

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025 - 6:00 P.M. - 8150 BARBARA AVENUE**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2025, in person. 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: Gliva, Murphy, Scales

Council Member T'Kach joined remotely.

Staff In Attendance: City Administrator Wilson, City Attorney Nason, Community Development Director Ziemer, Parks and Recreation Director Lares, Public Works Director Connolly, City Engineer Merchlewicz, City Clerk Kiernan

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to and approve as published with the exception to remove Item 5P by Scales, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

None

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.** Approve Minutes of the January 27, 2025, City Council Meeting
- B.** Approval of Disbursements, **Resolution 2025-072**
- C.** Personnel Actions
- D.** Resolution Authorizing Contract with Lexipol for Development and Review of Fire Department Policies & Procedures, **Resolution 2025-073**
- E.** Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Fire Department Radios and Adopting Associated Budget Amendment, **Resolution 2025-074**
- F.** Resolutions Awarding Contract and Approving Budget for 2025 Pavement Maintenance - Crack Sealing (City Project No. 2025-09A), **Resolutions 2025-075 & 2025-076**
- G.** Resolutions Awarding Contract and Approving Budget for 2025 Sewer Cleaning & Televising (City Project 2025-07) **Resolutions 2025-077 & 2025-078**
- H.** Resolutions Awarding Contract and Approving Budget for 2025 Pavement Management Initiative - Groveland Area and 50th Street Area (City Project Nos. 2025-09D & 2025-09E) **Resolutions 2025-079, 2025-080, & 2025-081**
- I.** Resolutions Awarding Contract and Approving Budget for 2025 Pavement Management Initiative - Bacardi Avenue and 88th Street Reconstruction (City Project No. 2025-09G), **Resolutions 2025-082 & 2025-083**
- J.** Resolution Approving Contract with Barr Engineering for Updates to the City's Water

- Resource Management Plan and Authorizing an Associated Budget Amendment (City Project No. 2024-10) **Resolution 2025-084**
- K.** Resolution Accepting Final Report for the Central Maintenance Facility Needs Analysis and Site Plan Study and Authorizing Negotiation of Final Design Services (City Project No. 2017-01), **Resolution 2025-085**
 - L.** Resolution Scheduling Public Hearings for 2026 Pavement Management Projects Nos. 2026-09D through 2026-09L, **Resolution 2025-086**
 - M.** Resolution Approving Transfer of \$1.4 million from the General Fund to the Parks Acquisition & Development Fund, **Resolution 2025-087**
 - N.** Exempt Gambling Permit for Ducks Unlimited
 - O.** Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Seasonal Agricultural Stand at 9226 Old Concord Blvd, **Resolution 2025-088**
 - P.** Resolution Authorizing Fiber Extension to Groveland Park and Associated Budget Amendment

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A - 0 by Gliva, second by Scales

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Rental Housing Licenses

Director Ziemer presented 14 rental housing licenses, including 13 new applications and one renewal. All applications have been reviewed by staff and found to meet the necessary requirements. Staff recommends approval of all licenses.

Motion to Approve 14 Rental Licenses by Scales, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Application for Chicken-Keeping License, 6179 Dawn Avenue.

The Inver Grove Heights City Code, Title 5, Chapter 4: Keeping of Animals allows chickens to be kept on urban residential lots with a valid license. The ordinance permits a maximum of six hens, prohibits roosters, adult male chickens, and breeding, and does not allow the slaughtering of chickens on residential property. It also sets specific standards and setback requirements for chicken coops. Additionally, the Clerk Kiernan is required to notify all property owners directly adjacent to the proposed location of any chicken license application.

Clerk Kiernan noted that under section 5-4-2B(5) of the City Code, if an abutting property owner submits an objection to a chicken license application, the matter must be placed on the next available City Council agenda for review and a decision on whether to issue the license.

The timeline presented showed that Mr. Mercer submitted a chicken-keeping license application on February 28, 2025. On March 21, 2025, the City received an objection. The concerns raised in the objection included the belief that the proposed chicken coop and chickens would be an eyesore and potentially reduce property values. The objection also questioned the adequacy of the chicken run, expressing concern that it was too small to realistically contain the chickens full-time. The yard was noted to be unfenced, and residents do not want chickens potentially escaping into the street or neighboring yards.

The property at 6179 Dawn Avenue has fencing along the property line, though it is not fully enclosed. A chain link fence connects the two ends of the fencing at the rear of the property.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether code compliance had inspected the property and if there was any indication of other violations or concerns about the property not being properly maintained.

Clerk Kiernan responded that there was no code violations associated with the property.

Councilor Murphy asked if there is information available on how much space chickens require.

Clerk Kiernan responded that she did not know the exact space requirements for chickens.

Councilor T'Kach recalled that when the City debated allowing chickens, the number discussed ranged widely, but six hens was ultimately agreed upon as reasonable. She added that while she could not say for certain, the proposed space likely seems adequate.

Councilor Scales said he saw no issue with the application, noting it aligns with the intent behind allowing chickens and that the applicant is following all City requirements.

Mayor Dietrich said she is aware of other property owners who keep chickens, and, to her knowledge, there have been no complaints, which leads her to favor approving the license.

Motion to approve an application for a Chicken Keeping License at 6179 Dawn Avenue by Scales, second by T'Kach.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

C. Conveyance of Easements to Dakota County for Veterans Memorial Greenway.

City Attorney Bridget Nason stated that representatives from Dakota County were in attendance to request two easements necessary for the continuation and construction of the Veterans Memorial Greenway. She acknowledged the presence of Mr. Tony Wotzka, Parks Project Manager; Al Singer, Dakota County Real Estate Manager; and Commissioner William Droste.

Mr. Wotzka outlined the County's vision for an interconnected system of greenways. It included updates on the various phases of the project, details regarding the Regional Greenway Trail Easement, and the Regional Greenway Corridor Easement.

The Veterans Memorial Greenway is a 200-mile County wide vision, with a significant portion located in Inver Grove Heights and Eagan. The project is being developed in three phases: central, eastern, and western. Construction began in April 2024 and is expected to conclude by

the end of the year. Phase II is currently in final design, with construction planned to begin next year. Phase III will follow, extending the trail from Rich Valley and incorporating a grade-separated crossing at Highway 52.

Phase I began in April 2024, with substantial completion achieved by November 2024 and final completion anticipated by July 2025. This phase includes two memorial nodes, MIA Prairie/Path of Service and Places We Served. Additional landscaping, interpretive features, and plaza construction will be completed under separate contracts later in the year.

Phase II is currently in final design, with construction scheduled to begin next year. Phase III will follow, extending the trail from Rich Valley and continuing with a grade-separated crossing either under or over Highway 52. A few highlights from the project include two miles of new greenway alignment along Cliff Road (CSAH 32) and within Flint Hills Resources easement, a tunnel under Rich Valley Boulevard (CSAH 73) with a custom sandbag façade, a Stars and Stripes Plaza, enhancements to the parking lot, and the installation of a midblock crossing with lighting along 105th Street to Rich Valley Park.

Design work for Phase II is nearly complete, with construction planned for 2025. This phase will add four memorial nodes honoring Native American Veterans, Gold Star Families, Military Units and Flyers, and Support Organizations. It will also include a grade-separated bridge at Highway 3, trail improvements in Lakeside Park in Eagan and Southern Lakes Park in Inver Grove Heights, and upgrades on City-owned property in Inver Grove Heights that includes transmission lines. New regional trail easements will be established in collaboration with Xcel Energy, the City of Eagan, and the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Phase III, scheduled for final engineering in 2025 and construction in 2026–2027, will feature two more memorial nodes, Main Memorial and County Military Places. It also includes a grade-separated tunnel or bridge at Highway 52 and a trail alignment that starts at Rich Valley Park and extends east along 105th Street, which will undergo full reconstruction.

As part of Phase I, an easement was considered through the park that follows the primary alignment of the trail. This small easement accommodates the trail's layout on the park property. In Phase II, the proposed easements expand to include a defined center line for the trail and a designated area for both trail access and a broader corridor. The corridor easement is intended to support restoration efforts and additional landscaping alongside the trail.

The County has revised the trail alignment to avoid the pipeline easement in accordance with requirements from Flint Hills Resources and to prevent additional wetland impacts based on feedback from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A site review and tree inventory were also conducted, and the County will work to minimize grading and avoid valuable mature trees as much as possible.

A revised trail alignment concept is currently being developed. On March 4, letters were sent to residents adjacent to City and Xcel property to inform them of the proposed changes to the corridor trail alignment. In response, the City and County received ten comments or inquiries from residents regarding the Greenway or the updated alignment.

Mr. Singer explained that the County will handle the construction of the paved recreational trail along the corridor. After construction, the County will be responsible for the trail's maintenance, repairs, eventual replacement, and the removal of hazardous trees. These

responsibilities will be outlined in a future Supplemental Maintenance Agreement. Vegetation management will follow a jointly approved Vegetation Management Plan, which will be carried out through a Maintenance Agreement requiring joint approval.

Since State bonds are being used to finance the trail construction, formal easements are required, and any changes to these easements must be approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget. The County will also indemnify the City against any claims resulting from its use of or work within the easement area.

Dakota County is requesting that the City Council adopt a resolution Approving the Conveyance of a Regional Greenway Trail Easement within Rich Valley Park and a Regional Greenway Corridor Easement on City-owned property adjacent to and within Southern Lakes Park. These easements would be granted to Dakota County in forms substantially similar to those presented during the meeting.

Michael Shaughnessy, who resides at 10760 Amherst Way, expressed concern that the revised trail alignment brings the path too close to his property, potentially affecting his privacy and views. He requested information about the trail's elevation, construction plans, and how issues such as soil stability and slope will be managed. He also raised concern that decisions regarding the alignment may already be finalized without adequate input.

Mayor Dietrich asked if he had spoken with the County.

Mr. Shaughnessy stated that he contacted Mr. Wotzka and received a detailed response but is still uncertain about how much of the plan has been finalized.

Edward Ambrose, who resides at 10764 Amherst Way, expressed concern that the revised trail alignment brings the paved path much closer to nearby homes. He pointed out that existing drainage through his and neighboring yards is already causing erosion and noted that the current plans do not seem to address the increased runoff expected from the new paved surface.

Joe Glidden, who resides at 10608 Amery Court, expressed concern about the unclear alignment of the proposed trail behind his home. He noted that it may be shifted closer to his and neighboring properties due to pipeline easement restrictions. He emphasized the need for clarity on the trail's exact location before approval, citing concerns about privacy, increased traffic, and potential impact on property values.

Richard Mast, who resides at 10758 Amherst Way, expressed concern about the potential proximity of the proposed trail to their home, noting it could be as close as 30 to 40 feet. He emphasized the importance of understanding the exact trail alignment before raising formal objections, citing potential impacts on privacy and property value.

Sandy Honerbrink, who resides at 2318 75th Street East, questioned the need for another trail and asked whether a full inventory of existing trails and parks had been completed. She urged the County to prioritize maintenance over expansion and expressed concern about taxpayer costs, despite the County claiming financial responsibility. She also cited ongoing work on 80th Street as a reason to avoid unnecessary trail development.

Laura Mast, who resides at 10758 Amherst Way, expressed concern about the proposed trail's impact on child safety, particularly near a steep slope by the pond and sledding area.

Edward Ambrose, who resides at 10764 Amherst Way, asked why the trail was not routed around the large pond, noting that such an alignment might have resolved pipeline concerns, eliminated the need for a bridge, and potentially reduced costs for the County.

Michael Shaughnessy, who resides at 10760 Amherst Way, asked why the current trail alignment is being changed, noting that it appears to already comply with existing regulations.

Mayor Dietrich responded that she would follow up to obtain answers to all the questions that were raised.

Mayor Dietrich requested that Mr. Wotzka provide an explanation of what prompted the need for the proposed change.

Mr. Wotzka explained that the trail location identified in the current plan is part of a long-term planning process that began in the late 2000s. Through that process, this corridor was selected as the preferred alignment for the Veterans Memorial Greenway, which was originally known as the Rich Valley Greenway. The plan also considered the placement of memorial nodes, including one proposed for this location, both of which contributed to selecting this alignment.

As the project progressed into the preliminary design phase, more detailed analysis of existing conditions was conducted. It was determined that the current trail exceeds acceptable slope standards for a regional facility, particularly in relation to ADA compliance, with some areas reaching slopes of 9 percent or more. The proposed serpentine alignment is intended to reduce the steepness of the trail to meet compliance requirements. This adjustment enhances user safety and ensures accessibility for individuals with impairments.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether that was one of the factors in the decision not to route the trail around the large pond.

Mr. Wotzka said he could not speak to the design considerations for routing the trail around the larger pond but would follow up with staff to see if any analysis had been done. In his three years leading the project, no exploration of that eastern alignment had occurred. He noted that the area presents slope and utility challenges, as well as significant vegetation clearing concerns due to its wooded nature compared to the current alignment.

Mayor Dietrich asked if the trail's elevation and exact placement could be clarified, and whether the area is currently staked to help residents visualize its proposed location.

Mr. Wotzka explained that the trail is not currently staked, as the alignment is still being finalized. In other areas, staking has been used to show the trail's center line for review. He noted that elevation changes vary along the route, with some areas being raised or lowered depending on site conditions and limitations related to Flint Hills and nearby wetlands. He confirmed that staking the trail is possible once the design is further refined.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether a map of all trails is available on the County's website and, if so, requested that staff direct residents to its location.

Mr. Wotzka confirmed that a Dakota County greenways and trails map is available and may include local trails. He will review the information and share it as follow-up material, noting that he cannot speak specifically to the Inver Grove Heights trail system.

Mayor Dietrich asked, with respect to funding, who is responsible for maintaining the trail in perpetuity.

Mr. Wotzka responded that Dakota County will be fully responsible for the ongoing and long-term maintenance of the trail. This includes upkeep of the asphalt surface, mowing of adjacent areas, and management of surrounding vegetation.

Mayor Dietrich inquired about how drainage will be addressed along the proposed trail alignment.

Mr. Wotzka stated that while the County can manage trail runoff, its ability to address drainage beyond the project area is limited. Stormwater design is being used to direct water appropriately within the construction limits.

Mayor Dietrich suggested that neighbors directly affected by the project may need more information. She recommended gathering their email addresses to follow up on questions, arranging for the trail area to be staked, and identifying appropriate next steps.

Councilor Gliva asked what the timeline would be to have the trail alignment staked out.

Mr. Wotzka stated that staking could likely take place within a week, depending on the availability of the County's survey team. He explained that the alignment shown would reflect the most current version, though it may still change pending final design approval from MnDOT and the City. The proposed trail lies within a 100-foot-wide easement, which is the area under consideration for authorization. He added that all alignment adjustments and alternative analyses to date have remained within this designated area.

Mayor Dietrich asked Attorney Nason whether the trail alignment within the easement boundaries could be adjusted based on feedback from the residents' meeting and how the Council's decision might affect that process.

Attorney Nason explained that if the Council approves the easements, the County will have legal authority to construct the trail and related features anywhere within the 100-foot corridor, even if the alignment changes slightly. Although the easement includes an expected layout, it is not legally binding. Approval would allow the County to move forward while alignment discussions continue. If the Council wants more information before deciding, it may delay action and request specific details. She also noted that the County is working within certain construction and funding timelines.

Mayor Dietrich inquired about the timeline.

Mr. Wotzka explained that all easements and right-of-way acquisitions must be secured before the project can be submitted for construction bidding. This is a requirement for obtaining the right-of-way certificate from MnDOT and securing project funding.

Councilor T'Kach asked whether the County could stake the full 100-foot width of the easement to give residents and Council a clearer understanding of the trail's potential location, noting the significant flexibility within that space.

Mr. Wotzka confirmed that it is feasible to stake both the full easement width and the trail centerline. He stated that they will assess the current alignment in relation to the easement boundaries to provide a clearer understanding of the trail's placement.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether the elevation will be indicated on the stakes.

Mr. Wotzka explained that indicating elevation on the stakes is more complex due to the area's varying topography. Some sections of the trail will be raised, while others will be lowered, depending on the location. He stated that they can review existing construction plans and discuss elevation changes in the field to help illustrate the expected grade adjustments.

Councilor T'Kach recommended tabling the item until more information is available, noting that similar concerns may arise with the upcoming segment on 105th Street. While expressing support for the trail, she emphasized the need for greater clarity for residents.

Councilor Scales asked staff, if the item is tabled, how soon it could be brought back before the Council for consideration.

Administrator Wilson responded that City staff can place the item on any upcoming Council agenda. The timeline depends on when the County can complete staking and allow sufficient time for residents to view and assess the area.

Mr. Wotzka responded that he would defer to the Council and staff on timing but noted that staking could likely be completed within a short period, allowing residents and the City to review the area and ask questions.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether bringing the item back on April 28th would allow adequate time for the County to complete necessary preparations without delaying the project.

Mr. Wotzka stated that April 28th is feasible, and the County is willing to accommodate that timeline, provided it allows adequate time for review and feedback.

Mayor Dietrich requested that residents in attendance complete the contact information sheets located at the back of the room and submit them to Mr. Wotzka. She asked that residents indicate their preferred method of contact, whether by email or phone, noting that this will be the approach used for future communication and follow-up.

Councilor T'Kach asked whether the County could send a brief notice to nearby residents who were unable to attend the meeting, informing them about the upcoming staking and its purpose. She also inquired whether the full 100-foot easement is necessary for a 10-foot-wide trail, and whether the easement is permanent or temporary for construction and vegetation management purposes.

Mayor Dietrich asked Councilor T'Kach which specific residents she was referring to who may share concerns but were not in attendance.

Councilor T'Kach clarified that she was referring to residents along Amherst Way.

Mayor Dietrich thanked Dakota County Commissioner Droste for attending the meeting and noted that Commissioner Atkins sent his regrets for not being able to attend.

Mayor Dietrich thanked Mr. Wotzka for his efforts in working with residents and expressed appreciation to the residents who attended the meeting for their involvement and engagement.

Motion to Table Item to April 28, 2025, City Council Meeting by T’Kach, second by Scales.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

D. Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for County Project 28-69 (City Project No. 2024-16) - 80th Street Trail Gap,

Director Connolly introduced Ms. Laberee, Transportation Director for Dakota County, who presented a request to amend the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the 80th Street trail project. The proposed trail would be located on the north side of 80th Street between Cahill and Concord Boulevard and is identified as project number 28-69. This trail segment was designated a priority in the 2021 Safe Routes to School Plan, developed in partnership with Inver Grove Middle School and Simley High School. It is also included in both County and City planning documents as a future trail connection.

The project is tied to related trail improvements on Concord Boulevard, identified as project 56-14 on the map, and is supported by RAISE grant funding. At the time of the original JPA, it was believed the grant would cover the full scope of expenses, including design, right-of-way, and construction. However, following discussions with MnDOT, it was clarified that the grant only covers construction costs. Usually, for trail projects, cities have a 15% cost share, and the County covers 85%. In this case, Dakota County will contribute \$436,000, representing its 85% share of the design and right-of-way costs.

Construction costs for the 80th Street portion are estimated at \$1.5 million for the 28-69 portion and will be fully funded by outside grants, resulting in no construction cost to the City. Similarly, the Concord Boulevard project, estimated at \$2.5 million, will also be completed at no cost to the City using a combination of the RAISE grant and other grant sources.

While the original JPA included a 15% city cost share for all project phases, it also assumed those costs would be covered by the grant. Due to this change, the County is now respectfully requesting that the City fund the share for the design and right-of-way expenses, estimated at \$77,000. Ms. Laberee expressed regret for the late notice and the unexpected cost to the City.

Sandy Honerbrink, who resides at 2318 75th Street East, questioned the need for a new sidewalk on the north side of 80th Street, noting that a sidewalk already exists on the south side. She suggested improving the existing sidewalk instead, stating it would save money and reduce maintenance. She expressed concern that taxpayers will ultimately bear the cost.

Mayor Dietrich asked Ms. Laberee if the project was based on a study or a recommendation from the school district and inquired whether the district was contributing any funding toward the project.

Ms. Laberee explained that the project originated from the Safe Routes to School Plan, which was completed in 2021 in partnership with the school districts and MnDOT. She also noted that the school district is not contributing funding to the project and, to her knowledge, was not asked to do so.

Mayor Dietrich requested clarification on the purpose of the sidewalks, specifically questioning the need for an additional one, and remarked that it would be helpful for everyone to understand the reasoning behind the proposal.

Ms. Laberee responded that in suburban areas, there is significant value and a safety benefit in having sidewalks and trails on both sides of the road. This allows pedestrians and bicyclists to avoid crossing the street to access a trail or sidewalk on the opposite side. This is especially important near schools, as it enables children to remain on the north side of the road until they reach a stoplight, reducing the need to cross busy streets.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether, with this project, the trail would be maintained and plowed by the County.

Ms. Laberee responded that the County is responsible for long-term maintenance, such as repairs or repaving, but the City is responsible for snow plowing.

Councilor Scales expressed concern about the City being asked to cover costs after the fact, acknowledging that while the oversight was likely an honest mistake, it was still a surprise. He emphasized the importance of following the proper process when working with the County and suggested improving project management by involving the City earlier and putting key details in place sooner.

Mayor Dietrich stated that \$77,000 is a significant amount and not a minor expense, as it comes from taxpayers and is not included in the City's budget. She acknowledged the funding change was out of the County's control but stressed the importance of being good stewards of public funds. She also noted that the City's sidewalk plowing equipment is costly to maintain and prone to breakdowns, which adds to her concerns.

Councilor Murphy stated that he has no issue with the sidewalk if it improves safety for children. However, he noted that the original information from staff indicated there would be zero cost to the City, which influenced his support. Since a cost is now involved, he cannot support the amendment, as he had assured residents there would be no expense.

Councilor Gliva agreed with fellow Council members and acknowledged resident concerns about tree removal and the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides. While she recognized the safety benefits, she expressed difficulty supporting the project now that it involves City funding, noting that the original agreement indicated there would be no cost to the City. As someone who monitors the budget closely, she could not support allocating funds for the project.

Councilor T'Kach acknowledged the oversight related to the grant and emphasized the need for the County to closely monitor bids and comply with grant requirements. She highlighted the safety benefits of placing the trail on the north side of 80th Street for all pedestrians. She also pointed out that regardless of whether the funding comes from the City or the County, it ultimately affects the same taxpayers. Stressing the importance of maintaining a strong

partnership with the County, she expressed support for proceeding with the project, provided staff confirm that the City has the \$77,000 available to cover the cost.

Mayor Dietrich asked Director Connolly if the funds are available to cover the \$77,000 cost and, if so, what projects or priorities might be delayed or not happen as a result of using those funds.

Director Connolly explained that the recommended funding source for the City's share of the project is the pavement management fund. Although no money was budgeted for this project, the City has saved more than the required amount through lower-than-expected bids on other pavement projects this year. As a result, no other projects will be impacted or left unfunded. He confirmed there is an adequate fund balance to cover the cost and noted the Council has traditionally been protective of this fund, which supports all pavement-related projects.

Councilor Scales asked whether the trail is getting built regardless of their approval.

Ms. Laberee responded that the matter would need to be reviewed further, as they are bound by their costs and existing policy. She explained that she would have to bring the issue back to the Board of Commissioners to determine whether they would be willing to allow an exception.

Councilor Scales noted that the trees have already been removed and questioned whether the County will abandon the project if the City declines to contribute \$77,000.

Ms. Laberee responded that they are not indicating they will walk away from the project, but they must follow the established process, and the final decision rests with the Board.

Councilor Scales stated that, like the City, the County will also need to return for approval.

Motion to Deny Approval of a Resolution to Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for County Project 28-69 (City Project 2024-16) 80th Street Trail Gap by Murphy, second by Gliva.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 1 (T'Kach) Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Sandy Honerbrink, a resident of 2318 75th Street East in Inver Grove Heights, asked whether the City includes long-term budgeting in all its projects, emphasizing the importance of financial oversight. She also urged the Council to request a report comparing the costs of electronic voting systems versus hand-counted ballots, as part of her support for President Trump's proposed election reforms, which include one-day voting, ID requirements, and proof of citizenship. She believes adopting these measures could increase election security and reduce costs.

Ms. Honerbrink also raised concern about fluoride in the City's water, referencing Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s recommendation to remove it and citing Salt Lake City's recent ban. She urged the City to consider becoming the first in Minnesota to eliminate fluoride from its water supply.

She concluded by suggesting that the City Council require all planning commission proposals to include a long-term maintenance and management budget to ensure sustainable City operations and safeguard taxpayer interests.

Mayor Dietrich asked Ms. Honerbrink if she could include the remainder of her comments in writing and provide them to the Clerk Kiernan.

Mayor Dietrich asked Director Connolly whether the annual maintenance costs for the Central Maintenance Facility have already been incorporated into the planning or if the project has not yet progressed to that stage.

Director Connolly explained that the project has not reached that stage yet, as there is no final design and they are still conducting a needs analysis. He added that the facilities manager, who will be involved in the design process, would be better positioned to address questions about operating and maintenance costs, since those responsibilities fall under a separate division.

Mayor Dietrich asked if that information will be covered during the work session when the Central Maintenance Facility is discussed in more depth.

Administrator Wilson stated that an update is planned for the May work session, but it will not include operating cost estimates. She explained that the building must first be designed, and decisions made about energy efficiency before reasonable cost estimates can be provided.

Mayor Dietrich asked if Clerk Kiernan could restate the City's position and protocol on voting for the benefit of the viewing public.

Administrator Wilson explained that Dakota County selects the election equipment used by all cities within the County. While cities can review the options, the final decision is made by County staff and approved by the County Board. The County must choose from systems approved by the Minnesota Secretary of State, meaning only equipment that has been tested and verified for accuracy can be used. Although the City participates in the process, it does not have decision-making authority.

Mayor Dietrich encouraged constituents to make their voices heard by contacting their legislators.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Dietrich announced that the Healthy Living Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the National Guard Gymnasium. The event is free to attend and will feature vendors and presentations throughout the day. She encouraged everyone to stop by as their schedules allow.

10.ADJOURN:

Motion to Adjourn at 7:46 p.m. by Dietrich, second by Scales.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Tammy Greenlee