**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – 8150 BARBARA AVENUE**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026, in person. Acting Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## 2. ROLL CALL:

Present In-Person: Acting Mayor Murphy; Council Members: Gliva, Scales, T'Kach
Remote: Mayor Dietrich
Staff In Attendance: Interim City Administrator Hiniker, City Clerk Kiernan, City Attorney Nason, Public Works Director Connolly, Community Development Director Ziemer, Finance Director Hove, Parks & Recreation Director Lares, Fire Chief Thill, Planning Manager Shay, Deputy Police Chief Haugland and City Engineer Merchlewicz

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion to approve the Agenda as published by Scales, seconded by Gliva.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

## 4. PRESENTATIONS:

**A.** Fire Department – Officer Badging Ceremony

Roger Ledoux was recognized for his promotion from Firefighter to Lieutenant. He began his service with the department as a paid-on call firefighter and later transitioned to a full-time role. His promotion reflects his commitment, leadership, and continued dedication to the department and the City.

Dane Roloff was then recognized for his promotion from Lieutenant to Captain. He has served the department for several years, including as one of the first lieutenants hired under the SAFER grant, contributing to the department's growth and advancement. His promotion reflects his experience and leadership within the organization.

Chief Thill concluded by acknowledging the professionalism and service of both officers and invited the Council and community to join in congratulating them on their promotions and continued commitment to the City.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA:

**A.** Approval of January 12, 2026, City Council Work Session Minutes
**B.** Personnel Actions
**C.** Approval of Disbursements, **Resolution 2026-020**
**D.** Resolution Approving Final Plans & Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2026 Pavement Management Initiative Projects, **Resolution 2026-021**
**E.** Resolution Approving 2025 Budget Carryovers, **Resolution 2026-022**
**F.** Award Contract and Adopt Budget Resolution for Reconditioning of Well No. 4 (City Project No. 2026-02), **Resolution 2026-023**
**G.** Resolutions to Amend Final Project Budgets and Close City Project Nos. 2024-09D and

2024-09F, **Resolutions 2026-024 & 2026-025**

- **H.** Resolutions to Re-Open Project Accounts and Amend Final Project Budgets and Close City Project Nos. 2022-09I & 2022-09J, **Resolution 2026-026 & 2026-027**
- **I.** Approve an Ordinance to amend City's Zoning and Subdivision Process, **Resolution 2026-028**
- **J.** Exempt Gambling Permit for Ducks Unlimited

**Motion to approve Item A – J, omitting I by Gliva, seconded by Scales.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

Kelly, an Inver Grove Heights resident, asked for clarification on the color-coded edits in the agenda packet document and what each color represents. She also questioned why the item was placed on the consent agenda rather than going through three readings, as is typical for code changes.

Director Ziemer explained that three readings are not required because the item is a zoning ordinance, which follows the Planning Commission public hearing process before coming to the City Council. Staff incorporated prior Council feedback into the version presented.

Planning Manager Shay explained that all strikethrough text reflects removals and all underlined text reflects additions. The different colors indicate edits made by various staff members during multiple rounds of revisions, which is why the changes do not appear in a single color.

**Motion to approve Item I by Gliva, seconded by T'Kach.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A.** Approval of New Officer for Liquor License Holder Open Window Theatre

**Acting Mayor Murphy opened the public hearing. There were no public comments.**

**Motion to close the public hearing by T'Kach, seconded by Gliva.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve Molly Koop, new Officer for Liquor License Holder Open Window Theatre by Scales, seconded by Gliva.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**B.** Application for New Tobacco Sales License

City Clerk Kiernan stated that the Council is asked to conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an application for a new tobacco sales license. The City received an application from Smoke House Tobacco, located at 5828 Blaine Avenue. Staff reviewed the application and determined it to be complete and qualified. Staff recommends holding the public hearing and approving the tobacco sales license as presented.

**Acting Mayor Murphy opened the public hearing. There were no public comments.**

**Motion to close the public hearing by Dietrich, seconded by T'Kach.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve Smoke House Tobacco as a new tobacco sales license by Gliva; seconded by Scales.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**7. <u>REGULAR BUSINESS:</u>**

**A.** IGH Fire Relief Association Request for Pension Benefit Increase, **Resolution 2026-029**

Interim City Administrator Hiniker stated that the Council initially considered this item in mid-December, at which time it was tabled following discussion and a request for additional actuarial information. Additional background has since been provided to Council Members who had questions.

By way of context, Fire Relief Associations were established decades ago to provide pension benefits for firefighters, originally in volunteer departments. They remain an important recruitment and retention tool and are separate legal entities regulated by the State Auditor's Office.

The request before the Council follows a recent membership vote and seeks to increase the pension benefit to $20,000 per year of service, consistent with a new State threshold effective in 2026. The proposal also includes a 25% share of State Aid funds to the City, estimated at approximately $89,000 annually. The agreement would be in place for 3 years, after which further discussions could occur. Staff recommends approval of the request.

Council Member Scales and Council Member T'Kach stated that their positions remain unchanged and that they support moving forward with the agreement.

Council Member Gliva stated that she appreciated the additional review time and believes the agreement is a sound compromise that benefits the Fire Relief Association, the firefighters, and the City. She expressed her support.

Mayor Dietrich requested confirmation that there would be no cost to residents. She expressed appreciation for the compromise and stated her support.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker confirmed that there would be no cost to residents.

Acting Mayor Murphy stated that he had concerns during the initial review regarding the structure of the projections and the long-term implications for the defined benefit plan, noting the City bears the funding and investment risk. He suggested the Relief Association consider guidance from the State's pension officials. After discussions with staff and reviewing updated analysis, he expressed support for the agreement and appreciation for President McNamara's efforts.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2026-029 approving a Pension Benefit Increase for the Inver Grove Heights Fire Relief Association by Gliva, seconded by Scales.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**B.** City Administrator Recruitment Profile and process update

Liza Donabauer of DDA Human Resources presented the draft recruitment brochure and position profile for the next City Administrator, noting the materials were developed following several weeks of information gathering. She stated the job description accurately reflects the responsibilities and qualifications for a city of this size and that the proposed salary range of $176,800 to $224,660 is competitive and appropriate to attract strong candidates. She reviewed the proposed timeline, highlighting April 13 for finalist selection and May 5 for interviews, and noted the importance of Council availability in the weeks leading up to those dates due to application review and interview preparation. She requested Council feedback and any revisions to the profile before the position is posted.

Mayor Dietrich expressed appreciation for the work completed by Liza Donabauer and her firm.

Council Member T'Kach noted a correction to reflect that the City is served by three school districts, 199, 196, and 197. She also inquired whether the posted salary range represents the anticipated starting range or the broader range within which the position could progress.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker stated that the salary provided reflects the range included in the City compensation plan.

Council Member T'Kach questioned whether it was an offer range and recommended clearly distinguishing it from the salary range within the compensation plan to avoid confusion.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker stated that in some cities the offer range aligns with the broader compensation range and indicated that staff will confirm and clarify the range with the HR Manager and Liza Donabauer prior to publication.

Council Member T'Kach expressed concern that the qualifications could allow a candidate with education alone to meet the criteria. She emphasized the importance of including actual municipal experience and noted that this expectation was not clearly reflected in the current language.

Liza Donabauer noted that the qualifications include five years of management and leadership experience in finance, government, or public administration. She asked whether the preference was to specify direct working experience in a City or County.

Council Member T'Kach stated that, under the qualifications section of the job description, the minimum requirements include a master's degree and sought confirmation.

Clerk Kiernan referenced the minimum qualifications in the job description, which require a master's degree in public administration or a closely related field and at least five years of management and leadership experience in finance, government, or public administration, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Council Member T'Kach stated that she wants to ensure the equivalent combination does not allow for minimal municipal experience, such as one year in a community, and suggested that five years of experience may be more appropriate.

Commissioner Scales expressed disagreement with adding additional requirements. He stated a preference for limiting strict qualifications and allowing flexibility to evaluate applicants based on their experience, capabilities, and overall fit for the City rather than imposing more defined criteria.

Council Member T'Kach stated that she does not want education to substitute for practical experience. She indicated a preference for a candidate with five years of relevant work experience over one whose background consists primarily of academic study without direct experience in the field.

Acting Mayor Murphy stated that he believed both perspectives were largely aligned. He emphasized that while relevant experience is important, the source and quality of that experience matter, and he supported considering strong emerging candidates, even if they have fewer than five years of experience, so they remain in the applicant pool for discussion.

Council Member Scales stated that he wants flexibility in the qualifications.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker asked whether the Council would support listing the education requirement under preferred qualifications to provide flexibility, rather than as a minimum requirement, to avoid limiting the applicant pool.

Mayor Dietrich stated that she sees value in maintaining the education requirement and is not inclined to change it. However, she expressed a preference to further evaluate experience during the interview process and emphasized the importance of advancing candidates to that stage for discussion.

Council Member T'Kach noted that in past searches, final candidates had opportunities to meet the community. She stated that she did not see that reflected in the proposed timeline and asked whether adjustments could be made to include a public meeting component.

Liza Donabauer stated that the opportunity for finalists to meet the community would be addressed as part of the interview activities scheduled for May 5. She indicated that the Council will further define interview expectations when selecting finalists and confirmed that time can be incorporated if desired.

Council Member T'Kach inquired how long Council Members would need to be available on May 5.

Liza Donabauer stated that the duration on May 5 will depend on the number of candidates and selected interview activities. She noted that Council interaction is approximately 45 to 50 minutes per finalist and indicated that additional activities may be scheduled throughout the day. She emphasized that Council presence is most critical for the interview portion, with attendance at other activities optional.

Acting Mayor Murphy asked whether Council Members should review their calendars at this time to confirm availability for April 13 and May 5.

Liza Donabauer confirmed the April 13 and May 5 dates and stated that, with advertising intended to begin the following day, she would appreciate feedback on any calendar conflicts.

Council Member Gliva asked whether the April date falls during a regularly scheduled meeting and inquired whether Council would review video interviews, discuss candidates, and then select finalists.

Liza Donabauer stated that one week prior to April 13, Council will receive resumes, cover letters, video interviews, Work Personality Index reports outlining strengths and growth areas, and responses to an information disclosure question. She estimated the review time at 35 to 45 minutes per semifinalist and anticipates 10 to 12 semifinalists for consideration.

She noted that the April 13 meeting will be public, with candidates identified by number only and discussion kept limited. She indicated that Council would have sufficient information in advance and that she will guide the selection process during the meeting.

Acting Mayor Murphy shared that he appreciated the emphasis on staff and leadership development, noting it as a critical skill set for the position. He also referenced the value of weekly staff updates, acknowledging the time commitment involved, and asked whether such expectations should be formally identified in the position profile or if that level of detail was too specific.

Council Member T'Kach stated that including weekly updates in the position profile seemed too detailed.

Council Member Scales agreed that while he values the practice, it may be too specific to include.

Mayor Dietrich inquired about the next steps in the event the search does not produce a qualified candidate who is a good fit for the City.

Liza Donabauer stated that the preference would be to complete the full process; however, if on April 13 Council determines there are no candidates to advance to in person interviews, the position would be readvertised, typically following a brief pause to allow the market to shift.

She further explained that if, on May 5, Council is not prepared to make an offer, the City would pause to determine next steps, which could include revisiting other applicants, inviting additional candidates to interview, or readvertising the position.

Council Member T'Kach stated that the Council has previously discussed the desire for the City Administrator to focus less on day-to-day operational involvement and more on strategic leadership. She noted an interest in greater emphasis on strategic planning and policy development, including long term financial positioning, housing, transportation, and future planning initiatives. She expressed concern that this emphasis was not clearly reflected in the current position description and requested further review.

Liza Donabauer stated that strategic leadership is reflected throughout the desired attributes and identified priorities and goals. She noted that input from Dave Unmacht and staff discussions informed the inclusion of strategic planning and forward-thinking initiatives in the document.

Council Member T'Kach stated that the identified major projects are largely operational and may limit opportunities for broader strategic planning. She emphasized the importance of selecting a candidate with demonstrated strategic leadership experience and suggested incorporating strategic planning into the qualifications, including requesting examples of prior strategic work to evaluate a candidate's approach and results.

Liza Donabauer stated that she will evaluate candidates for demonstrated strategic planning experience as part of the screening process prior to advancing them to Council. She noted that evidence of such experience should be reflected in application materials and throughout the interview process and indicated that the candidate best aligned with Council's expectations would become evident through that evaluation.

Council Member T'Kach expressed that she hopes the emphasis on strategic planning and future oriented leadership is clearly communicated to applicants, noting she would not want candidates to invest significant time in the process without understanding that this is a priority for the Council.

**C.** Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending City Code Title 8, Chapters 2 and 4 Related to Water and Sewer Service Connections

Public Works Director Connolly addressed the Second Reading of the Ordinance Amending Code Related to Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Connections.

The impetus for the Code revision is that the City is undertaking an Advance Meter Infrastructure (AMI) and Citywide water meter replacement project in 2026, identified as City Project No. 2023-05.

The current Code for water service connections contains ambiguities related to replacement of radio transmitters and upgrades or replacement of functioning meters to work with the City's proposed AMI system. The City Attorney, along with the Public Works Director, recommended minor edits to remove ambiguity in advance of the AMI project, following discussion at a prior work session.

Additional revisions are proposed to align sewer service maintenance responsibilities with those established for water services, given the similarities and proximity of the water and sewer service Code. The City has historically enforced that sewer service pipes from the building to the sewer main are the responsibility of the property owner, although this has not been explicitly stated in Code. The current Sewer Code, adopted in 1974, is outdated and ambiguous and predates several requirements addressing illicit discharges such as fats, oils, and grease. The ordinance adds specific prohibited discharges of illicit materials to clarify materials considered harmful and to better align with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services waste discharge requirements. These updates allow the City to finalize a Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Policy, which is required for the City to be eligible for additional insurance coverage for sewer issues from LMCIT.

For water services, the Ordinance adds remote meter reading devices as City owned equipment and clarifies the City's authority to access properties for meter readings, inspections, service, maintenance, and replacement. It specifies that remote meter reading devices may be replaced if damaged or at the end of their service life. The right of inspection section confirms the City's authority to enter properties to make inspections, meter readings, and perform repair, maintenance, and inspection for items connected to the City Water System.

Revisions from the first reading include updated terminology replacing "free access to all parts of every building and premises" with "access to every building and premises." The phrase "reasonable hours" was replaced with the following: "Where access is required inside a building, authorized employees or agents shall have access at a time mutually agreed upon with the property owner, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours after access is requested." In Section 8-2-16, the exception in the case of an emergency where public safety or security of the public water system has been reworded to provide access "as soon as possible."

Section 8-4-2, Public Utility; Responsibility and Maintenance, adds key maintenance responsibilities that were previously not stated but implied or assumed. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to clean and maintain the sanitary sewer service line from the house or building to the City's sanitary sewer main. It shall also be the responsibility of the property owner to repair or replace the sanitary sewer service line from the house or building to the City's sanitary sewer main, including any repairs to City right of way, including boulevards, sidewalks, trails, curb, and pavement.

Under Key Ordinance Provisions – Sanitary Sewer Services, Section 8-4-7, Prohibited Discharges into the System, adds a list of waste material that is not allowed to be discharged into the sewer system in alignment with current MCES guidelines, including liquids over 150°F; water and wastes containing fats, oils, or grease (FOG); flammable or explosive liquids or gasses; inorganic waste, including non-biodegradable and inorganic flushable wipes; ashes, cinders, shavings, and other substances capable of obstructing the flow of the system; and noxious or malodorous substances that could create a nuisance.

Section 8-4-10, Interceptors Fat, Oil, and Grease Discharge Prevention, changes the header and adjusts content to clarify requirements around FOG prevention and clarifies the role of the Chief Building Official in determining the necessity of special plumbing items, including grease traps or interceptors.

Council is requested to consider the second reading of the ordinance. Given that the changes are administrative in nature, Council may also wish to consider waiving the requirement for a third reading of this Ordinance.

Mayor Dietrich thanked staff for identifying the 27 language corrections and requested that the information be provided to the City Administrator. She noted that updating Code language has been a goal identified at recent Council retreats and expressed appreciation for continued progress. She stated that the proposed changes are consistent with the direction provided at the previous meeting.

Council Member T'Kach expressed appreciation for the revisions made based on Council input but raised a question regarding the 48-hour notice provision. She asked how situations would be handled if a property owner is out of town and unaware of the request to enter the property.

Director Connolly stated that such situations would be addressed on a case-by-case basis, as Code cannot account for every circumstance. He noted that the 48-hour notice is intended to cover most situations and that larger projects would include advance scheduling.

In emergency situations, such as a water leak threatening the public system, the City would act immediately and attempt to contact the property owner. In non-emergency cases, staff would assess the situation and proceed reasonably without forced entry.

Acting Mayor Murphy inquired whether the third reading could be waived upon Council approval. He expressed appreciation for the revisions and stated that the changes were appropriate.

Director Connolly deferred to City Attorney Nason to clarify the process, noting that if the third reading is waived, a summary publication notice will be required.

City Attorney Nason clarified that the prior action was a 4/5 vote to suspend the rules and that a separate vote on the ordinance is still required. The Council is now asked to approve the ordinance amending City Code, Title 8, Chapters 2 and 4, related to water and sewer service connections. She also noted that a summary publication resolution will be placed on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting to satisfy the publication requirement.

**Motion to waive 3 reading Rule by Dietrich, seconded by Scales.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**Motion to Approve Ordinance 1522 to approve second reading of an Ordinance amending IGH City Code Title 8, Chapters 2 & 4 related to Private Service Connections to the City Water and City Sanitary Sewer Systems by Gliva, seconded by Scales.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

**D.** Resolution Approving 2026 Legislative Priorities and Positions

Interim City Administrator Hiniker addressed the Council and stated that the legislative platform is presented annually for review and consideration. While there has been limited discussion this year due to the administrative transition, the core priorities remain consistent with past years. Chief among them is the preservation of local government control, particularly maintaining authority over land use decisions. A new addition to this year's platform is acknowledgment of proposed state bonding legislation related to the Hockey Hall of Fame, along with support for the City's lobbying efforts. The platform also continues to express support for the work of the League of Minnesota Cities on behalf of municipalities. A resolution is before the Council for consideration.

All Council Members expressed agreement and support for the legislative platform as presented, apart from Council Member T'Kach.

Council Member T'Kach stated she would not support the legislative platform due to concerns related to the proposed State bonding and certain land use issues. She expressed a preference for more specific language outlining what the City is doing to support responsible land use, community development, and stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Acting Mayor Murphy stated that he views the legislative platform as a higher-level document.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker confirmed that the legislative platform is intended to be a higher-level document. She noted that in future years, the Council could consider holding work sessions in advance of the legislative session to further elaborate on priorities if desired, but that opportunity was not available this year.

Council Member T'Kach stated she understands the intent of the higher-level document but noted that, due to the recent transition and lack of prior discussion this year, she could not support it at this time.

**Motion to approve the 2026 Legislative Priorities and Positions by Scales, seconded by Gliva.**
**Ayes: 4**
**Nays: 1 (T'Kach) Motion carried.**

**E.** Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change land use from O, Office to MU, Mixed Use for property north of Argenta Boulevard and 65th Street Intersection, **Resolution 2026-030**

Planning Manager Shay presented the Comprehensive Plan Amendment request on behalf of Community Development.

The Location of the development site consists of two properties totaling approximately 45 acres. The site is located off 65th & Argenta, is currently undeveloped, and includes a proposed 120,000 sq. ft. building containing museum, ice rink, restaurant/brewery, event space and retail.

The application request is for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The current designation is O, Office, and the proposed designation is MU, Mixed Use. The request is not approving for a specific user, development concept or plan.

Under Land Use & Zoning, policies to consider include that the site is in the future development area. The Comprehensive Plan supports providing commercial services that are convenient to neighborhoods, creating a quality living environment that is adapted to the natural environment, and encouraging creative land planning to create neighborhood areas that have a unique personality reflecting the natural beauty of the area as well as the overall context of the community.

Mixed Use goals include providing a unique mix of commercial, residential, public and related uses in a pedestrian friendly environment; providing a flexible land use tool that supports redevelopment while minimizing the creation of non-conforming uses; and encouraging consistent design standards that serve as a framework for both public and private improvements addressing streets, lighting, landscaping, building materials and building placements.

The staff evaluation notes that the Council has prioritized commercial growth by promoting and seizing commercial development growth opportunities, where possible, to expand various retail, service and restaurant options throughout the community. The site and surrounding parcels are currently guided as Office, which has experienced a shift and is a struggling market for new development from when the Comprehensive Plan was completed. A future interchange is anticipated at I-494 and Argenta Boulevard serving as a new entrance into the City. This area will serve as a gateway for the City and encouraging Mixed Use development will entice more residents and visitors to the City. The change to Mixed Use is compatible with adjacent land uses and the development expected in the surrounding area.

The next steps include consideration and approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendment request. Future applications and agreements include a Preliminary Plat and Planned Unit Development, final Plat and Planned Unit Development, and a Development Agreement. A public hearing is required for the Preliminary Plat and Preliminary Planned Unit Development. The action recommendation is approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment from O, Office to MU, Mixed Use subject to the conditions that the amendment shall be reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Council.

Council Member T'Kach stated the proposal reflects premature rezoning and land use change. She expressed concern about moving forward before there is certainty regarding bonding and financing for the Hockey Hall of Fame and suggested the land use change could be considered later.

Planning Manager Shay stated the Council could act on the request now or later and clarified that while the amendment was initiated by the Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame, it is not specific to that project but instead considers whether Office or Mixed Use is more appropriate for the area. Staff supports the Mixed-Use designation, which would continue to allow office while also permitting high density residential and commercial uses. He added that Mixed Use encourages a more pedestrian friendly environment and higher design standards, aligning with the long-term vision for an attractive gateway entrance off 494, regardless of the ultimate end user.

Council Member T'Kach stated she supports Mixed Use in concept but noted that suburban office demand has rebounded and questioned whether a change is necessary at this time. She cited undeveloped nearby properties and uncertainty regarding the 494 interchange and surrounding projects, expressing that the land use change feels premature.

Council Member Scales stated he would not support retaining an Office designation at a key interchange entrance to the City. He expressed concern that allowing only office could limit opportunities to provide the retail and commercial development residents have consistently requested to help broaden the tax base and reduce the burden on homeowners. He stated that a Mixed-Use designation would better position the site for high value development at a prime gateway location, regardless of whether the project is the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Council Member T'Kach asked Director Connolly whether sewer and water are currently available in the area and whether developers would typically be responsible for installing new infrastructure if the project proceeds.

Director Connolly stated that sewer and water are available at the intersection of Argenta Boulevard and 65th Street, adjacent to the properties but not currently extended within them. He explained that utility extensions are typically completed by developers at their expense, though that may or may not apply to the Hockey Hall of Fame project specifically.

Acting Mayor Murphy stated Staff's rationale was reasonable, noted that Mixed Use still allows Office, and expressed support for the proposed land use change.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2026-030, amending the 2040 IGH Comprehensive Plan and Maps for Guiding the Overall Development and Redevelopment of the City of Inver Grove**

**Heights by Scales, seconded by Murphy.**
**Ayes: 4**
**Nays: 1 (T'Kach) Motion carried.**

## 8. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>

Several speakers addressed the Council regarding ICE activity and its impact on residents and businesses, asking what actions the City will take to assist affected families. Requests included rental and utility assistance, a community meeting, clearer communication, and joining regional efforts to support impacted residents.

A resident asked about the former Travel Tags site, noting its purchase by Fortress Investment Group and expressing concern about a potential data center. She inquired whether the matter would appear on future agendas and whether the City or County has signed an NDA related to the project.

Acting Mayor Murphy stated that if the matter comes before the Council, it will appear on the meeting agenda and would likely begin with the Planning Commission before proceeding to the Council.

Director Ziemer confirmed that there are no NDAs in place.

Kelly Kayser, 1953 59$^{th}$ Court East, stated that the role of city government is to oversee essential local services within limited resources and should not be conflated with responsibilities held by state or federal officials. She noted that many residents face various hardships and expressed appreciation for the Council remaining focused on its defined duties, encouraging broader concerns to be directed to higher levels of government.

## 9. <u>MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:</u>

Council Member Scales asked Staff whether a community event could be organized and if that option could be discussed further.

Interim City Administrator Hiniker stated that Staff could organize an event or provide options at the direction of the Council and requested collective guidance to move forward.

Council Member T'Kach stated that after reflecting on the prior discussion, she believes the Council has a responsibility to lead and respond to the impacts of ICE activity on residents and businesses. She suggested directing Staff to share information about available assistance programs, including food, housing, utility, and rent support through Dakota County Community Development Agency, exploring partnerships such as the Cities for Safe and Stable Communities coalition, and organizing a community meeting with the Police Chief to foster dialogue and rebuild trust. She urged the Council to discuss next steps promptly and determine how the City can take meaningful action to support those affected.

## 10. <u>ADJOURN:</u>

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Scales, second by Gliva.**
**Ayes: 5**
**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Tammy Greenlee