

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025  
FIRE STATION #2, 9200 COURTHOUSE BLVD, INVER GROVE HEIGHTS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in a special meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025. Mayor Dietrich called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present In-Person: Mayor Dietrich, Council members Gliva, Murphy, Scales and T’Kach. 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, Technology Manager Gade, Community Development Director Ziemer and Public Works Director Connolly

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Review and Discussion of Council Operations**

The council and staff discussed the purpose and use of monthly Council work sessions, including what is working well and what might be changed. Following discussion, it was determined that the Council will move its monthly Work Sessions to a location outside of the Council Chambers on a trial basis, with the intent of creating an environment that better facilitates free flowing conversation and problem solving between Council and staff. Members of the Council also expressed a desire to see work session topics focus on important, big picture issues and future planning for the City. This was estimated to begin with the April 2025 Work Session and staff was directed to evaluate potential meeting locations.

There was also discussion of the idea of a Council Code of Conduct and the pros and cons of some sample codes from other cities that were included with the meeting packet. It was determined that having a written Code of Conduct would be beneficial and that a draft will be prepared by Murphy and Scales.

**B. 2025 – 2026 Council Goals and Priorities**

City Administrator Wilson asked Councilmembers to give some thought to the following questions – What is our work? What is Inver Grove Heights in the business of?

The responses shared included:

1. A safe community while providing cost effective services.
2. A fundamental quality of life, smart retail/restaurant development along with housing options with tax responsibility.
3. Provide public service, good streets, and clean water.
4. Welcoming safe, well managed professional staff, parks and green spaces, lifelong educational opportunities, ensuring authentic community engagement with a range of employment and housing and is welcoming to people with diverse lifestyles.
5. Staying in our lane, and out of the way of progress.

Each council member shared their ideas for priorities for the upcoming year and they were discussed by council and staff.

Councilmember Scales would like to see the city work on traffic issues (Ann Marie Trail), County over-working roads (70<sup>th</sup> Street), more updates on developments (background info), and the possibility of moving the historic buildings to Heritage Village Park.

Councilmember Murphy would like to see a Council Code of Conduct enacted, more retail space, a Northwest Area Park, moving the historic buildings, more utilization of the RIG program through Dakota County CDA, and wants to see the city considering limiting the number of rental properties per block as West St. Paul has done.

Councilmember Gliva would also like to see a Council Code of Conduct enacted, redevelopment along Concord Blvd, more retail in the Argenta Hills area, and possibly a large entertainment venue.

Councilmember T’Kach would like to see more housing programs and options, more natural areas through environmental resources, and a robust comprehensive plan preparation that will be upcoming.

Mayor Dietrich would like to focus on a new Public Works facility, a new Fire Station (moving #3), possibly re-writing the qualifications for Fire Chief position, a signature event, possibly in partnership with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and/or Chamber of Commerce, a community development transformational project (such as a curling center with a restaurant and event space), more tax base with retail, and bring back the report to council about business inquiries.

It was noted that many of the priority items identified would require leadership or heavy involvement from the Community Development Department, which is in the process of filling several staff vacancies that have arisen over recent months. The City Administrator and staff were directed to work with the priorities raised during the discussion and identify how progress can be made in high-priority areas over the course of the year, alongside the day-to-day and seasonal work that must also be carried out.

## **5. ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. by Murphy, seconded by Gliva. Motion carried.**