

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis City Hall 3750 Bridge Street NW
February 18, 2025
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 Mark Vogel.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mark Vogel, Councilmembers Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, Amy Faanes, and Joe Muehlbauer.

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Minutes - February 3, 2025

B. Approve Application for Off-Sale 3.2% Malt Liquor License for Speedway #4827

Resolution 2025-09 approving a 3.2% off-sale liquor license to River Country Cooperative, DBA Speedway #4827

C. Pioneer Days Fireworks Contract – Northern Lighter Pyrotechnics, Inc (NLP)

D. Woodbine North Tree Removal

E. 2025 Equipment Purchase Update

F. Diamond Drum Mulcher Purchase

G. Stahl Construction – Pay Applications No. 17 – Labor & Material and #18-Labor (Partial Retainage Payout)

H. Accepting Grant Award for Shared Services Study

Resolution 2025-10 authorizing the city of St. Francis to use funds awarded from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for a shared services study with the cities of Bethel and St. Francis

I. Payment of Claims

Muehlbauer shared that he talked with Public Works Director Carpenter about the Woodbine North tree removal and while it seems like a high cost, he has an understanding of what this project includes and why. He added that Carpenter also shared that if they were to wait on this project then the cost could be much higher.

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

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Andy Schreder, owner of Rum River Consultants and Baseline Technologies at 23306 Cree Street, came forward and shared that they assist cities and townships across the State with building code administration and community development software. He said they have been operating in St. Francis for the last six years and the space they are currently in is becoming an issue. He noted that they are interested in purchasing a new facility and they would like to enter into discussions with the City about the old City Hall building. He added that they would also be interested in helping the City's building department in the future.

Aaron Groshong, member of the Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT), came forward and shared the cost of the electronic poll pads that the City is using for a total of \$271,438 every five to seven years. He added that there are also annual fees, maintenance fees, data fees, and licensing fees that go along with these poll pads. He stated that the average annual cost for paper and ink would be a fraction of the cost if they switched to paper poll pads. He acknowledged that using paper poll pads would take more Staff time. He said the cellular networks that the electronic poll pads run off of are vulnerable, as well as the devices themselves and the cloud where the data is held can also be vulnerable. He added that it is possible to lose data through the electronic poll pads.

Muehlbauer asked if the cost of \$271,438 was the cost just to the City or to the whole County. Mr. Groshun said it was for the whole County.

Mr. Groshun continued his presentation and explained that Anoka County has an agreement with the School Board as well. He shared what would happen if they chose to terminate the existing agreement with Anoka County. He said that he wanted to bring all of this forward to the Council not only as a member of ACEIT, but as a concerned citizen.

Robinson said that he thinks about this from the Staff perspective and how much work this could put on City Clerk Wida. He noted that something like this would also need a lot of momentum before it is recognized by the County. He asked who

could stand in the way of this change. Mr. Groshun said a lot of people could stand in the way of this including the poll pad manufacturers, the County, and others. He stated that it ultimately comes down to the City.

Robinson said he is open to discussing this further as election integrity matters to him.

Muehlbauer asked if any members of ACEIT have looked at running for County Commission seats to try to help make a change at the County level. Mr. Groshun said he does not see any of the members running for the County Commission anytime soon.

Mayor Vogel shared that he has a lot of questions and concerns with the elections process. He said he wants to look into this further in the future. He asked if anyone from the County had responded to this presentation. Mr. Groshun said that he is not aware of any response from the County at this time.

House Representative Bryan Lawrence came forward and shared that he is available for any questions that residents may have. He shared an update on getting a bill sponsored for the Highway 47 road project. He noted that Representatives Peggy Scott and Harry Niska signed onto the bill as well. He explained that he dropped this bill on Monday, and it should start moving through the legislative process soon.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. Police Chief Todd Schwieger will be presenting a Life Saving Award to Officer Chanthapanya

Police Chief Schwieger recognized and presented Officer Chanthapanya with a Life Saving Award for his efforts on June 6, 2024, which saved the life of an Oak Grove woman. He thanked all first responders for all of their hard work that they put in to keep the City safe.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing for the 2025 Street Reconstruction Project

City Engineer Jochum reviewed the Staff report in regard to the 2025 street reconstruction projects.

Muehlbauer shared that there was a petition signed by seven out of the nine properties affected by this project.

Robinson asked how old the water main is that needs to be replaced. Jochum said it is 52 years old.

Robinson asked if this assessment amount was more or less than what the residents had paid in the past. Jochum explained that the amount significantly decreased from the old assessment policy which was changed in 2018 or 2019.

Robinson asked how long residents have to pay for assessments. Jochum said the Council would approve the timeline. He noted that the last one was a 15-year term at 5% interest.

Finance Director Mulvihill explained that the interest rate is typically 1% over the bond rate; however, since they are not bonding for this, they would have to calculate their own interest rate.

Robinson asked if they would still be doing this project if the new City Hall Fire Station had not been built. Jochum explained that these roads are reaching the end of their life and are on the CIP program.

Robinson asked if they would be able to move this to a Work Session to discuss the petition. City Administrator Thunstrom said they could; however, it would affect the timeline for getting approvals and going out for bids.

Mayor Vogel opened the Public Hearing at 6:41 p.m.

David Nutter came forward and asked if the assessments would not be approved until October and if they would be able to start the project before then. Jochum said yes and explained that the assessment amounts would be set in October; however, they will have a preliminary assessment amount to let the residents know how much they can expect.

Nutter shared that he had brought a handout to City Hall. He explained that he as well as other residents in the area think the sidewalks are a problem as they do not see the foot traffic in this area. He said he has lived in his home for a long time and they never see any foot traffic on this road. He noted they see this as an unnecessary expense. He added that a sidewalk would also be a burden for plowing purposes. He said that there are senior citizens who live in this area that do not want to be responsible for clearing the sidewalks when it snows. He asked if the water main will be expanded or just replaced with something of the same size that is there now. Jochum said the old water main is six inches and the new one will be 8 inches.

Nutter stated that this area of the City does not have room to expand so he does not see a need to expand the water main. He said it looks like the reason the water main is expanding is for the new City Hall Fire Station. He added that State law states that residents cannot be assessed for projects that do not improve the value of their property. He said that he does not see this project as providing any improvement to his property value. He stated if they do think this would improve the property values in the area, then proof needs to be provided. He shared that residents can appeal their assessments and he would like to know this process.

Sue Nutter, 22920 Rum River Boulevard, shared that this is the only historic area

of town left, and all of the homes are very old. She said no one in this area can afford the assessment. She stated she has lived in her home for 53 years and they have never had an issue with their water. She added that no one walks on this street, and they do not need a sidewalk in this area. She asked if this project could be put off for a while due to the current financial standing of the country. She said this is not fair to the residents.

Gail Somdahl, on the corner of Woodbine Street and Rum River Boulevard, came forward and shared that she understands the need for the resurfacing of this road and to install new pipes. She shared her concerns with the sidewalk as it would take away a lot of land for the homeowners in this area. She added that there is not a lot of traffic on Woodbine or 229th and having parking lots in this area is a concern. She said if they put a parking lot here, she is concerned that people will just park in this lot and could cause trouble.

Dawn Steinke, 22920 Woodbine Street, came forward and asked if the assessment amount could end up being higher than the preliminary amount they are given. Jochum said yes; however, they are typically fairly close with their preliminary amount.

Mrs. Steinke asked why they need curbs on this road. Jochum explained that most City roads now have curb and gutter which is the City's standard.

Heather Hagerman, 22866 Woodbine Street, came forward and shared that she has lived in her home for over 50 years and there has been no traffic the entirety of her time living here. She added that she has old mature trees across the front of her property that keeps her electric bill down in the summer because of the shade they provide. She noted that the proposed road would require all of these trees to be taken out. She said she has people who live in other parts of the City that come to her house to walk around the neighborhood because they love the old houses and the look of this area. She noted that this is what makes this area special. She stated this new road would take out all of the trees and allow cars to be parked right in front of their houses. She said this is not what she wants, nor it is what anyone wants. She stated that she understands the need to repave the road; however, they do not need a sidewalk or for the road to be widened for extra parking.

Mayor Vogel closed the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m.

Muehlbauer asked if the proposed sidewalk is what is causing the trees to have to be removed. Jochum said some of the trees are where the new sidewalk would go.

Muehlbauer said he understands the complaints with the sidewalk as his fiancée lives in a home with sidewalks that need to be shoveled in the winter. He asked if the street parking is a requirement of the MSA. Jochum said it is not a requirement;

however, they need a certain width to have an option for street parking.

Muehlbauer asked for clarification on the law about assessments not being allowed unless it increases property values. Assistant City Attorney Schaps explained that the assessment process will be happening in October and through the feasibility and due diligence of the City, the property owners will be receiving the value of the improvement on this project. He said if the residents choose to challenge this, there is a process in State law that allows this.

Jochum added that they can also have an appraiser evaluate properties in the project to give the Council an idea of how much it would raise the property values.

Muehlbauer asked when the best time is to assess property owners for these things. He said he does not know when the economy will get better, and he does not know if anyone does. He explained that if they put this road construction off it could cause the road to break down even more and end up costing more to repair it. He added that replacing the water main is also more of a preventative measure due to the age of the system.

A resident said it does not make sense for the residents to be assessed for the water main improvements.

Faanes asked what the typical life expectancy is for a water main. Jochum said they are typically on the CIP after 50 years; however, they could last longer. He noted that the City has had a lot of issues with the services for this system and a lot of the saddles that connect the water to each home have been rusting and breaking off.

Faanes asked if they did not replace the water main and just resurfacing the street if there was a water main break if the responsibility would be on the homeowner for the repairs. Jochum explained that if there is an issue with the water main itself then it would be the City's responsibility but if the service breaks anywhere from the water main to the homes, then it would be the responsibility of the property owner.

Faanes noted that all of the residents who came forward said they do not need curbs or sidewalks in this area. She asked if taking this part of the project out would save some of the trees. Jochum said yes.

Faanes stated that the trees are a big concern as this is an older neighborhood with traditional homes. She added that she is an advocate of trying to keep St. Francis rural and these homes are most of the historic buildings that they have left. She said she would like to see a way that they can save the trees in this area and hear the residents' concerns around sidewalks and parking. She explained that no one likes assessments and there will never be a good time for them. She asked if all roads in the City will have curbs installed when they are reconstructed. Jochum

explained that they have been installing curbs on most roads that they are reconstructing unless they are in the rural areas.

Faanes added that it seems coincidental that this was happening around the same time that the City Hall Fire Station was being built, and the residents are likely already feeling the effects of these changes. She noted that if they needed more parking for the City Hall Fire Station then it should have been included in the construction of the building and not in this street project.

Muehlbauer explained that there was some history with the parking lot in this area. He clarified that they will not be assessing residents for this parking lot.

Udvig shared that she used to live on 229th and it needs to be reconstructed. She noted that when there are things going on at the gazebo, parking can sometimes go down these roads. She shared that one of the complaints she gets a lot from residents is that there are no sidewalks. She stated that while there is not a lot of foot traffic through this area now, that does not mean it will always be that way. She explained that if they are already going to be working on the road then it makes sense to also make the needed improvements to the water main. She said if they put the water main improvements out but still reconstruct the road, it is likely that the water main will need to be worked on before the road needs to be so they would be digging up this new road to access the water main, which would not be cost effective. She stated she can support this project moving forward without a sidewalk. She noted that since they are consistently installing curbs throughout the City then it would make sense to also install it in this area; however, if the residents are opposed to it then the Council needs to consider this.

A resident asked how much the water service assessment is. Jochum said it was \$2,478 per homeowner.

Robinson shared that he is also in support of saving the trees in this area. He said there is a lot of heritage in this older area of the City. He noted that if the project is not a necessity, then he would support removing this from the project. He added that curb helps steer stormwater and the State has been cracking down on stormwater. He shared that it would also be prudent to upgrade the water main now since they will already be working on this road. He said this upgrade is not needed for the City Hall Fire Station but due to the age of the system. He noted that the parking lot would be beneficial to City Hall, the Post Office, and the community. He shared that he has been on the Council for six years and they have always done things very frugally and this project is no different. He said the time has come that this area needs to be dealt with. He asked what would happen if the residents decided that they do not agree that these improvements increased their property values. Schaps explained that the residents would be responsible for their own court fees to challenge the assessment.

Mayor Vogel asked about the current width of these roads. Jochum said they are

Mayor Vogel aye

Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Faanes	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye

Motion carries: 5-0

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECONDED: UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-13 SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 344.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Approval of Plans and Specifications and Ordering Bids for the 2025 Street Reconstruction Project

Resolution 2025-14 approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for the 2025 street reconstruction project

Jochum reviewed the Staff report in regard to approving the plans and specifications and ordering bids for the 2025 street reconstruction project. He shared that they can make amendments to the project as discussed during the Public Hearing.

Udvig said she would like to keep Woodbine narrower, get rid of the sidewalks as part of the project, complete the water main upgrades, and add curb and gutters to the roads.

Robinson agreed and added that he would like to see the trees in this area preserved.

Muehlbauer agreed.

Faanes agreed and reiterated that she would like to see the trees saved. She said that she will vote in favor of including the parking lot in this project; however, she feels as though it should have been included in the City Hall Fire Station project budget. She added that this parking lot will also make it so there is not a need for parking on Woodbine.

Mayor Vogel agreed with the Council.

Jochum asked if they wanted to go to the minimum road width on Woodbine. Udvig said she would like to see the roads at 28 feet widths.

Jochum said he would suggest 28-foot width on 229th but would like to see 32-foot width on Woodbine. The Council was in agreement with this.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECONDED: UDVIG TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-14 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING BIDS ADVERTISEMENT BIDS FOR THE 2025 STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND DIRECTING STAFF TO MAKE THE CHANGES DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

B. Appointment Amendment for the URRWMO

Resolution 2025-11 approving the amendment of the appointments for 2025 for the URRWMO

Carpenter reviewed the Staff report concerning amending the appointment to the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization.

Mayor Vogel asked if anyone is particularly interested in this role.

Muehlbauer asked about the requirements for the position. Carpenter shared that whoever holds this role would have a lot of input into the storm water discussions. He stated the meetings are fairly quick, but they have a lot of information. He added that whoever holds the role could also steer dollars towards the City. He shared that they meet quarterly on Tuesdays.

Faanes asked who has represented the City in the past on this board. Carpenter said there are currently two residents who are representing the City.

Udvig said she would be willing to take on this role.

MOTION BY: FAANES SECOND: MAYOR VOGEL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025 FOR THE URRWMO APPOINTING SARAH UDVIG AS THE PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE WITH ANDREW WOOD AS THE ALTERNATE.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

C. Hwy 47 Reconstruction – Fund, Pre-Design and Environmental

Resolution 2025-12 authorizing State of Minnesota Agency Agreement #1058906 between the Department of Transportation, Anoka County, and the City of St. Francis

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report concerning a JPA between the State, Anoka County, and the City for the Highway 47 reconstruction funding, pre-design, and environmental review.

Robinson asked about the \$7,000,000 that they applied for last year and got and

if this will still be able to go towards this project. Thunstrom said it is federal money so they are watching it closely and they have not heard anything that this money will be removed from the City. She noted that this JPA is just an agreement to take the next step in this process. She added that they just received communication suggesting that they apply for additional appropriations on the federal level.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: ROBINSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-12 AUTHORIZING STATE OF MINNESOTA AGENCY AGREEMENT #1058906 BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, ANOKA COUNTY, AND THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

D. Professional Service Agreement with WSB for Hwy 47

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report in regard to the professional services agreement with WSB for the Highway 47 project.

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WSB FOR HIGHWAY 47.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NONE

11. REPORTS

A. Police Department Annual Report 2024

Schwieger reviewed the 2024 Police Department report. He shared that they finally got back to full staffing levels in 2024. He highlighted the Police Reserve unit and thanked them for their efforts and support. He also thanked the chaplains for their work. He shared that there were 7,566 incidents in 2024 with an average response time of 4.28 minutes for high-priority calls and 5.10 minutes for low-priority calls. He reviewed the crime statistics and traffic activity for the year. He noted that there were 172 arrests made in 2024. He discussed the UAV deployments with 23 for the year. He reviewed the investigations unit, which was assigned 136 cases in 2024. He shared that St. Francis police officers put 257 hours into the Towards Zero Deaths program. He added that officers put in 636 hours of training in 2024. He explained that they were able to purchase some new equipment in 2024 including firearms and other public safety equipment with the funding that was awarded by the State in 2023. He reviewed other services offered by the department included firearm permitting, dog licensing, and fingerprinting, as well as the events that officers participated in throughout the year including Winning with Cops, the Citizen's Academy, Cone with a Cop, Safe at Home, the Bike Rodeo, National Night Out, the Trick or Treating event, and

Santa Claus at the Police Department. He thanked the Council for their continued support of the Police Department and they look forward to another busy year ahead.

Robinson asked if the residents will have the ability to view this report. Schwieger said the report will be posted on the website and can be posted on Facebook as well.

Robinson shared his appreciation for the bios of each officer and police Staff member. He thanked Schwieger for all that he and the Police Department do for the City.

Udvig stated it is phenomenal to see how many events the Police Department has throughout the year. She noted it is a huge service to the residents to get to have these kinds of interactions with the officers, so they feel more comfortable calling for help when it is needed.

Faanes agreed about the importance of the officers having these interactions with the residents, especially children, to help them feel less scared in emergency situations. She said the more they can do to help people see police officers in a positive light the better.

Muehlbauer noted the Police Department does a great job all year. He asked how having Investigator Hearn in his new role will affect the Citizen's Academy. Schwieger said Hearn will still be planning this event.

Mayor Vogel shared his appreciation for all of the work that the Police Department does day in and day out.

B. Liquor Store Annual Report 2024

Liquor Store Manager Pfeifer reviewed the 2024 Municipal Liquor Store report. He shared that they have great employee retention at the store and hired one new part-time employee in 2024. He stated their total gross sales was \$3,263,225, which is an increase over 2023. He added that the cash balance is at \$1,230,298, which is also an increase over 2023. He noted THC sales were huge in 2024 and was the fourth largest sales category behind beer, liquor, and wine. He reviewed sales by month and product. He shared that the cost of goods sold also increased in 2024. He added that the profit margin increased by 2%, largely due to THC sales. He discussed the operating expenses which slightly increased in 2024, due to the hiring of a new manager and increased hours. He explained that the net operating income had an increase of \$81,000 over 2023. He reviewed the trends that were observed in 2024, including THC products and premixed cocktails. He discussed some of the changes that were made to the store in 2024, including rearranging the store, adjusting hours, and increasing their Facebook page presence. He added that they have an app where people can look at everything that is available in store or can place a curbside pickup order. He added that they are also having

monthly sales. He noted that he helped out with the Farmer's Markets on Wednesdays over the summer and had tastings with food trucks most Fridays over the summer. He reviewed other events such as the Oktoberfest event, Friday wine tastings in October, and a Bourbon Endcap in November. He shared that they had a few different fundraisers for the year benefiting the Humane Society, the Fire Department, and the Vikings Foundation.

Muehlbauer said it is great to see the numbers increasing.

Faanes thanked Pfeifer for all that he did this year.

Udvig noted that the issue that she used to see at the Liquor Store was walking in and seeing employees sitting down on their computers. She said this does not happen anymore and the employees are all very helpful and attentive. He added that the tasting events over the summer were incredible. He noted the store layout is also very much improved and makes it easier to find products.

Robinson said the store is looking great inside and out. He asked Pfeifer if there are any changes that he wished he had not made in 2024. Pfeifer said there is nothing he can think of but there are always things he can do better.

Robinson asked if they were able to address the issue with credit card fees. Pfeifer said they did not make any changes as the changes being presented were very extreme.

Mayor Vogel shared his appreciation for Pfeifer, his expertise, and his ability to constantly adjust things for the better.

C. Public Works Annual Report 2024

Carpenter reviewed the 2024 Public Works report. He shared that St. Francis worked together with Stanford Township again in 2024 to complete the resurfacing of 245th and looks forward to continuing to work with them in the future. He added that they completed the Bark Park in 2024 and every member of the department had a hand in the construction of the park. He shared that the park continues to grow in popularity. He discussed the Releaf grant work with the DNR and shared that they removed 117 ash trees, and 135 trees were planted. He explained that Staff will continue to water these trees in 2025 to complete the grant requirements. He shared that recycling continues to be very popular and they have added a waste oil dump and a compost bin at Public Works for these recycling events. He added that they were awarded the Municipal Waste Prevention and Recycling grant and they used these funds to add four more recycling sites in parks. He reviewed the partnership with the Anoka Conservation District for the rain garden on 225th and the riverbank stabilization project in Rum River Park. He shared that they had perfect compliance with their annual water plant sanitary inspection. He added that zero contaminants were found in the City's well samples. He explained that the Neptune 260 Water Monitoring System

has helped residents be more aware of their water usage and be on the lookout for leaks. He discussed 2024 utility projects including the Ambassador water main improvement, wastewater treatment plant facility service leak, the Pederson water service connection, and the Royal Oaks lift station landscape improvements. He shared there were two engineering projects that they worked on in 2024, the sanitary sewer municipal water plan and wastewater treatment plant capacity review.

Muehlbauer shared that he had a resident ask him about the changing administration at the federal level and if there have been any updates to regulations around fluoride in water. Carpenter said nothing has changed and he is not aware of any changes that will be happening in the near future. He said he will keep them up to date as they find out more information.

Muehlbauer thanked Staff in every department for all of their work.

Faanes said she would love to stop by Public Works and see the equipment they use.

Udvig shared that Public Works Staff always does a great job and thanked them for their work and community outreach.

Robinson shared his appreciation for them working smarter and being able to condense some of their equipment for cost savings. He asked if they are making any adjustments ahead of Vista Prairie coming online. Carpenter said they will be able to handle adding Vista Prairie to the water system with no problems.

Robinson asked if they have any plans to make the oil recycling more convenient to access. Carpenter said this is a work in progress and they are working to find a cost-effective way to do this.

Mayor Vogel shared his appreciation for Carpenter and his Staff's hard work.

D. Fire Department Monthly Report - January 2025

Schmidt reviewed the Fire Department report for the month of January. He explained that they are using a new software that will help them pull more granular data. He noted that this software updates in real time and can be used to track goals. He shared the average dispatch time to enroute for the month was seven minutes and 25 seconds, and the average dispatch time to arrive at the scene was 12 minutes and eight seconds; however, he does believe that there may be a glitch with this metric and this data may not be completely accurate. He noted that there were 79 calls for service with 58 EMS calls and 21 fire calls. He reviewed the dispatch code data for each call over the month. He shared their projections for the year that would put them at 908 calls for service which would be a 12% increase over 2024. He added that they are averaging 2.63 calls per day. He explained that this software will allow them to look at the times of day and days of the week when

calls are coming in as well as the firefighters responses by hour and day of the week. He said this will help them address any staffing challenges they may have. He shared that they responded to four mutual aid calls for the month. He noted their average on scene time was 26 minutes and 22 seconds for the month.

Faanes asked if the Fire Department called any mutual aid from other cities during the month. Schmidt said no.

Mayor Vogel asked for the new software name. Schmidt said it is called Echo and it is designed by firefighters for firefighters.

Muehlbauer asked if there was an update to the shared services. Schmidt said that Charlie Smith will be here on March 3 to do an initial draft of the study. He added that they will also be presenting this to Bethel that same week.

Robinson asked about the relationship with Nowthen. Schmidt said they call when they need help. He shared that their new Fire Chief is getting settled in and they are seeing a decrease in the amount of consultation time being requested. He said their door is always open to help when needed.

The Council thanked Schmidt and his team for their hard work.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events.

Udvig shared that they are still looking for another member for the Park Commission. She added that as of March 1, Online Retrievers will be the City's animal control again.

Mayor Vogel shared that the MS4 situation is going to be very big. He explained that they will need to start clearing these pond areas which residents may be upset by. He shared that a resident had emailed him about pushing Bridge Street through to Highway 47. He noted that he has had an informal conversation with the superintendent who is open to this idea. He added that the Mayor of Anoka had reached out to him about drafting a letter of support for realigning Highway 47 with the fairgrounds. The Council was in agreement with Mayor Vogel signing the letter of support.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19 - Economic Development Authority Meeting - 5:30 pm

February 19 - Cancelled - Planning Commission Meeting

February 24 - City Council Work Session

March 3 - City Council Regular Meeting

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: UDVIG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 8:55 p.m.



Jennifer Wida, City Clerk