-friendly lawns. In 2024, the city received a grant of \$49,496 from the MPCA to create a City Operations Resilience Plan.

Building upon the work in 2025, the Committee will work to complete the City Operations Resilience Plan. Another significant initiative will be to provide a recommendation to the City Council and hold an

educational event regarding the Dark Sky initiative. The Committee will also solicit applications to award the Sustainability Champion Award. The Council discussed these projects and initiatives. Council is interested in reviewing the City Operations Resilience Plan and asked questions regarding what the Dark Sky initiative will provide for Wayzata.

5:30-5:40 Parks & Trails Board

Chair Tory Schalkle noted that the reconstruction of Bell Courts was a success in 2024 by including four pickleball courts to go alongside two tennis courts. Significant work was completed on the Klapprich Park improvements and the construction documents are close to be completed. The Board held and participated in a number of events like Maple Tree Tapping, Spring Splash, and Sunday Music in the Park. Wayzata Community Ed increased their scope to include winter activities. Grants were also received for the construction of Bell Courts, youth skate rentals, and restoration efforts for the Nature Center.

The main focus of the Board in 2025 will be to construct the Klapprich Park improvements. An additional project is to review options to connect a sidewalk on the east side of the Hennepin County Library. The Council discussed the Klapprich Park project which also led into a discussion regarding funding options for the parks system. Council noted that there should be some additional discussion that focuses on these funding options to provide a more consistent funding stream to the parks fund.

5:40-5:50 Panoway District Committee

Council Member MacDonald noted that a significant amount of the Committee's time in 2024 revolved around Phase II of Panoway. This included reviewing the construction of Phase II, reviewed and provided policy recommendations, reviewed new signage in Panoway, and discussed options to improve public safety in the area. The Committee also reviewed the plans for the Lakewalk Ribbon-Cutting Event which was a success despite the poor weather. Along with this event, the city received a grant of \$15,000 to conduct more business engagement to ensure that the closure of Lake Street would not be detrimental to the business community.

In 2025, the Panoway District Committee will not meet as often and will serve as a group to review the new community engagement framework that was presented earlier in the workshop. The Council discussed the feedback that was heard from the business community about the impacts of the street closure. Council noted that the review of the new community engagement framework will be interesting to review to determine the future of this Committee.

5:50-6:00 Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Chair Tom Shaver discussed the HRA's work in TIF administration, promoting the preservation of affordable housing through tax relief, and their 2024 discussions about the production of new affordable housing at the Park and Ride site. The Council discussed the City's potential priorities for the Park and Ride site in 2025 and the City's role in the regional need for affordable housing.

6:00 p.m. Discussion of Proposed Local Sales Tax Use and Engagement Plan

Mr. Dahl indicated that staff is reviewing a draft plan for implementing a local sales tax and seeking feedback before moving forward. This aligns with the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan priority of diversifying revenue. A 2022 study showed that a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) or a Food and Beverage Sales Tax could generate significant revenue primarily from visitors. Despite a failed 2023 attempt to implement a 1% Food and Beverage Sales Tax and a legislative moratorium on new local sales taxes (expiring June 1, 2025), the City remains committed to exploring this option and proactively engaging the community.

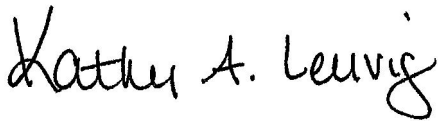
Ms. Yager presented sales tax scenarios which included projections for a 0.5% or a 1.0% tax for both Food and Beverage and a Local Option Sales Tax along with a draft project plan for each.

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2 The Council discussed both the Food and Beverage Sales Tax and the Local Option Sales Tax. Feedback
3 from the Council was mixed in terms of support for a Local Option Sales Tax with some Council
4 Members concerned with the greater burden on Wayzata residents, the inclusion of Panoway Phase 3 in
5 the project plan, and that more information is need regarding future plans for a Public Safety facility. .
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7 Mr. Dahl presented the draft engagement plan to the Council. The Council was supportive of the
8 engagement plan but wanted to be sure in all the engagement efforts that clarify that because of the
9 ongoing moratorium the engagement is just to build a community understanding and is not directly
10 related to an active legislative request.
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12 The workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
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15 Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Leervig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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18 Kathy Leervig, City Clerk