

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024 - 4:30 P.M.
NOWHERE ENTERTAINMENT, 5300 ROBERT TRL #300, INVER GROVE HEIGHTS**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in a special session on Monday, January 29, 2024. Mayor Dietrich called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present In-Person: Mayor Dietrich; Council Members: Gliva, Murphy, T’Kach, and Scales; City Administrator Wilson, City Clerk Kiernan, Parks & Recreation Director Lares, Finance Director Hove, Police Chief Chiodo, Human Resources Director Shefchik, Fire Chief Thill, Communications Manager Looze, IT Director Gade, and Public Works Director Connolly.

3. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Review and Discussion of City Council Priorities for 2023-2024

City Administrator Wilson explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss 2023-2024 City Council priorities to see if staff and council are reaching the goals that were to be accomplished in 2023 and to set additional goals for 2024 if needed.

The Council reviewed the results of 2023 and then discussed and selected key priorities for 2024. There were items on the 2023 list that are not yet complete and Council asked to carry those over and include them in its 2024 priorities.

Councilmembers were asked to give some thought to the following questions:

1. What were the notable accomplishments of 2023? In hindsight, is there anything the Council wishes had been handled or decided differently?

Water was a hot topic in 2023 and the Public Works Maintenance Facility Study. In hindsight, it was suggested that the council needs to look at the greater good of Inver Grove Heights rather than just the preferences of those present at a particular council meeting. The Council also discussed how to get broad resident input and feedback on bigger topics.

The idea of a community-based strategic plan was suggested and briefly discussed, noting that most cities who undertake such an effort hire a consultant and devote a year or more to the process.

Councilmembers were pleased with the communication around the radium in the water supply issue, with efforts to get out ahead of the questions from residents and provide a frequently asked questions model for them to see on the website.

2. On the Council list of 2023 priorities, were there any items you would remove from the list for 2024 (either because they have been accomplished or because there are currently other, higher-priority items)?

Some felt the 2023 list was too long but there was a general consensus that progress was made. Staff was asked to share items that each department plans to work on in 2024, beyond their normal duties. Clerk's Office is implementing CityView online business licensing; Finance is working to revamp the City's Chart of Accounts; Police is working to expand their Wellness program (physical and mental health) with a therapy dog; Human Resources is working to disconnect the personnel policy from city code and make it an administrative policy; Fire is looking to enhance the Paid-on-Call Program through new recruitment strategies. Communications is overhauling the Public Works portion of the city website; IT will be migrating the City's backups to a new location further from City Hall; Public Works is planning to revisit the way cell phone antenna leases are handled. Parks and Recreation is looking forward to completing the Heritage Village 5th phase, including the splash pad and an all-inclusive playground, and completion of the lighting on the Swing bridge.

3. What is one thing that the City - as a municipal government organization - should focus on in 2024 to benefit our residents? (Outside of the everyday services such as responding to 911 calls, providing clean drinking water, maintaining streets and parks.) Responses included:

A "who to call" quick reference guide on the website.
 Landfill issues, including solid waste management and financial implications.
 A signature community event separate from IGH Days.
 Climate Action Planning - going greener, climate issues and volunteer availabilities
 Maximizes grants available from the Dakota County CDA for Redevelopment Incentive Grant (RIG) programs
 Focus on Tourism
 See more housing data statistics across all housing classifications
 Northwest Area Zoning code overlay district and comprehensive plan update
 Meet with advisory commissions to share goals, priorities and frustrations
 Funding for water plant rehabilitation
 Use of ARPA Funds
 Use of Opioid Settlement Funds
 Staffing to meet city's needs (Natural resource division or adding a criminal analyst to PD for example)
 Theme of moving from reactionary to planning, proactive and moving forward thinking.

4. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by City Clerk Rebecca Kiernan.