

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 - 6:00 P.M. - 8150 BARBARA AVENUE**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, July 12, 2021, in person. Mayor Bartholomew called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present In-Person: Mayor Bartholomew, Council Members: Piekarski Krech, Dietrich, Murphy, and Gliva; City Clerk Kiernan, Interim City Administrator/Community Development Director Rand, City Attorney McCauley Nason, Interim Public Works Director Eckles, Police Chief Chiodo, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid, and City Planner Hunting.

Also Present: Greg Fransen, Barr Engineering.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

Land Locked Basin Presentation

Mayor Bartholomew stated there is a letter by a citizen that needs to be added into the record. City Clerk Rebecca Kiernan said the letter is from Carrie Shatek, 3905 89th Street East.

Motion by Piekarski Krech, second by Gliva, to accept the letter into the record.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Interim Public Works Director Klay Eckles stated there are over 100 basins in the city that are land locked (there is no easy way for the water to get out of the basins). Inver Grove Heights may have many more than most cities. Every property across the landscape is at risk for flooding. The city plans land use, allows building of structures, and builds infrastructure in order to protect properties against extreme events, but not the biggest event. There has been reference to a 100-year storm event, it is a measure of a size of event they can expect to happen once in 100 years. He stated with flood risks, they are managing and minimizing the risk, balancing capital expenditures, land use, and reasonable use of land. With a 1% chance of flooding, they may expect to see flooding on the property at least once in their lifetime. In a more susceptible area, it may happen more often. It's a certainty that at some point many properties in the city are going to experience flooding. They could have a storm much bigger than a 100-year storm. The probable maximum storm, a storm size they may use to design something like the Hoover Dam, would be a 24-inch storm. When setting up a policy for managing a flood, this does not address every potential flooding event, there is always the risk of a larger or unusual event. The City Council suggested looking into this issue in more detail because land locked basins are a unique water basin with unique challenges. He stated this policy isn't the end all, it's a start. With over 100 basins in the city, it could take years to go through an analysis of solutions or improvements to those basins. This is an important step.

Greg Fransen, Barr Engineering, stated Barr has been working on this since last summer. They have been looking at specific basin problems and overall basin management for the city. The definition of a land locked basin in Inver Grove Heights is "a watershed with no surface water overflow, no water can leave that basin during a 100-year/10-day snow melt event". That equates to 7.2 inches of melt.

He gave the following presentation:

Landlocked Basin Terminology:

- Normal water level of a basin, where the water is typically seen.

- Natural overflow is the point where the water can actually leave the basin. It is higher than the lowest elevation of the house.
- The lowest floor elevation of the house is what they try to manage to.
- The high-water level is where the water can go during a 100-year storm/snowmelt.
- The difference between the high-water level and the lowest floor elevation is called Freeboard.
 - The city has set specific requirements for Freeboard depending on where that natural overflow is compared to the high-water level.
 - Make sure if someone has their home six feet above the high-water level, what if the water gets 20 feet above the high-water level, if water can't escape, then there's a problem.
 - This is for new construction.
 - There are older homes in Inver Grove Heights. Some of those may have been constructed prior to this policy coming into effect. They may be closer to the high-water level than the minimum Freeboard would currently be for a newly constructed house.

Landlocked Basin Hydrology:

- Water can enter via precipitation, runoff, and groundwater.
- Water can only leave via evaporation or seeping down to the groundwater.
- During years with average precipitation, the water level is maintained at a stable elevation.
- When precipitation is above average, water level rises.
- When precipitation is below average, water level falls.

Recent Precipitation Trends:

- A 6-year period from 2014 to 2019 had above average rainfall every year.
 - Basin levels continued to climb every year it got higher.

Precipitation Effects on Landlocked Basins:

- Above normal for six consecutive years 2014-2019.
- By spring of 2020, some landlocked basins were higher than their 100-year high water levels (HWL).
- Nearby metro areas experienced similar rises.
- Several projects were undertaken in 2020 by east metro watershed districts:
 - Shoreview - construction of an embankment, new outlet pipe, and overflow outlet for Grass Lake
 - Grant - property buyouts at Sunnybrook Lake
 - Lake Elmo - temporary pumping of several ponds
- Since August 2020 precipitation has been below normal.
- Basin water levels have dropped.
- Water levels have dropped faster in some basins than in others.
- The city has been keeping track of a number of basins where the water was high.
 - IGT-B-3 Basin: Pumping project was done in summer 2020.
 - This basin reached more than two feet above the 100-year high water level.
 - Water levels were lowered by 3 feet, which is the lowest level the DNR allows.
 - Since August 2020, the water level has continued to drop, dropping another 2 feet.
 - RV-M-7 Basin: Large basin along Rich Valley Boulevard.
 - No pumping was done here.
 - ½ foot of water has come down from 2020 through last week. They are still well above the 100-year water level.

Landlocked Basin Fed by Shallow Aquifer:

- Cross section, generic shallow aquifer groundwater.

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- Unsaturated soil located at the top is called topsoil. With this, precipitation falls, soil gets wet, start digging, go through mud. Let that go a few weeks and the soil will dry out, plants would take it up, some will keep seeping down lower.
- Water reaches saturated soil beyond the depth plants can reach it and there is nothing there to bring it back up. It keeps seeping down to bedrock aquifers, the ones they pump from for drinking water.
- The interface where these two meets is called the Water Table. If that intersects a low point in the ground it will result in a pond.
- Pond level is controlled by the saturated ground and Water Table. Cannot pump below the Water Table.

Shallow Aquifer & Bedrock Aquifer:

- Shallow aquifer is on top.
- In between is a layer of rock. Water cannot seep through it very fast.
- Down below is a confined aquifer. Bedrock that carries water. Use for city water.
- As the Water Table goes up, and a long period of wet weather, there is only a very slow rate that water can seep through from the unconfined surface water aquifer to the confined aquifer.

Recent Shallow Groundwater Elevations:

- Example of a shallow aquifer well: Located at Pine Bend Cemetery.
 - Have measurements going back to 1972.
 - Water level has gone from 750 to 765 (15 feet of change).
 - It has been at this level a few times.
 - As the years go on, they are near record high. It is still there even though it's been a dry period for a year. It will take longer for the shallow groundwater to come back down.

Shallow Groundwater Aquifers:

- Elevation can rise quickly during wet periods. Will drop slowly during dry periods.
- Pumping of a basin fed by groundwater is not practical because the basin is continuously refilled.

He stated that is what they are seeing at one basin with several other neighboring basins at about the same elevation doing the same thing.

Mayor Bartholomew asked if he was referring to the RV-M-7 Basin. Mr. Fransen responded yes.

Mr. Fransen discussed Policy Recommendations Barr and City Staff worked on. Three main areas were determined:

1. Establish procedures for responding to residents when they have concerns about high water.
2. Establish long term planning procedures.
3. Make minor Municipal Code revisions.

Response Procedures:

1. Protect public utilities and public roadways.
2. Respond to residents with high water concerns.
 - a. Evaluate high water elevations.
 - b. Evaluate proximity to habitable structures and other infrastructure.
 - c. Explore response plans and funding options that may address high water concerns.
Done on a case-by-case basis.

Long-term Planning:

1. Create maps that show the 100-year HWL of landlocked basins. Make these available to the public.
2. Develop a risk/vulnerability classification system to guide the evaluation and construction of basin outlets.

3. Prepare emergency response plans for basins with the highest flood risk/vulnerability.
4. Pursue capital improvement projects for basins with the highest flood risk/vulnerability as feasibility and resources allow.

Code Revisions:

- Review of city policies and municipal Codes applying to landlocked basins show they aligned well with neighboring municipalities. The city has done a good job of righting those.
 - Some definitions could be clarified.
 - Additional detail could be provided regarding easements for natural basin overflows.

Cost Implications of Policy Decisions:

- Inver Grove Heights has well over 100 landlocked basins. Some may never hold water.
- Residents may need to accept some of the risks associated with living next to landlocked basins.
- The city needs to decide who will pay for improving or protecting private property.
 - Benefitted residents (living right next to the basin).
 - Contributing area residents (people who don't live on the basin, but water from their land flows to the basin).
 - All city residents (add on to stormwater utility).
 - Cost-share combination of the above (problem with the property, should the landowner pay for it, should the city help out).
- The city will need to decide on a mechanism to fund projects.
- Controlling or lowering water elevation in a landlocked basin may not be feasible, or if feasible, may be very expensive.
 - The city may need to make decisions about whether a feasible alternative is practicable, i.e., whether the benefit justifies the cost.

Next Steps:

- Discussion/feedback from the City Council.
- Add cost recovery element to policy if Council gives direction.
- August public meeting to gather resident feedback. (Has not been scheduled as of yet).
- Final report. Bring in recommendations and input.

Interim Public Works Director Eckles stated one of the goals of a policy like this is not just to define how the city is going to act/not act, but helps future Councils make decisions on expenditures. This also helps residents understand risk. The policy helps residents look into how susceptible this is, or whether or not to get flood insurance. This policy can help set expectations. He said the Council has been subjected to viewpoints citizens have about how much protection the city should provide residents, or how much the city should be expending to address these issues. He does not believe the current policy defines those aspects. The policy could be improved if adding commentary about case scenarios and to what level the city would participate, so there is understanding in a readable policy. He said this was something the city doesn't have and would like general direction if this were something the Council would like to work towards.

Councilmember Murphy referred to landlocked basins in the northwest area, stating after years of rain they are still there but have no water in them. He asked if those have to get worse for them to start filling up. Mr. Fransen responded some of those areas have sandier soils. Some spots in the northwest area are not developed yet. They are managing development in that area to try to keep water out of those basins as much as possible. They are trying to maintain a 5-year storm within the development and treat it there before it leaves. He said those restrictions are tough to meet. The city has been very stringent on that, which may help things out. He said a study was done with the Rich Valley Watershed

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Drainage Basin where they discovered out of 40 basins, only about 12 were holding water consistently every year.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked if it was because the soils underneath were not permeating. She asked if it is known why the basins that are holding water, are holding water. Mr. Fransen responded a study would be needed; they would need to put in borings to determine the soils or look at the surrounding area. She asked if the city was doing enough to protect the water resource. She said the city gets their water from wells, there have been issues with people watering their grass extensively. She asked if they were doing enough to regenerate city water. Mr. Fransen responded the City of Inver Grove Heights is doing a lot. He referenced the northwest area where the city is trying to get infiltration, it is treating the water there where it can recharge, not just making a pipe go to the Mississippi River to get rid of it. He said it would enter the shallow aquifer, percolate through rock layers, then down to bedrock aquifers where wells are.

Mayor Bartholomew stated the city has been looking at basins. He appreciates the idea of a policy about how to treat each basin, the parameters, and identifying each pond. He said this discussion was about two distinctly different ponds, there are likely more. He stated it would be difficult for the Council to determine how they would approach this issue tonight. He said Council direction should be to identify how to classify ponds, education, where the responsibility lies, and what the role/Governance of the city is to make sure the water doesn't cause a hazard/damage to the infrastructure or private residents. Steps have been made, they have pumped when necessary, and have a feasibility study with five options. These were steps for a quick response, a long reaching plan is needed. He suggests getting started on this quickly. They need to determine which basins are causing problems, how to respond, resolve, and pay for them. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded there is a small regional area they are looking at doing a pilot study to look at all the issues and how interactions are between water bodies. It won't be done when this report is completed. When the report is done, they would have a number of additional items to work on. If the goal is to understand the entire city pond network and have a plan of action, that would take time. They would want to start in areas known to be most susceptible first, and then work towards less susceptible areas. He said this is the first step in a multi-step process that could take quite some time.

Mayor Bartholomew would like to have some type of emergency program offering relief. He said pumps could be put in place for short term relief to lower the water level so there is no damage to property. He suggested that be the emphasis at the beginning with a long-term strategy of maintaining and managing basins. Councilmember Piekarski Krech commented it sounds like a good idea but has extreme financial. A plan is needed because they could expend a lot of money on a couple of ponds now. Down the road if the protocol is changed, they would have spent no money on the same situation and have a lot of disagreement in the city. Mayor Bartholomew responded he was not suggesting a cookie cutter approach, they need to be flexible and willing to assist when possible.

Interim Public Works Director Eckles stated there has not been a lot of time spent on the issue of cost sharing/recovery methods. He can see putting "guardrails" up to understand. If it's a small project and built below the normal water level, the city wouldn't spend money on it. If it's 100 homes with an easy solution and feels like the city has culpability, they would spend the money. There will be numerous things in between which they would have to look at participation with property owners, emergency funding, or a longer-term project to determine doing in the future. Parameters would help have a more consistent approach. An emergency is an emergency, they have to determine a way to respond. If it's one home, the financial may be there. If it's 100 homes, a policy would help. He doesn't believe

this to be a major add-on to the study, it would be further developed as they learn more and go forward. Mayor Bartholomew agreed. He said they need to be responsible and mindful of liability.

Mr. Fransen stated the recent six-year wet period gave a lot of information about where problems arise when there is a wet period. They have a lot of aerial photography and resident comments. There is a lot of information to go with.

Mayor Bartholomew said there would be meetings in August for anyone that wants to participate and give feedback. He asked when they would have further discussion. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded shortly after the meeting they would take resident feedback and determine if there are holes in the policy. They would make changes, come back to Council to review, and go over any changes, then look for Council to adopt the policy.

Councilmember Murphy asked if there was an emergency that needed to be addressed now. He envisions the city having a policy that applies to all basins, not each individual one, which to him, would be more expensive. He asked if there was a specific ask this evening. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded Staff felt what was developed lacked discussion on the financial aspect. For example, if responding to the issue, where the money would come from. He felt it was something Staff should discuss with Council. He said a part of this is setting expectations for the public. Discussing this in a policy informs the public that the city is not the insurance policy of their backyard. The city isn't the grand protector but is a partner in helping solve the problem. He felt this could be improved with discussion on the cost side of things.

Interim Public Works Director Eckles stated Staff is looking for Council's thoughts about whether this was something Staff should spend more time on or not.

Councilmember Gliva asked if it made sense to use an allocation process similar to being assessed for a road project. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded there is a possibility that structural improvements would be put in. There have been other cities where there has been a cost component that residents participate in with an assessment. It's usually by area or another calculation. If the city has public infrastructure that puts water into the basin, perhaps the city has a bigger portion of cost sharing.

Mayor Bartholomew asked if there would be some ideas, proposals on cost financing, and cost sharing by the next meeting in August. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded for the August meeting they could discuss scenarios and possibilities for financing. Based on feedback and research on other communities, Staff can develop and incorporate that into the draft. He said there was enough information for similar policies, so they could present other scenarios to the public for the public meeting.

Interim City Administrator Heather Rand stated this was an excellent presentation. She said Interim Public Works Director Eckles would like to move forward and explore this with Staff and bring something back before the Council. They would also like to include residents. She requested Council give permission to Staff to allow them to continue to work on this. Permission was given by the Council.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes from the June 14, 2021 City Council Meeting.

B. Resolution 2021-188 Approving Disbursements for Period Ending July 6, 2021.

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C. Consider Approval of Personnel Actions.

D. Approve Custom Grading Agreement for 7880 Boyd Avenue.

E. Resolution 2021-189 for Approval of Master Joint Powers Agreement for Use of Criminal Justice Data Communications Network.

F. Resolution 2021-190 Relating to the Development Contract, Storm Water Facilities Maintenance Agreement, and related agreements for the plat of Builder Lot Group/Eagles Landing (Case No. 21-32S).

G. Resolution 2021-191 for Termination of Declaration of Local Emergency Due to COVID-19 Health Pandemic.

H. Resolution 2021-192 Memorializing the Findings of Fact and Reasons for Denial Adopted by the Council Relating to Application by Lennar Multifamily Communities LLC for a Comprehensive Plan (Map) Amendment.

I. Consider Approval of Contract for Services with Ellie Family Services.

Motion by Murphy, second by Gliva, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Public Hearing for Two-day Liquor License - Church of St Patrick Annual Festival, September 18 and 19, 2021.

City Clerk Rebecca Kiernan stated the Church of St. Patrick has this event and request every year. All background information has been completed. Staff's suggestion is to work with Police and Fire for the event taking place on September 18 and 19, 2021. If Council agrees with Staff's recommendation, Council should pass the Motion of the Application. This would allow Staff to submit the Application with the State.

Motion by Dietrich, second by Gliva, to close the Public Hearing at 6:52PM.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Gliva, second by Dietrich, to approve a Two-day Liquor License for the Church of St Patrick Annual Festival, September 18 and 19, 2021.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. REGULAR AGENDA:

Police:

A. Consider Approval of Budget Amendment to Hire Three Full-time Police Officers Changing the Authorized Strength of Sworn on the Police Department to 45 FTEs.

Police Chief Melissa Chiodo presented Police Staffing Needs to the Council. Afterwards she would like to go over questions she has received in the last couple of days.

2020-2024 Strategic Plan:

- Guiding Principles

- Safe environment through quality education, community partnerships, emergency response, and preparedness.
- Objective
 - Work towards lowest crime rates in Dakota County.

Current Staffing Civilian:

- Civilian
 - 5 full time office support employees
 - 5 part time employees
 - 4 of these are Police Cadets working less than 19 hours a week. Unbenefited
 - 1 Fleet Support works less than 19 hours a week. Unbenefited.

Current Staffing Sworn: Total Sworn Staff:

- Currently authorized 42 Sworn Officers (from Patrol Officer up to Chief of Police).
- Positions (not on Patrol on a daily basis, does go out on Patrol and fill in as needed).
 - 1 Police Chief
 - 1 Lieutenant
 - 3 Commanders
 - 4 Investigators (are Patrol Officers that rotate in, in investigations).
- Positions out on the street on Patrol:
 - 6 Sergeants
 - 1 K9 Officer
 - 1 Traffic/DWI Officer
 - 24 Patrol Officers
 - 1 School Resource Officer
- Positions on leave:
 - 1 Patrol Sergeant
 - 1 Patrol Officer
 - 1 Police Officer that will be going on leave in September, returning in November.
 - The other two leaves are indefinite. Have been out for over 12 weeks and do not know if/or when they are returning.

Staffing History:

- Sworn Officers
 - 36-39 Officers from 2008-2016
 - 40-42 Officers since 2016
- Civilian Office Support
 - Prior to 2016 always had 7 FTE
 - 2-3 part time positions a year prior to 2016
 - From 2016 to current, Staffing was changed, went down to 5 FTE, no part time.

Patrol Shifts Current Staffing:

12-hour shifts. This is how they get the most out of the Officer's they have. They Patrol in teams, Team A and Team B. Both have the same layout/staffing with exception to (*) as noted:

Team A:

- Days:
 - 1 Sergeant
 - 4 Patrol Officers
- Nights:
 - 1 Sergeant
 - 6 Patrol Officers
- Flex Shift:

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- 1 Sergeant. Rotates between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 1 School Resource Officer (SRO). When not in school, fills in on day watch to make a 5th Officer on Patrol.

Team B has the same breakdown with exception to:

- *Nights:
 - 1 Sergeant
 - *4 Patrol Officers
- *Flex Shift:
 - 1 Sergeant. Splits the shifts. Works ½ days, ½ nights, covers when the other Sergeant is off.
 - *1 K9 Officer that makes up the 5th Officer on Team B nights.

Impacts on Staffing:

- Medical Leaves.
- FMLA for other reasons. For example, standard: Maternity Leave, Paternity Leave. Also have non-standard reasons.
- Injuries on duty.
- People leaving the Profession in high numbers (not unique to just Inver Grove Heights).
- Retirements (Will have several, the two most senior people will retire in 2022).
- Leaving for other opportunities.
- Hiring and training length of an Officer is over 8 months. It takes 2-3 months to hire Officers (same for new or lateral entries), posting for the job, recruit for the job, taking applications, interview process, background checks, psychological exams, medical exams, drug exams, and Human Resources. Human Resources addresses the City Council to get final approval for hiring. Once the Officer is hired, spends 5-6 months on a field training program with other Officers, switches working with Officers every month, learns the city, city policies, geography. If lateral from another city, sometimes they can cut a month or two off training.

Calls for Service. Dakota County Agencies:

Information shows calls for service from 2015 to what is projected to the end of 2021.

- Calls for service is going up in the city.
- In 2015 Inver Grove Heights was handling approximately 19,000 calls for service a year.
- This year the city is slated for over 30,000 calls.
- Inver Grove Heights is the third highest for call loads in Dakota County. Cities higher than Inver Grove Heights are Burnsville and Eagan. Both are larger cities.

Dakota County Agencies with the highest number of 911 calls:

- Eagan: Population 66,000
 - Calls for Service: 37,000
 - Has 76 Sworn Officers and 17 Civilian
 - Averages out to 487 calls per Sworn Officer
- Burnsville: Population: 61,000
 - Calls for Service: 34,000
 - Has 75 Sworn Officers and 19 Civilian
 - Averages out to 453 calls per Sworn Officer
- Inver Grove Heights: Population: 35,000
 - Calls for Service: 31,000
 - Has 42 Sworn Officers and 5 Civilian
 - Averages out to 738 calls per Sworn Officer

To note: This does not take into account approximately 3,000 to 9,000 additional calls a year that don't get routed through 911 service. Almost 2,000 people walk into the Station. There are others that don't

get logged into 911 because the city gets charged for every call. They avoid it if they don't have to go through 911.

Calls for Service in Inver Grove Heights:

Top 25 Inver Grove Heights Addresses for 911 calls. July 7, 2020 to July 7, 2021

- Police Station: 1795 (These are after hours, come into the Station, pick up the phone in the Lobby, it routes to 911. Officers respond. During the day they come to the desk).
- Retail: 1244
- Other Commercial: 1117
- Hotels: 914
- Apts/Senior Housing: 729
- Gas Stations: 664 (late night, working alone, doing money deposits, no pays)
- City Parks: 614 (to three parks in the city)

Councilmember Dietrich asked if bars and restaurants were included in retail. Police Chief Chiodo responded bars and restaurants don't make the Top 25.

Serious Crime: (Part 1 Crime. This is what the FBI tracks):

- Violent Crimes
 - Aggravated Assault (With a weapon or serious injury), forcible rape, murder, robbery.
- Property Crimes
 - Arson, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft. They are busiest with larceny and motor vehicle theft in the city.

Inver Grove Heights is #2 out of 12 Agencies in Dakota County for serious crimes this year. Thefts are driving this; from garages, apartment complexes, mailboxes, vehicles, catalytic converters. This is driving serious crime up.

She stated due to this, the city is eligible for Grant Funding from the Federal Government to try to bring this down. The Grant is for equipment that can be used to help. The Grant has no requirement or match.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked if it's known how much more that has gone up here versus other cities. Police Chief Chiodo responded they don't have a Crime Analyst to do those stat's here, and she can't look at other cities. When she first began here, she looked, and the city saw a rise of 7-9% every year. Burnsville and Eagan went down for a bit, but then back up. Other cities have been going up and down, up and down. For serious crime, Burnsville and Eagan are quite often the top two, South St. Paul is in there sometimes too.

Factors Increasing 911 Calls in the City:

- Housing Growth
 - 156 new single-family homes in the past 24 months.
 - 262 new multi-family homes in the past 24 months.
- Business Growth
 - 24 new commercial businesses in the past 24 months. A lot of theft goes on at box stores.
- Park Additions
 - Up to 5 new parks in the next 24 months. The top 2 complaints she gets from citizens are of things going on in parks after dark. Thefts are the other complaint.
- Easy access from major roadways. A lot of serious crimes are not from residents of this city. They come through here, visit businesses, stay at hotels, commit crimes, then leave.
- Increase in on street parking.

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- Proximity to large cities.
- Temporary Housing. Drives crime. Short term is not committed to a city, not vested in the community.
- Aging population. Calls to senior facilities. Assisting with needs. Victims of crimes, injuries, medical calls. As the population continues to grow, the need for services continue to grow.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked about Temporary Housing and if it was people staying at hotels. Police Chief Chiodo responded people staying at hotels, short term rentals, and houses that rent themselves out as Bed and Breakfasts the city doesn't know about until the neighbors call 911. Airbnb is another.

Concerns related to Staffing Shortage:

- Re-active Police Department. Staffing has been quite stable. Currently:
 - In-ability to track crime patterns or groups. There is not a Crime Analyst in the city. Things are still done on paper and calculators, figuring it out themselves.
 - Targeted enforcement limited to speeding/DWI's. She receives emails everyday from residents that want targeted enforcement for speeding in their neighborhoods or catalytic converter thefts. They are limited by speeding or DWI's because the State was willing to give a Grant that helped out.
 - Limited ability to support complex investigations. There is no support. If Investigators want to do detailed investigations, she doesn't have Staff that can go in, in plain clothes and work with them. Everyone she has, has to be on Patrol.
 - Limited ability for community outreach. This is one of the first things they have to stop doing when busy with all the 911 calls. Without extra Staff they can't do community outreach. This is part of the 2020-2024 Comp Plan, reaching out to the community and building relationships.
 - Limited ability to do compliance checks. Regulate and license more places, the Police have to enforce. They can't do the checks. They have to do alcohol compliance checks, checks on Massage Parlors. There are other things that come up that they need to do checks on, but if Police are tied up on 911 calls, they can't plan and do anything with compliance checks.
 - Limited ability to coordinate with surrounding Agencies. One of the biggest questions she gets is why they don't coordinate with surrounding Agencies. She doesn't have a team she can coordinate. She pulled her Officer off of the Drug Task Force from Dakota County last year to put him on Patrol to plug a hole. Due to that, they are no longer a part of the Drug Task Force or can cooperate with other things because they do not have an extra resource to spare to work with other cities.
 - Limited ability to track current crime statistics. Do not have Staff to do this, it is done on their own time. Work on this together.
 - Limited ability to allow Officers time off from work which leads to Officer safety concerns/burnouts. The last time they were able to give an Officer an entire week off was February 2020 and January 2020. The rest were in 2019. It cannot be done. The Officers don't want to ask for time off either. When there are only four Officers working, they don't want to take a week off and leave their fellow Officers in this type of situation.
 - Increasing overtime costs. Upping overtime costs each year. She does not have those statistics with her but can get that information if needed.

Councilmember Murphy asked about time off coming that Officers have benefits and weeks of vacation. He questioned if they can't take a week off to spend time with family somewhere. Police Chief

Chiodo responded it's tough to say yes, and it's tough for them to ask for a week off when knowing what the implications are.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked for clarification. She said they work 12-hour shifts. They are on for so many days and off for so many days. Police Chief Chiodo responded they would be on a day, off a day, on two days, off two days. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated with a week off they could take their two days, and then take an additional three days off to have five days. Police Chief Chiodo responded they can ask for two days but are not given a full week off. She said it could be done, but then the Department would have to post for overtime, and they don't want to do that to their partners.

Police Chief Chiodo discussed the Immediate Staffing Request:

- Council approval to increase authorized strength to 45 Sworn Officers. Adding 3 additional staff.

Prior Staffing Request:

- In 2019 and 2020 a budget request was made to increase authorized strength to 45 to create a proactive street response team to handle livability issues, target groups committing Part 1 crimes (serious crimes), increase community connections, increase compliance checks, and support the investigations division.
- This request was not supported by Administration both years, so it was not brought to Council. This time she was told she could bring this forward to Council.

Staffing Utilization of Additional Officers:

- Hire and train Officers.
- Fill open spots on Patrol shifts in 2021.
- 2022, after Staff is full strength, roll out the Street Response Team to:
 - Respond to top livability issues.
 - Conduct targeted investigations of groups committing Part 1 crimes (serious crimes).
 - Conduct regular compliance checks of city regulated or licensed businesses and provide any training necessary to support the business.
 - Support the Investigations Unit.
 - Take over Predatory Offender Registration (POR) checks and registration.

2021-2022 Budget Impact of 3 Full Time Employee's (FTE's):

- 2021 Budget Impact-Salary and Benefits. Start day of September 1st.
 - \$112,000
- 2022 Budget Impact-Salary and Benefits. Full 12 months salary for three full time employees.
 - \$345,000

Summary:

- Re-active or Pro-active in response to community needs and crime
- Strategic Plan Guiding Principles
 - Safe environment through quality education, community partnerships, emergency response, and preparedness.
- Objective
 - Work towards lowest crime rate in Dakota County.

Councilmember Gliva asked about the Speed/DWI Officer from State Grant money. Police Chief Chiodo responded that is a normal Officer position, the salary has been covered by the State due to applying and receiving a Grant. Councilmember Gliva asked if this runs out after a period of time, and what that did to the budget. Police Chief Chiodo responded it was already a part of the budget, they would receive a reimbursement. The Grant pays the Department the salary for nine months out of the year. That money goes back into the General Fund. She said they received this Grant because Dakota

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County has the highest traffic fatality rate and the highest DWI rate in the State of Minnesota. City Officers have been doing a good job. She stated it has been said they can re-up for that Grant for another nine months, which they did, to see if they could get another nine months of salary that would go back into the city's General Fund. She said having 18 months of salary be covered by the State is a win.

Councilmember Gliva asked about the timing of retirees. Police Chief Chiodo responded there are two retiring in 2022.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech said they eventually would need to hire five people all together. Police Chief Chiodo responded eventually she would have to replace them. Currently she is requesting hiring three extras, two are currently on indefinite leave and they may have to eventually replace them. In the New Year she would have to hire two additional when the two retire. She said they are currently working on succession planning because those two are her most senior people.

Mayor Bartholomew stated to be clear the request is for 45. Not 47. Police Chief Chiodo agreed it is 45.

Councilmember Gliva asked for clarification stating the 42 do not include the two on leave. Police Chief Chiodo responded the 42 includes the two on leave. She has 40 currently working and will be down to 39 in September.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked how that would be handled. Police Chief Chiodo responded if she gets the 3, she is requesting at this time, they can plug those holes. When she is at full in 2022, and the leaves are done, that is when she would have 3 extra FTE from authorizing strength to go up to 45 Officers and would roll them over into Street Crimes. Until then, they will fill the holes. Councilmember Piekarski Krech said they won't be ready. Police Chief Chiodo responded they would be in training but can still take calls. They will not be on their own unless there are some laterals.

Councilmember Gliva asked if they were ever alone on the street. Police Chief Chiodo responded once they are done training, Officer's always work alone. There is not enough Staff to have two in a squad unless they are training.

Police Chief Chiodo said she was asked the question about what calls were going up. She was able to pull from 2018 to 2021. Those were:

- Adult Protection calls
- Check Premise
- Check Welfare. People passing away at home, not showing up for work.
- Mental Health Crisis
- Child Protection calls. This has gone up significantly since 2018.
- Damage to Property
- Disturbing the Peace
- Public Drunkenness
- Dumping/Littering
- Request for extra Patrol from Citizens. In 2018 there were 828 requests from citizens to Patrol the neighborhood because there were prowlers, stealing. This year they are on track to handle 4,500 due to things going on in neighborhoods.
- Fraud calls. This has gone up significantly.

- Harassing Communications. With technology people are getting harassing messages on cell phones and Facebook.
- OFP and Restraining Order Violations. Have gone up significantly.
- Open Doors and Windows. People come back to homes or businesses and see windows or doors are open and think a burglary may have occurred.
- Ordinance Violations. This has increased.
- Public Assist. Public calls for numerous reasons such as locked out of a car or a home.
- Recovered Property. When items that were stolen turn up at a business or home, they are called to recover that as evidence.
- Suicide and Attempts of Suicide.
- Thefts. This is the largest.
- Weapons.

Mayor Bartholomew commented looking at where the city is at with calls this year, with relationship to cities near us that are twice the size, this city is pushing the same number of calls and getting close to those other cities. That seems strange to him. How a community half that size can have that many calls. Police Chief Chiodo responded the statistics are accurate, they come out of CAD Data from TriTech. She said it was slightly surprising to her to see calls have increased 7-9% a year, year after year. Some years as high as 11 or 13%. This city is surrounded by major roads, it's easy on, easy off. The city is growing where other cities have stayed stable in size. There is a lot of transition in the city. The proximity of crimes in other cities is migrating to our city. It's the geographical location. Further south may not see this.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated South St. Paul and West St. Paul should be up there too. Police Chief Chiodo responded she would not discuss their crime, but those cities have their concerns too.

Mayor Bartholomew asked if it was an anomaly that is common when cities are growing, that they will have a spurt in this range, and then slow it down and flatlines the crime rate. He asked if it was thought they would keep the rate as the size of cities with populations of 60,000-68,000. He said he was trying to understand the rate and if there were any historical stats they could look into with a city of growth. Police Chief Chiodo responded every city is different, it depends on their growth. If growth is strictly single-family housing and not a lot of businesses, are they getting higher density housing, type of businesses, geographic location to interstates. It's hard to find a comparison. One thing that does impact with growth is that the city is completely reactive. The city has not increased staffing to be able to get proactive and start tackling crimes. She stated for example, catalytic converter thefts. They know there are probably rings going on, unless one of the Patrol Officer's pull up at the exact time someone is stealing a converter off the car, it's difficult to do something. Unless they are Investigators and can map out locations, reach out to other cities. She said they don't have the staffing to be able to do that. Once the city can and can show there is a mechanism to deal with it, they can only be reactive unless cutting other services.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked if a Crime Analyst was a Sworn Officer position. Police Chief Chiodo responded in most cities that have one it's a civilian position that has gone to school for statistics. They would work hand in hand with Investigative Units and Patrol Teams.

Councilmember Murphy asked if it was possible with rings for catalytic converter theft, if word like that spreads if they feel a city is completely reactive. Police Chief Chiodo responded it could. People go

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where they have the upper hand or advantage as a criminal. She said they want to take that away from them.

Councilmember Gliva asked if any of the calls can be taken by the Fire Department. She asked if Police were always first. Police Chief Chiodo responded if they can get there first, they are going to go to calls. They are not going to not go. For example, the City of Eagan has a full-time Fire Department, their Police Officers still go to medical calls. It is not common practice to wait and have someone else go.

Interim City Administrator Heather Rand stated when Police Chief Chiodo brought this staffing request to her attention a few months ago, she wanted to delve into the Police/Public Safety calls. She knows Public Safety is important to all on the Council. They all know it's a large section of the budget "pie" every year. Those dollars need to be spent wisely. She agreed this has been a community that has been reactive in the past. When she looked at statistics for Police, Fire, and medical calls, and how this city ranks with other Dakota County cities, it was telling to her. The city ranked 7th in 2015, 6th highest in 2016, 5th highest in 2017, 2018, and 2019, 4th highest in 2020 and 3rd highest in 2021. She said for the last two years, Chief Chiodo and her leadership have been saying they want to be proactive and need additional resources. They don't think they should wait, can do this better, can provide a better quality of life for citizens. She said they have a Fire Chief who is very intent on providing additional services too. She looked at those call numbers and 2015 and 2016 ranked 8th highest in number of calls. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, they were 7th highest, in 2020, 6th highest, and in 2021 they were 7th highest. She said there is a situation where there is definitely something going on with Police calls. If peeling away medical calls for Fire and Police, Police calls are going up dramatically, Fire calls are going down. She stressed that both Chiefs are trying to do the best they can with the resources they have. Police calls are changing year by year and the Police Chief is saying something different needs to be done and can't do that unless they have additional resources. She said she didn't want those in Fire to feel slighted. She believes the Fire Study, which Council approved, and hopes that provides guidance toward the end of the year with what is going on with medical calls. That won't help with the situation the Police Chief is bringing forward. She recommends this request be approved as a mid-year revision.

Councilmember Murphy asked if the statistics given were from Dakota County or the State. Interim City Administrator Rand responded Dakota County.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated the Fire Study was brought up. They have never done a Police Study. She believes they need to start the process of interviewing for the spots they know they have open. There are 3 that could be currently advertised for. She was a little uncomfortable with the 2022 Budget idea because they are looking at getting a new City Administrator and have no idea what the 2022 Budget would be yet. She wants Police Officers safe, physically, and emotionally well, and wants them to have their days off. She doesn't know where things are going due to changes in the culture. She would definitely be more than supportive of replacing or going into the process of getting three people knowing they have three people that would have to be replaced. She said if it ends up being one extra person before the next budget is approved, so be it. She would like to go through the budget discussion before making those kinds of decisions. She said they can't say they will allow to do this when they are not giving other departments the opportunity to say something or to buy in. She believes they need to give the Chief permission to go ahead and look at 3 positions that would be replacement positions.

Councilmember Dietrich wanted clarification on what was said by Councilmember Piekarski Krech and asked if she was saying to pause and wait until budgeting to see the big picture. Councilmember

Piekarski Krech responded she is saying to let the Police Chief go ahead and start interviewing for people because she will need at least two to three people to replace and keep them where they are currently at. Make up for those off and retires. She said the budget process should be starting soon, they should know by September where things are and hopefully have a City Administrator on board who will have leadership and ideas on how they view things.

Councilmember Murphy asked if Councilmember Piekarski Krech was saying to go from 42 to 45. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded no. Not until they have gone through the budget process. The department is at 39 or 40 with people off. She said they need to give the Police Chief the ability to get extra people in there.

Councilmember Murphy was unsure there would be something more important than Public Safety, whether it's Police or Fire. He felt they have been short on Police Officers for quite a while. He has been hearing from the community that we have been completely reactive. He said he has made decisions in the last year not to call Police (wasn't an important issue) because he knows how busy they are. He was not sure being reactive works for the city long term, it leads to more issues. Kids need to interact with the Police. The last time he did research on this, the city is less than 1 Officer per 1,000 residents. The nationwide average is somewhere between 1.5 and 2. Councilmember Piekarski Krech didn't believe that to be correct. She looked at statistics in the 2040 Plan and the city was at 1.1 for population. Councilmember Murphy responded he was unsure and said he would look up the information. He believes going to 45 Officers makes sense and doing a study on top of that to see if the city is in the right spot.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech said because we are going to get a new City Administrator, she would like that person on board to make decisions like this or look at where things stand. She believes there could be a need for more Police, but through the budget process, she would like the buy in of the entire community and Staff. She said Public Safety is important, but who would be told that a park wasn't going to be built, or a road wouldn't be plowed or done. Those are the tradeoffs that have to be made. Councilmember Murphy asked what was meant by tradeoffs. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded the budget goes up every year. It depends on what the budget is. Councilmember Murphy understands it's an added expense but was unsure how the city loses something. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded it was a tradeoff due to how much they want to raise taxes.

Mayor Bartholomew said it was a good idea to replace the 2 or 3 the department is short. If they were still at 42 and don't increase to 42 and some of the Officers want to come back, he questioned if they have to lay off people. That is a concern. If the General Fund can support it, the need is there. He would support an increase of adding 3 now for an amended budget and then going into the New Year with a budget for 45. He was concerned with consequences, if at 42, and people may or may not come back, he would hate to have to lay off a Police Officer.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech did not believe they would get to that point with 2 retiring. There could be one extra if hiring 3 now. She assumes they would be adding Police Officers, it's a question of how many, or if they hire Police Officers and an Analyst instead. She said when looking at the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for Police, there were different positions.

Mayor Bartholomew agreed the need is there and would like to see the city get ahead of the curve and be prepared going into to 2022. If there is General Fund balance that will cover this, he believes it's a wise move. He said the new City Administrator may not like the plan, but doesn't control the aspect of

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Public Safety, that's Council responsibility. He said he would support this either way. He would go with replacing Officers going on leave, and vote for the amended increase to the budget.

Councilmember Gliva asked if doing what both Councilmember Piekarski Krech and the Mayor stated, if that doesn't make things net/net the same. Mayor Bartholomew responded he is going to 45, Councilmember Piekarski Krech says 42. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated current strength is only 39. She suggests going to the full strength of 42.

Councilmember Murphy said it seems the Council knows the need is there. It's not going to get better with all that is coming online in the next couple of years. He said he felt they may end up in a few years with a need greater than 45, if they want to be somewhat proactive. He gets uncomfortable with First Responders that don't necessarily get to take a vacation, when other people do. He supports increasing strength to 45.

Councilmember Gliva stated she would be more inclined to add the 3 and let the budget process determine the next.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech summed up what the Council was saying with authorizing 3 hires because they know they will need to replace them, so they don't go below 42. Then during budget time, consider going to 45. She said it could be more than that too but was unsure.

Councilmember Murphy asked if the Council needs to authorize something they have already authorized. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded the Police Chief can't start replacing people who are not gone. She suggests giving the Police Chief the authority to start replacing people they know are going to leave. There could be an overlap, people may not retire until December 31st. For that period of time, they would have extra and will know if that would help.

Police Chief Chiodo stated if only replacing 3, the 2 that are on leave and most likely not coming back, bumps them back to 42 and will be having 1 on short term leave. That leaves them at 42 and still completely reactive. Being at 42 has shown they are the 3rd busiest city and the 2nd highest in violent crimes. That is what 42 would get if allowed to hire the 2 that are on the books. She said if it's 45 she would be replacing those two, because they are currently on the books but not getting paid. Then she would be hiring an additional 3 to get them through this year. Next year she can start the proactive team. She said if going with 42, it's status quo, reactive, they would still have to wait until the budget is done and still have an 8-month process to hire and get people trained for anything additional.

Councilmember Gliva said they are saying 42, but 2 are not even working. In reality there are 38 people working, adding 3 would give them 42, not 38. Police Chief Chiodo responded there are 40 currently working. 42 total, 2 aren't working, 40 total working. One will be on short term leave, putting them at 39. If replacing those 2, she is back at 42 which is where she was at five months ago. Councilmember Murphy stated they worry that nobody gets hurt.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated it is a two-month period they work on the budget, then they would know. They don't change the budget much after September. The budget needs to be certified by a date in September. Then they know the Police Chief could start a hiring process because the budget starts January 1st. She believes it needs to go through the budget process for full discussion. She stated they have talked about how they want a City Administrator, if making all the decisions for a City Administrator now, what do they need one for. Councilmember Murphy understood what was said and asked how they would allow the new City Administrator to say no, this isn't coming before the

Council. Councilmember Piekarski Krech said the City Administrator could say for example, this is what we are looking at, this is what is happening, statewide/citywide, new things coming forward. She said she keeps hearing new things all the time about how Policing is changing, laws may be passed about how Police Officers can do their jobs. She said everything may need to be revamped about what Officers are supplied with.

Police Chief Chiodo responded there are no Minnesota Law changes that would affect Policing. Police Reform was done and there are 11 points to changes in Policing. This city is already doing them. She said they are a progressive department, and this is more policy impact. There is one change that won't impact them as dramatically, that is if someone calls 911 and says they have a child that is in mental distress, Dispatch is also supposed to dispatch someone that is a Mental Health Provider. There is no system set up to do that yet but would still be getting calls. That is the only change where they would be adding a resource. It is a new Law but there isn't anything in place yet and she was unsure when that would be. Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked if it's known if the city would need to have someone available or if it would be County or Regionwide. Police Chief Chiodo responded that information has not been discussed yet. Her guess was the County may have a pool of Social Workers that can be dispatched. She said no other laws were changed. They already have body cameras.

Councilmember Dietrich thanked Police Chief Chiodo for not leaving the profession when a lot are. Her concern is being myopic by not hearing from other Department Heads now and being close to budgeting. She said that was her only concern with it.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech said it can be helped by starting 3 right now so they don't lose anybody. They would still be 2 ahead unless the 2 that are out on leave come back. She said it's known there will be 2 retirements. This fills that, and then there would be budget discussion.

Councilmember Gliva said there is a Traffic/DWI Patrol Officer. She asked if that person could be used for anything else. Police Chief Chiodo responded she pulled someone from the Drug Task Force. The city was paying their salary to serve the rest of Dakota County, now they are being paid to come here. The city received Grant funds to reimburse. She didn't lose a body by having someone focusing on DWI/Traffic. She said traffic is a great concern for citizens. There is a Traffic Safety Committee that the Interim Public Works Director has formed because of all the traffic issues and concerns in the city. She said the position is there to back up Officers, but the focus is traffic stops, DWI's, and education to the Community. Councilmember Gliva commented they can't technically be used to fill in a patrolling gap. Police Chief Chiodo responded no, not while they are on DWI Funds.

Interim City Administrator Rand clarified what she believed the Council was saying stating the Mayor is interested in going to 45. Mayor Bartholomew responded he believed 45 was the way to go. He asked if they should start it now or go to 45 and pitch it for the budget. There are gaps due to retirement and injury/illness, fill those in the short term and be prepared for 45. Coming in the New Year, take advantage of some surplus in the General Fund and get ahead of the curve. He would be in support of anything to get additional people here, if the compromise is for the Chief to hire 3, he can support that too. He said he is strongly in favor of having 45 for the Police Department, he would do it tonight.

Interim City Administrator Rand said her understanding was that Councilmember Murphy felt the same way. She said Councilmember Piekarski Krech's suggestion would be to add the 3 right away. In terms of the 45, with those individuals on leave, if they leave before the end of the year, she wants more of a freeze on those, and discuss that as part of the budget. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded

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she suggests authorizing to hire 3 now in terms of thinking they are going to replace, so they stay at 42. Then go to 45 if doing it through the budget process.

Councilmember Murphy stated he was having a difficult time with that. He understands going through the budget process. He asked if that gives more transparency, expecting Department Heads to say no, they don't want to go to 45, or trying to find out if they have enough money to go to 45.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded they are trying to work through the budget process and say this is a need. As Department Heads have done every year with the budget, look at where things are at. She said everyone comes in saying they want a certain amount. Through a process, Department Heads work through and ask what it is that is needed the most for the city right now. A few years ago, it was the Fire Station. Everyone else gave up what they wanted, which could probably be why the Police didn't get their ask at that time, because the thought was the Fire Station was needed. The budget money went to that. Department Heads work through budget issues, how much the levy rate goes up, how much more money is coming in due to development, what the city can afford to do, any new regulations. She said because they haven't hired a new City Administrator yet, they don't know what that will cost. Councilmember Murphy said he understands. The Council agrees there is a need, they differ on the way to do it. He was confused by that and confused about why they have to authorize what has already been previously authorized; hiring more people to replace two that are gone. He said assuming those two come back, wouldn't they be at 45. Councilmember Piekarski Krech responded 2 are retiring. If two people come back off of leave, and are at one extra because they authorized 3, they would still be through the budget process by that time.

City Attorney Bridget McCauley Nason addressed conversations regarding employees who are on leave and replacement. She stated the Council needs to be aware there are employees out on leave, they might come back. She would not recommend any decision be made related to that. She highly encouraged the Council not to have conversations about what happens if someone does or does not come back from leave, hiring, and replacement of someone who is on leave. She believed the request is an authorization to hire 3 new people if the individuals who are out on leave come back, so be it, if they don't come back, that is already budgeted for and would be filled in the normal course of business. She asked the Police Chief if another budget authorization would be needed.

Police Chief Chiodo responded she would need another budget authorization because she is going to 45. If employees do not come back, she would immediately seek to fill those if authorized at 45. She would end up in the same place again if she is only authorized to hire 3 now. If she has employees that don't come back, she would be back before the Council asking again to hire to get to 45. Asking to go to 45 gives her that permission now to make sure is able to go to 45 when she can. This means 3 additional now, and possibly 2. City Attorney McCauley Nason responded that was the clarification she was seeking. The caution was not to talk about replacing anyone who is on leave at this time period. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated they could proactively get 2 people on because there will be retirements. When those retirements happen, those people are ready to go out on the street.

City Attorney McCauley Nason responded her understanding is that the request is for 3 people now, to get up to 45, which would be the Staffing level. The retirements would occur in 2022. At that time its anticipated those would be regular replacements. Police Chief Chiodo responded the ask is to go to an authorized strength of 45. If and when she needs to hire people, she can hire and not come back again. She said she needs the 45 and knows she would hire 3 immediately. She would like to have a cap of 45 so she doesn't have to come back and ask for another hire, give statistics again, cost. She asks for the cap of 45.

Mayor Bartholomew stated the Council has heard from the Police Chief and Interim City Administrator, for this reason he believes it is wise to amend the budget to allow for the Staff level to go to 45. They know they have 2 out and would get in 3 immediately so they are ahead short term. He stated if for some reason they do not get to 45, the Chief can fill to 45 when necessary. He is in support of this.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech said she felt they still needed to go through the budget process when adding to next year's budget.

Motion by Piekarski Krech, second by Gliva, to deny the Budget Amendment to Hire Three Full-time Police Officers Changing the Authorized Strength of Sworn on the Police Department to 45 FTEs and to go through the Budget Process to get to 45 Police Officers.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 2 (Murphy, Bartholomew) Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation:

B. Consider Awarding Bid for the Northwest Park Area.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid stated he would be discussing taking a step at adding the first park in the northwest area. The request is for authorization to secure bids and issue quotes for the park project. He gave the following Project Overview:

Project Purpose:

- Design and construct a new 8-acre neighborhood park to serve the northwest area of the city.
- Through the site design; address stormwater management, trail access, parking needs, and recreational opportunities.
- Coordinate site design and construction with other planning efforts in the area.

Process to Date:

- Design Concept
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Development Budget
- Construction Timeline
- Park Naming
- Questions

Project Overview:

He stated that Amy from HKGi, has led the planning process and is in attendance if needed.

Project Schedule:

He has only been with the city for one month but has learned discussion has taken place for a long time about the need for a park there.

- Phase 1: Park Concept
 - Took place in January 2021.
 - Neighborhood engagement has taken place to find out their needs.
- Phase 2: Design Development
 - Information was gathered and a plan was developed.
 - During neighborhood meeting #3 is where all the input came together.
- Phase 3: Construction Documents and Building
 - Requesting authorization from Council to begin the process.
- Phase 4: Park Construction

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- Begin actual construction by September.

Review of Final Preferred Concept:

- 3 different concepts were looked at. This was discussed with Staff, Consultants, and the neighborhood.
- Based on comments gathered from the public, a preferred “final” concept was developed.
- Besides basic park elements, there are things such as stormwater, grading, site furniture, and playground equipment.
- Single-track bike trail.

Pictures of different design elements were shown. A special feature of the park is some of the nature play areas and the use of nature in the trails there.

Construction Phases:

- Beginning this fall:
 - Some tree removal will need to take place. Being sensitive about retaining the best trees and as many as possible.
 - Roadway construction will take place in the park.
 - Connection of a Regional Trail will come through the park to connect it out. Trail connections will take place. Will work with Dakota County, Public Works, and Dakota County Public Works.

Playground Equipment:

He stated that Minnesota has a way of obtaining playground equipment. There is currently a State process rather than going out for a bid process. With this process Vendors have already been vetted.

- 3 Vendors supplied designs. One Vendor was selected: Minnesota/Wisconsin Playground Co. Examples were shown. A Zipline was shown.

Councilmember Dietrich asked about a full basketball court and if that was in all concepts. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded yes. Councilmember Dietrich said Staff had looked at adding a basketball court to an existing park and there was strong opposition to it. The thought was that nobody was playing basketball. She was unsure if it was for that specific area or what the trend is. She wanted to bring that awareness because it was something that came before the Council in 2019. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded the trend is basketball is still a very popular activity. Sometimes what is added are basketball structures that can be raised and lowered for younger children. He stated this area specifically wanted a full basketball court.

Development Budget:

- DEED Grant. The Grant will run out June 30th, 2022. If it is not used for the project, the money will go away.
- City funds would come out of the Park Dedication Fund.

Councilmember Dietrich asked if the invoices needed to be paid by that date. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded the invoices have to be submitted by that date.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid stated the request is for two items:

1. The bid process to select a Contractor to do a major part of the park.
2. There are items they can save money on that they can do by quotes they would do anyway. Some of those things can be done internally by Staff.

Mayor Bartholomew stated the Agenda Item is to consider awarding a bid for the northwest park area. The request for action is to approve plans and specifications and order a quotation authorizing development and the city to solicit allowable quotations up to \$300,000. He asked if there is a bid in hand or if they were still looking for a bid. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded

they are still looking for a bid for the General Contractor. They have estimated amounts for items that would go out and get individual quotes. For example: Tree Removal. That would be done separately rather than having the Contractor go out and get a separate bid, they can legally do that. Mayor Bartholomew stated they are looking to submit a request for quotation for bid and authorizing the city to spend up to \$300,000 relative to some of these expenses. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid agreed.

Park Name:

- There are currently three names:
 1. Vista Pines Park
 2. Pine View Park
 3. Red Pines Park

It will be known for sure by Wednesday what name was chosen. He stated on Wednesday the Parks and Recreation Commission will be selecting the name based on the surveys done. He commended Staff for the work they have done in asking people about what they want in the park, but also the process. The Council would take official action on the name at the next City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech asked who came up with the names. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded it started during the engagement process of asking people for different names. These were ones generally selected and went online for votes. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated Red Pine would be confused with Red Pine Elementary School in Eagan. She felt they didn't have anything to do with that park. Most of the other parks are named after people or the place where they are located. She didn't feel they had much imagination. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid responded there is a process in place for naming parks. For example: The use of names, consistent with Parks and Recreation Departments throughout the Country, is not done very often. It's done based on nature and location. The Council has final approval. If the Council would rather have something else, that is the Council's authorization.

Interim City Administrator Rand stated Staff recommends going for quotes for advance work to get the project moving along as quickly as possible. There is a bigger bid out project. She was thankful to have HKGi on board who will be overseeing this as they continue to move forward.

Councilmember Murphy requested further information about a midstreet crossing across Argenta that says it is only one lane/one direction. Interim Public Works Director Eckles responded they haven't discussed this yet, but thought the issue is the four lane roadways present hazards for pedestrians. The plan looks like they would be putting in a center island as a refuge for pedestrians, eliminating the difficult crossing. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid stated that may be something that is going to have to happen. It doesn't affect the park development. They wanted the Council to be aware of all planning details.

Motion by Piekarski Krech, second by Murphy, to approve the request to Award a Bid for the Northwest Park Area, construction estimates, and allow \$300,000 in expenses be quoted and approved by Staff.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING – July 12, 2021

Community Development:

C. Consider Approval of Rental License.

Interim City Administrator Rand stated the city, via Ordinance, licenses single family and multi family residential units every two years. Three applications were submitted for single family Rental Licenses:

1. 7473 Dickman Trail
2. 8842 Branson Drive
3. 4376 Upper 71st Street

Community Development Staff have reviewed all three applications and find them to be complete. They have the Police Department, Police Chief and/or Designee review them for a pattern of nuisance calls. That was not found in the case of the three. Staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech commented it seems like they are getting a lot of rental properties in town. She requested information on how many single-family homes are turning into rentals. Interim City Administrator Rand responded Staff would get an update to Council.

Councilmember Dietrich requested information about Airbnb's. She asked if there was Code about them. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated they tried to do something with those a few years ago but there were issues. Community Development Director Heather Rand responded that is on their work plan to bring before the Council this year for consideration of a change to the Ordinance where they would license. They call them Vacation Rentals. This would provide a better mechanism to track them. They tend to be places where there is an increased volume of Police calls. These do take away from revenues that are generated at hotels, similar to Food Trucks taking away revenue from Brick-and-Mortar restaurants. She suggests the Council consider requiring licensing for them. Other communities have Ordinances in place, and track if they are paying the proper level of sales tax. There are likely several that are unknown. She said she would never suggest prohibiting them, but to have regulations to track them. It is their goal to bring that before the Council by the end of the year. They would also like to bring suggested changes to Rental Housing Licenses. They currently License them, do background checks, and make sure there are not a lot of nuisance calls, they want to make sure there is an inspection once every three years by the Building Inspection Team to make sure there are not any major health and life safety Code violations, and that the property owner, who generates revenue off the rental home, is maintaining them to a certain standard. This would be done so the housing stock in the community that is rental doesn't continue to decrease. They hope to bring this before the Council by the end of the year.

Mayor Bartholomew felt the Code doesn't allow for anything less than a 30-day rental for Airbnb. He requested further research and to let the Council know. Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated it was discussed, but never changed. There was a house that had severe issues. The city was trying to work out how to do it and received a lot of pushback. She doesn't believe anything was passed.

City Attorney McCauley Nason reminded the Council that before the Council can take action, they need to provide an opportunity for anyone from the public wishing to speak, be heard.

Motion by Gliva, second by Piekarski Krech, to approve Rental Licenses for the following:

- 1. 7473 Dickman Trail**
- 2. 8842 Branson Drive**
- 3. 4376 Upper 71st Street**

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

D. Consider Application for a Chicken License for Property located at 7935 Charles Way.

Interim City Administrator/Community Development Director Rand stated this Application was in front of the Council in the past. Council requested an update on what is going on with Urban Chicken Licensing. The community has provided opportunity for Urban Chicken Licenses for almost 8 years. 23 Licenses have been approved. To date, Code Compliance Staff has only received two complaints. Most people are compliant. Staff has the ability to cite them. If they don't correct the matter, the item would come before the Council during a Public Hearing to vote to remove/take away the License to have urban chickens. Staff doesn't see this to be a big problem. It is important to have the enforcement mechanism. She stated the License is by a family that has not yet had chickens in the community. If things go wrong, there is a Code Compliance Staffer who would follow up.

Doug Allen, 7935 Charles Way, stated he has heard and read the information regarding the License and requirements. He was fine with the requirements.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech wanted to clarify since some people have had issues with having two chickens in such a small enclosure. She said chickens from the store come from much smaller enclosures and never see the light of day. It is different when people are growing them in their own home.

Councilmember Murphy stated he previously asked for this to be tabled because he needed a better understanding. He thanked Staff for the information, it was very helpful.

Motion by Gliva, second by Piekarski Krech, to approve the Application for a Chicken License for Property located at 7935 Charles Way.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

E. Consider the Third Reading of an Ordinance Amendment to allow Market Gardens as a Permitted Use in the E-2, R-1, and R-2 Districts. Ordinance 1412.

City Planner Allan Hunting stated this is the Third Reading of the Ordinance. It has one change that was missed at the Second Reading to remove the reference to Ornamental Crops. That was changed in two locations. He said the discussion about signage was left out because they would be addressing it at the time the Signage Ordinance is covered. This item would take affect after approval.

Mayor Bartholomew asked if any new information came through. City Planner Hunting responded he has not received anything.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech thanked Staff for taking Ornamentals out but will not be voting for this because she still goes back to the fact that they can't License and have an idea of where it is happening. She fully supports people growing their food. She said a business owner in town came up to her and questioned who could stop them from selling certain things.

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Councilmember Murphy stated he is struggling with it a little more than he did before. With Market Gardens, Chickens, and Goats, he wasn't sure what road they were heading down. He felt they were going backwards and asked why there was zoning for where things can be located.

Mayor Bartholomew shared Councilmember Piekarski Krech's concern, stating there are businesses in brick-and-mortar buildings. He doesn't believe this would cause a lot of harm but asked where it stops. He doesn't believe it could cause the problems that local greenhouses think it will. He said he looks at it as a hobby. There is protection with days and hours they can work.

Dawn Gaetke, 7477 Cahill Avenue, reminded the Council that a survey went out. 79% of respondents were in favor of Market Gardening. 79% of the respondents did not think this was a step backwards. She said she has heard different Councilmembers say that some business owners didn't like it. She said those business owners should have come before the Council and spoke like she did. She felt those people should speak themselves rather than through Councilmembers. She requested the Council be more swayed by the people who bothered to show up than those who didn't. She hoped they vote in favor of allowing Market Gardens to move forward.

Motion by Piekarski Krech, second by Gliva, to approve the Third Reading of an Ordinance Amendment to allow Market Gardens as a Permitted Use in the E-2, R-1, and R-2 Districts. Ordinance 1412.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 1 (Piekarski Krech) Motion carried.

City Clerk Rebecca Kiernan stated this item will get posted on Sunday. It goes into effect five days after.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

8. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bartholomew stated there is an exciting week coming up. They would be meeting City Administrator Candidates on the 14th with interviews on the 15th.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

10. ADJOURN:

Motion by Dietrich, second by Gliva, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek