

CITY OF SHOREWOOD
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

5755 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Labadie called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. Roll Call

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Present. Mayor Labadie; Councilmembers Maddy, Sanschagrín, Gorham, and DiGruttolo; City Attorney Shepherd; City Administrator Nevinski; City Clerk/HR Director Thone; Planning Director Griffiths; Director of Public Works Morreim; Park and Recreation Manager Czech; Finance Director Schmuck, and City Engineer Budde

Absent: None

C. Review Agenda

Sanschagrín moved, Maddy seconded, approving the agenda as presented.

Motion passed.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Labadie reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he had some clarifying questions to ask on a few of the Consent Agenda items and would also like to remove item 2.E. for a separate discussion. He referenced item 2.I. Eddy Station Concession Agreement and asked if the City was requiring a damage deposit.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that he did not believe a damage deposit was necessary and noted that it was an \$850 contract and the City has a good working relationship with Tonka United. He noted that there is an insurance requirement, and a statement included in the agreement about making repairs if equipment breaks, but stated that there have not been any issues in the past.

Councilmember Sanschagrín referenced item 2.J. and asked if the City had ever used this type of code enforcement mowing contract before or if it was just something just needed to be available.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that the City has periodically used it on fewer than five properties a year. He stated that just this handful of properties end up getting their grass cut by the City and explained that it would always be after quite a bit of notice. He clarified that even though it was not used super often, it was important to have it in place, if needed.

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Councilmember Gorham stated that he also had a question on item 2.J. and noted that there was a statement that the City charges them or takes other recourse and asked about the past outcomes of those actions.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that if a property owner is billed for that service, if it is unpaid, it will be assessed to their property taxes at the end of the year.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the City has had to assess these onto property taxes recently.

Finance Director Schmuck stated that her understanding was that they have not, because all of them were paid based on the invoices sent by the City.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she had a few questions about items 2.F. and 2.K. She asked about item 2.F., the Park Trail Head Amended Agreement and asked for clarification on what the actual amendment was.

City Engineer Budde explained that amending the agreement was to be able to get money for two other small projects that are not related to the Freeman Park Trailhead and explained that this ended up being the easiest mechanism to accomplish that. He stated that the one on Strawberry Lane was for fifty thousand dollars and noted that they had already given the City a verbal agreement that they would reimburse the City for that amount. He explained that their original intent was to add it to the Freeman Park Agreement, but they had unintentionally left it out. He noted that the Eureka project was still forthcoming, and they told the City to just go ahead and throw it in as well.

Councilmember DiGruttolo explained that she would like to move item 2.K., 2025 Strategic Work Plan, off the Consent Agenda and move it onto the regular agenda.

Maddy moved, DiGruttolo seconded, Approving the Motions Contained on the Consent Agenda and Adopting the Resolutions Therein.

- A. City Council Work Session Minutes of April 14, 2025**
- B. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025**
- C. Approval of the Verified Claims List**
- D. Retail Liquor License Renewals, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-040, "A Resolution Approving 2025 Retail Liquor License Renewals."**
- E. ~~Parks Master Plan Contract~~ (moved to item 8.B.)**
- F. Freeman Park Trail Head Amended Agreement, City Project 22-05, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-041, "A Resolution Approving Amended Agreement with Three Rivers Park District for Freeman Park Trail Improvements Project, City Project 22-05."**
- G. Building Permit Escrow Agreement for 6140 Apple Road**
- H. Turf Maintenance Service Agreement**

- I. Eddy Station Concession Agreement
- J. Code Enforcement Mowing Contract
- K. ~~2025 Strategic Work Plan~~ (moved to item 8.C.)

Motion passed.

3. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Duane Laurila, 5595 Eureka Road, stated that he knew a water issue was going to be coming up but he had also heard talk about the City making people that have well in their street hook up to it and he did not think that was a good idea because he felt there was a reason why people did not hook up when the water was put there. He asked who made the decision that when Birch Bluff, Strawberry Lane, and Glen were redone that the homeowners were not assessed for the water that was put in the street and explained that he believed everybody else had to be five or eight thousand dollars. He shared the history of development in the Eureka Road area from the mid-1990s, where he believed this was done because a developer did not want to punch in wells for everyone. He stated that he felt the City should realize that just because they put water in did not mean that people would decide to hook up to it, and that forcing them to hook up would end up putting an undue burden on the residents. He reiterated that he would like to know who had made the decision not to assess the residents on Birch Bluff, Strawberry Lane, and Glen when water was put in, because that decision was not fair to everyone else in the City.

Mayor Labadie asked if City Administrator Nevinski could reach out directly to Mr. Laurila and answer some of his questions.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that he would be happy to reach out to Mr. Laurila and would also get this information back to the Council.

Mayor Labadie confirmed that the Council was intending to have many discussions related to water and recommended residents keep their eyes on the City website and their meeting agendas for when those are scheduled. She reminded residents that all City meetings were open to the public, so they were welcome to attend any of them.

Sarah Eigenmann, 23825 LaTonka Drive, explained that she was here to advocate for the City to adopt curbside organics collection for all residents. She explained that she had moved to this location in the summer of 2022, and curbside composting followed her from Plymouth with Republic Services, because they thought that she lived in Excelsior, which did have curbside service. She noted that Excelsior no longer does curbside services, which meant that she lost her curbside organics pickup. She explained one of her hobbies was to serve as a 'Green Living Coach,' which means she educates people about recycling, composting, and plastic-free alternatives, and was a Hennepin County Master Recycler. She noted that she had served on the City's Recycling Committee since 2022, when she moved to the City, and shared some of the door-knocking efforts she and fellow committee members had done to help educate the community about organics waste. She noted that most of the homeowners they spoke with wanted to participate, but the current system of having drop-off sites was inconvenient for most people. She shared some statistical information about composting and how much food is currently wasted in the United States.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. PARKS

6. PLANNING

A. Report by Commissioner Magistad on April 1, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting

Planning Commissioner Magistad gave a brief overview of the discussion and recommendations from the April 1, 2025, Planning Commission meeting and answered clarifying questions from the Council.

B. Rezoning Three Parcels to R-3A
Applicant: City of Shorewood
Location: 24560, 24590, and 24620 Smithtown Road

Planning Director Griffiths reviewed the request to rezone three parcels on Smithtown Road to R-3A, which was essentially the City's medium-density zoning district. He explained that this item was the last step of implementing the previous amendments made by the Council for medium density as required by the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He stated that at the Planning Commission level, there was one public comment received that was in opposition to this action. He noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing and unanimously recommended approving this rezoning request. He explained that, at this point, staff felt that this was a housekeeping item, ensuring that all of the City's plans were consistent with each other, and agreed with the recommendation made by the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Sanschagrin asked for an explanation of the difference between R-2A and R-3A.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that R-3A was a medium-density district that the Council had just created recently, which was a six to eight unit per acre range, and R-2A would be a step down from that level, with lower density and a mix of single-family homes and duplexes.

Councilmember Sanschagrin noted that there had been feedback received about how R-2A would be a better way to have a separation between the commercial and the single-family home next to it. He asked what that option may look like.

Planning Director Griffiths stated the City was stuck with rezoning the property to R-3A because those were the decisions that had been made leading up to this point with the Comprehensive Plan and the Code amendments. He explained that the City was essentially obligated at this point, unless they go back and unwind several years of decisions that they had made to go in this particular direction. He noted that the other issue they would face in going a different direction would be that the City would no longer meet the Met Council's goals for density in the community.

Councilmember Sanschagrin asked if the buffer property in this area was owned by the City.

Planning Director Griffiths clarified that the EDA owned the property that was farthest to the west. He noted that there was also a small property to the east that was a six-unit apartment complex, so it already had a density that was closer to medium density.

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Mayor Labadie explained that Councilmember Sanschagrín had referred to an email by Brian Maghan, 5670 Christopher Road, where he had referred to a property owned by Welty and Gherke and asked if the City had heard anything from those individuals.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he had not heard from Ms. Welty or Mr. Gherke.

Councilmember Gorham asked Planning Director Griffiths his thoughts on Mr. Maghan's point at the end of his email about density needs being met by future developments. He explained that the City had begun this process many years ago and felt that perhaps the City had not taken into account the development that they have had since that time. He noted that Planning Director Griffiths had talked about unwinding some of the decisions that had been made and asked if he did do some unwinding and took a look at what has happened in the City since they did the Comprehensive Plan, if he felt the need for density may not be as great.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that the City would just barely meet the density requirements with the current Comprehensive Plan and clarified that they were not in a position to go back and lower density in a substantial way throughout the community. He stated that the City just did not have a lot of wiggle room with what had been developed and noted that the City had not seen a lot of development at higher densities since the Comprehensive Plan had been adopted, and has been more medium density. He clarified that the Council could go that direction, but from staff's perspective, they would rather just implement the plan in front of them right now, since they have already traveled down this path for so many years. He stated that if they wanted to have a conversation about it in the future, the discussion related to the next version of the Comprehensive Plan would start at the end of the year.

DiGruttolo moved, Maddy seconded, Approving ORDINANCE NO. 618, "An Ordinance Amending Section 1201.09, Subd. 2. Of the Shorewood Zoning Code – The Shorewood Zoning Map for Three Parcels Located at 24560 Smithtown Road, 24590 Smithtown Road, and 24620 Smithtown Road;" AND, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-042, "A Resolution Approving the Summary Publication for Ordinance 618 Amending Section 1201.09, Subd. 2. Of the Shorewood Zoning Code – The Shorewood Zoning Map for Three Parcels Located at 24560 Smithtown Road, 24590 Smithtown Road, and 24620 Smithtown Road."

Motion passed.

- C. Rezoning Three Parcels to R-2A**
 - Applicant: City of Shorewood**
 - Location: 6055, 6065, and 6067 Lake Linden Drive**

Planning Director Griffiths gave an overview of the request to rezone three parcels along Lake Linden Drive to R-2A and explained that it was very similar to the previous agenda item because it was a housekeeping item. He noted that these three properties were currently zoned R-3A, but since the recent changes to the City Code, that zoning district did not make sense for the property owners anymore. He stated that if they left them in their current zoning, it would limit the property owners to what they can do with their properties and force them into the need for variances or legal non-conformities. He explained that the R-2A zoning requirements are substantially the same as what the property owners had before the City updated the City Code. He stated that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing on this item at their last meeting and received one comment just before the meeting their meeting which was in opposition to this action. He

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noted that staff had reached out to this individual asking if they would like to provide some additional context to their comment, and they have not responded to staff. He explained that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning of these parcels.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked why Planning Director Griffiths felt the public commenter was opposed to this action.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that he could not speculate as to why they would be opposed and clarified that he had given them a few different opportunities to provide additional context, which they have not done.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked for an example of how this rezoning would help avoid the need for a variance.

Planning Director Griffiths shared a few of the differences between R-3A and R-2A and explained that if the zoning were left at R-3A, the property owners would need a variance to do just about any work on their property.

Maddy moved, Sanschagrín seconded, Approving ORDINANCE 619, An Ordinance Amending Section 1201-09 Subd. 2 of the Shorewood Zoning Code – The Shorewood Zoning Map for Parcels Located at 6055 Lake Linden Drive, 6065 Lake Linden Drive, and 6067 Lake Linden Drive; AND, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-043, “A Resolution Approving the Summary Publication for Ordinance 619 Amending Section 1201-09 Subd. 2 of the Shorewood Zoning Code – The Shorewood Zoning Map for Parcels Located at 6055 Lake Linden Drive, 6065 Lake Linden Drive, and 6067 Lake Linden Drive.”

Motion passed.

**D. Public Hearing: Subdivision Ordinance Update
Applicant: City of Shorewood
Location: City-wide**

Planning Director Griffiths introduced Rita Trapp, HKGi, and explained that she had been working as the City’s consultant on this issue.

Rita Trapp, HKGi, gave a brief update on their work on the code updates and noted that it had begun last year, and clarified that their only focus has been the subdivision code. She explained that from staff’s perspective, the City’s current Subdivision Ordinance was outdated. She noted that it was first adopted in 2002 but has had a few updates over the years, but were done in a piecemeal fashion so HKGi was asked to come in to help the City modernize it, and also to do things like incorporating City practices and ensure that it reflected the direction given in the Comprehensive Plan. She briefly reviewed some of the work HKGi had done as part of reviewing and proposing updates to the City’s Subdivision Ordinance. She highlighted some of the proposed reorganization of the Ordinance, details related to premature subdivisions, procedures and enforcement, optional pre-application meetings for sketch plans, administrative adjustments in minor subdivisions, when hook up to City water and sewer would be required, and the expanded park dedication section. She stated that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing, and two people shared their concerns, primarily related to the new proposed water policy for subdivisions. She explained that the only real concern they heard expressed from the Planning Commission was related to the new water hook-up requirement policy but noted that they had

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recommended approval of the proposed subdivision ordinance, but had recommended that the Council not include the new water hook-up requirements. She explained that based on the previous direction the Council had provided in January, the draft Subdivision Ordinance included all the elements staff had recommended, so if the Council wanted to revisit the water hook-up policy, that would require a change to the language.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he would just note that there would also be a few residual updates to other portions of City Code, which have been identified in the resolution, such as the water section.

Councilmember Sanschagrin asked if, as part of this process, the City had done any kind of assessment on how properties would be impacted by the proposed changes.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that what they looked at was that this policy would essentially apply to every property in the City, so the impact would be that if someone wanted to subdivide their property, then these would be the new requirements they would need to meet. He stated that there was a limited amount of land that was identified in the Comprehensive Plan that can be subdivided and noted that for many properties in the City, these rules will just not pertain to them.

Mayor Labadie opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Mike Sherritt, 5590 Woodside Lane, stated that he had lived at this address for thirty-three years and noted that his business address was in Excelsior at 464 2nd Street. He explained that he was here to speak on behalf of Matt and Ashley Tierney, who own a duplex property on Shorewood Lane. He explained that they have a lot that was right at forty thousand square feet and were applying to subdivide it into two lots. He stated that they submitted the request late in 2024, and when they received the staff report information back, it stated that there would be a requirement for a water hook-up. He outlined the location of a fire hydrant in comparison with their property and noted that on Shorewood Lane, there were currently seven duplexes and one single-family home, and his clients own one of the duplexes. He noted that the current ordinance stated that one to three units would be allowed, which is what they were proposing. He stated that Shorewood was a community that had very little developable land left, and there would not be many twenty or thirty-unit lot subdivisions. He stated that he felt the City's ordinance was okay, given the nature of Shorewood, and was oriented more toward one and two-lot subdivisions. He explained that the Tierneys wanted to propose a new duplex on the proposed new lot that would be subdivided, but because of a life situation, they would like to be able to subdivide the lot and sell the land. He explained that when they had gotten the information from the staff report of having to install a six-inch watermain off of the fire hydrant, they researched costs for that came out to between one hundred thirty and one hundred fifty thousand dollars to hook up the watermain to the property line of the next property. He noted that the numbers he was quoting were not exact, but were rough estimates from the industry and show that the costs to extend the watermain would be about half of the value of the lot itself, which his clients decided that they could not do. He stated that if they did what the City was saying needed to be done to extend the lines, it would mean that his clients would end up paying sixty-four percent of the total cost of the water main. He explained that he felt that most of the subdivisions that they would be looking at in the future were going to be this same type of smaller subdivision, and if water service is far away, it just did not seem fair or that it was responsive to the nature of this community.

Duane Laurila, 5595 Eureka Road, stated that he cannot believe the City was even considering approving this ordinance because it puts an undue burden on the residents. He gave the example

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of an elderly couple who may want to subdivide their property and sell it, but the costs of putting in a water main will make it less likely to happen. He stated that he felt this was a really bad idea and was concerned that the City had already made up their minds and would approve this ordinance.

There being no additional public comment, Mayor Labadie closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked about an application that came in before the ordinance changes were made, and if they would be grandfathered in.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that this was typically how it was written and, in this situation, the clients were seeking a variance application to construct a duplex on their property, which otherwise would not have been allowed by the City Code. He stated that as part of staff's preliminary evaluation, they informed the property owner that for staff to support the variance request, they would likely require water to be extended since it was available to the property, and at that point, the applicant had withdrawn their request. He stated that over the past few months, as this policy has been underway, he has consistently informed people who had asked about subdivisions that this policy change was coming, so they should get their applicants in if they wanted to get them in before this went into effect.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked how many applications for subdivision the City had received as a result of those conversations with interested residents.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that they had just received one application.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked about the downsides of not requiring anyone to hook up, connect, or pay for water.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he believed the reason that the policy was drafted this way was in response to the Council's January work session meeting, where they had discussed this policy question. He stated that the City currently has a policy that if you were subdividing four or more units and water was reasonably available, they are required to hook up. He noted that if the smaller subdivisions came in, they were not required to hook up. He referenced the Shorewood Meadow development, which was a three-lot development, and even though City water was immediately available off of Smithtown Road, under the current policy, that development was not required to hook up to City water, but they did choose to do it without the requirement. He noted that within the staff report, there was information that went off some of the Planning Commission discussion surrounding the costs to hook up. He stated that there were a lot of wells in the City, and there are also known issues with groundwater contamination within the community that require mitigation strategies. He stated that if the City allows developments to go in when there is no City water available, that also meant the developer was not installing things like fire hydrants. He reiterated that the proposed changes were kind of riffing on the discussion the Council had in January to move towards this type of policy.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that her understanding of the explanation Planning Director Griffiths had just given was that if the City did not require the developers to pay for this, then the other residents of the City would end up bearing those costs, and taxes would continue to increase. She stated that the benefit of this change was that when they do go to sell, they have access to fire hydrants, which could affect their property value and homeowners' insurance, but would also have the water hooked up and would not have to worry about testing wells. She stated

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that she was not present for the Council discussion that took place in January and explained that she wanted it to be clear and on the record what the Council's overall thought process has been around this issue in trying to determine what was best for all of the residents of the City and not just one small group of people.

Planning Director Griffiths acknowledged that all the things mentioned by Councilmember DiGruttolo were certainly considerations that can go into this decision. He noted that when development occurred, it was kind of the City's one shot to get these kinds of public improvements built because otherwise, if they had to make those improvements in the future, the taxpayers and the community are the ones that end up shouldering those costs in the future. He explained that retrofitting neighborhoods after the fact was often substantially more expensive than doing it at the time things were being built.

Councilmember Gorham gave the example of an existing property with four or more units and asked if this rule was already in place in that situation, and if they were required to connect.

Planning Director Griffiths clarified that, for the most part, this rule was already in place and noted that the language says that it has to be 'reasonably available', so this proposed language would take it a bit further and say that it was required even if it was not reasonably available. He stated that the intent would be that if water was not reasonably available for a project, that meant they were proposing it too early, and would be considered premature. He stated that their option in that situation would be to either extend the infrastructure or wait until the City did it. He noted that in situations where the infrastructure was already there, this policy already existed for the larger developments.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the first section in black and the new underlined section were mutually exclusive ideas.

Planning Director Griffiths confirmed that they are mutually exclusive.

Councilmember Gorham asked if it would be possible for a new development, rather than subdividing, to just build a duplex or triplex as a way to avoid the water hook-up requirement.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that it could be a possibility and clarified that this policy was solely focused on subdivision, so there would be other ways to get around this requirement if the property was not subdivided.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he was wondering about the four or more units and asked if that could conflict with the spirit of the new language.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that the four or more units language would be deleted as part of the amendment to the Code and would essentially say that it did not matter how many units were being proposed.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the existing language needed to be changed to match the spirit of the new language.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he did not believe it needed to be changed because the existing language was saying that, if the City Council wanted to, they could mandate hook-up within ninety days for a commercial or multi-family property, and noted that was a separate

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requirement from the subdivision staff. He noted that requirements for existing properties were not part of the scope of their discussion on this topic.

Councilmember Gorham stated that they could discuss requirements for existing properties if the Council wanted to. He asked how the Council felt about lowering the number and how they felt about four or more units, because that would mean that anything with three units would suddenly come into focus.

Planning Director Griffiths reminded the Council that this language was saying that it would be required for hook-up within ninety days after the City Council gives notice. He stated that none of this has anything to do with subdivision, and they could drop that number, but it would not impact any existing property unless the City Council wanted to decide that they wanted to order this property to hook up to City water within ninety days.

Councilmember Sanschagrín shared that he was concerned about the equity question and the requirement to extend the water main and asked why that had been included.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that it was included based on the direction from the City Council at their January meeting. He stated that typically, if you are going to require water to be extended to a project, you require it to be extended to the next property line, otherwise, the next property owner would have to go back and pay the cost to extend the water main. He stated that most cities require water mains to be extended to the property line, so everyone pays their own fair costs for extension of the infrastructure.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked if there was anything the City could do to help with the costs associated with this action.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that under the City's current fee structure, developers are allowed a ten-thousand-dollar per lot credit on their watermain area charge if the costs to install those improvements exceed the fee. He referenced the Shorewood Meadow development and explained that the developer wrote a check to the City for thirty thousand dollars to help pay for that infrastructure. He noted that a project like Maple Shores, where infrastructure was extended underneath Highway 7, the developer got a seventy-thousand-dollar credit by not having to pay the watermain fee because they did the work themselves. He explained that the City already provided a level of credit by reducing the fee when these kinds of projects come in.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the City had considered other need-based subsidies for when they consider this type of policy, which could potentially be burdensome.

Mayor Labadie stated that she felt that was a possibility, but that was not the current noticed agenda item on the table for tonight. She stated that to discuss that it would need to be placed on a future agenda so it could be noticed to the public.

Councilmember Maddy stated that the idea of installing dead legs into the City's water distribution system seemed dangerous because you cannot maintain clean water on a dead leg if you are extending the water main past where it was being used. He asked how the City could manage that if the City was requiring it to be installed to the next property line.

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Planning Director Griffiths stated that he would yield the technical answer to that question to Public Works, but noted that he had worked in several communities and this has been the policy in every community he had worked in, and explained that it was pretty standard operating procedure.

City Engineer Budde agreed that it was a pretty typical practice and explained that normally, at the end of the run, they would install a hydrant, so they could easily locate it within the infrastructure.

Councilmember Maddy asked if the City required someone to run half a street worth of pipe, if they would also have to buy a hydrant on the far side of their lot as well.

City Engineer Budde stated that was correct.

Councilmember Maddy stated that the City has a lot of properties that are dividable as minor subdivisions and felt that people were banking on that for when they downsize. He stated that if they are far away from a water main, the City was telling them 'not yet' in an already pretty much fully developed community. He stated that he was having trouble with the one example that was given to the Council because that situation was relatively common in the City.

Planning Director Griffiths reiterated that staff and the consultant had proposed the amendments based on the City Council's direction from the January meeting.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he was thinking that if they had access to water and were doing a lot split that they should be required to hook up, but did not think the City would be charging people a quarter of a million dollars to run a pipe down their road.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she did not think that was what the Council was saying and was saying that if water was not available, then it was premature, so they could not subdivide yet.

Councilmember Maddy stated that they could not subdivide yet, or they would have to pay for water to come from the nearest main.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that was correct, and if they wanted to work around it being premature, that would be one of their alternatives. He noted that another option is that a resident could work with their neighborhood to petition the City for water and then share those costs with their neighbors. He noted that the overall intent of the Council's January discussion was that this was an opportunity, where they have development, to require this to occur and also protect the areas where they have development occurring, at those locations where infrastructure already existed. He stated that without this, they would continue to see unrestricted private well development throughout large areas of the City.

Mayor Labadie stated that a neighborhood could follow the City's code language and petition the City for access to City water.

City Engineer Budde gave a brief overview of the petition process if a certain percentage of the neighborhood wanted City water and noted that in the Shorewood Lane example that was raised, the property owner could reach out to people on the street to petition the City and then spread out the costs amongst themselves. He clarified that this would have to be done by the property owner because the City would not go out and knock on doors to try to make that happen.

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Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt that this proposed regulation still needed some more work because it was approved, and gave examples of some language changes that he would like to see made. He explained that for these reasons, he would be in favor of tabling this item.

Mayor Labadie asked what specific information he felt he needed before he would be able to vote on this item.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt the Council still needed to think through some of the unintended consequences that this may create and explained that he did not think the City wanted to cause people to lose their retirement savings because of an ordinance that ended up causing financial hardship. He reiterated that there were issues that he found when reviewing this document related to some of the language that was used to make it more about an ordinance that was for the community and residents, and not the City authority. He explained that he had a hard time with forced connections and felt that the City should work on developing a program that was more about a high-quality product that people want rather than compelling people to connect to that product. He clarified that he was worried about City overreach on this item.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she did not have an issue with ensuring that the language matched the Comprehensive Plan and agreed that if it did not match, this would be the time to make it right. She asked if staff knew how many potentially subdividable properties there were in the City.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that it would be difficult to come up with an exact number, but noted that the Comprehensive Plan calls for about fourteen acres of substantial development. He noted that several properties could be split into one other property, but staff had not gone through the entire community to look at those because it would require staff to analyze every individual property.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he agreed with Councilmember Sanschagrín that he did not want to forsake someone's retirement, but also did not want to throw the baby out with the bath water because of a potential outlier of an example about the outcome of the process. He stated that there is a variance process in place, and in this case, were a variance came before the Council, he would want to know where the street was located on the CIP and would also want them to get the temperature of their neighbors about this possibility. He explained that he felt there was a great process in place for the City to be able to consider variance requests on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt those were great points and would like to add that into this document somehow to create more protections for the residents.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that the language already calls out that the subdivision variance process exists and could be used by the Council to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Sanschagrín noted that the City was also going to be updating the Comprehensive Plan and was working on developing a water plan and explained that he felt approving this would be a little bit like putting the cart before the horse. He reiterated that he felt it would make sense for the Council to defer a decision on this until those other initiatives are further developed.

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Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she agreed with Councilmember Sanschagrín and noted that she felt the Council should figure out what the plan was going to be for water, in general, before they decide this one small portion of it.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he has been thinking that the Council needed to tackle this issue piece by piece because it was not just subdivisions. He stated that he had also been thinking about home sales and turning things over parcel by parcel when there was a sale, if water was available. He noted that on his street, he went door to door to get resident signatures in support of having a watermain installed, and they have half of the neighborhood did not sign up for water. He explained that one of the people was happy to get it, but did not sign up for water, and had just sold her home, which he felt was a missed opportunity. He stated that he did not want more time to go by and the water decisions to keep getting bogged down within the process, when the City had the opportunity in front of them to make an incremental gain. He stated that he felt this was one tool and would hate to see the City lose more opportunities and suggested that they carve this one out and add a brick to what the City was trying to build, and keep working on subdivision regulations and fine-tune things. He stated that if there was the option of a variance process and the language that could be changed a bit, they could begin working towards a solution.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if Councilmember Gorham was suggesting that they take out the water portion and sign the rest of it.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he was suggesting the opposite scenario and stated that he viewed this as Step One of the process related to water, and they could then work on fine-tuning the other points that have been brought up.

Councilmember Sanschagrín noted that would be the inverse of the Planning Commission recommendation.

Councilmember Gorham explained that he felt good about this because there is language that gives people the option of seeking a variance, for cases like they heard about today.

Councilmember Maddy referenced a house in his cul-de-sac that had a lot split done and were adjacent to the watermain, and when they built their new home, they were not allowed to connect to the watermain because of an engineering challenge. He asked if that scenario came before the Council, if it would have to go through the variance process for them to get any water, and if the City had already said that they could not connect.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he was not aware of that specific situation, but the way this was written was that the property owner needed to work with the City to overcome the challenge or seek a variance to subdivide. He noted that he felt the example shared by Councilmember Maddy was exactly why the variance process was there.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked if there was a way to include a mechanism that would measure this kind of hardship situation.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that the variance review criteria were pretty specific within State law that needed to be followed, and going outside of that process would be questionable.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that there was a variance process under State law for subdivisions, but when the Council was talking about the provision in Section 903, that was not the zoning. He explained that it was connected to subdivisions, but was not a subdivision code, and noted that there was language included that was 'may be deemed premature' if water was not available for hook-up. He stated that there was nothing in it right now that stated they can vary whether or not a two or three-lot subdivision was subject to a hardship waiver, so the subdivision variance does not apply, and wanted to make sure the Council understood that point.

Mayor Labadie stated that her understanding from past Council discussions was that they were planning to take the water issue on a piece of piece basis. She noted that this item is a piece of a really large issue and felt that if the City tried to put everything together all in one decision, it would take a very long time to reach any type of agreeable language.

Councilmember DiGruttolo explained that her concern with taking the piece-by-piece approach was that this was not the piece that the City should start with. She stated that she understood the concept of breaking it down into digestible, easier to under pieces, but reiterated that she did not feel this place was where it should begin. She explained that she did not think the Council could have a full conversation about the benefits, trade-offs, pros, cons, and was also not capturing the Council's thought process for the future. She stated that the City was in this situation now, but they do not know how they got here because no one on the Council was here when the initial decisions were made. She stated that she felt they were currently trying to lay the foundation that whoever comes in the future will be able to understand the logic of what their thought process was before they make their own decisions. She stated that even more important than that was making sure the community understood why the City was making those decisions and choices. She stated that she liked what the City was trying to do and felt this was probably the right way to go, but she was concerned that they would not have the level or amount of transparency that they want with the full discussion, so people will be able to see how all the pieces fit together.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he had said the same thing a few weeks ago about the Mill Street project.

Mayor Labadie stated that for this item, the applicant was the City of Shorewood and asked if this was time sensitive, like it would be for an individual applicant.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that there was no statutory time frame on these amendments, but several things are coming down the pipe that it would be very beneficial to have this in place before they arrive. He gave the example of the legislative session ending on May 19, 2025, which had several bills still in process that would significantly limit the City's authority over zoning and development. He noted that one of the key components of the proposed bills was the availability of infrastructure, so this type of policy could become very important if some of those bills are approved. He noted that the City was consistently receiving development applications and explained that staff was concerned that some of the current policies in the subdivision section may be questionable. He stated that he felt there was some pressure to move forward with these more quickly, but there was not a statutory deadline to get them done.

Councilmember Sanschagrín asked if the possible legislative changes would be another reason that the City should wait before approving this, or if he was saying that these ordinances would get grandfathered in.

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Planning Director Griffiths clarified that he was saying that several of the bills that have been proposed, condition their requirements on the availability of local infrastructure. He stated that, right now, the City had no requirements related to acquiring City water, so if some of the bills pass, the City could allow much greater housing density on properties and if this policy was not in place, the City may see that development occur with private wells instead of City water and would also mean that this development could happen more broadly across the community instead of the locations where the City had planned for the growth. He explained that this was why there was a bit of pressure to get these policies in place and noted that even if the proposed legislation did not pass this year, he did not think the conversation would be going away and reiterated that the City's current policy leaves them somewhat exposed if they are passed.

Councilmember Maddy stated that defending the City from an overreach at the State level was probably the first good argument he had heard, but was not sure if the timing pressure was there and felt they would be able to come back and cover themselves afterwards if they do something crazy like they did in 2023, unless they preempt new restrictions.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that a number of the bills have been written that cities need to follow the regulations that they have in place, as of June 1, 2025, not the end of the calendar year. He explained that the reason this policy was being brought forward was because staff were working on broader updates to the subdivision code and because they had a conversation with the Council in January, which was what moved these forward as part of the process. He stated that the Council could choose to pull those elements out but reminded them that they were included based on the Council's direction at the January meeting.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he did not like surprising people with expenses and noted that a point of sale requirement to connect, made sense to him. He gave an example of assessing people for street work when they did not see it coming, because they may not be able to front the money, which meant they had to borrow from the County, which was something he did not like to see done to people. He stated that the ninety day rule included in this language concerned him even though it was seemingly directed at investor owned properties/ He stated that he also did not like a situation where someone may have been sitting on a spare conforming lot that they were planning to split and sell would not be able to split anymore. He noted that he did not see the City getting water everywhere until another twenty or thirty years later. He explained that because of these reasons, he was torn on his opinion and noted that he wanted to do it because it would not affect that many people, but the people it does affect would be a substantial burden compared to what they had the legal right to do currently.

Councilmember Gorham stated that the impact of the proposed bill, if passed, would be dramatic.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he felt it was probably worth having an insurance policy in place to cover themselves from whatever the State may be up to with the odd bedfellows that were behind the missing middle proposals.

Councilmember Gorham referenced the explanation by City Attorney Shepherd related to variances and asked if there may be better language that could be used for a variance situation or some discretion that the City could build into the language to be able to take them case by case.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that the subdivision variance process was unusual hardship and not practical difficulties, and noted that even if it was the practical difficulties test, they were not

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supposed to take into account finances in the decision. He noted that the framework for zoning and subdivisions they were talking about the land. He explained that his concern would be if there was a process by which people would be required to hook up, but then build in some sort of equity hardship test, that would put the Council in a difficult spot for making that determination on a case by case basis and may leave them open to some legal challenges. He stated that he would recommend an all-or-nothing approach and from a more global perspective, and not on an individual basis.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he did not want the Council to be inundated with variance requests where they would have to serve as judge and jury.

Mayor Labadie stated that last week, Senator Ann Johnson Stewart held a meeting with all the mayors in her district, and she did bring up the missing middle housing bill and other things that were in the pipeline. She explained that Senator Johnson Stewart had said that very few of the bills, at the State level, have bipartisan support, but this concept did. She noted that she did not think the worry expressed by Planning Director Griffiths was a scare tactic because it mirrored what Senator Johnson Stewart had shared with the mayors last week. She stated that if the City lost local control of the City and the future of how it will look and be developed, it could have devastating impacts on Shorewood. She stated that she felt this was a difficult decision and noted that she had not come into this with her mind already made up and felt the entire Council was taking this very seriously. She stated that this may be one of the many steps that the City needed to take to right their Water Fund.

Councilmember Maddy stated that Greenwood notoriously does not have any fire hydrants or a public water system, and there was a structure fire there last week, which ended up filling up the street with tanker trucks from multiple departments. He stated that as the cities develop further west, they will not have the luxury of some of these departments having tanker trucks ready to roll.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that Councilmember Maddy had raised a really good point, which was why she wanted to have a conversation, nor did she think this was the best place to start the overall water conversation. She stated that it was currently drier than it has been, wildfires are spreading faster than they have along the Canadian border, and she felt that water and sharing water were going to become a big issue. She stated that she did feel the City needed to have this conversation, which had many complexities, and they have to serve the interests of the majority of residents and not just small communities, which can be painful, but sometimes they have to face hard realities. She stated that all she was asking was for the Council to be able to have the conversation about the big picture before they start taking on the little pieces.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he had thought the same thing about the Mill Street project, but with the timing of the missing middle thing, if it is passed and this policy is not in place, it could just totally dissolve what the City was trying to do.

Councilmember Sanschagrin stated that he was not sure he understood why and asked what the risk would be.

Mayor Labadie asked City staff to answer the question related to the proposed legislation at the State level and how it could impact the City's Water Fund, in a worst-case scenario.

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City Administrator Nevinski explained that what was being proposed was that cities are not able to set their zoning requirements. He stated that the State was saying that if certain conditions exist, the cities would have to allow housing at much higher densities on much smaller lot sizes. He stated that staff was worried that there would be a lot more development pressure and more opportunities for people to sell land for more parcels. He stated that the City could see higher density developments with everything being put on wells because that would be cheaper, easier, and more convenient.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that part of the reason that he was substantially concerned about this was because Shorewood's existing zoning had prioritized larger lots, and setbacks had pushed things to the center and back of the lots. He explained that in the areas where City water was not available are the one-acre lot neighborhoods that have chosen not to hook up to the system. He noted that the way the State was proposing this legislation was that those lots are prime candidates for additional housing, and if this was approved, they could potentially see three additional houses on that lot, in addition to the existing home. He stated that without having this policy in place, the City would not be able to say 'no' because they would be able to use private wells, which also meant that there would not be fire hydrants or public safety elements in place and would just be permitted via a building permit.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that it was character and the City did not have the rest of the infrastructure to support that rapid of a buildup, and the City would lose its ability to have pacing. She stated that she felt it was important for local government to be able to maintain the character that the majority of residents want, but also the pace of progress.

Councilmember Sanschagrin asked about the likelihood of this legislation passing.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that it seemed to be pretty high.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that he was not sure if it would pass during this session, but from individuals he had spoken with in his profession, it sounded like it would continue to be a hot topic year after year, until something passes.

Mayor Labadie explained that this was also what Senator Johnson Stewart had alluded to.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the House had passed this last year.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that it did not pass the House last year because of the way the legislative session ended in turmoil but acknowledged that they were very close to the finish line. He stated that the direction he had received through his professional organizations and groups was that this coalition was building and continued to get larger, and that this was also one of the few issues for which there was bipartisan support within the State legislature.

Mayor Labadie stated that during the last legislative session, all the cities had spoken out in outrage, and most of the cities are members of the League of Minnesota Cities. She stated that the League of Minnesota Cities had supported the cities that were in opposition and provided other support as advocates for city controls and individuality, which she felt was helpful at the end of the last session.

Councilmember Maddy stated that curb and gutter had been mentioned and asked if that would be required for a minor subdivision.

Planning Director Griffiths explained that curb and gutter would be required in situations where a street was going to be built.

Councilmember Gorham stated that the City had received a comment from a former Councilmember who was an attorney about line thirty-three that suggested a change from 'may' to 'shall' and asked City Attorney Shepherd if he had an opinion on this.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that he agreed with former Councilmember Callies and stated that it goes back to the discretion that he had talked about, and this was not a scenario where the Council wanted to be calling balls and strikes, whether it was available or not.

Gorham moved to push the proposed Subdivision Ordinance Amendments to a future meeting to allow the Council time to discuss more details; AND, Approving Ordinance 617, Amending Shorewood City Code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property, and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, with the replacement of language 'may be deemed premature' with 'shall be deemed premature'; AND, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-044, "A Resolution Approving the Summary Publication for Ordinance 617 Amending Shorewood City Code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations."

Planning Director Griffiths noted that the language change proposed by Councilmember Gorham was included in the broader Subdivision Ordinance, so the Council cannot adopt one without the other because this language referenced proposed City Code 1202.47, which established all the standards for premature subdivision. He stated that Councilmember Sanschagrín had not shared his other concerns related to the language and suggested that he could try to answer other questions about the text concerns.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the Council could approve the section that referred to City Code 1202.47.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that if the intent was to carve out and deal with the amendments for Chapter 900 rather than the whole scale Subdivision Ordinance, he would suggest a motion to bring that back and put the minor, discreet amendment on a Consent Agenda, because he felt that would be cleaner.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he felt putting this on a Consent Agenda would not look good or sound good.

City Attorney Shepherd explained that, from his perspective, they had already held several public hearings, had discussed it, and if they were not changing the language, he felt that they could put that in a discreet ordinance. He noted that in that scenario, it would not be uncommon for something like that to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Sanschagrín moved, DiGruttolo seconded, to table Ordinance 617, Amending Shorewood City Code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property, and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

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Councilmember Maddy asked if this was being tabled because of an alleged flag lot discrepancy or if there was another motivation.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she felt they were looking to table it because the Council had not had the larger conversation about water. She stated that the Council had been told that they could not remove that section and approve it, so they wanted to have the conversation about water before they approve it.

Councilmember Gorham stated that was not what he had heard.

Mayor Labadie asked how quickly this item may be able to come back to the Council as a whole issue and be able to vote on something before the legislative session deadline of June 1, 2025.

Councilmember Gorham stated that they did not know if the June 1, 2025, deadline was a real thing. He stated that he would rather see the City go through their edits because he did not think that they would be able to have a robust conversation about this anytime soon. He stated that if they were getting held up by the subdivision language, he would suggest the Council just go through the subdivision language.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he also felt there was an issue with this because it tied into the water plan.

Councilmember Gorham agreed but noted that the risk was that there may be new legislative language that would open up the entire City to subdivisions without the water language and would deep-six any hope for a fully sustainable Enterprise Fund.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt there were other ways of addressing the Water Fund.

Councilmember Gorham stated that this was just one piece and felt that there was still a robust conversation that needed to take place about all the other water solutions and explained that he had no idea how the City would implement water. He stated that this was one that just affected fourteen acres in the City.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that if the City made the choice here to force people to hook up, it would be very strange and hypocritical if, in the end, the City decided that would be the only one and nobody else would have to hook up. She reiterated that the Council had not had a conversation in public where they had discussed why they did this here but not in any other places. She suggested that they go ahead and take a vote.

Mayor Labadie clarified that the Council was still in the discussion phase and reminded Council that this magnitude of a decision impacted the City for current homeowners but also for the next generation. She stated that she was very concerned about the way the housing bill because she felt that it would pass, at some point, and would restrict cities' rights. She noted that it may not be the best time to make a decision based on speculative statewide legislation, but if the City misses the opportunity and it does pass in June of 2025, shame on the Council. She stated that the Council was trying to do the right thing and gather information, but that could financially impact their City.

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Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the Council passed this and then decided later, when they start having those other conversations, that they made the wrong choice, if they would have the political will to turn around and change this back the way it was. She stated that this may need to happen and noted that she did not think anyone on the Council was wrong, but these were the current facts. She explained that she had appreciated that everyone on the Council was throwing out potential scenarios and was glad it was public because she wanted the residents to understand that this was an agonizing decision and were not just making a snap decision, or that they had already made their minds up before the meeting.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that as part of their discussion, they talked about a development that was not required to hook up but had voluntarily done it, so he felt that if the Council did not pass this tonight, it would be an 'all is lost' situation. He stated that he felt the City could work hard to convince the future subdividers that it would be in their best interest to hook up to City water.

Councilmember Maddy explained that he was starting to see this more as stop poking holes in the community aquifer rather than some other concerns that had been raised. He stated that he felt that this was the first step in that goal and noted that further down the road, he would like to start offering a better water product. He stated that it was not an easy choice, but he was comfortable with it, so he would be against the current motion.

Mayor Labadie stated that the Council had heard from City Engineer Budde in the past that to drastically improve the water quality would be astronomically expensive, and they cannot get there without having more people hook up. She stated that the City was not funding it appropriately, as it currently was, and did not think it was realistic to convince people to hook up because it was a better product.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he believed the necessary improvements would be about one million dollars for an iron filter and noted that it was not much more than putting in the pipe.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that they were going through improvements on an existing filter and building right now, which was about three hundred thousand dollars. He stated that they have four different sites, and if the City wanted treatment, it would be on the other three sites that do not have buildings for treatment or anything and felt that it would cost multiple millions of dollars for each site.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he thought they would just do Badger because that was their main well.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that they were still quite a distance from looking at the feasibility of any of this, and what the Council was discussing tonight was just a piece of that, and explained that some of those pieces needed to align before they could get into those discussions. He stated that improving the water quality really cannot occur before the City gets more people connected and the City has more of a revenue stream to even get on the path.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the City could apply for grants for water infrastructure.

City Engineer Budde stated that there are grants, but to get them, they typically would have to have contaminants in the municipal supply. He stated that Shorewood does not have any significant contaminants and is mostly just iron.

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Public Works Director Morreim explained that iron was considered a secondary contaminant and referenced grants/funding from the legislature for Mound and stated that it was for different issues than just iron.

Mayor Labadie noted that some of Mound's money was coming from the Federal government, and there was currently uncertainty about when or if those funds might come through.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the Council may be able to have a mini retreat where they meet for a few hours to discuss this issue publicly and hammer this out sometime before the proposed legislation may be passed. She stated that she agreed that there was a sense of urgency because of that possible legislation.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that if the Council wanted to hold a special meeting or a mini retreat, that could be done and asked if she would want to hammer through the Subdivision Ordinance, including the concerns that Councilmember Sanschagrín had raised.

Councilmember DiGruttolo clarified that was not what she was suggesting and explained that she wanted to talk about water.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that the City was going through the long-term Financial Management Plan with the consultants, who would present to the Council by the end of June. He stated that he felt there were three buckets for the water issue, and this particular one was a small bucket because they were talking about land that can be further subdivided and the City's policy around that. He noted that in addition to the rules for subdivision, they were also talking about the utility hook-up or the availability of water. He stated that he understood that someone may be ready to sell their house and do some subdividing, but for the most part, it would not directly impact a lot of people in the City. He stated that he felt the second bucket was people who have water available, but they have chosen not to hook up, and the Council has had discussions about what could be done to incentivize this decision. He explained that he felt the third bucket was whether the City should start to extend its water system and, if so, what steps needed to be taken. He stated that this current issue was something he felt was relatively straightforward and does not impact people as they sit in their homes today in the same way as saying they needed to hook up tomorrow or in ninety days, because that would be a much more difficult issue. He stated that the subdivision requirement was something that would get dealt with as development opportunities emerge.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she agreed, in theory, but the part that she had a problem with was that the Council had yet to decide together, as a Council, what their vision was for the next generation, and explained that would guide what they decide with the water. She stated that she felt they needed to have this conversation about what they want the next generation to look like and how they accomplish this with limited resources, in the most fairly and equitable way, so the majority of residents felt seen and heard. She reiterated that this was why she did not feel the City should do this piece first before they have that conversation and hammer things out. She explained that she felt making this decision was putting the cart before the horse.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he agreed with everything Councilmember DiGruttolo had shared.

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Councilmember Gorham stated that a few weeks ago, he had come out of the meeting frustrated that the Council had not had this conversation yet, and the Mill Street project was in front of them. He stated that he found it annoying that the decision had to be made because of the timing of the project and could not be done on the City's timeline, which he found frustrating. He asked what was preventing the City from just kicking this thing off and having those discussions.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that he felt a big piece was understanding the finances and noted that they were working to gather that information so they could have that conversation. He explained that he was also feeling a bit frustrated because they keep having these conversations in pieces, and the message is that they want more information, but he was not sure at what point it would be determined that they had enough information. He acknowledged that this was a tough issue, but asked when they would have enough and explained that he also was not sure what he would be chasing for the Council. He asked what else the Council needed to know and what they needed to know that would help them in their decision.

Councilmember DiGruttolo explained that she would like to know things like the percentage of residents who want City water, or if their mindset was that they all think they are just going to have wells forever. She explained that these were the kinds of questions that she felt the City did not have good answers for yet. She stated that she would like data to help with their decision making and noted that it would be nice to know how many people had been given the opportunity to hook up and reiterated that she did not think the Council had enough information about what the residents wanted and how much they were willing to pay. She noted that Council and staff had gotten lots of questions about this topic via email and felt that people were very agitated and worried about it. She explained that she would like to allow them to come in and be part of this conversation, and if they choose not to do that and do not like the decision that the Council made, they will need to realize that was how democracy worked.

Mayor Labadie stated that the City had given that opportunity to residents and has only had one resident come during Matters from the Floor, and noted that residents have that opportunity at every Council meeting. She stated that it had also been noticed at their annual retreat meeting, and nobody came, and the Council discussed water for hours. She stated that it was noticed again tonight, on this specific issue, and explained that she felt that people who have wells will keep them until they are dry, and that people who had the opportunity to hook up and chose not to, are still not going to hook up. She stated that she did not think the community was uneducated on this issue, and the expense involved in hooking up to City water. She acknowledged that the City has gotten occasional emails from residents on this topic and was not sure why they were not coming in to speak to the Council. She explained that she felt they would end up having them come in after the fact to scream at the Council. She stated that if the Council continued to wait for residents to speak up, she did not know how many would speak up.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she counted the email messages as them speaking up. She stated that when she moved to Shorewood, she did not think she got much information about it. She noted that they asked the former City Administrator if the City could help them get things hooked up all the way, and he was not helpful. She explained that when they got the quotes for individuals, they knew that they could not afford it on top of the ten-thousand-dollar fee and noted that the whole situation felt overwhelming.

Councilmember Maddy stated that the only thing the Council was voting on tonight, related to water, was that properties needed water to divide their property. He noted that anyone who was not going to divide their property would be status quo for the foreseeable future.

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Councilmember Gorham stated that he felt they were going to come up against this issue again when they talk about Mill Street and will have to make the best decision with the information they have, because they have to be opportunistic. He stated that right now it was about the potential missing middle bill that could devastate the City's future water plans and would be doing it again next month to capitalize on savings for the County project. He noted that he did not think the City would be able to have the discussion they wanted or be able to roll out the plans they wanted because they just were not there.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt using the statement of a 'devastating impact' was an exaggeration.

Councilmember Gorham stated that there was a risk.

Councilmember Sanschagrín reiterated that it was an exaggeration and asked what they were really talking about and how many subdivision applications would come in. He stated that this does not impact that many people.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he felt like they were talking about two different things. He stated that the existing subdivisions were for fourteen acres and this would apply to the entire City, because anyone can subdivide. He stated that this was a landscape-changing bill and the impact would be high.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he felt the City could put the adjustments that needed to be made on the fast track.

Councilmember Gorham stated that they may not because what they were just talking about was a larger discussion and getting a lot more input, which he did not believe would be able to happen before the session ended. He noted that the Council may just need to be emotionally prepared, like Councilmember DiGruttolo had described, to come back and explain what the City's plan had been and be willing to admit if they end up being wrong.

Mayor Labadie stated that she did not think the Council should make decisions while thinking like that, but noted that the Council or residents can speak to staff and try to get things on future agendas so the Council can vote on it. She reminded the Council that there was a live motion on the table to table this item and bring it back at a future meeting.

Councilmember Gorham asked what was meant by bringing it back at a later time.

Councilmember Sanschagrín explained that he had meant after the Council came up with a water plan.

Motion failed 2-3 (Labadie, Gorham, and Maddy opposed).

Maddy moved to Approve ORDINANCE 617, Amending Shorewood City code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, with a change to line 33 on page 1, to change the word 'may' to 'shall'; AND, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-044, "A Resolution Approving the Summary Publication for Ordinance 617 Amending Shorewood City Code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations".

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Motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he did not want to approve something when Councilmember Sanschagrín still had concerns and issues with the current proposed language.

Councilmember Maddy asked if he could get a list of the issues and areas of concern.

Councilmember Gorham suggested that they take them one by one.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he wanted to be clear that he also had issues with the Ordinance, because of the water plan, and not just the Resolution.

City Administrator Nevinski asked if the suggestion was for the Council to go through this line by line, and expressed concern about that approach because it was already 9:40 p.m. He stated that he did not feel that approach would be practical.

Mayor Labadie stated that the Council was able to see how many flags and highlights Councilmember Sanschagrín had added to these documents and asked him if he felt the overall number of things he had flagged could be answered this evening.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that it would likely take a lot of time to go through everything he had marked and agreed that it may not be a good use of the Council's time during the meeting to go through them together. He explained that the language on the purpose of the regulation was one of the first things he wanted to be able to nail down because it seemed to be positioned that the purpose was to safeguard the best interests of the City and he would like to change that language to say that it was going to safeguard the best interests of the residents, not the City.

Mayor Labadie stated that she felt that all of Councilmember Sanschagrín's concerns would not be able to be addressed tonight and noted that the Council needed to figure out how they were going to proceed with relation to this item. She reminded the Council of what the most recent motion had been that was not seconded.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he did not think that motion would have been possible.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that the Council could make the change from 'may' to 'shall' so it would be possible.

Councilmember Gorham stated that they could not change the City Code references that do not exist.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that, as he had pointed out earlier, it would be difficult to separate one from the other because there were a lot of teeth included within the Subdivision Ordinance that was referenced, so they do intertwine quite a bit.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that upon further reflection, he would retrack his earlier statement about ways to proceed, because he agreed with Planning Director Griffiths that they were really intertwined and if the Council chose to keep the water live for discussion, they would potentially have to go back and make changes to the Subdivision Ordinance. He clarified that he felt bundling this and doing it all at once was probably the way to go.

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Councilmember Gorham asked if there were references that could be used instead of City Code 1202.47, for example referencing existing code, instead.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that they could not reference existing code instead because there was no language in the existing code relative to premature subdivisions, which the proposed text substantially relied on for implementing this policy and reiterated that this was one unified package because they rely on each other.

Councilmember Gorham referenced a sentence that could state, 'all subdivision applications received after the effective date shall be required to connect to the municipal water systems at the applicant's expense'.

Planning Director Griffiths acknowledged that they could proceed with that if the Council chose.

Councilmember Gorham stated that they could take it back at their next visit when they look at the rest of the language and amend it to include the actual reference.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that they would do that but noted that this was the section that trips a public hearing requirement, so it may not be as simple as just bringing it back to the Council because they would have to notice and advertise another public hearing in order to add language back in, which would increase the City's costs and the overall timeframe.

Mayor Labadie stated that the Council had been advised by Planning Director Griffiths and City Attorney Shepherd that this language needed to be voted on or tabled, as a package, she felt the Council should follow their advice.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that he appreciated Councilmember Gorham's attempts to find a way to move this forward but was not sure that they even had three members of Council who were interested in carving out that section, much less the Subdivision Ordinance as a whole, without that section, or the whole kit and kaboodle, in order to move this forward. He suggested that the Council want to do an informal poll because he felt that they may be at an impasse for moving anything forward.

Mayor Labadie asked for clarification from the Council on what motion they would support related to Ordinance 617. Following Council's indication of what they would support, she stated that the Council did not have enough votes to move this forward and suggested that they give staff appropriate direction to bring this back as quickly as possible. She explained that she felt time was of the essence and noted that at least two members of the Council have indicated that they do not want to move forward with this until they have the larger water discussion. She noted that she understood the statements made by Finance Director Schmuck and City Engineer Budde that this would have implications in their departments. She asked how quickly this may be able to come back and for engineering and finance to be able to answer questions on the larger water issue.

Finance Director Schmuck noted that many of the concerns with the large water discussion is what scenario they want to take and explained that they were trying to line things up in different ways for the Council to consider and shared various examples. She noted that the City had done a survey in 2011 and was doing a similar survey now, so they have the data and have comments from residents. She noted that in 2011, twenty percent of those who responded to the survey did

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not want to hook up to City water because it was too cost-prohibitive, and felt the City would get a similar answer with the current survey.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she had not seen a survey.

Finance Director Schmuck stated that they can run different scenarios, but staff needed more specific direction from the Council to give them data in areas they were interested in and shared some additional examples of scenarios.

Mayor Labadie stated that if the City was going to survey residents, that meant drawing this process out for a long time. She stated that she felt this was a big enough, potentially destructive thing not to pass before a potential legislative session ended, and explained that she would vote with Councilmember Maddy to pass this.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she understood that it would take too much time to get resident input, but she still felt it would be a worthwhile endeavor for the Council to have a conversation, even if they have to make certain assumptions, but noted that they should be very public and very clear about the assumptions that were made and be able to communicate to the residents why the City was doing whatever they decide to do.

Councilmember Gorham asked City Attorney Shepherd if Councilmember Sanschagrín's comments were mostly clerical and nuanced in a non-statutory way, if the Council could make a motion to approve it, subject to incorporation of his suggested edits, which would mean that only the edits would go through and not the water language.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that he was not sure his comments were just simple edits, and some were more substantive.

Councilmember Gorham suggested that this item come back to the next meeting, and the Council go through it line by line, and explained that he did not want to wait months to get this done.

Mayor Labadie asked how beefy the next Council agenda was.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that they did have some things coming up, but did not think it would be like tonight's meeting.

Planning Director Griffiths noted that there would be at least one subdivision application on their next agenda and felt it was likely that their agenda would be pretty full.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that one path forward may be to hold a meeting with Councilmember Sanschagrín about some of his proposed changes and overall concerns. He stated that he did not feel it would be effective for the Council to sit and go through this document line by line because there may end up being things that need further research.

City Attorney Shepherd stated that one other option would be to bring back a version of the Subdivision Ordinance to the next meeting that was everything that had been worked on for the last several months, except the prematurity section, the 900 section, and the other section that talks about water and sewer connections. He stated that they could carve that out, even though it would not be perfect, but it would help them advance the ball as much as possible because the Council still had so many concerns related to the water discussion.

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Planning Director Griffiths stated that they could pare back the text to eliminate all the water policy changes.

Councilmember Maddy asked if the water policy changes were what would defend the City from what the legislature may pull off.

Planning Director Griffiths stated that was correct but noted that he did not want to short-sell the other proposed amendments because they also had substantial value. He explained that the Council's impasse was around the water topic, he would rather they move forward with some of the proposed language because it would provide some protection.

City Administrator Nevinski reiterated that he felt staff needed to get together with Councilmember Sanschagrín to understand his concerns.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she would vote on this tonight if everyone on the Council was very clear on what their position was related to water, and it could be articulated.

Mayor Labadie explained that she did not have her position defined for every single issue related to water.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked what the rationale was behind forcing subdivisions to hook up to water even though it may cause hardship.

Mayor Labadie stated that she felt the Council all had different reasons and shared numerous examples of what would allow her to vote in favor of it, as presented, but noted that she would share an equally long list of why she also struggled with this. She explained that she had served on the City Council for a long time and they have talked about water many times, but it has been very rare that residents have shown up for those discussions or submitted comments. She noted that she was very scared about cities losing control over zoning and regulations with the proposed missing middle bill. She noted that a portion of the bill would no longer allow the City to hold a public hearing related to certain development issues. She stated that he understood that what was being proposed by the City was not perfect, but she felt the City needed to do something.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she agreed with Mayor Labadie on everything she just shared, but noted that where she was concerned were things like equity and having a small portion of residents pay for a service that was enjoyed by other residents, or that they do not get to enjoy, in some cases. She stated that she felt having everyone on City water would be progressive and felt that would be an equity and inclusion centerpiece, but the emails she had received and people who have knocked on her door have said that they cannot afford to hook up to City water and would also have to pay for water that they had been getting for free. She stated that until the City can find an equitable way to do this or makes a decision not to be equitable, she was struggling because she wanted to be as fair as possible, and reiterated that she wanted them to be as public and transparent as possible.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he was afraid that people watching this meeting were going to think that the City was going to force people to connect to water, which they have not even discussed.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that they had not had the larger water discussion.

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Councilmember Maddy stated that tonight they were talking about almost a moratorium on subdividing a lot if there was no access to water, which did not affect many people, and could also prevent bad things from happening in a very desirable community. He stated that one of the reasons this was pushed was to try to protect the City from whatever the State legislature was currently doing.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that this was not a vehicle to protect the City from the State legislature.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he felt it was a vehicle to protect the City from the State legislature.

Councilmember DiGruttolo clarified that the intent of this was not to protect the City from the State legislature, and she did not think the Council should look at it that way. She stated that this was a code that was designed to implement the vision that the Council had for the City for today and in the future.

Councilmember Maddy asked if she was referring to the subdivision standards or requiring people to hook up to water if they divide their lot.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that was what they were talking about and felt it was two sides of the same coin.

Councilmember Maddy stated that the Council had not decided tonight about water distribution network in the City will look like in thirty years and were just saying that people need water to divide a lot and had tweaked the rest of their expectations on larger subdivisions. He explained that he did not know where the controversy was in this situation.

Councilmember DiGruttolo explained that the controversy was that by passing this, a resident would lose their right to not hook up to City water. She stated that she felt this was serious and the Council needed to talk about it and needed to look at it from all different angles. She explained that she was not trying to be obstructive and was trying to be as equitable and fair as possible, and also to have a conversation that forces the City to step through their logic clearly, so it was public and on the record.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he did not think they had a path forward on approving the whole thing because there were still open comments and suggested that they just table this item and move on, and risk whatever may happen with the legislature.

Councilmember Maddy noted that the City had a forward-thinking Council thirty years ago who wanted everyone hooked up to City water, and then the other Councils since that have been kicking the can down the road because they did not have the political will to expand the network. He referenced former Mayor Bob Dean and explained that he was the reason that there was a fire suppression system at Minnewashta Elementary, and what ended up happening to him was that he was kicked out of office because he dug up Smithtown Road to put in a water main. He stated that former Mayor Dean had the political courage to do it and believed that they could all look back now and realize that it was the right decision, but they also need to know that today, ninety-nine percent of residents have working wells so this was not in the top of their minds and will not want the City to change the rules until they no longer have a working well. He clarified that it would take political will to finish this forty-year-old project, and he felt this would just be one

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small step to move closer to completing it. He stated that he would be happy to push having incremental gains that would get them closer with every new development or street reconstruction project.

Mayor Labadie noted that was pretty much how she felt about it, too, because they have to support their water system and the only way to do that was to get more people hooked up to it.

Councilmember Gorham stated that the City's water plan should have come first, and they should have already had this overall discussion.

Councilmember Maddy stated that they can still have that discussion.

Councilmember Gorham agreed, but now they were worried about things like the Mill Street project, and it was almost May, so they were going to have to do things that would affect water without having that discussion first, and reiterated that he felt the cart was before the horse.

Councilmember DiGruttolo noted that she thought it was important that the Council was having this discussion in a public setting and that they had not come in with a preset decision on what they were going to do.

Mayor Labadie stated that she felt it should be clear to anyone watching the meeting that none of the Council had come in with their mind made up already. She stated that if the Council moves to a larger discussion, as suggested, she liked the idea of advertising it as best as they can, but felt it needed to be done as soon as possible.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that it sounded like Mayor Labadie was proposing some sort of Work Session that would be open to the public for the Council to put everything on the table and have the large water discussion. He asked if the intent would be to try to do this before June and noted that they did not know what was going to happen with the State legislature.

Mayor Labadie reiterated that she would like to have the discussion as soon as possible and stated that she was still hopeful that the Council would be able to come to a meeting of the minds. She asked about the Council's availability for this meeting because she felt it would be a powerhouse session.

City Administrator Nevinski suggested that he reach out to the Council following the meeting regarding the schedule.

Mayor Labadie encouraged the Council to reach out to the appropriate staff member if they had things marked and flagged in the proposed document before the meeting.

DiGruttolo moved, Sanschagrin seconded, to Table Ordinance 617, Amending Shorewood City Code Title 900 Public Right-of-Way and Property, and Title 1200 Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, until a future Work Session meeting can be scheduled to discuss the larger water plan for the City.

Motion passed 3-2 (Maddy and Gorham opposed).

7. ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS

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A. 2025 Mill and Overlay and Eureka Road Bid Results and Contract, City Project 24-10, 23-01

City Engineer Budde gave a brief overview of the bid results for the 2025 Mill and Overlay and Eureka Road projects and noted that they received six competitive bids, with the lowest from GMH Asphalt Corporation. He noted that the bid was twenty-five percent below the engineering estimate for the project and explained that if this project were awarded, they could expect substantial completion by August 25, 2025, and final completion by September 12, 2025. He explained that the Three Rivers Park District had agreed to contribute five thousand dollars towards the project for the construction of the pedestrian ramp at the intersection of Eureka and Smithtown.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that this project had come in under budget and asked if staff had a list put together for other possible streets that could be included.

City Engineer Budde stated that staff had an internal list and explained that they were still trying to pull together what they think the expected costs would be, as well as their priority. He encouraged the Council to let staff know if they had suggestions for streets they felt should be considered. He stated that, in addition to considering that they were also looking at the possibility of removing more ash trees along the roadways and explained that they intended to come to a future Council meeting with a change order for the additional work.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if City Engineer Budde would be overseeing this project and the contractors.

City Engineer Budde stated that he would oversee the project and the contractors.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that in some of the other work that has been done, residents have complained that it was not cleaned up properly, or the fill dirt used was not right, and asked if there was a clause included to ensure that they go back for reclamation.

City Engineer Budde explained that there had always been clauses for those steps but noted that sometimes it just takes time. He noted that they have changed the spec so any of the top soils would be the fifty-fifty blend with organics and stated that this should ease much of the pain but cautioned that grass growing just takes time.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she just wanted to make sure that there was a clause that outlined if the work was not done correctly that the contractor had to go back and complete the work at their own expense.

Sanschagrín moved, Maddy seconded, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 25-045, “A Resolution to Accept Bids and Award Contract for the 2025 Mill and Overlay and Eureka Road Project, to GMH Asphalt Corporation, City Project 24-10, 23-10.”

Motion passed.

8. GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS

A. Security and Camera System Initiative

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Public Works Director Morreim stated that staff had been looking into options for a security and camera system for quite a while. He reviewed the current security and camera systems, highlighted some of the outdated technology, ongoing costs, security gaps, and highlighted some of the security upgrades that they proposed. He outlined staff's recommendation to move forward with a platform provided by Grove Security and their Verkada system and reviewed the breakdown of the costs, licensing, and warranty information.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if staff had asked about the Data Privacy Act for data privacy and storage. She stated that this was a very thorough and excellent report and noted that she had looked through the paperwork where there was a statement that pointed out that Verkada did not warrant that the products would meet customer's needs or expectations, that their use would be interrupted or error free, or that defects would be corrected. She stated that she felt City Attorney Shepherd may want to take a look at that language. She stated that she also did not know how long Verkada had been around and expressed concern that they may not be around in another ten years, and felt that this should be considered.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that Verkada was not a brand-new company and would describe them as a stable and quickly growing company. He explained that there are quite a few cities in the State that are implementing Verkada's system, including St. Cloud, Faribault, and Golden Valley. He stated that he had asked them about some of the language pointed out by Councilmember DiGruttolo because it had also been brought up by another Councilmember, and they answered that no company could guarantee their existence in ten years, but had communicated that they were financially stable. He stated that the cameras were in public parks or public facilities, which means that the data retention would be for thirty days, unless they pulled footage out, and then it would be retained until the City deleted it.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the City would install clear signage so people knew that they were being surveilled.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that the City can put out signage if the Council desired.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she felt that the City should put out that kind of signage.

Councilmember Maddy explained that he was trying to wrap his head around some of the pricing and referenced the installation costs being a fair amount over the hardware itself, and asked if they had explained.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that none of the facilities have anything existing and noted that doors were a significant cost for installation, and they would also need to run cable to all of these areas.

Councilmember Maddy asked if the well house at Badger Park had three access controls and noted that this seemed bloated to him.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that he believed the Badger Well House had two, one for the well house itself, and the other for the chemical room, but would double-check that information.

Councilmember Maddy stated that he felt this was a lot of money to spend for a pretty safe community.

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Public Works Director Morreim noted that there are security components to this system, but there would also be a lot of efficiencies with this system as well, and noted that currently, none of their water infrastructure has anything but a deadbolt.

Councilmember Maddy stated that they were looking at spending thirty thousand dollars a year.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she felt this expense would be worth it. She explained that she was a former military member and a counter terrorism analyst, she felt this was the minimum the City should have to keep staff and equipment safe. She noted that she did not think the quote was bloated because the City currently did not have anything in place, and found the quote less than what she had expected.

Councilmember Sanschagrín confirmed that SLMPD would have access to this system.

Public Works Director Morreim stated that the SLMPD would have access and stated that he believed it had unlimited users.

Sanschagrín moved, DiGruttolo seconded, Approving the Quote from Grove Security (Verkada System) for Access Control and Camera Systems.

Motion passed 4-1 (Maddy opposed).

B. Parks Master Plan Contract (formerly Consent Agenda item 2.E.)

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she was not at the last Council meeting and felt she had missed some of the information that was discussed. She explained that she would like to understand why the Council was not prioritizing these, if they were not prioritized. She noted that if they ended up having limited time and resources, she would like fiscal responsibility and functionally and financially sound infrastructure should be their first two goals where they put the most amount of work in. She asked if there was a way to make this into a mission-essential task list that could be checked off so they would be able to see what had been done on their report card at the end of the year.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that he had to shift from using a matrix to this current format because it was getting to be too much. He stated that they would not be working linearly on these things and were kind of working on all of them at once. He noted that as far as prioritizing, he felt that they were all important.

Councilmember Maddy asked what item they were discussing.

Following some discussion, the Council discovered that Councilmember DiGruttolo and City Administrator Nevinski had been discussing the 2025 Strategic Work Plan and not the Parks Master Plan.

Mayor Labadie invited Councilmember Sanschagrín to begin the discussion on the Parks Master Plan, since he had asked to pull this item.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he was curious about how the City would gather community input.

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Park and Recreation Manager Czech stated that included in the attachments was a proposal from the desired consultant that outlined components of the community engagement portion and briefly outlined some of what was planned.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that City Engineer Budde had been listed as providing project oversight and asked who would oversee the contractor.

Park and Recreation Manager Czech stated that he would be the primary staff person overseeing the contractor.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked why they had chosen to go with Bolton and Menk again rather than one of the others, to spread out their contracts.

Park and Recreation Manager Czech stated that the City had put out an RFP, held an information meeting where eight entities expressed interest in this project. He stated that they received six proposals, and staff did an internal review of the proposals and found three firms that stood out as quality candidates. He stated that they had conducted interviews with the three finalists with a panel that included Planning Director Griffiths, Park Commissioner Chair Hirner, Park Commissioner Wenner, and himself. He explained that through the interview process, they felt that Bolton and Menk had stood out as the ones who would be the best fit to lead this project for the City.

DiGruttolo moved, Gorham seconded, Approving the Parks Master Plan Contract with Bolton and Menk, as presented.

Motion passed 4-1 (Maddy opposed).

C. 2025 Strategic Work Plan (formerly Consent Agenda item 2.K)

Councilmember DiGruttolo explained that City Administrator Nevinski had already answered all the questions she had on this item.

DiGruttolo moved, Sanschagrín seconded, Approving the 2025 Strategic Work Plan, as presented.

Motion passed.

9. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Staff

1. Spring Clean-Up

Mayor Labadie noted that there was a memo included in the packet from Communications and Recycling Coordinator Wilson, and felt the information included in the packet could stand for itself.

Other

Park and Recreation Manager Czech invited the Council to the City's volunteer tree planting event on May 3, 2025, at Freeman Park from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

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Public Works Director Morreim stated that Public Works completed their spring sweep last week.

City Clerk/HR Director Thone stated that there were twenty-six applicants for the Planner position, which she believed was a record recruitment for the City, and noted that first interviews will begin on May 5, 2025. She stated that the three Public Works seasonal workers will start on May 12 and May 19, 2025, and noted that they were all returning employees. She stated that the City had received three letters of intent for the recycling RFP, and the proposals would be received by the end of May. She explained that the City had received one hundred forty-three survey responses to date and the survey would be open until May 23, 2025.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that the survey information was available through the newsletter and on the City's website.

City Clerk/HR Director Thone stated that they had created their project team for the agenda meeting software and held a kick-off meeting last week and briefly reviewed their project timeline. She noted that the trees for the tree sale will be delivered to the City next week and explained that resident feedback provided the basis for the tree sale moving from the Fall to the Spring. She stated an employee benefits committee was created and the group plans to bring recommendations for the City's employee benefit program to the budget session.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that there were currently two companies deploying fiber throughout the City and noted that there was information available on the website. He explained that they have every right to deploy within the right-of-way, and all the City can do is permit the work and try to manage the work if there are issues. He stated that he understood that people may be feeling a bit of construction exhaustion. He noted that a consultant had been selected for the Highway 7 Transit Management Corridor Study.

B. Mayor and City Council

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that he had been getting questions about the dirt in Tonka Bay.

City Administrator Nevinski stated that he would get more information and follow up with Councilmember Sanschagrín with the latest information.

Councilmember Sanschagrín stated that there would be an LMCC on May 8, 2025, where he expected some updates to take place, including a low offer for the building.

Councilmember Maddy stated that the Excelsior Fire Board was running into some financial challenges in trying to ramp up a small staff hire, the chiller going out in the building, some change orders on the new fire truck, and some SCBA requirements that will be needed in 2026.

Mayor Labadie stated that the first round of interviews for the SLMPD chief position would be held tomorrow, and round two of the interviews would include the area mayors.

10. ADJOURN

Maddy moved, Labadie seconded, Adjourning the City Council Regular Meeting of April 28, 2025, at 11:14 P.M.

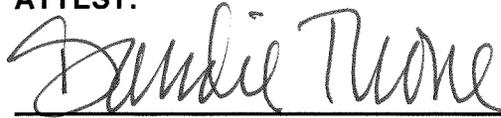
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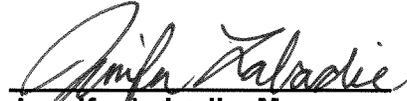
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Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Sandie Thone, City Clerk



Jennifer Labadie, Mayor