INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11 6:00 P.M. – 8150 BARBARA AVENUE

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, August 11, 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, and T'Kach
Staff In Attendance: Administrator Wilson, Finance Director Hove, Public Works Director Connolly, Community Development Director Ziemer, City Attorney Nason, Chief Chiodo, Parks and Recreation Director Lares, Fire Chief Thill, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Dorshak, and Deputy City Clerk Malott

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve by Scales, second by Gliva.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATIONS: None

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- **A.** Approval of Minutes of the July 14, 2025, City Council Meeting
- **B.** Approval of Minutes of the July 21, 2025, City Council Work Session
- **C.** Approval of Disbursements, **Resolution 2025-178**
- **D.** Personnel Actions, **Resolution 2025-179**
- **E.** Resolution Amending Position Classification Plan, **Resolution 2025-180**
- **F.** Annual Worker's Compensation and Property/Casualty Insurance Renewal, **Resolution 2025-181& 2025-182**
- **G.** Resolution Approving Final Plans & Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for City Project 2016-17 – 117th Street Reconstruction, **Resolution 2025-184**
- **H.** Resolution Amending the Purchase Agreement for the Sale of Property to the EDA, **Resolution 2025-184**
- **J.** Contract for Custodial Services
- **L.** Resolution Amending Adopted Budget for Groveland Park Ballfield Improvements (City Project No 2518), **Resolution 2025-186**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-H, J, L, Omitting I and K by T'Kach, second by Scales.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

5.I. Termination of Agreement Related to Maintenance of Storm Water Facilities and Retaining Wall.

Council Member Murphy asked that while he understood the intent of terminating the agreement, he was curious how many times issues have occurred or how likely they are to occur in the future, whether there is a cost associated with them, and what the original agreement with the neighborhood entailed.

Public Works Director Connolly explained that Stormwater Facility maintenance agreements are usually part of development contracts. In Crosby Heights, there is no homeowner's association, and the facilities are fully on City property, which the City has been and will continue maintaining. The agreement would have made individual homeowners responsible, which is unworkable, and after review with the City Attorney, it was determined the agreement likely has no validity.

Council Member Murphy asked if there was any idea whether the agreement was originally set up that way by mistake.

Director Connolly stated that the agreement predates his tenure and was established in 2016. He explained that such an arrangement would not be implemented under the City's current code and development requirements. He further noted that the City already maintains the facility, so there is no additional cost, and this action is intended to formally resolve a past agreement that likely should not have been approved.

Motion to approve by Murphy, second by Gliva.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5.K. Approval of Marketing Contract for Inver Wood Golf Course Anniversary Membership' Campaign and Adoption of Resolution Amending the 2025 Golf Course Operating Budget, **Resolution 2025-185**.

Motion to continue the item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration by Scales, Second by Gliva.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Kelly Kayser, 1953 59th Court East, inquired whether the membership sale emails noted in the summary as being sent prior to the August 15 opening had in fact been distributed, as they had not received one.

Administrator Wilson stated that the timeline would be deferred, resulting in changes to the dates, and confirmed that the action item would also be deferred.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

7. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Rental Housing Licenses

Director Ziemer presented a new rental housing license application for 5900 Concord Boulevard. Staff reviewed the application and determined that it meets all required standards and therefore recommended approval.

Motion to approve the Rental License by T'Kach, second by Gliva.
Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. School Resource Officer Contract with ISD #199 for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Chief Chiodo outlined the School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with ISD #199 for the 2025–2026 school year. She explained that the partnership between the City of Inver Grove Heights Police Department and the School District, established in 2010, is designed to strengthen relationships among police, school staff, students, and parents or guardians, while promoting safety and reducing the number of youths entering the juvenile justice system.

The previous agreement expired on June 30, 2025, and the new agreement extends through June 30, 2026. Under this agreement, one SRO will primarily be stationed at the High School while a second SRO will be stationed at the Middle School, focusing on providing drug education to students. Both officers will share responsibilities at the Elementary Schools.

The buildings served under this agreement are Simley High School, Inver Grove Middle School, Pine Bend Elementary, Hilltop Elementary, Salem Hills Elementary, and the ISD #199 office. These facilities combined serve approximately 3,400 students.

During the 2024–2025 school year, there were 363 combined responses by the SRO and Patrol across Inver Grove Heights schools. Simley High School had 200 responses (110 SRO, 90 Patrol), Inver Grove Middle School had 84 (66 SRO, 18 Patrol), Pine Bend Elementary had 27 (18 SRO, 9 Patrol), Hilltop Elementary had 25 (15 SRO, 10 Patrol), Salem Hills Elementary had 24 (11 SRO, 13 Patrol), and the ISD 199 District Office had 3 (1 SRO, 2 Patrol). Overall, 221 responses were handled by the SRO and 142 by Patrol.

Types of calls for service included 12 child protection cases, 10 crisis calls, 7 suspicious person or item reports, 2 warrants, 8 theft or damage incidents, 26 fights, 4 use of force incidents, and 3 protection order violations. Major cases worked by SROs included drug cases, assaults on students and staff, child pornography, criminal sexual conduct cases, and domestic assaults.

Additional responsibilities for SROs included handling reports of false reporting of crimes, threats, harassment, and missing persons. They also provided education on bike safety at Elementary Schools, conducted a vape presentation for fifth graders at Pine Bend, and led social media and online safety presentations for Pine Bend, Hilltop, all sixth and seventh graders, and specialty High School classes. They organized summer safety talks in elementary classrooms and assemblies and participated in Students and Adults Learning Together (SALT) Day at Pine Bend Elementary with K9 demonstrations, basic law enforcement instruction, and teacher fingerprinting. Officers also took part in school carnivals, student events, High School and Middle School dances, sporting events, and were members of the SPARC Coalition.

The addition of a second SRO in the 2025–2026 school year is justified by the need to reduce the number of 911 calls for Patrol officers, provide more time and attention to Elementary Schools, split duties between the High School and Middle School, and deliver Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.) programming to students to reduce drug use/abuse and violence. This arrangement would also ensure continuity of coverage and help further build relationships and trust with youth and families in the community.

The financial details show that for nine months, wages and benefits for the first SRO total $123,732, with additional costs of $1,800 for a squad car, $400 for computer-aided dispatch software, and $200 for a computer, for a total of $126,132. For the second SRO, wages and benefits total

$106,104, with the same added costs of $1,800 for a squad car, $400 for computer-aided dispatch software, and $200 for a computer, for a total of $108,504.

Two reasons explain the difference between the contributions for the first and second SRO. Wages and benefit costs depend on the specific officer's placement within the wage structure. In addition, the Police Department is proposing to cover $16,506 in instructional costs for the second SRO's time delivering L.E.A.D. programming to 11 Elementary and 10 Middle School classrooms. These instructional costs represent an eligible use of the City's national opioid settlement funds. The District's share of funding for the second SRO is covered by a voter-approved referendum that was recently passed by residents. The Police Department will continue to cover wage and benefit costs for both SRO's during the summer months, as has been the case, with the second SRO focusing on drug education and outreach to students and families. Summer months for the second SRO will also be funded through the City's national opioid settlement funds.

Council Member Murphy supported the potential addition of a second SRO, noting the high quality of the current officer. He referenced 363 calls last year, with the majority at the High School and Middle School and highlighted the agreement's objective that school administrators handle discipline while SROs focus on safety and criminal law. He asked whether the Police Department and Command Staff believe this balance is being maintained.

Chief Chiodo explained that the SRO defers to School Administration on non-criminal matters, such as minor disruptions, to ensure discipline is handled internally. She emphasized that this approach builds student trust, allowing them to come forward with serious issues. She added that while this was not always the case in the past, recent SROs have maintained clear boundaries by focusing only on criminal matters, and the schools support and respect this approach.

Council Member Scales stated that he looks forward to the addition of a second SRO, noting that school staff and administration have built an outstanding relationship with the current SRO and expressing confidence that the second will establish the same positive partnership with the schools.

Council Member Gliva shared that she participated in Night to Unite with the SRO and observed many children, including elementary students, who recognized and approached the officer. She noted that this demonstrated a strong level of trust and described it as a positive experience for the City.

Mayor Dietrich asked whether some of the activities officers are involved in take place outside of school hours and, if so, whether overtime is incurred and how that overtime is paid.

Chief Chiodo explained that while most matters are handled during the school day, some extend into after-school hours. In those cases, overtime may be required, but the SRO position is allowed to earn compensatory time, which can be used during school breaks when the SRO would otherwise need to use vacation time. She noted there are occasions, such as criminal investigations leading to search warrants, where overtime is unavoidable and paid by the department. However, for school events like football or hockey games, the school covers the overtime costs at the same rate paid by outside organizations for officer coverage.

Mayor Dietrich thanked staff for being good stewards of the opioid funds, noting the importance of having those resources available for needs such as education.

Motion to adopt the resolution and authorize the appropriate officials to enter into the agreement with Independent School District 199 for the School Resource Officer Program for the 2025-2026 School Year by Gliva, second by Murphy.
Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

C. 2nd Reading of Ordinances Amending City Code Regarding Licensing Requirements

Deputy City Clerk Malott outlined amendments to City Code regarding licensing requirements across several areas.

The Liquor License application process is being updated to remove outdated terminology and reduce the amount of information required for an initial application by deleting information that is not necessary to determine approval or denial. Clarifications are made to alcohol server training by requiring training to remain valid for six months beyond the date of an initial or renewal application, with requirements aligned to online training certification.

The Cannabis and Hemp business regulations are revised to reflect new legislative vocabulary. Language is added to distinguish between pre-approval and preliminary license approval.

Massage Therapy regulations specify that operating without a license provides grounds for the Council to deny, suspend, or revoke a license. Additional language states that if a license is revoked or denied, the applicant may not reapply for a period of one year from the date of revocation or denial. Currently, the City Code is silent on reapplication timelines, but the proposed change would align with other Dakota County cities. The question for the Council is whether one year should be the threshold for Inver Grove Heights.

Contractor Licensing for Solid Waste Collectors is also updated by repealing Section 8-6-3C2, which required license tabs for solid waste vehicles, and removing references to City-furnished license tabs for solid waste haulers, as this is no longer current practice.

Staff recommends approval of the second reading of four ordinances amending City Codes, including Sections 4-1-7 and 4-1-14 related to Liquor License Applications, Sections 4-4-2 and 4-4-9 concerning Cannabis and Hemp business regulations, Section 4-8-1 addressing Massage Therapy regulations, and Section 8-6-3 regarding Contractor Licensing for license tabs on solid waste collectors.

Mayor Dietrich stated that she agrees with the one-year period for Massage Therapy regulations, noting that it is consistent with the County.

All Council Members expressed alignment with the one-year period.

Motion to approve 2nd reading and four attached ordinances by T'Kach, Second by Scales
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kelly Kayser, 1953 59th Court East, spoke in support of the proposed Central Maintenance Facility and related bond issue. She noted that a 2015 needs analysis identified issues such as lack of ADA compliance, overcrowded office and storage space, insufficient vehicle bays, and inefficiencies that compromise safety and productivity, but no action was taken at that time. She stressed that with the City's growth, the need has only increased, and delaying the project will further raise costs. While acknowledging the expense and tax impact, she argued the increase is modest compared to the value and necessity of the project. She praised current leadership, particularly Director Connelly, for addressing past shortcomings with transparency and urged residents to support the facility for the long-term benefit of the City.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Scales said Night to Unite had the best weather in his three years of attending, noting he visited nine locations and described it as a great community event.

Mayor Dietrich announced that she received a letter from the League of Minnesota Cities President stating that Senator Klein, who represents Inver Grove Heights, has been selected as a Legislator of Distinction for 2025.

Council Member T'Kach said Night to Unite was a great event with wonderful weather, thanked residents and organizations for hosting, and appreciated seeing City staff at several gatherings.

10. ADJOURN:

Motion to Adjourn at 6:58 p.m. by Scales, second by Gliva.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Tammy Greenlee