

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

St. Francis Area Schools District Office 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW

December 4, 2023

6:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Joe Muehlbauer.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Joe Muehlbauer, Councilmembers Robert Bauer, Kevin Robinson, Crystal Kreklow, and Sarah Udvig.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator/City Clerk Jenni Wida, Community Development Director Colette Baumgardner, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Liquor Store Manager Joe Pfeifer, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.), and Police Chief Todd Schwieger,

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: BAUER APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. City Council Minutes - November 20, 2023
- B. 2024 Business License Renewals
- C. Joint City Fire Service RFP
- D. Planning Commission Appointments
- E. Change Orders – City Hall / Fire Station Project
- F. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: KREKLOW APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

**5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Barb Anderson, 1903 229th Avenue NW, came forward and shared that she is the Co-Chair of the Parks Commission. She thanked the individuals who organized this process and added that the Parks Commission has already held a meeting which was also organized very well. She noted that she wanted to introduce herself to the Council.

**6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE****7. PUBLIC HEARINGS****A. 2024 Proposed Budget Presentation**

Finance Director Mulvihill reviewed the Staff report and presented the 2024 proposed tax levy and budget. She explained the budget setting process. She reviewed the City's revenues and expenditures. She shared that the preliminary tax rate is 49.989% and the preliminary levy is \$5,598,195.

Udvig shared that the Council had several extensive Work Sessions to work through the budget.

Bauer reiterated that they have worked through this at many Work Sessions. He noted that he would like the budget to be less and that he is troubled that the budget is almost 50% of the overall tax capacity.

Robinson stated that the Council started discussing this budget earlier this year than they had in the past. He noted that the two biggest expenses will be parks and the City Hall Fire Station. He added that the Council gave the public numerous opportunities to speak on these matters at open houses and meetings. He explained that they could keep the budget stagnant but then they would not be able to keep up with the needs of the City.

Mayor Muehlbauer added that they try to keep the budget down as much as possible; however, they also have an expectation from the residents to be able to provide services for which costs have gone up lately.

Mayor Muehlbauer opened the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Tim Mullen, who is not a St. Francis resident but does own parcels in the City, came forward and asked what direction the City is planning on going in the future. He reviewed the increases at all of the properties that he owns, ranging from 12% to 48%. He noted that one of the properties he owns had an 8% tax increase while the property value decreased. He added that another property that he owns increased in property value by \$75,000, which is across the street from the first property. He stated that the Council should be looking into this for the residents. He noted that with an increase in taxes, other things will also have to increase and people will not want to come into St. Francis. He added that the Council should be offering help to businesses to make sure that they stay in St. Francis. He shared

that over the past 10 to 15 years there has been no work towards the future of St. Francis and people are leaving the City rather than moving in. He added that they are in a federally declared economically depressed area. He noted that when the contract comes up for the lease of the Post Offices, they need to explain that they are in an economically depressed area and can only pay so much. He explained that Dollar General stores are built in depressed and low-to-medium income areas. He shared that Dollar Generals are in the City.

David Watkins, 24455 Crocus Street NW, came forward and shared that he moved into the City in 2015. He shared that since 2020, his property taxes for the City have increased 39.3%. He added that the State has had a 1% increase in sales tax, so taxes are going up everywhere. He shared his concerns that they may be trying to do too much at one time in the City. He noted that they are trying to do too much to catch up while most residents do not have the discretionary income for this. He said that he spoke with the tax assessor at the County concerning his property value. He noted that he could not sell his house for the amount of money that his property is valued at. He suggested reeling back the taxes to be able to be more competitive.

Connie Tillman, who is not a St. Francis resident but does own a building in the City, came forward and shared that her proposed City taxes have gone up 42% for this year which is exorbitant. She stated that she does not see where she is getting her value for this increase. She noted that a 42% increase is over the top and they are paying \$24,000 for a single year of taxes. She said that all entities are increasing their taxes and there needs to be a cap for this. She noted that inflation likely makes up about 10% of the increase and she does not understand how her increase was 42%. She added that if there is a way to cut things back then it should be considered.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if Ms. Tillman has a suggestion on where they should cut back. Ms. Tillman stated that she does not understand where all of the money is even being spent. She added that she is not sure how much the new City Hall Fire Station is costing. She suggested waiting another few years for this while building up the town to increase revenues to help pay for this new building.

Ms. Tillman explained that commercial taxes are around double what residential taxes are. She added that commercial buildings also get hit with higher taxes and higher valuation; however, when it comes time to sell the higher price is not there. She noted that in her business, because they have technicians, it is hard to get skilled labor. She added that because they are outside of the metro area it costs them more money to operate their business than it would if they were in the city. She suggested that the City should not be spending this kind of money without new buildings coming into town that are bringing in revenue.

Robinson asked if Ms. Tillman's 42% increase is just the City's portion of the taxes or the overall tax. Ms. Tillman stated that it is just the City portion.

Robinson explained that Anoka County is offering their Sheriff's Deputies large bonuses to stay in their job. He noted that they raised taxes the way that they did so that they can give the residents what they are asking for, including maintaining parks. He added that they are trying to be creative with how they are spending the taxpayers dollars. He shared that his taxes are also going up; however, he does not own a business and he knows that businesses normally take a harder hit on taxes no matter what city they are in. He noted that they have been talking about the new City Hall Fire Station for well over a year and have been sending out notices about this to the residents. He explained that they do need a new administrative building and if the City continues to grow then they will need to grow the fire station as well. He stated that they are trying to build for the future. He added that there are many new homes that have been built in the City as well as new home permits applied for. He shared that the Dollar Generals coming to the City was a business decision and does not mean that the City is poor.

Ms. Tillman shared that her business has been in the City for 20 years and she has not seen a lot of growth. She stated when her business came to the City things were growing but she has not seen growth since around 2008.

Robinson added that he does not agree with the house valuations.

Ms. Tillman noted that even when home values drop, taxes do not drop with it. She added that things in the City do not have to be the most beautiful. Robinson explained that the new City Hall Fire Station is going to be functional and efficient and not overly done and fancy.

Robinson shared that when he moved here and built a house, he was not happy with the way administration was treating him so he said he would rather be on the inside of the administration which is why he ran for office. He added that the Council was elected to do this job, which is not the easiest or most fun job. He stated that they could have not put any money towards parks and not built the new City Hall Fire Station and the taxes could be low again; however, as things grow they need to have the facilities in place to serve the needs of the City.

Ms. Tillman asked how much the new City Hall Fire Station is going to cost. Robinson stated it will cost \$13,000,000.

Ms. Tillman shared that she heard a rumor that there was another roundabout that would be going in. Mayor Muehlbauer stated they are working on this with the State.

Ms. Tillman asked how much the roundabout will cost. Mayor Muehlbauer stated he is not sure; however, they are looking at grants for this project.

Ms. Tillman stated that the grants are only good for the construction of the project

and maintenance will be required to keep up with it. Mayor Muehlbauer noted that they could also look into putting stop lights at this intersection; however, they also require a lot of maintenance. He stated that there are not a lot of options for this as they are working with the State to do what they can do.

Mark Vogel, 2540 243rd Avenue NW, came forward and stated that he came forward last year at this same time with concerns about his proposed City tax increase. He shared that last year the proposed increase was 26.5% and his actual increase was 14%. He noted that this year his proposed increase is 14.8%, even with a drop in his estimated taxable market value. He asked how his City thinks that double digit increases two years in a row is acceptable. He noted that it is ironic that the Council recently approved a 3% COLA increase for all of its employees and then has double digit tax increases on their homes. He shared that he reviewed the City's 2024 proposed budget and tax information and sat through this evening's presentation. He recognized the economic difficulties of these crazy times; however, he finds this increase unacceptable. He asked who is seeing double digit increases on their income. He added that leadership takes courage and courage means making difficult decisions and sometimes saying 'no.' He shared that when he sees proposals for additional Staff, he thinks a 'no; may be the correct answer for these requests. He stated that they also may need to say 'no' when a citizen comes forward with requests for the parks. He explained that it is not that these things are not needed, it is simply that they cannot all fall into the budget at the same time in order to keep taxes to a minimum. He stated that it is these kinds of difficult decisions that every homeowner has to make every single day. He emphasized that leadership is not passing the bill for these items to taxpayers. He noted that it appears that the City values its own wants and needs over the average citizens, which is evident in his property tax records. He stated that for the first time in his 23 years a resident of St. Francis, he finds himself contemplating a search to move as this is not sustainable. He noted that the City needs to recognize that placing its wants and needs over the average citizen is not a sustainable path forward.

Bauer shared that he voted against last year's budget because they overspend and he plans to also vote against the budget this evening for the same reason. He added that he was a firefighter for many years; however, he is no longer a firefighter as the City does not allow him to be one since he is an elected official. He noted that they can have so many Staff that they over tax the residents. He stated that he has been fighting this fight for years as a Councilmember.

Kreklow stated that she is a new member of the Council and has not been a part of this process since the beginning. She shared that she is also feeling the pain of the residents as she opened her tax bill and saw the increase. She stated that she is not happy with the tax increase the way that it is and she does think that they can do better. She said she does not know all of the conversations that took place prior to her being on the Council. She shared her appreciation for the residents who came forward to speak this evening. She added that she does not want the

residents to think that the Council is not hearing them and dismissing their concerns.

Deborah Barringer, 2588 243rd Avenue NW, came forward and asked people to not bite the hand that feeds them. She noted that the people who have come forward to speak this evening have provided great service to the City.

Mayor Muehlbauer closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that they started looking at the building situations many years ago. He stated that he wanted to do the liquor store first as it did not use tax dollars and funded itself. He noted that this turned into something worse than what he wanted to happen, and they spent too much on this, but it did not come out of tax dollars and they are not having to recover any funds from this from tax dollars. He stated that after this was done, they started talking about the City Hall Fire Station. He shared that he is sitting here today because he was upset about the water increases that came out the way that they did with the past Council. He noted that they were able to get these fees down 20% over a period of time but they are now going to have to start slowly increasing rather than exponentially. He added that the Council is not happy about this because they also have to pay these prices. He explained that the City Hall Fire Station is this Council's Wastewater Facility. He shared that he did not think that the past Council went about the Wastewater Facility properly which is why he decided to run for Council. He noted that they also have to consider how this will affect the City and how the Council can educate themselves to be able to better serve the residents. He said that being a public servant is a thankless job and people are often mad about one thing or another. He shared that he has people who call to complain that their road is not being plowed fast enough. He said that they would be able to get to the road quicker if they bought another plow and hired another driver, but it would end up costing the City more in taxes just to get someone out there quicker. He stated that they are expected to provide this service to keep the streets clean. He explained that there is a lot that they can do in the City; however, someone has to pay for it. He noted that they have had to scrape up some parks because they were not being funded properly. He added that they are trying to fix these things for the residents. He shared that there have been some good things done since he started on the Council, including the street fund. He noted that they could lower taxes by cutting the street fund; however, if they do this, then they will assess the property owners when their street is fixed. He stated that if they lower the taxes to half of what they are now, people will ask what they are even paying taxes for because the tax dollars are going towards services that the City has to provide. He noted that there are a lot of tough decisions that are made by the Council and emphasized that he does not want to have to raise taxes as he does not want to pay the increase in taxes either. He shared that he tried to push out the new City Hall Fire Station due to the economy being the way that it is; however, they do need a new Fire Station. He added that they could have waited a few more years for this building but then it would be possible that costs could go up more then and this would end up costing

more in the long run. He shared that he does not think the Council is being too extravagant with this budget. He noted that he does worry that they are doing too much too fast. He stated that is not sure how someone's City taxes could have increased 42% in one year. He encouraged this resident to speak with the County on this property valuation. He added that he would like to have a conversation with the assessor to see where things are at. He reiterated that the City needs to provide services for its residents and costs are going up on everything. He added that they have very long Work Sessions to work through this. He shared that he has taken notes of what the residents who came forward this evening have shared. He asked the residents where they would like to see the dollars cut from. He noted that the Council is always happy to hear suggestions. He stated that the whole Council would like to hear from residents. He added that the City Hall Fire Station is on its way as the bond has already been pulled for it.

Ms. Tillman asked about the parks not being funded until this point and asked what will be done differently now. Mayor Muehlbauer shared that they have not had maintenance as part of the parks, and they have actually had to remove parks due to this. He added that they also did not have anything in the budget for building maintenance until just recently. He again encouraged residents to come forward to the Council with suggestions.

Mr. Vogel stated that there was zero communication with the public in regard to the City Hall Fire Station other than a survey that no one knew about at the Fire Station pancake breakfast. He shared that he receives all of the City newsletters and never saw a single thing about the City Hall Fire Station. Mayor Muehlbauer stated that this is not accurate from his understanding. He shared that he believes there was information put in the newsletter about this as well as a mailer sent to all residents.

Mr. Vogel stated he never received a mailer.

Barb Anderson shared that she did get the mailer and she also attended the open houses. She added that they also had a booth at another event that showed the plans for the building.

Mayor Muehlbauer noted that they have been trying to put things out to keep people in the know and keep them engaged. He shared that they have been begging for community involvement and have not been getting anything in return. He stated that they have tried to engage the public and be transparent so that the residents are aware of why the City is making certain decisions.

Mr. Vogel suggested asking residents in the future how they want projects paid for. Mayor Muehlbauer thanked him for this suggestion as it will help engagement with the City.

Udvig added that in the spring newsletter of 2023 there was mention of the City

## Hall Fire Station.

Ms. Tillman shared that communication is and always has been an issue in St. Francis. She added that there is no newspaper for the City. Udvig stated that the newsletter acts as the newspaper, and it is the City's way of communicating. She added that they also cannot fund a newsletter.

Ms. Tillman shared that she lives in Zimmerman and they have a newspaper that comes out quite frequently which is full of all kinds of information of what is going on locally. She stated that this is not a city owned newspaper. She requested finding someone who would send out these kinds of newspapers to the residents.

Mayor Muehlbauer added that the City needs growth in order to support the increased cost of some of these things. He shared his appreciation for everyone who came forward this evening with input.

Bauer shared that he worked in the current Fire Station for seven years as a firefighter and the building was built in the 1960s. He stated that they have discussed this new building for many years. He added that he is trying to keep the employment of the City down. He expressed the need for the new City Hall Fire Station because of the condition of the old building. He added that this building also came in within the budget set which is why they moved forward with it.

Udvig shared that they had several meetings concerning the City Hall Fire Station and also tried to make contact with all residents on this. She noted that the Council does not like raising the taxes because it also affects their taxes. She added that they tried to engage with the community as much as possible on this. She stated that they encourage residents to reach out to them directly. She added that all of the Council meetings are public and encouraged residents to attend the meetings, watch them online, or read the minutes. She also encouraged residents to read the newsletters when they come out.

Kreklow noted that at no point should the staffing levels of the City be a point of contention with the budget, because without these positions things would not get done. She shared that she believes the City needs public services, staffing, and parks. She noted that there are places where the spending could be dialed back; however, she was not part of the conversations at the beginning of this process as she just joined the Council.

Robinson added that he is comfortable with the work that they have done over the last 18 months that has caused the increase. He noted that the Council does not take their jobs lightly. He stated that this meeting has had the most residents attend over any meeting the last seven months. He added that they are doing the best that they can to reach out to the residents. He encouraged residents to get involved with the City. He shared his appreciation for all of the residents who attended the meeting.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked the Council if they would like to have a Work Session to discuss the budget. He asked if they would be able to continue this to the next meeting or if that would be pushing it. Mulvihill stated that they did this last year so they can do the same this year.

Robinson asked what they would cut to decrease the budget. Mayor Muehlbauer stated that he does not see anything that they would cut; however, he would like to give the residents an opportunity to tell Council where they would like the budget decreased.

Mayor Muehlbauer stated that he does not see a reason to continue this discussion; however, if they want to give residents an opportunity to come forward with budget saving suggestions they could do so.

Bauer stated that he does not think a Work Session would move anything forward.

Udvig added that she would be open to a Work Session; however, she is not sure they would get the turn out from the residents to give them suggestions.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if they were to continue this to the next Council meeting if they would have to hold another public hearing. Assistant City Attorney Schaps said no and explained that they have already satisfied the statute requirement with the public hearing this evening.

Kreklow said she would love to have a Work Session on this as she was not present at any of the other meetings.

Robinson noted that unless they are going to take the parks off of the table then a work session would be fruitless.

Mayor Muehlbauer asked if they did not hold a Work Session if there would be interest from the Council to continue this item to the next Council meeting to give residents time to share their suggestions.

Robinson said he would not be interested in continuing this to the next meeting unless they are going to remove the park funding.

Kreklow shared that she would be open to extending this to give residents time to give some input.

Bauer agreed with Robinson and stated that unless they are removing the parks dedication or some of the new positions then he does not see a need for continuing this.

Udvig stated that at this point, there have been hours spent cutting this budget.

She added that parks would be the only place that they could actually cut and she would not be in support of that.

Mayor Muehlbauer stated that if they do not move forward with a Work Session then there is no point in continuing this discussion to the next meeting.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-70 CERTIFYING TAXES PAYABLE FOR 2024.

Ayes: Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: Bauer and Kreklow

Motion carries: 3-2

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-71 ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR 2024.

Ayes: Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: Bauer and Kreklow

Motion carries: 3-2

Mayor Muehlbauer encouraged all residents to call or visit City Hall and talk to Staff to better understand the budget. He added that if anyone has solutions or ideas, they can bring those to the Council or Staff.

Mr. Mullen asked where the budget information is available. Mulvihill shared that the proposed tax budget is on the City's website under finance documents.

## 8. **OLD BUSINESS** - NONE

## 9. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **PERA SVF Pension Increase for Part-Time Firefighters**

Fire Chief Schmidt reviewed the Staff report and the request for increase in the annual pension amount for part-time firefighters.

Mayor Muehlbauer emphasized that this has no budget implications.

Robinson asked why the Council has to give permission for this increase. Schmidt explained that this has to be done by a resolution from the City Council to allow for this increase.

Robinson asked how surrounding cities can have this set so high. Schmidt explained that these other cities have higher State aid that St. Francis and they were also in the PERA programs before St. Francis.

Robinson asked why these other cities have higher State aid. Schmidt explained that it is based on population and valuation.

Robinson asked if any other insurance money goes to any other entities. Police Chief Schwieger said he is not aware of any money that goes to law enforcement.

Robinson shared his support for this.

Kreklow stated that it was a great proposal and anytime they can increase someone's retirement at no cost to the residents it is a wonderful idea.

Bauer shared that he brought this proposal up in 2017 and the Council at that time rejected their request. He noted that this is a fund that is State regulated. He stated that he would like the Fire Department to come back with a higher number closer to Oak Grove at \$6,000 annually. Schmidt explained that these numbers were derived directly from PERA. He added that if the Bethel contract is approved, they will acquire Bethel's State aid money into one pension account so these increases will become quicker and higher.

Bauer stated he would be in support of the \$4,800 annually for pension.

Udvig shared her support.

Mayor Muehlbauer stated that he wants to see the firefighters get what they deserve.

**MOTION BY: KREKLOW SECOND: BAUER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-69 TO INCREASE THE BENEFIT LEVEL FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE VESTING IN THE STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PLAN.**

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

#### **B. City of Nowthen Fire Service Contract**

Schmidt reviewed the Staff report in regard to the one-year extension to the existing fire service contract with Nowthen. He reviewed the changes to the contract.

Council thanked Schmidt and Mayor Muehlbauer for all of the work that they have put into this contract and the meetings with Nowthen.

Bauer added that they need to push the cost savings and the benefits of smaller towns having their own services while also leaning on their sister cities.

Robinson asked if there have been any questions that the door will close with Nowthen or Bethel. Schmidt said he does not think the door will ever fully close. He shared that law enforcement and fire departments are struggling and the answer to this is consolidation.

Mayor Muehlbauer added that they are moving forward with the new administration and Fire Captain hybrid position. He stated that when they see surrounding communities struggling with their fire departments, they need to not put themselves in the same position as these other communities where they are relying on others for these types of services.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: BAUER TO ACCEPT THE FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT FROM NOWTHEN.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

C. Fire Department Management Services, City of Bethel

Schmidt reviewed the Staff report concerning the fire services contract with Bethel.

Kreklow asked if these firefighters would be City of St. Francis employees but Bethel would be paying them. Schmidt said yes.

Robinson added that this did not come out of budgetary funds as it was funded by a grant from the State. He explained that there have been two delegates from the State Fire Marshall's Office that have attended every meeting helping facilitate this. He shared his support for this.

Bauer shared that he likes the concept of this; however, he asked if after they get out of the RFP if they will have something like a contract that will have Bethel pay their portion of this. He noted that this is a three-year contract and once they approve the RFP they are moving more towards a fire district. He asked if Bethel has a CIP for engine replacements and these types of things. Schmidt explained that Bethel has not traditionally participated in CIPs and have relied heavily on grants. He shared that they currently have an \$88,000 FEMA grant that will be used to jumpstart this process as far as aligning equipment. He noted that their first engine is 12 years old, so they have time to figure that out. He stated that this contract is intended to be a stop gap measure that would get them to the point of having a successful joint powers agreement, which is going to take time.

Udvig thanked everyone who has put in their time and energy to get this contract to where it is today. She shared that she looks forward to working with Bethel in the future.

Mayor Muehlbauer thanked Thunstrom, Schmidt, and Robinson, as well as the late Mayor Feldman, who were all involved in this from the beginning.

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: UDVIG TO ACCEPT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF BETHEL.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.  
Nays: None  
Motion carries: 5-0

#### **10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Barb Anderson came forward and thanked the Council for the work that they do and taking the extra time to work on all of the things that are involved in the City. She added that parks bring people together which creates a community working together rather than arguing and fighting. She stated that St. Francis can be a place that sets an example of cooperation. She noted that there is value in numbers but also in people connecting with each other to have a positive outlook towards the future. She stated that parks are not just playgrounds, it is people getting to know each other, being outside, and getting physically and mentally healthier.

#### **11. REPORTS - NONE**

#### **12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

The Council shared the meetings and events that they attended in the past few weeks.

Robinson asked what the City's involvement is in the December 6, Earned Sick and Safe Leave seminar. Thunstrom stated that Staff has been working with legal counsel, LMC and Metro Cities on this for the past six months. She noted that they had planned on bringing the policy updates including the ESSL to this evening's meeting; however, there was still a gap in everything that they had gotten to. She noted that this will be on the December 18 meeting as well as a number of MOUs that will come forward with the policy updates. She stated that they will be hosting the ESSL event.

Mayor Muehlbauer shared that he hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed the tree lighting event.

#### **13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

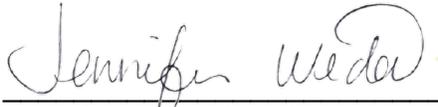
December 6 - Earned Sick and Safe Leave Seminar at ISD 15 District Office Building @ 12:00 pm  
December 18 - City Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm  
December 20 - Planning Commission Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
December 25 - City Offices Closed in observance of Christmas

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: BAUER SECOND: KREKLOW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ayes: Bauer, Kreklow, Udvig, Robinson, and Mayor Muehlbauer.  
Nays: None  
Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 8:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Wida". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk