

**HOPKINS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Hopkins City Council was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1010 1<sup>st</sup> Street South.

Mayor Hanlon called the meeting to order with Council Members Balan, Beck, Garrido and Hunke attending. Others attending included City Manager Mornson, Assistant City Manager Lenz, City Clerk Domeier, Deputy City Clerk Osman, Finance Director Bishop, Special Projects and Initiatives Manager Imihy Bean, Fire Chief Specken and Director of Planning and Development Elverum.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Mayor Hanlon stated further discussion would be held on the Consent Agenda for the Second Reading: Ordinances Adopting Gas and Electric Franchise Fees Beginning January 1, 2024.

**Motion** by Balan. **Second** by Hunke.

**Motion** to Adopt the Agenda with Consent Agenda item discussion.

**Ayes: Balan, Beck, Garrido, Hanlon, Hunke**

**Nays: None. Motion carried.**

**Second Reading: Ordinances Adopting Gas and Electric Franchise Fees Beginning January 1, 2024; Bishop**

Finance Director Bishop provided a summary of the proposed ordinances. Mayor Hanlon offered the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed ordinances.

Dan Meilke representing Plasman located 1302 5th Street South, Hopkins, provided concerns about the proposed franchise fees by explaining how the fees would impact their business. He requested a tiered rate approach to avoid the large fee burden in one single budget year.

Special Projects and Initiatives Manager Imihy Bean provided more information about the Climate Solution Funds. Mayor Hanlon thanked Mr. Meilke for reaching out to the City Council and providing comments on the issue.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** by Garrido. **Second** by Balan.

**Motion** to Approve the Consent Agenda.

1. Minutes of the September 5, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting Proceedings
2. Minutes of the September 12, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting Proceedings
3. Second Reading: Ordinances Adopting Gas and Electric Franchise Fees Beginning January 1, 2024; Bishop
4. Amendment to Façade Improvement Program; Elverum

**Ayes: Balan, Beck, Garrido, Hanlon, Hunke**

**Nays: None. Motion carried.**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**VII.1. Fire Study Presentation; Specken**

Fire Chief Specken along with the City's Fire Department Staffing Study consultants, Raftelis presented the results of the Fire Department Study. The study is available at <https://www.hopkinsmn.com/1146/Fire-Department-Staffing-Study>. The consultant's recommendation was to optimize the current paid-on call system by hiring an Assistant Fire Chief and two full-time firefighters. Alternatives included a full-time staff model, a regional/shared services model, or the public safety officer model.

Mayor Hanlon questioned the role Hennepin County plays in a regional approach. Fire Chief Specken stated that the current hazardous inspections would not change. He noted that there have been some issues with collecting call response data so moving to a better reporting system is an option. Mayor Hanlon supported a tiered approach for the inspections model and questioned the cost recovery models. Raftelis representatives spoke to escalating reinspection fees recognizing that inspections are a tool attain compliance.

Council Member Beck questioned if any research was done to staff an ambulance. Fire Chief Specken explained the primary service area restrictions and the task force that is looking into other options. Council Member Beck opposed a regionalized service model and the public safety model. He shared his concerns with the community growing faster than the department. Council Member Garrido did not support the public safety model. She questioned the salary calculations for the new positions proposed. Raftelis representatives shared the data used was based on Hopkins salary models and benefits. Council Member Hunke did not support the regionalized service model or the public safety model. Council Member Balan was against the shared service model and the public safety model. The general consensus of the City Council was to move forward with the enhanced paid on-call model.

**VII.2. Adopt Organizational Equity Goals; Imihy Bean**

Special Projects and Initiative Manager Imihy Bean summarized Council Report 2023-095. Ms. Imihy Bean sought the City Council's feedback and approval of the following goal statements: The City of Hopkins is reflective and inclusive of our diverse community in all roles across the organization; the City of Hopkins makes decisions informed by equitable and authentic community engagement, genuine partnerships and relationships with the community; and the City of Hopkins is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the development and evaluation of services and programs.

**Motion** by Balan. **Second** by Garrido.

**Motion** to adopt equity goals as presented in the staff report.

**Ayes:** Balan, Beck, Garrido, Hanlon, Hunke

**Nays:** None. **Motion carried.**

**VII.3. Resolution Approving Proposed 2024 General Fund Budget and Set Budget Meeting Date; Bishop**

Finance Director Bishop summarized City Council Report 2023-098. The City is required to certify a proposed tax levy and submit it to Hennepin County by September 30. This

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will be the maximum levy for 2024 and can only be reduced. The certified levy amount is also used for truth in taxation notices. The proposed date of Monday, December 4 would allow time to consider comments heard at the public hearing before passing a final tax levy and budget.

**Motion** by Hunke. **Second** by Balan.

**Motion** to Approve Resolution 2023-030 approving proposed 2024 Tax Levy, Setting Debt Service Levels at Levels Under Those Required in the Bond Documents, Approving the Proposed 2024 Budget and Setting the Budget Meeting Date.

**Ayes: Balan, Garrido, Hanlon, Hunke**

**Nays: Beck. Motion carried.**

**VII.4. Resolution Approving Proposed 2024 HRA/EDA Tax Levy; Bishop**

Finance Director Bishop summarized Council Report 2023-099. The City is required to certify a proposed HRA/EDA tax levy and submit it to Hennepin County by September 30. There are levy limits based on 0.1850% of the City's estimated market value. The market value used for the 2024 levy is \$2,682,722,500, resulting in a maximum tax levy of \$497,414 which would be an increase of \$45,883 or 10.16% from 2023. The HRA/EDA Levy was set at the maximum allowed in 2023 and lesser amount in 2021-2022.

A brief discussion was held about the façade improvement program funding. Mayor Hanlon requested the levy be at 10% to allow for additional façade improvements. Council Member Beck did not support the 10% levy increase. Assistant City Manager noted that this is the preliminary levy so it can only be lowered going forward. Council Member Balan supported a higher levy increase. Council Member Hunke and Garrido supported a levy increase but not at 10%. Mayor Hanlon proposed 8% wanted to leverage the opportunity for additional businesses to participate in the program. Council Member Hunke supported an 8% increase but wanted additional program details before the final levy is set.

**Motion** by Hanlon. **Second** by Hunke.

**Motion** to Approve Resolution 2023-031 Approving the Proposed 2024 HRA/EDA Tax Levy with an amendment of an 8% levy increase.

**Ayes: Garrido, Hanlon, Hunke**

**Nays: Balan, Beck. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Riyad Saad, 1209 Landmark Trail South, Hopkins expressed concerns about parking on Landmark Trail North. Staff will follow up on the issue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hanlon reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, and upon a motion by Balan, second by Beck, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Domeier, City Clerk