

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2020**

The following are the minutes for the regular meeting of the City Council held at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2020, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 590 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Schmitt; Councilmember Buesgens; Councilmember Murzyn, Jr.; Councilmember Novitsky; Councilmember Williams

Also Present: Kelli Bourgeois, City Manager; Nicole Tingley, City Clerk

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. MISSION STATEMENT**, Read by Mayor Schmitt

Our mission is to provide the highest quality public services. Services will be provided in a fair, respectful and professional manner that effectively address changing citizen and community needs in a fiscally-responsible manner.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilmember Novitsky, seconded by Councilmember Murzyn, Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.*

**5. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITION, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GUESTS**

**A. National Library Week and Library Services Announcement**

Mayor Schmitt reported last week was the first, since the Covid-19 Stay Home directive, that the Library was open for drop-off and pick-up services and announced, on behalf of director Renee Dougherty, the City proclamation celebrating National Library Week April 19-25, 2020. Those services will be available 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, and any information needed regarding all Library services can be obtained by calling 763-706-3690.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

(These items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted as part of the Consent Agenda by one motion. Items removed from consent agenda approval will be taken up as the next order of business.)

**A. Approve Minutes of the City Council**

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of April 13, 2020.

**B. Authorize Purchase of Fire Department Vehicle**

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2020-43, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2020-43, appropriating \$66,000.00 from the fund balance of the General Capital Equipment Replacement Fund 431 to the 2020 Budget and awarding a Related Vehicle Purchase Agreement.

**C. Consideration of Approval of Attached List of Rental Housing Applications**

MOTION: Move to approve the items listed for rental housing license applications for April 27, 2020, in that they have met the requirements of the Property Maintenance Code.

**D. Approve Business License Applications**

MOTION: Move to approve the items as listed on the Business License Agenda for April 27, 2020, as presented.

**E. Review of Bills**

MOTION: Move that in accordance with Minnesota Statute 412.271, subd. 8, the City Council has reviewed the enclosed list of claims paid by check and by electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$637,986.97.

*Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.*

**7. CITY COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Councilmember Buesgens reported that, adhering to social distancing and facemasks, she, along with Mayor Schmitt and the Fire Department, attended a neighborhood get-together honoring City resident LeRoy Knealing on his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. She also thanked residents who have completed their 2020 Census forms and encouraged all to do so, with hope to attain a 90% response or higher.

Councilmember Williams also encouraged everyone to complete their 2020 Census forms and stated that his company, which employs 300-400 people, has not had one positive Covid-19 test and is pleased about that.

Councilmember Murzyn, Jr., congratulated and wished longtime friend LeRoy Knealing a Happy 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Councilmember Novitsky reiterated Councilmember Buesgens' request that everyone complete their 2020 Census forms and said it will make a significant difference. He also thanked everyone who participated in the "Handmade Mask Dropoff," which resulted in a total of about 365 masks.

Mayor Schmitt thanked City residents who have completed their 2020 Census forms, which as of the previous Friday was at 61.1%, and said Minnesota is #1 in the nation for completions and Anoka County is at 70.1%. She hopes more residents may be able to complete theirs when the Library opens for building internet access. Manager Bourgeois reported the Library has trained staff to assist patrons in completing their forms online and is working on a reopening plan that would incorporate social distancing. In addition, wi-fi spots are currently available on the Library grounds.

Mayor Schmitt announced April 27, 2020, as “Essential Workers Appreciation Day” and expressed appreciation to all. Regarding significant Covid-19 dates in Minnesota, she cited the first reported positive case as February 26 of a cruise ship passenger, though not confirmed until March 6; University of Minnesota suspension of classes March 11, extending spring break by an additional week and hasn’t open since; all schools officially closed March 18 and remain so the rest of the school year; first death was reported March 21; and “Shelter in Place” began March 27. She expressed appreciation to City staff and condolences to all who have been affected by the virus and said she looked to forward to when things improve.

Manager Bourgeois also thanked those who participated in the Fire Department’s successful “Handmade Mask Dropoff” and said a process is being worked on to accept more masks, which will be distributed to City nursing homes and care facilities. She stated that City staff are doing great work and are committed to doing their work in a safe manner, noting also that no staff member has tested positive for Covid-19. She reported that Top Valu Liquor I on Central is open and work continues to open Top Valu Liquor II on 37<sup>th</sup> with a similar layout; the Library is working on a procedure for a planned opening May 4; work continues on what programming will look like for both the Library and the Recreation Department over the summer, which will correlate with Governor Tim Walz’s directive; EDA meeting and Council work session will be held in Council Chambers on May 4, Commission meeting in Council Chambers May 5, Library Board either in the Council Chambers or via Zoom May 6, and web meetings with both the MAC (Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee) and Neighborhood Watch groups next week.

Councilmember Williams inquired about how to access HGTV on cable in order to view a “Property Brothers” episode that features a Columbia Heights home, which was remodeled in September 2019, and will be aired on April 27.

Mayor Schmitt ended the meeting by also wishing Leroy Knealing a Happy 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Novitsky, to adjourn. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Tingley, City Clerk/Council Secretary