WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2025 (Draft)

Mayor Mullin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council Members present, in-person, in the community room at City Hall offices: Plechash, MacDonald, Sorensen, and Koch. Also present: Interim City Manager Aurora Yager, Public Works Director/City Engineer Mike Kelly, Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, and Chief of Police Jamie Baker.

5:00 p.m. Conduct Interviews for Board and Commissions Vacancies

The Council conducted interviews for the following candidates:

Interview Time	Candidate	Appointment
5:00-5:10	Bruce Goodman	Public Art Committee (1st Choice) Charter Commission (2nd Choice) HRA (3rd Choice)
5:10-5:20	Jonathan Pyne	Parks & Trails
5:20-5:30	Alexa Moilanen	Parks & Trails
5:30-5:40	Stacy Dahl (Non-Resident)	Eligible for Park & Trails (1st Choice), HPB (2nd Choice)

5:40 p.m. Discussion of Closure 600 Block Lake St for Pedestrian Activities

Ms. Yager reviewed history of events that resulted in the closure of Lake St. over the last few years. Additionally, she reviewed the findings from a 2024 report from Zan Associates that conducted community engagement along Lake Street to prepare a report with recommendations regarding future street closure events. Based on engagement from businesses and residents, they recommended that future events prioritize utilizing Panoway space instead of closing Lake Street. Given that Panoway was designed with amenities and open spaces for walkability, bikability and community gathering, closure of the street to achieve these goals isn't necessary and competes with the needs of businesses. Ms. Yager inquired if the Council desired additional street closures for more pedestrian activities.

The Council discussed and considered that while pedestrian malls are more common in Europe and the idea of temporary closures is nice, the consensus was that these types of events do not work in Wayzata and that they were not interested in more closures of Lake Street given their impact on businesses and the availability of space in Panoway.

Ms. Yager explained the City's Special Event Ordinance does not specifically address road closures but that it's dependent on the size of the event whether a traffic control plan is needed and, ultimately, all Level 3 events (500+ people) require City Council approval. If changes were desired to how street closures impact businesses the Council could consider a change to the Ordinance or could address it with conditions at the time the permit is reviewed.

The Council discussed the existing events noting that the issues of road closures on businesses really stem from James J. Hill Days and the Art Experience. While these are only a few days of road closures in the year, Council consensus was to have staff take the following steps:

- Meet with the Chamber before they submit their next permit to explore options for the configuration of the street when it is closed to have more spacing and business access
- Engage with the businesses more directly on this topic

- Research whether TIF could be utilized for different barrier types

6:10 p.m. Discussion of Future Council Topics

Mayor Mullin brought up a future topic to consider the future of retail to consider both zoning and other tools the City has to support retail downtown. Mayor Mullin also brought up a group of residents who are interested in making changes to the landscaping downtown and are coming up with a plan for private donations to support it which needs to be vetted.

Other future planned workshop topics that are subject to change include:

• December 16—TBD, likely to cancel
• January 6—Closed Session for Litigation Update
• January 20—City Manager Recruitment - Community Panel Discussion

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Leervig, City Clerk