

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, October 28, 2024 - 6:00 P.M. - 8150 BARBARA AVENUE

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, October 8, 2024. Mayor Dietrich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present In-Person: Mayor Dietrich; Council Members: Murphy, T’Kach, Gliva and Scales; City Administrator Wilson, City Clerk Kiernan, Chief Chiodo, Community Development Director Ziemer, City Engineer Merchlewicz, City Attorney Nason, Finance Director Hove, Commander Otis, Sergeant Winget and Parks & Recreation Director Lares.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve Agenda by Murphy, second by Scales.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.** Approval of Minutes of the September 3, 2024, City Council Work Session
- B.** Approval of Minutes of the October 7, 2024, City Council Work Session
- C.** Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2024, City Council Meeting
- D.** Approval of Disbursements, **Resolution 2024-245**
- E.** Personnel Actions
- F.** Acceptance of Proposal and Approval of Contract for the 5-Year Northwest Area AUAR Update
- G.** Acceptance of Grant for New Fire Department Radios and Approval of Associated Budget Amendment, **Resolution 2024-246**
- H.** Approval of Veterans Memorial Community Center Ice Use Agreement with Inver Grove Heights Hockey Associate, LLC
- I.** Resolution Approving Amendment No. 3 to Development Contract for Plat of Peltier Reserve and Related Documents, **Resolution 2024-247**
- J.** Approval of Massage Therapist License

Motion to approve Item A - J by Gliva, second by T’Kach.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A.** Tobacco & Nicotine Retailer License Violation – Casey’s General Store #3825

Commander Otis presented this item.

Overview of Tobacco/Nicotine Compliance Program:

- Before 2024, Dakota County issued licenses for the sale of tobacco and nicotine products and delivery devices to local businesses. The County also conducted the compliance checks.
- In 2023, the City adopted an ordinance on the Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Products and took over the licensing.
- In 2024, the City began to issue local businesses their tobacco and nicotine product licenses.
- As such the Police Department conducted the first Tobacco and Nicotine compliance checks in 2024.
 - The compliance checks are a tool to verify that businesses with a valid Tobacco/Nicotine license are acting responsibly.
 - Our compliance checks are done once annually.
 - These compliance checks help reduce underage access to tobacco/nicotine products.
- Short- and long-term goals:
 - Reducing underage access to tobacco/nicotine products.
 - Obtain and maintain 100% yearly compliance with no underage tobacco/nicotine product sales.
 - Enhance knowledge and improve skills for our local businesses related to stopping underage tobacco/nicotine sales.

Chapter 12 Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Products:

- 4-12-6 Prohibited Sales
 - A: To Any Person Under 21 Years of Age. Licensees must verify by means of government-issued photographic identification that the purchaser is at least 21 years of age.
- 4-12-5 Basis for Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of License
 - 13. Violation of any regulation or provision of the City code, City zoning ordinance, or state or federal law or regulation related to the licensed activity.
- 4-12-11 Hearings
 - Which in part stipulates that any revocation, suspension, or denial of a license shall be preceded by a hearing before the City Council.
- 4-12-10 Administrative Penalties for Violations
 - 1. The first violation shall result in an administrative penalty of \$300.
 - 2. The second violation within 36 months of the previous violation shall result in a minimum administrative penalty of \$600 and a license suspension of at least 1 day.
 - 3. The third violation or more within 36 months of the previous violation shall result in a minimum administrative penalty of \$600 and a license suspension of at least 7 days.

Commander Otis said two of the violations have an administrative penalty of \$300 and do not require a public hearing. The other two violations have a previous violation, require an administrative penalty, at least one day suspension and a public hearing.

Compliance Program:

- Verify License Holders within the City.
- Recruit and train underage buyers.
 - Not to misrepresent age
 - Dress normal
 - No disguises
- Must possess/present their own valid UNDER 21 MN State DL or ID.
 - This is acceptable proof of age verification as the Ordinance outlines, which references MN State Statute 340A.503 Subd. 6, Proof of age, a valid driver's license or identification card issued by Minnesota

Commander Otis said Minnesota IDs for anyone under the age of 21 are vertical and underneath the photo in red it says under 21 until a certain date. Anyone 21 and over will have a horizontal ID.

Conducting Compliance Checks - Notifications:

- Failure - When a business has a failure, the officer of records will identify themselves and conduct post-sale follow-up procedures.
- Pass - When a business passes, they will receive a letter advising them they have passed the compliance check for the current year.

Public Hearing Required:

1. Item 6A - Casey's General Store #3825
2. Item 6B - Walgreens #06943

Public Hearing Not Required:

1. Item 6C - Holiday Station #3537
2. Item 6D - Shark Tobacco

Sergeant Winget presented the violation.

On July 23, 2024, at approximately 1:30 p.m. the Police Department conducted a Tobacco/Nicotine compliance check at Casey's General Store #3825. Sergeant Winget said he observed the following:

- Underage buyer ordered a 6mg Zyns nicotine pouch from the clerk.
- The clerk never asked for any form of age verification.
- After the sale was completed, the underage buyer exited the store.

Sergeant Winget identified himself as a Police Officer and began his post-by procedures.

- The clerk and store manager were advised of the failure.

- The clerk provided a voluntary statement and stated the buyer looked to be over 30 years of age, so they hit the over 30 button.
 - The buyer was only 19 years old.

On September 24, 2024, Casey's General Store was notified of the prohibited sales failure, the basis for a license suspension, and administrative penalties.

Sergeant Winget said their first violation occurred August 5, 2022 and Staff's recommendation for the second violation is a \$600 administrative penalty and a one day licenses suspension in 2024 to be chosen by Council.

Mayor Dietrich opened the public hearing.

Sarah Casper Raby - 606 2nd Avenue NW, Kasson - said she was representing Casey's General Store and said there is a new store manager, and they are having team members go through more training with e-learnings. There will also be daily monitoring to make sure this type of violation does not happen again.

Motion to close public hearing by T'Kach, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Commander Otis said Council will need to determine the date for the one-day suspension.

Mayor Dietrich asked if staff had any recommendation.

Sergeant Winget said Council can choose any day remaining in 2024.

Administrator Wilson said they would suggest at least two weeks from today to allow the store to plan ahead and notify their staff.

Mayor Dietrich said November 18th is two weeks from today and asked if there were any objections.

Council Member T'Kach said she was thinking of the suspension on a Friday because they may have more business, and it would sink in more. This is the second violation, and they are trying to cut back on underage smoking and drinking.

Council Member Scales said he understands why they penalize the business but does not like punishing the location. They have done additional training and think it should be a learning experience as opposed to a punishment. He does not want to choose a busy day to punish them.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-248 Imposing sanctions upon tobacco and nicotine products license holder to include a suspension date of November 18, 2024 by Scales, second by T'Kach.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Tobacco & Nicotine Products License Violation - Walgreens #06943

Sergeant Winget presented this item.

On July 23, 2024 at approximately 1:51 p.m. the Police Department conducted a Tobacco/Nicotine compliance check at Walgreens #06943.

The officer of record observed the following:

- Underage buyer ordered a Zyns nicotine pouch from the clerk.
- The clerk asked the buyer for their identification, they presented their vertical with UNDER 21 MN State DL/ID, and the clerk reviewed it and completed the sale.
- After the sale was completed, the underage buyer exited the store.
- The officer of record identified himself as a Police Officer and began the post-buy procedures.
 - The clerk and store manager were advised of the failure.
 - The clerk provided a voluntary statement and stated he thought the buyer's identification read March of 1996.
 - The buyer's identification showed the birth year of 2006.
 - The clerk was issued a citation for the sale of nicotine delivery product to an underage person.

Sergeant Winget said on September 24, 2024 Walgreens #06943 was notified of the prohibited sales failure, the basis for a license suspension and the administrative penalties. They were advised this was their second violation. The first violation occurred on October 9, 2021. Staff recommend a \$600 administrative penalty and a one day license suspension in 2024 because this is their second violation.

Mayor Dietrich opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion to close public by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-249 Imposing sanctions upon tobacco and nicotine products license holder to include a suspension date of November 18, 2024 by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

C. Tobacco & Nicotine Products License Violation – Holiday #3537

Sergeant Winget presented this item.

On July 23, 2024, at approximately 2:40 p.m. the Police Department conducted a Tobacco/Nicotine compliance check.

Sergeant Winget said he observed the following:

- Underage buyer ordered a 6mg Zyns nicotine pouch from the clerk.
- The clerk asked the underage buyer for their identification, they presented their vertical with UNDER MN State DL/ID, and the clerk scanned it and completed the sale.
- After the sale was completed, the underage buyer exited the store.
- Sergeant Winget identified himself as a Police Officer and began the post-buy procedures.
 - The clerk was advised of the failure, no store manager was working.
 - The clerk provided a voluntary statement and stated the machine would on occasion "miss-scan" which he thought occurred, he then hit override.
 - The buyer was only 19 years old.
 - The clerk was issued a citation for the sale of nicotine delivery product to an underage person.

On September 24, 2024, Holiday Station #3537 was notified of the prohibited sales failure and the administrative penalties. Staff recommends a \$300 administrative penalty for the first violation.

Mayor Dietrich opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion to close public hearing by T'Kach, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-250 Imposing sanctions upon tobacco and nicotine products license holder to include a suspension date of November 18, 2024 by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

D. Tobacco & Nicotine Products License Violation – Shark Tobacco

Sergeant Winget presented this item.

On July 23, 2024, at approximately 1:30 p.m. the Police Department conducted a Tobacco/Nicotine compliance check.

Sergeant Winget said he observed the following:

- Underage buyer ordered a Loon Max Red Berry 6.5 ML vape pen from the clerk.
- The clerk never asked for any form of age verification.
- After the sale was completed, the underage buyer exited the store.
- Officer Winget identified himself as a Police Officer and began the post-buy procedures.
 - The clerk was advised of the failure, the on-duty supervisor was not available.
 - The clerk provided a voluntary statement and stated the buyer looked familiar to him and he thought they were a regular in the store. The clerk continued to state

employees are often reminded to always check ID's and that he simply made a mistake this time.

- The buyer was only 19 years old.

On September 24, 2024, Shark Tobacco was notified of the prohibited sales failure and the administrative penalties. Staff recommends a \$300.00 administrative penalty for the first violation.

Zean Kami Abdallah - 11761 Arnold Palmer Court, Blaine - said they are a new business in Inver Grove Heights and said it was an unintentional mistake by his employee. They understand the seriousness of the industry and that the delivery of nicotine cannot be allowed to anyone under the age of 21. They include training and uploads it to the City Clerk. They are currently using Courses for Tobacco in Minnesota and it is rated as one of the best trainings. Approximately an hour before the violation they had contacted the police department because they had minors enter the store and when they were asked for ID upon entry, they grabbed product and ran out of the store. Abdallah said this type of violation will not happen again.

Motion to close public hearing by T'Kach, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-251 Imposing sanctions upon tobacco and nicotine products license holder to include a suspension date of November 18, 2024 by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Rental Housing Licenses

Director Ziemer presented three rental housing licenses that have been reviewed by Staff and found to be eligible for licenses. Staff recommends approval.

Motion to approve Three rental housing licenses for the addresses of 4879 Bitterman Path, 7956 Charles Way, & 3548 Cloman Way by Gliva, second by T'Kach

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. 1st Reading of Ordinance Adopting Cannabis Business Regulations

Attorney Nason presented this Item.

Legislative Background:

- In 2022, edibles and beverages containing 5mg of THC per serving entered the Minnesota marketplace after amendment to Minn. Stat. 151.72 to specifically allow these products ("151 Hemp Products").
- In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed the Cannabis Act which provided for a framework for adult-use cannabis and regulated some hemp products as well. Beginning July 1, 2023 cannabis was decriminalized, and the state began filling in the legislative framework.
- In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature made minor updates to cannabis license types.

Current City Regulations:

- No license is required to sell hemp edibles containing THC, but businesses must register with the Office of Cannabis Management.
 - Currently 18 businesses are registered to Inver Grove Heights addresses
- Use Regulations:
 - Smoking or vaping cannabis or hemp flower or products in public place is prohibited – similar to tobacco use
 - Consumption of beverages containing THC prohibited in public places (unless otherwise permitted per license or permit) – similar to alcohol use
- Moratorium on operation of cannabis businesses until January 1, 2025

Office of Cannabis Management:

- Established July 1, 2023
- Responsible for all Cannabis Act licensing of cannabis and hemp businesses and products and most of the regulatory framework established by the Cannabis Act.
- Administrative rulemaking
- Enforcement of licensing requirements

"Cannabis business" means any of the following licensed under [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342]:

1. Cannabis microbusiness
2. Cannabis mezzobusiness
3. Cannabis cultivator
4. Cannabis manufacturer
5. Cannabis retailer
6. Cannabis wholesaler
7. Cannabis transporter
8. Cannabis testing facility
9. Cannabis event organizer
10. Cannabis delivery service
11. Medical cannabis combination business

"Hemp business" means any of the following licensed under [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342]:

1. Lower-potency hemp edible retailer

2. Lower-potency hemp edible manufacturer

Zoning Check and Registration - Quick Overview

- Cannabis and hemp businesses must apply for a license from the OCM.
- Touchpoint 1: Cannabis businesses must receive zoning certification - includes both zoning compliance and can include building and fire code checks.
- If certified as compliant, then the OCM can issue license to cannabis business.
- Touchpoint 2: After receiving a license, cannabis and hemp retailers must register with the city (or county) prior to operation.

Attorney Nason said there are two different components of the ordinance, Registration and Compliance, and Zoning. They will focus on Registration and Compliance tonight.

City Regulation of Cannabis Businesses and Hemp Businesses:

Registration and Compliance:

1. Registration of allows City to:
 - Impose a registration fee.
 - Limit the number of retailers (min. 3; 4 proposed)
 - Suspend Registration.
2. Limit hours of retail operation
3. Impose standards for temporary cannabis events

Zoning:

1. Assign cannabis businesses to specific zoning districts or classify by underlying use.
2. Establish "buffers" to separate cannabis businesses from certain uses, or each other.
3. Establish "buffers" to separate LPHE businesses from certain uses, or each other.

Proposed Cannabis Business and Hemp Business Regulations - five proposed areas of regulation:

1. City registration required for all cannabis and hemp businesses
2. Establishment of buffer zones from other cannabis businesses, and schools, daycares, and child-oriented park features
3. Set hours of operations
4. Special event permit (future ordinance)
5. Zoning ordinance amendments (future ordinance)

City Retail Registration:

- Imposes a registration fee and renewal fees
- Limits the number of cannabis retailers (optional)
 - Inver Grove Heights must allow at least 3 (based on population)
 - Can refuse to issue registration if county has 36 retailers
 - Ordinance proposes a limit of 4 retail registrations
- May suspend registrations, including the ability to suspend immediately if the business poses "an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public"

- Perform preliminary compliance checks
- Perform the required annual compliance check

City's Ability to Regulate Medical Cannabis Businesses:

- The Cannabis Act also brings the Minnesota Medical Cannabis program into the scope of the OCM.
- Medical cannabis cultivators, processors, manufacturers, and retailers are the businesses that make up the medical cannabis business pipeline.
- Medical cannabis products are only available to patients in the medical cannabis program.
- The City could choose to regulate medical cannabis businesses similarly to recreational cannabis businesses.

Attorney Nason said can regulate medical cannabis businesses similarly to recreational cannabis businesses. However, medical cannabis businesses cannot be included in the 4 limit capacity.

Buffers:

Alcoholic Beverages:

- No buffer for on-sale licenses
- Off-sale retail licenses may not be approved for properties located within 500 feet of a school or church, as measured by the nearest property lines of parcels

Tobacco Sales:

- No new license may be issued to a tobacco products shop located within 500 feet of a school

Cannabis Retail Businesses:

- Within 1,000 feet of a school.
- Within 500 feet of a day care, residential treatment facility, or public park attraction regularly used by minor (e.g. playground, athletic field).
- Within 1,000 feet of another cannabis business
- Apply to all cannabis retail businesses

Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retail Businesses:

- Same standards as cannabis retail businesses
- Exception for existing lower-potency hemp edible retail businesses

Attorney Nason said the proposed buffers in the ordinance are the maximum buffers allowed per the statute. The proposed buffers also apply to lower-potency hemp edible (LPHE) retail businesses with an exception for existing LPHE retailers in Inver Grove Heights.

Operational Business Regulations:

Retail hours of operation:

- Default: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m., Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. Sunday
- Most Restrictive: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., seven days a week

Temporary cannabis events:

- Require City license or permit for event
- Restrict or prohibit on-site consumption
- Restrict location
- Restrict hours

Five Proposed Areas of Regulation for Council to Consider:

1. City registration required for all cannabis and hemp businesses
2. Establishment of buffer zones from other cannabis businesses, and schools, daycares, and child-oriented park features
3. Set hours of operation
4. Special event permit (future ordinance)
5. Zoning ordinance amendments (future ordinance)

Council Member Scales asked how close Inver Grove Heights was to being required to allow four registrations.

Attorney Nason said they need to allow one license per 12,500 residents.

Administrator Wilson said there are approximately 36,000 residents in Inver Grove Heights. When they reach 37,500 residents, they will be required to allow four registrations and staff is recommending making four available. That would cover the City's obligation until they reach 50,000 residents.

Council Member T'Kach asked if there was reasoning for the different buffer requirements for cannabis sales and tobacco sales.

Attorney Nason said the current code for tobacco sales has buffer requirements for schools and churches. Under the state statute the City is only allowed to buffer cannabis sales for other cannabis businesses, schools, state licensed residential facilities, daycares, and any child-orientated park. The buffers were established based on what the statute allows the City to buffer.

Council Member T'Kach asked if there was a rationale between off-license alcohol sales versus the off-license cannabis sales and if it was the type of product or impact of the product. There is a 1,000 foot buffer from schools proposed for cannabis, but it is only a 500 foot buffer for alcohol.

Attorney Nason said she cannot speak to the provisions in the alcohol code but during the work session there was a concern about having businesses too close to each other or too close to areas where children might be. Council has the authority to choose if they want to require a buffer up to 1,000 feet or no buffer at all.

Council Member T'Kach asked if cannabis can be sold where off-sale alcohol is sold.

Attorney Nason said currently some liquor stores are able to sell the THC products, but her understanding is cannabis itself would not be sold at a liquor store. Attorney Nason said she would verify the information. Lower-potency hemp edible products including beverages containing THC are able to be sold in liquor stores.

Council Member T'Kach said she is wondering if it would be giving a competitive advantage to liquor stores within 1,000 feet of a school compared to a cannabis store that would be required to be at least 1,000 feet away from a school.

Attorney Nason said her understanding is that cannabis would not be able to be sold at a place that has a liquor license.

Public Comment:

Brook Williams - 3515 78th Street E - said cultivators would breed different varieties and sell the plants in non-consumable form and asked if that would be considered retail and if it would have the same buffer zones as a cannabis business selling consumable products.

Attorney Nason said the ordinance is focusing solely on cannabis business with a retail component. The state statute would include cannabis microbusinesses, cannabis mezzobusinesses, cannabis retailers and medical cannabis combination businesses. If they are just a cultivator they are not required to register with the City. The zoning ordinance can include restrictions for all types of cannabis businesses.

Council Member Murphy asked if the current definition of park feature in the ordinance would include Heritage Village Park.

Attorney Nason said the phase 4 and phase 5 plans for Heritage Village Park will include some great attractions for children and the language is intended to include but not limit the types of attractions. The state statute does not define a park feature, and the Council can add additional language.

Council Member Murphy asked to clarify if Section 4-4-4, Paragraph B is supposed to refer to retail registration instead of a retain registration.

Attorney Nason said it is a typo and should be retail registration. It will be fixed for the 2nd reading.

Council Member Murphy asked if the registration and renewal fee amounts would be included in the ordinance.

Attorney Nason said the fees will not be included in this ordinance; they will be included on the fee schedule.

Council Member T'Kach asked if Staff had a map that would show the 1,000 foot buffer zones.

Director Ziemer said Staff is working on updating the maps and will make them available for the next Council Meeting.

Motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance adopting Inver Grove Heights City Code Title 4, Chapter 4, Cannabis and Hemp Business Regulation by Murphy, second by T’Kach.

- C.** 1st Reading of Ordinance Establishing the 2025 City Fee Schedule and Ordinance Updating and Clarifying Fee References in City Code

Clerk Kiernan presented this item.

Background:

Three types of City Fees and charges for the upcoming year:

1. Utility Connection & Other Development Related Fees (tonight’s meeting)
2. Utility Rates
3. All other fees and charges - including those for building permits, business licenses, the VMCC, Inver Wood Golf Course, etc.

Move from Resolution to Ordinance:

- Preferred to comply with state statute
- Notable differences
 - Ordinances require three readings by the Council
 - Resolutions only require one reading
 - Ordinances or summary publications are published in the official newspaper of record
 - Resolutions do not get published

Uncodified Ordinance:

- Staff is recommending an “uncodified” ordinance.
 - Same manner as codified and carries the same legal authority
 - Stands independently and not merged into sections of City Code.
 - Useful tool for interim ordinances and items that frequently change

Second Ordinance proposed:

- To finalize this process, staff have prepared a “housekeeping” ordinance
- The purpose of the ordinance is to remove final remaining references to fees (with the exception of plat and building permit utility connection fees, park dedication fees, and certain other fees) from the Code and replace the same with a reference to fees found “set forth in the City Fee Schedule”
- This will provide consistency moving forward, eliminate the risk of conflicting fee references or amounts

Staff recommendation for Council Action:

- Consider approval of the first reading of Ordinance 1485, adopting the 2025 Fee Schedule

- Consider approval of the first reading of Ordinance 1486, amending various provisions of the Inver Grove Heights City Code Related to Fees

Council Member T'Kach asked if the majority of the fees are remaining the same in 2025.

Clerk Kiernan said yes, the liquor and normal business licensing fees are not increasing because they are normally set by state statute. Liquor licenses are based on gross sales. The body art license increased to make it more consistent with the other business licenses.

Motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance 1485 adopting 2025 Fee Schedule by Scales, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

D. Post-Election Review Request

Clerk Kiernan presented this item. Clerk Kiernan said they will review the overall picture of the election process before reviewing the request for a post-election review.

Required Testing of Voting Systems in MN:

- Two forms of testing prior to Election Day - conducted at the City level
 - Preliminary Testing
 - Public Accuracy Testing (PAT)
- One form of testing after Election Day - conducted at the County level
 - Post-Election Review (PER)

Preliminary Testing:

- Staff and election judges perform preliminary testing using a predetermined set of ballot results (test deck).
- Includes hand-marked ballots, accessible ballot technology ballots, and system designed ballots
- Testing for:
 - Accurate tabulation
 - Rejection of ballots with marks in the timing marks (around the border of the ballot)
 - Rejection of ballots from the wrong precinct, city, count, etc.
 - Notification of an "over-vote"
 - Notification of an entirely blank ballot

Public Accuracy Testing (PAT)

- Required by MN Statute, Section 206.83
- Must be conducted not more than 14 days before the equipment is to be used on Election Day
- Notice was published in the Pioneer Press on Sunday, October 20, 2024
- PAT was conducted on Thursday, October 24, at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers
- The result was verified and deemed errorless against the pre-determined set of results

- After the PAT was completed, voting equipment was sealed to ensure there would be no tampering of programming or equipment prior to Election Day

Post-Election Review

- Conducted after every state general election in Minnesota - by County election official
- Purpose is to verify the accuracy of the optical scan ballot counters
- Consists of a hand count of ballots for three offices:
 - President or Governor (depending on election cycle)
 - U.S. Senator
 - U.S. House of Representatives
- County may decide to include additional offices in the PER

Post-Election Review - Precinct Selection Process:

- The county canvassing board must randomly select precincts to be reviewed
- In a county with more than 100,000 registered voters, canvassing board must select at least four precincts, or 3% of the total number of precincts in the county, whichever is greater.
- At least on precinct selected in each county must have had more than 150 votes cast at the general election

Clerk Kiernan said the County normally audits five precincts which is more than the requirement.

Post-Election Review - Selection of Precincts:

- Dakota County Canvassing Board has set their 2024 general election meeting for Tuesday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m.
- The 2024 Dakota County Post Election Review will begin Thursday November 14 at 8:30 a.m.

Post-Election Review - Recent Results in Dakota County:

- Following the 2020 General Election:
 - PER found one incidence of difference/machine error among almost 23,250 votes counted
 - 99.9247% accuracy rate
- Following the 2022 General Election:
 - PER found 0 incidence of difference/machine error among almost 14,500 votes counted
 - 100% accuracy rate

State Canvassing Board:

- Meets Thursday, November 21 (time to be announced)
- 5th floor of the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul

Estimated Cost:

- Total Ballots cast in IGH in 2020 = approximately 14,000
- If hand-counting all races with more than one candidate, and the two ballot questions, that would be 11 races for most of the City
- 14,000 ballots cast x 11 races = 154,000 votes to be hand counted
- Using Dakota County costs for a recent recount for a single Hastings School District race by Dakota County, it is estimated to cost about \$10,000 per precinct (on average) to conduct the requested PER leading to at least a \$120,000 expenditure

Clerk Kiernan said a post-election review is divided by precinct and then each office is done one at a time. It is a very time consuming process.

Mayor Dietrich thanked everyone for attending to discuss the important aspects of the election. Everyone, including community members, officials and passionate advocates is committed to upholding the integrity of the election process. Mayor Dietrich said after misrepresentation from the last Council meeting's language it is important for her to clarify that fraud is happening, for example, the nonprofit Feed Our Future. Local businesses, personal credit cards and almost every entity of business is affected by fraud. Inver Grove Heights has not been chosen for a random audit by the County since 2010. Trust but verify is a reasonable request. The elections have a strong foundation in security built on thorough procedures and safeguards that Staff works tirelessly to uphold. Mayor Dietrich said they all want a fair and transparent election that reflects the true will of the people and asked for an open conversation with respect and civility.

Council Member Murphy said there was misinformation spread on various Facebook groups. After hearing and reading Staff's presentation he does not support spending \$120,000 on a citywide audit of the election. The results of the tests and previous audit speak for themselves and in his opinion, the elections are safe and secure. A group came before Council with a proposal, and it is Council's job to look into items that residents and citizens bring forward. Council asked Staff to look into this and they did a great job presenting the information to Council. Council Member Murphy said he believes the elections are accurate on a national level, a state level, and in Inver Grove Heights. The timing of the anonymous post seems unfortunate and malicious. It was fueled by one candidate for office and one sitting member of Council. This led to himself, and some colleagues, being mislabeled and lied about in the past few days. Council Member Murphy does not support the resolution because it is the right thing to do for all of Inver Grove Heights and not because of any political implications.

Council Member Gliva said she is a servant of the City and does her best to listen to viewpoints and concerns from residents. During the last Council meeting a group requested that Council consider a PER for 2 of the 12 precincts in Inver Grove Heights. Council agreed to hear more and receive further information from Staff. Council Member Gliva said it is unfortunate that the agenda packet included a resolution for an audit of all 12 precincts with a cost of \$120,000. There was no discussion of a hand count of all 12 precincts and the \$120,000 is an educated guess. Council Member Gliva said she has over 30 years of financial and accounting experience and audits are a natural occurrence of the job. The City's finances are audited each year and made public, which does not mean the director and staff are not doing their job, but it is intended to find errors or inaccuracies. She appreciates all of the

election judges and volunteers that help provide a seamless election process. After four years on Council, she has never received so many angry emails and awful texts. The misinformation on social media sparked unnecessary fear prior to the discussion at tonight's meeting. Council agreed to hear more information and listen to a group in an open forum. All residents have a right to be heard, which allows for good civic engagement.

Public Comment:

Sandy Honerbrink - 2318 75th Street E - presented support for the audit and said they are supposed to trust the machine, but she would like them to be verified. Honerbrink asked Council to consider a few questions. How they know the machines are counting the ballots correctly and what bipartisan individuals verify the tabulation software on each machine and how it is documented. Did the City officials get the certification certificate of use from the County for the 12 modems to transfer the results at the end of the night? What security protocols are there to ensure that no data is lost or altered during the transmission of the modems? How are the bipartisan procedures documented and verified? When was the last software update? How are the tabulation machines secured the night before the polls open on Election Day? What is IGH chain of custody procedures to get all of the ballot totals since all of the ballots are in different locations? What steps for discrepancies? What safeguards to remove deceased voters and duplicate voters?

Bill Scar - 7915 Banks Path - presented opposition to the audit and said the voting system has been proven to be the most secure system in all of the free countries and the audit is fiscally irresponsible.

DeAnne Trudeau - 7601 Banning Way - presented opposition to the audit and said there are many steps in place to prevent fraud. Trudeau thanked Council Members Gliva and T'Kach for responding to her emails.

Tracie Killion - 4660 Bacon Avenue - presented support for the audit and said the cost of the audit would be much lower than \$120,000. Killion asked if the Hastings school board race was a contested race that used legal counsel and what formula was used to produce the cost estimate.

Patty Mikulski - 3379 67th Street E - presented support for the audit and said Inver Grove Heights should follow the cities in Anoka County that have passed resolutions for a post-election audit.

Cindy Nordstrom - 2701 87th Street E - opposed the audit and said there is no evidence fraud has occurred within the City.

Sarah Scovil - 5885 Blackberry Trail - presented opposition to the audit. Scoville said the cost is too high and the elections are safe and secure.

Bob Schoonover - 6469 Bowman Circle - presented opposition to the audit. Schoonover said the cost is too high and hand counts are not more accurate.

Dan Quillin - 469 Darla Court, West St. Paul - presented opposition to the audit. Quillin said the cost was too high and hand counts are not more accurate.

Kathleen Jesme - 7085 Allen Way - opposed the audit and asked Mayor Dietrich to clarify if her statement about fraud was related to elections.

Mayor Dietrich said she referenced the fraud with Feeding our Future, but it did not have to do with the elections.

Jesme said the elections are safe and accurate.

Leslie Martin - 8673 April Court - presented opposition to the audit and is confident in the machines counting the votes accurately.

Lucy Gross - 7161 Cloman Avenue - presented support for an audit of at least two districts and supports ID verification for voting.

Carmen Campbell - 3690 Conroy Court - presented opposition to the audit and said they could make improvements in technology, but it can be trusted.

Mary Bruns - 7610 Banning Way - presented opposition to the audit and said as an election judge they double check everything.

Andrew Bollinger - 3751 Upper 73rd Street E - presented opposition to the audit and said the cost would be a misuse of City funds.

Greg Boyle - 2755 75th Street E - presented support for the audit and said there is no view into what the machines are doing.

Brooke Williams - 3515 78th Street E - presented opposition to the audit and said there are many redundancies in the process to make sure the election is accurate.

Dan Walbert - 2226 Wall Street, Eagan - said it is the current state law to have a hand count for a close race and for any residents that do not agree with the accuracy of the hand count should be concerned with the law.

Julie Bonner - 9836 Lower Trail - presented support for the audit and said there are many people who do not trust the elections and the cost would be approximately \$12,000.

Catherine Guthrie - 1634 Murphy Parkway, Eagan - presented opposition for the audit and said hand counting is less accurate and the presentation from the City Clerk showed the number of ways the systems are checked.

Michael Gross - 316 River Woods Drive, St. Paul - presented support for the audit and said all businesses do audits and votes come from many different areas and it would be good to see if the vote was accurate.

Colleen Thomas - 3042 96th Street E - presented opposition to the audit and said changes could be made to the process but they should be made at the state level.

Lynette Stensgard - 5789 Bryant Lane - presented opposition to the audit and said it is too close to the election and should be reviewed more thoroughly.

Eric Scovil - 5885 Blackberry Trail - presented opposition to the audit and said there is no evidence that there has been any fraud in their elections.

Alan Shilepsky - 8432 Claymore Court - said he did not support or oppose the audit but there are ways the election process could be improved.

Thomas Hendle - 7710 Banks Court - presented opposition to the audit and said audits are already being done and if people think there needs to be more, it should be increased at the county level.

Deb Hrinda - 105 Richmond Street E, South St. Paul - presented support for the audit and said it should be completely transparent.

Katie Klopfleisch - 2660 76th Street E - presented opposition to the audit and said the presentation provided transparency to the residence to see how the election process works.

Bob Anderson - 6481 Beckman Avenue - asked how the safety of the reporting is being validated.

Kim Willenbring - 1338 9th Avenue S, S. St. Paul - presented support for the audit and said she does not trust the system because the system is made and maintained outside of the U.S., and they do not know the details of how the system works.

Mayor Dietrich thanked everyone for attending the meeting and everyone who works in elections. Council was asked to discuss, consider and provide feedback on this item. There is no vote on the resolution. The additional audits will not happen before the election because staff are working hard with the election right now and will not be able to have the questions answered before the election.

Council Member Scales said it is disappointing that a request for information created so much confusion. The anonymous Facebook post was filled with inaccuracies. In the future Council can be clearer with their communications so they do not cause this kind of confusion and thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

Council Member T'Kach said the more public engagement on any issue, the better off they are as a community. There are public comments at the end of each meeting where Council hears many different issues. It was frustrating, this was something that was immediately put on the agenda and there was not much discussion before a resolution was drafted. Council Member T'Kach said she does not believe there is fraud in the election and the election is run very well in Minnesota and Dakota County. The issue is a county issue and not a city issue and does not think the conversation should be had in a City Council meeting unless it is decided after community discussion. The City Clerk provided a lot of information about the election. The county should hear from residents also. Council has some hard decisions and discussions to have and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Dietrich asked Staff to have as many of the questions asked answered and requested residents to leave their questions and contact information with the City Clerk.

E. 1st Reading of Ordinance Amending Utility Connection and Certain Development Related Fees

Administrator Wilson presented this item. The City typically adopts three groups of fees each fall in preparation for the upcoming year. There is some specific statutory language that governs this process and that is why it is done as its own ordinance.

Process:

- Annual action of the City Council
- Required by state statute to be accomplished via ordinance and following a public hearing
- Ordinances require three readings in IGH
- Public Hearing to be held in conjunction with second reading at the Council meeting on Tuesday, November 12th

Sections of Proposed Ordinance

Section 1: Connection Fees for Water Utility System

Section 2: Connection Fees for Sanitary Sewer Utility System

Section 3: Connection Fees for Stormwater System

Section 4: Trunk Line Assessments for Water & Sewer

Section 5: Land Use Approval Fees & Deposits

Section 6: Effective Date (January 1, 2025)

Sections 1 – 4: Utility Connection Fees:

- Sets connection fees for water, sewer and stormwater utilities.
- Paid at the time of connection to the system – most often by developers, but sometimes by current residents.
- For the past 15+ years, City has had higher connection fees for most development in the NWA – as a means of “paying the City back” for upfront investments made without assessments to property owners.
- In the NWA, the connection fees escalate with density to a greater degree than they do outside the NWA – creating a particular challenge for proposed multi-family development

Administrator Wilson said municipal water and sewer systems are incredibly expensive to build out and they get built all at once or in sizable sections. They build for the future and the connection fees ensure that new properties pay their fair share for the cost of the system.

Example of NWA vs. Non-NWA fees

	NWA	Non-NWA
Water Building Permit Connection Fee	\$4095 per SAC unit	\$1,115 per SAC unit
Sewer Building Permit Connection Fee	\$7,310 per SAC unit	\$640 per SAC unit
Subtotal	\$11,405 per SAC unit	\$1,744 per SAC unit

Administrator Wilson said at the time of building permit, the builder will pay a Water Building Permit Connection Fee and a Sewer Building Permit Connection Fee. A SAC unit is a single family house or one apartment unit. If it is a business property it will be assigned a certain number of SAC units based on an estimation of how much water will be used by the business. The fees per SAC unit is much higher in the NWA than the Non-NWA and for multi-family developments it becomes a sizable factor.

Administrator Wilson said in 2007-2008 the City Council made the decision to invest in the sewer and water systems and the future developments in the NWA would pay the City back for the investment. The Great Recession and the housing crash happened shortly after the investment was made so development did not happen at the projected pace or density of units.

Policy Question:

- What is the appropriate process for setting these fees?
- How much revenue do we need to raise?
- Or how much is the market willing to pay?
- City fees cannot be more than the cost of delivering the service (in this case the provision of municipal utilities) - but they can be less - and may have to be under certain circumstances.

Factors to consider:

- This revenue is different from other City revenue sources, such as property tax and utility fee revenue.
- There are other options available to developers and limits to what is financially viable for a project.
- There has been no multi-family development in the NWA to date without fee relief in some form.
- What other options do we have to cover costs?

Administrator Wilson said they have a very high rate of payment of property taxes because failure to pay them can cause issues with ownership of the property. Utility fees also have a high rate of payment because there is not a way to receive utilities from another source. The connection fees are paid for by the developer and if they cannot make the project work in Inver Grove Heights, they can go somewhere else to develop. All of the multi-family developments in the NWA since 2008 have received some type of fee reduction. The Crossings received tax abatement and recently there were fee reductions approved for a townhome development and an apartment development.

Administrator Wilson said if the NWA remains undeveloped, they still have to meet the debt obligations in the sewer fund. They do not have debt in the water fund, but they have spent down the cash balance significantly impacting their ability to pay cash for other projects.

Staff worked with Ehlers and Associates to compare development fees in Inver Grove Heights to other metro areas experiencing similar development. The fees used for comparison were

Park Dedication fees, Total Sanitary Sewer fees, Storm Water fees and Total Water fees. The fees in the NWA were much higher than any of the cities that were compared.

City	Approximate Fees Single Family Home
Chanhassen	\$19,000
Cottage Grove Upper Ravine	\$12,000
Eagan	\$17,000
Hastings	\$7,500
Inver Grove Heights	\$16,000
Inver Grove Heights NWA	\$27,000
Lakeville	\$14,000
Ramsey	\$11,000
Rosemount	\$12,500
Shakopee	\$17,000
Woodbury Water District No. 2 and Sanitary Sewer District No. 12 and SWWD West Draw	\$17,000

The fees outside of the NWA were closer to the average of the other cities but still higher than Lakeville and Rosemount.

City	Approximate Fees Townhome Project
Chanhassen	\$2.5 million
Cottage Grove Upper Ravine	\$800,000
Eagan	\$1.5 million
Hastings	\$1 million
Inver Grove Heights	\$1 million
Inver Grove Heights NWA	\$3.5 million
Lakeville	\$1.1 million
Ramsey	\$1.7 million
Rosemount	\$1.2 million
Shakopee	\$1.9 million
Woodbury Water District No. 2 and Sanitary Sewer District No. 12 and SWWD West Draw	\$1.25 million

City	Approximate Fees Multi-Family
Chanhassen	\$2.4 million
Cottage Grove Upper Ravine	\$500,000
Eagan	\$1.4 million
Hastings	\$1 million
Inver Grove Heights	\$1 million
Inver Grove Heights NWA	\$2.9 million
Lakeville	\$1 million
Ramsey	\$1.6 million

Rosemount	\$1.1 million
Shakopee	\$1.4 million
Woodbury Water District No. 2 and Sanitary Sewer District No. 12 and SWWD West Draw	\$1 million

Council Member Gliva asked what the fees were for the developments that recently received fee reductions.

Administrator Wilson said the fees were reduced to the Inver Grove Heights fees outside of the NWA.

Policy Questions:

- How does or should the concept of “development should pay for development” apply to the current situation?
- Past decisions have separated the timing on one part of the equation from the other.
- Do we count increased utility rate revenue resulting from development? Increased property tax base?
- What happens if development does not come? Or does not come in the manner or timeframe anticipated?

Administrator Wilson said utilities are not usually extended prior to development. Developers are given a cost to extend utilities, and they decide if they can make it work. If they can, the City extends the utilities, the developer pays for it and the development is built. The City extended utilities to the NWA upfront and took on debt to do so without the immediate payback from developers.

Potential Options for Further Analysis:

Commit to “development must pay for development.”

- Direct staff to determine past and future costs for the expansion of the water and sewer systems and ensure utility connection fees are justifiable and sufficient to recoup these costs
 - Must recognize that fees which are “justifiable and sufficient” may not be market competitive, and then be: (1) willing to wait for the day when development will pay the City’s price, and (2) willing to find alternative sources of revenue to make debt payments and future capital investments in the meantime.

Administrator Wilson said there is general thought that other lands within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area will all be developed and there will not be much land left in the metro area that is connected to water and sewer and the market may be willing to pay the higher utility fees. They have an annual debt payment until 2036 of approximately \$1 million per year until the last few years where the payment starts to decrease.

Seek to better understand what the market will accept.

- Direct staff to do a deeper evaluation of fees and fee structures charged by other metro-area cities undergoing similar levels of development and propose a fee structure for IGH that would be more competitive
 - Fees must still be justifiable – i.e., they cannot be greater than our cost to provide the service – but given the cost of utility installation in the NWA, it is unlikely that establishing more “market rate” fees will result in a problem in this area.
 - Will need a corresponding source of funding to close any gap between “market rate” fees and City’s actual costs/debt obligations.

Administrator Wilson said the City has paid for the debt obligation through different sources. They have spent down the water and sewer funds cash reserves that has created some challenges for them to accomplish other projects. At a previous Council meeting, the Finance Director and Administrator Wilson presented a five-year plan for the Host Community fund to transfer \$1 million to the Sewer fund to keep up with the payments. Some type of assistance to the sewer fund will likely be needed regardless of which plan Council chooses. The market rate plan will likely have a gap to cover between the fees they will collect and the debt obligations. If they choose to leave the current fees in place, they will need to be prepared to pay the debt service without knowing when development will happen.

Ordinance Presented for 1st Reading:

- 5% increase to non-NWA and city-wide connection fees.
- Flat fee amounts for NWA-specific plat connection and building permit connection fees (both water and sewer) – pending further study and discussion.

Administrator Wilson said the discussion could take place before the end of the year or they could discuss it in 2025. Staff recommends standstill in the short term.

Section 5 – Land Use Application Fees & Deposits:

- Proposed fee changes shown in red in the draft ordinance.

Section 6 – Effective Date:

- January 1, 2025

Next Steps:

- 2nd Reading & Public Hearing:
 - Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers
- 3rd Reading:
 - Monday, November 25

Council Member T’Kach asked if the study could include the cost of development to the City. They cannot make a profit on sewer and water rates or property taxes. If they do not develop, they are not losing money. There is less cost for City services if there is no development. Council Member T’Kach said the amenities of Inver Grove Heights should also justify a higher fee. Developers may be willing to pay the fees as property is reduced in the MUSA. Prior to the MUSA line being extended to the NWA, properties in the City were being offered millions

of dollars for small acres because there was nowhere else to develop. Inver Grove Heights has an educated workforce, lots of parks and trails and allow for a variety of lifestyles.

Administrator Wilson said if they do not develop there are fewer City services needed but some residents want to develop and sell their property. They are frustrated when developers choose not to purchase their property due to the City's fees. The comprehensive plan has properties guided for certain types of uses and if they choose not to develop, they will likely hear from property owners and businesses. New developments provide customers and employees for the local businesses.

Council Member Murphy said he would support the market based approach, and they need to lower the costs for development in the NWA. They need to know what the new market rate is before setting the fees. Council Member Murphy said he is ok with capping the fees and having the discussion in 2025 and asked to confirm that Council can still negotiate fees with developers.

Administrator Wilson said yes, Council would have the ability to consider fee reductions for development like the two developments received earlier in 2024.

Council Member Murphy said he agrees that Inver Grove Heights has qualities that a study would show are worth higher connection fees. They are not the same as Chanhassen and they are closer to it all. There is not much land left and asked if the study would indicate Inver Grove Heights can charge higher fees than cities like Chanhassen.

Administrator Wilson said they can request consultants look at the information, but it will be tough to put a dollar value on.

Council Member Murphy said developers said they had a profit margin they had to make in order to make the development work and Ehlers could possibly do the math backwards.

Administrator Wilson said she understands the logic but many people are hybrid or work at home so a shorter commute may not be a factor.

Council Member Scales said they need to lower the fees so that they can be competitive. Eagan has all of the amenities that were listed and a shorter commute. Inver Grove Heights is a beautiful city, but they need to be competitive and forget the past and how much money was spent to provide utilities to the NWA. It may be 20 to 30 years before a developer agrees to pay the current high fees and they will have already paid the debt obligation in that amount of time. They might end up with developments that they do not want because they will be getting what is left. They want developers to choose Inver Grove Heights because of the amenities and the competitive costs. With proper development it can reduce the burden on residents.

Council Member T'Kach said she is not suggesting no development but would like the consultants to advise what that would look like. Council Member T'Kach asked if the study would look at the increase in local spending, increased revenue to schools, etc. The bigger picture is important, and they are \$1 million short every year. They could look at the financial analysis of a fee reduction for a development and no development.

Council Member Scales said he would rather close the gap in the debt obligation and be \$400,000 short, than \$1 million short.

Council Member T'Kach said she would like to see the numbers and asked if there were other opportunities they could ask developers for that would not cost a lot of money to incorporate affordable housing units. Council Member T'Kach said she would like to see the information before deciding to reduce the fees or not reduce the fees and the scope of the report is broader than past reports.

Mayor Dietrich asked what the cost of the consultant would be.

Administrator Wilson said they will have to determine the scope of the report, cost, and time frame. The study can look at many different options, but the more options reviewed takes more time and money. If Council has an idea of what direction they would like to look further into, the study can be narrowed down. Council will see two more readings of this ordinance and can provide more feedback.

Mayor Dietrich said she agreed with Council Member Scales that they need to move on and start bringing in money from the NWA, so it does not put a burden on the current residents.

Requested Action:

Motion to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance establishing utility connection and land-use application fees for 2025.

Motion to approve First reading of Ordinance amending City Code Title 3 Chapter 4 Sections 2 & 3 related to water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater system connection fees and sanitary sewer and water trunk area assessments; Section 8-7-4 related to stormwater system rates and charges; and section 10-3-8 Related to Land Use Approval Fees and deposits by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brooke Williams - 3515 78th Street E - said she has questions about the upcoming AUAR in 2025. There is not a clear definition of a unit when the AUAR talks about the environmental footprint of any unit. Williams said she brought reading material for Council to read. The first book is about the history of Minnesota and provides an in depth review of how Minnesota was impacted during the Dust bowl. The second book is about the impact of energy into the environment that an impact food security. Williams said if they continue with the projected growth in the NWA, they are on the border of becoming a food desert. The third book is about warnings that happened during the gilded age and is about what created the FDA and USDA. The last book is a field guide on microorganisms found in freshwater.

Andrew Bollinger - 3751 Upper 73rd Street E - said the online comments towards Council were unfortunate but it was how he became more interested in the governing of the City.

Bollinger said he applauded Council for navigating the very difficult discussion about the audit.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Scales said there are three days left in the cookie competition between the Eagan Police Chief and Inver Grove Heights Police Chief at T-Rex Cookie Company. Everyone should go buy a pumpkin chip cookie from T-Rex Cookies.

Council Member T’Kach said she is the representative on the Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission on behalf of the City Council. After many years of hard work, Town Square Tele vision and the NDC4 Cable Commission staff members were awarded two Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Awards on October 19th. They were competing against large companies from all across the country and it is something to be proud of for the community. Council Member T’Kach encouraged residents to watch some of the programming on Town Square Television.

10.ADJOURN:

Motion to Adjourn at 9:01 p.m. by Scales, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Sara Lyons