1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rice called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **ROLL CALL**


Staff present: Police Chief Eric Peterson; Electric Director, Greg Geiger Electric Utility Director; Communications Manager Pam Bowman; Engineering Technician Ben Nelson; Clark Palmer, City Planner, and Public Services Director Mark Anderson, and City Attorney Scott Baumgartner.

Absent at roll call: Councilmember Wesp.

3. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Barnett outlined a correction on Page 4, Paragraph 1: “…shared dollars per round in 2006 of $28.06, 2010 of $27.10, and now $30.31.”

Councilmember Skogquist noted Electric Director Greg Geiger was not present at the last meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Skogquist, seconded by Councilmember Barnett, to waive the reading and approve the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

4.1 Police Activity Update.

Police Chief Eric Peterson shared an update stating no police incidents occurred with the Super Bowl and that 2020 census work was beginning in the City. He said census workers would be going door-to-door to speak with residents and explained they would have laptops and clearly marked identification and with their presence he anticipated increased calls for service. He referred to the
potential for scamming during this period and encouraged residents to call the police with any concerns. He added postcard notifications outlining census response would be coming sometime in March and that the City has been designated as an online census response so there should not be much door-to-door contact.

Chief Peterson stated the ice jams were gone and river levels have dropped five feet and were back to normal levels but that staff continues to monitor. He announced the department would be participating in the Lights on Minnesota program which was a privately funded initiative that allows officers to issue a written warning for equipment violations and offer a free repair voucher. He said transportation is vital to residents and affordability of repairs is a real concern so vouchers will be given to drivers for participating repair shops to correct the violation. He said the hope is this program would build better relationships and strengthen our community and noted no tax dollars funded this program.

Councilmember Skogquist asked about the National Weather Service’s efforts in monitoring the Rum River above the dam. Chief Peterson said he was not fully aware of their plan but said the intent was to install an electronic device above the river and while there was a gauge in place in St. Francis it was an older version.

Councilmember Freeburg spoke about the potential for disaster in the spring with snowmelt if the levels were already high and stressed the importance of monitoring levels closely. Chief Peterson said the National Weather Service was predicting 50/50 chance of reaching minor flood stage this spring but variables included additional snow or a quick thaw which would increase those chances. He said he would be attending the upcoming Governor’s Conference and would be speaking with National Weather Service representatives to obtain further assessments.

OTHER INFORMATION UNDER OPEN FORUM

Mayor Rice read a statement into the record regarding the January 23 information session at Green Haven for feedback on the City’s proposed organized hauling. He said the presentation was shared and recorded and available on the City’s website and not included on this evening’s agenda for any action. He said the Council intended to discuss the topic further at the February 24 worksession to review a full report on feedback received at the information session and through other avenues and that while no action would occur the hope was to direct staff on how to proceed. He said feedback forms were available this evening to complete and submit by February 10 or residents could email any Councilmember to be included in the report. He suggested for the sake of time that residents try to summarize their comments then invited the public to speak.

Dave Wiggins, 19671 Yellow Pine Street, Oak Grove and Vice President for Ace Solid Waste, commented about the feedback session, truck weights, and the City’s
statistics being inaccurate. He said the City Manager’s comments about resident cost savings when garbage is picked up at every house is not being seen in other cities then spoke about the supposed damage to City streets caused by trucks was based on a study from Fort Collins Colorado where no scale was available. He spoke about the statement made that haulers seem to hide truck weight was not accurate and how the City was affecting his business. He shared statistics on truck weights from January that ranged from 44,000 pounds to 46,000 pounds, much less than the 50 tons stated. He said they utilized the largest tires allowed by law and that pounds per square inch was minimal and how an empty truck was 33,000 pounds and how even with maximum load weight of 51,000 pounds the trucks never get that full. He compared garbage trucks to school buses which when full when 25,000 pounds and were 2.03 pounds per square inch when garbage trucks were much less at only 1.44 pounds per square inch. He expressed his frustration with proposed organized hauling and said his business was being threatened.

Barb Thurston, 1815 3rd Avenue, asked how often would the City negotiate contracts and if divided into percentages based on the number haulers now, do they all have to come to the same agreement for the same price for each home. Mayor Rice noted the process was long and not established yet but possibly would be negotiated every 3-4 years. He said if approved they would obtain feedback from the haulers on how to arrange the City’s collection and noted those details have yet to be decided.

Ms. Thurston recalled organized hauling was discussed in 2015 and while in the past she wanted to have a choice she has since changed her mind. She spoke about street renewal costs and assessments received and said how her hauler raised their rates last fall and would not negotiate, adding residents do not have a choice for other utilities like gas and electric.

Roger Olsen, 402 River Lane, shared a mailer received from haulers against the proposal and how residents have to negotiate with the haulers. He said they experience 6-9 different haulers on their cul-de-sac and how they tear up the street and how there seems to be enough margin in pricing to lower prices. He spoke about the process to negotiate a contract and that Anoka could easily move to one hauler to lower prices, save streets, and reduce pollution and noise.

Barbara Baldwin, 3227 Sprague Avenue, said the process to change to a single hauler is governed by the State and must be followed, stating the initial contract is seven years which is a long time if there are customer service issues and is not a simple process as portrayed.

Kevin Landry, 765 East Main Street, said the government should not have a right to say who can pick up from his property and referred to the City of St. Paul’s process for organized hauling that did not go well that resulted in a five-year
contract they cannot stop and said if approved without a resident vote he would consider bringing the City to court.

Mike Jellinger, 553 Harrison Street, commented about the mailer received from his hauler two years ago and how this oversteps a Council’s duties and should go on a ballot for a vote.

Mayor Rice agreed a referendum vote would be one way for this process to occur but noted it was early in the debate and that St. Paul did not follow the process outlined by Statute. He said the discussion is around hauling costs versus street renewal costs shared by all residents of Anoka and how trucks are the greatest controllable variable. Mayor Rice noted since buses and garbage trucks are allowed to drive during weight restriction periods this proposal is an attempt to control the costs we can and the first step is to identify the facts, impacts and costs.

Mr. Jellinger noted the extensive length of time to realize any cost savings for street renewal and asked if negotiations have begun. Mayor Rice stated negotiations have not occurred yet.

John Hall, 1927 Branch Avenue, said he worked for the City of St. Paul for 37 years as fleet manager and understood axel weights and said the trucks had little impact on roads and cautioned the City about opening up this debate. He said it was early in the process and not based on enough comprehensive information and not relevant. He said his hauler has treated him well and was concerned about receiving the same level of service if organized and noted City maintenance vehicles do more damage with salt and that more information and study was needed.

Mayor Rice stated the City began a street renewal program to reconstruct 80-year-old streets and now we have to reconstruct 30-year-old streets and we need to address why streets are deteriorating at an accelerated rate. Mr. Hall said one reason is because quality of work on sewer systems and streets is less than before.

Bruce Blahut, 3319 12th Avenue, said the street in from of his home was reconstructed last year then cracked curb to curb within two weeks. He said his storm sewer does not drain properly and that the City has more concerns than garbage truck impacts.

Charlie Mueliner, 220 McCann Avenue, said research shows some damage occurs but was concerned about impacts to free market and suggested when the City is involved costs are more and efficiency is less and said residents could organize by their neighborhood instead. He said this will be a difficult process to navigate and
said his service in Anoka was better than when he lived in Blaine and did not see
the benefit as the data is not quantifiable and costs needed to include
administrative staff for this process. He agreed a ballot vote should be required.

Andrew Groninger, 2333 4th Avenue, spoke about costs and compared the
proposal to the City’s single hauler for recycling and asked how pricing and
contracts are reviewed to control costs. Communications Manager Pam Bowman
said the current recycling contract was reviewed every five years.

Mr. Groninger spoke about poor customer service for recycling and how the City
would have to accept the best bid that could affect customer service for hauling
too. He said his hauler provides free garbage can washing annually and organized
hauling is beyond what local government should be looking at and that cost
savings is not really true. He suggested different road materials be used instead to
resolve the issue and that any change should be placed on a ballot for a vote.

Mayor Rice said recycling was difficult to compare as not all haulers have the
facilities to recycle, adding with recent market changes pricing has increased in
recycling too.

Sara Gall, 1811 2nd Avenue, said she learned about the proposal from a mailer
from her hauler then spent time gathering information from haulers and the Cities
of Champlin and Blaine. She spoke about Metro Transit bus weights and Elk
River truck weights and how she was against organized hauling and for free
market and expressed concern about if approved where government would stop.
She commented that having single haulers was not that effective for street renewal
and that many cities subsidize costs resulting in less cost savings in the end.

Ross Peters, 4309 Parkview Circle, asked if homeowners associations would be
forced to participate in any single hauler system if adopted. Mayor Rice said that
would have to be determined as part of the process but noted associations already
have a single hauler.

Mr. Peters asked about the development of the parcel at Bunker Lake Boulevard
and 7th Avenue with a grocer anchor and if the City will take into consideration
impacts to their townhomes such as aesthetics, light pollution and the potential for
increased vandalism. Mayor Rice said any project approval would include
landscaping plans, buffers, berms, and other building standards such as light
impacts.

Councilmember Skogquist said once an anchor tenant has been identified we can
begin working on those details and provide notification to the neighborhood. He
said while this is a commercial corner the City will make it as attractive as
possible to protect the neighborhood’s investment.
Ms. Baldwin said comments were shared at the organized hauling informational meeting that $2 million had been spent over 20 years for street renewal and that roads were still in good condition and not damaged and noted assessments included sewer and other costs, not just street paving. She spoke about how her rates were raised when included on the City’s utility bill and how if approved staff would be needed to manage billing then shared comments about how her hauler helped with her service while recovering from surgery.

Mayor Rice said the street renewal budget was $1 million per year and costs are incremental over time and are being reviewed more frequently than in the past. Engineering Technician Ben Nelson said the current budget was $8.2 million for five miles of streets and that some included new infrastructure but some did not.

Mary Jo Davich, 1711 Levee Avenue, said government should not be involved in this process as it was a free market and unacceptable and not the City’s role and if approved would need to be negotiated every year.

Mike Cofrin, 1614 Rivers Point Court, said he was in favor of a single hauler but with conditions and said the RFP process would have to be well managed and suggested a shorter contract in the beginning in case it does not work, adding currently there are six different trucks picking up in his neighborhood.

Mayor Rice clarified the initial process would be seven years then a term is decided according to negotiations that would be based on accountability, customer service, and pricing, adding this would still involve free market but be for the entire City.

Councilmember Freeburg thanked the public for coming forward and said he support free market as well and would like to see a vote on the proposal but added truck weights affect roads. He commented on the increase in school buses and delivery trucks and how all impact the roads and that the City is just looking to see what we can control. He stated how funding through the electric utility has helped with street renewal but those funds will not always be available and that a solution is needed.

Councilmember Barnett noted the presentation from this discussion a few years ago was available on the City’s website then asked for an outline of the process and the potential for a vote. City Attorney Scott Baumgartner outlined the City Charter process of an initiative versus a referendum should the Council adopt an ordinance a group of registered voters disagrees with and how it would be brought forward for a vote.

Mayor Rice outlined the upcoming worksession for further review and input and invited the public to attend.

5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Freeburg, seconded by Councilmember Skogquist, to approve Consent Agenda 6.1 through 6.6.

6.1 Approve Verified Bills.

6.2 Revising and Setting Council Calendars.

6.3 Issuance of a Tree Care/Arborist License; Neighborhood Tree Care, LLC.

6.4 Issuance of a Massage Business License for Aleesha D Acupuncture, LLC, 207 E. Main Street.

6.5 Issuance of a Tree Care/Arborist License; D-R Contracting.

6.6 US Highway 10/169 Improvement Project; Approve Joint Powers Agreement with Anoka County for Local Road Improvement Program Funds.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

7.1 **Planning Items**

None.

8. **PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATION**

None.

9. **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

9.1 **RES/Accept Bids and Award Bid for Golf Maintenance Facility.**

Public Services Director Mark Anderson shared a background report stating on December 16, 2019, City Council approved the plans and specifications, authorized the advertisement for bidding and set the bid date for the Golf Maintenance Facility (GMF). The new GMF is a precast structure, 18,300 square feet in size and will be where all turf-oriented equipment will be stored and maintained. The site location will be on the Green Haven Golf Course property between State Street, Green Haven Road and the Seventh Fairway. On January 23, 2020; 13 bids were received and opened aloud. The bids were relatively close in their Base Bid totals. The two lowest bidders were within $12,000 and nine of
the 13 bidders were within $300,000. This indicates that the plans and specifications were well prepared and understood by the bidders. The Architects Estimate for the Base Bid was $3,850,000. The low bid was from Rochon Corporation at $4,478,000. Unfortunately, this is roughly a 16% overage. The cause appears to be in the landscape/civil scope and Mechanical/ HVAC/plumbing scope. On the landscape/civil side, there were several items like the rate control pond, landscaping, and paving that grew over the course of the project. On the Mechanical/HVAC and plumbing side, there have been large and unpredictable increases in the bid prices over the last two years, apparently due to labor shortages and material prices. There are two bid alternates on the project. Bid Alt 1 is for the roof structure over the outdoor material storage bins. Bid Alt 2 is for the interior build-out at Animal Control. Both alternate prices came in lower than anticipated and would provide an excellent value for the City. The Architect has contacted Rochon Corporation and they have indicated they are comfortable with their bid and will participate in post-award Value Engineering process to help reduce the overall project cost. The existing GMF site at 641 Jacob Lane has long been listed as a redevelopment site. Because of this, we have been aware of and anticipating that one day we would have to vacate the property. Gramercy Development is presently marketing the American Club housing project and currently have reservations for 27 of the proposed 87 units. Timing of the Gramercy project and the new GMF have been discussed previously but the early sales are impressive and a good indication for this project proceeding. Ultimately, the existing GMF will need to be demolished and the site cleared for the Gramercy to begin construction. Staff has begun preparation of Plans and Specifications for the Animal Containment/Law Enforcement Training Center (AC/LETC) proposed as a 2021 project to be located at the Public Safety Center Property. Staff anticipated Bid Alt 2 (the animal containment portion of the GMF) to come in much higher at around $300,000 but the actual bid of $116,450 makes this difficult not to construct. This will have an impact on the AC/LETC Project and timing. Mr. Anderson said he discussed this with Chief Peterson and while he understands, he has strong feelings about the AC/LETC being located at the Public Safety Site. He shared the proposed schedule that would have construction beginning March or April with completion in December.

Chief Peterson spoke about the potential for accepting the bid alternates for the construction of the animal containment facility at another site rather than on public safety grounds. He said having the training center and range within the public safety center was important and while it was still his opinion to have the facility in a convenient place for customer service and to have a training center nearby to maintain high training standards he understood the reasons for relocating the facility and would address impacts at a future meeting.

Mr. Anderson staff reviewed materials for the AC at the golf maintenance facility, stating the $40,000 cost was low and if relocated could be converted back to storage and constructed at the LETC and would not be wasted funds. He outlined the bids and said funding would come from an internal loan and reimbursed for
bond issuance in 2021, adding the project would be mostly complete and help for planning should any unanticipated overages occur.

Councilmember Barnett asked about the roofing for $40,000 and if it mattered if the materials stored froze then thawed. Mr. Anderson said the products needed protection from getting wet which would limit the life cycle and noted the bid was very reasonable for a fully constructed roof.

Councilmember Freeburg added the supplies were needed early each spring and if frozen would be unusable.

Councilmember Barnett confirmed if adopted we could conduct a value study and make adjustments in the future. Mr. Anderson agreed, stating this bid was worse-case scenario and through negotiations could be improved upon.

Mayor Rice asked if investments were made somewhere in Public Safety Center could we get by for another two years. Chief Peterson said that would work for the ACF but was unsure if we had the proper HVAC to house animals and the LETC included the range which would have to be a standalone facility then spoke about positive pressure filtration and said it would not work. He said in the interim there would be downtime and interruption of services and that staff intended to work with a local kennel to address animal containment needs during that period.

Mayor Rice asked how many animals were housed each year. Chief Peterson said they housed 150 pets per year, mostly dogs, adding most are returned to their owners and those pets that are not returned are given to adoption/rescue agencies, with some being trained for service animals.

Mayor Rice said the greatest cost would be time for community service officers (CSOs) traveling to the kennel. Chief Peterson agreed, stating this time interrupts service to the citizens of Anoka as currently pet owners can pick up their pet at any time.

Councilmember Barnett said this was a specific service offered by Anoka and was much appreciated but said we have to be as fiscally responsible as possible and asked if CSOs have to stay for any length of time when they drop off an animal at the facility. Chief Peterson said in this scenario staff would direct the pet owner to the kennel and they would be subject to their charges, adding boarding at the City’s facility was nominal.

Councilmember Skogquist compared construction costs and trade-offs of staff time now and inflated costs in the future and stated with the alternates coming in at reasonable rates it made sense to do this now and reuse in the future.
Motion by Councilmember Freeburg, seconded by Councilmember Skogquist, to adopt a resolution accepting bid and award bid for Golf Maintenance Facility to Rochon Corporation in the amount of $4,635,400, including Bid Alternates 1 and 2.

Mayor Rice said this was a very expensive building and he hoped more savings could be realized once the specs were further reviewed.

Councilmember Skogquist spoke about selling the property where the existing facility is and the back side of the golf course, noting the property would not desirable in 20 years and not worth as much.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Rice, Councilmembers Barnett, Freeburg, and Skogquist voted in favor. Motion carried.

9.2 ORD/Amending Chapter 22, Article X, Relating to the Sale of Tobacco and Tobacco Products. (1st Reading)

Mr. Baumgartner shared a background report stating based on recent legislation, a change to our City Code relating to the Sale of Tobacco was required. Federal law was changed to prohibit the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 21. Current Code prohibited the sales to minors, defined as less than 18 years of age but State law still says 18. He said we were bound to follow federal regulations and until addressed cities were amending their ordinances to come into federal regulations compliance. He said the definition of minor was amended slightly as with compliance checks there were two definitions of minors.

Councilmember Barnett asked if other ordinances referred to minors such as alcohol sales. Mr. Baumgartner said this definition would apply only to this section and minors defined in other sections would not be changed.

Mayor Rice said he believed there would be some leeway afforded as cities try to respond to this federal law change. Mr. Baumgartner said since the State has not amended Statute yet we do not have an enforcement mechanism in place so until the State changes the law we can fall back on our ordinance and enforce sale to minors when necessary.

Motion by Councilmember Barnett, seconded by Councilmember Freeburg, to hold first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 22, Article X; Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Products of the Code of the City of Anoka Minnesota.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Rice, Councilmembers Barnett, Freeburg, and Skogquist voted in favor. Motion carried.
9.3 RES/2020 Combined Street Improvement Project; Approve Plans and Specifications, Authorize Advertisement for Bid and Set a Bid Date.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Nelson shared a background report stating on December 2, 2019, City Council held the public improvement hearing and assessment hearing for the 2020 Bob Ehlen Area Street Renewal project (SRP) portion of the 2020 Combined Street Improvement Project. After the hearings, Council adopted a resolution authorizing the preparation of engineering plans and specifications and adopted the assessment roll. The streets included in the project are Eighth Avenue Harrison Street to Polk Street, Polk Street Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue, Bob Ehlen Drive Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue, Harrison Street Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue, Alley Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue. The proposed project will involve the total reconstruction of the streets, including the replacement of the concrete curb and gutters, bituminous pavement, sidewalks, street lights, driveways, sanitary sewer, watermain and service laterals. The alley is proposed to be reconstructed with surmountable type curb. He outlined proposed infrastructure changes including watermain extensions on 8th Avenue from Bob Ehlen Drive to Polk Street, cul-de-sac at the end of 8th Avenue alley with an infiltration basin, new street light mid-block on Polk Street between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue, relocation of street lights to mid-block on Bob Ehlen Drive and Harrison Street between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue. At the public improvement hearing a question was raised about installing sidewalk on Polk Street. Staff sent a sidewalk survey to all property owners on Polk Street between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue to provide feedback and received only two surveys in favor of the sidewalk, therefore staff is recommending not installing sidewalk along Polk Street as part of this project. Mr. Nelson shared a staging open house was held at Green Haven Golf Course to educate property and business owners on staging for the project and 14 people attended. Overall, the audience was in favor of the project staging and grateful to see consideration of access during construction. He outlined the proposed project and infrastructure changes that included concrete curb bump outs in areas, sanitary sewer extensions, sidewalk extensions and Monroe Street width revisions to a proposed 40-foot width then outlined the enhanced streetscaping landscaping. He shared the proposed project schedule with construction beginning in April or May and completion by October then spoke about the proposed rain garden locations and initial construction costs with property owners being responsible for maintenance costs.

Councilmember Freeburg asked about rain garden maintenance after a home sale. Mr. Nelson said if there is an issue with maintenance after the current property owners move staff would work with Anoka County Conservation District to maintain the rain garden which would consist of leaf removal, inlet maintenance, and plant replacement, adding if not done the City would then charge accordingly. He noted the City should not have to do much maintenance though as rain gardens are desired and would likely not be an issue.
Mr. Nelson outlined the three schedules and bidding structure that provided bids for one, two or all three projects and awards would occur per schedule so there was a possibility of three different contractors which may result in more favorable bids.

Councilmember Skogquist spoke about the desire for grass in front of Sandburg Education Center instead of concrete but was concerned about maintenance and how with shoveling and salting grass did not look good until July and that concrete may be better, especially if the area was not irrigated. He said there would be a lot of road work this year then spoke about poor road conditions by Eagle Brook Church and was pleased about the accelerated schedule.

Councilmember Barnett asked about the proposed extension to construction hours and working around businesses. Mr. Nelson spoke about staff’s proposal to extending construction hours from 7pm to 10pm to accelerate project completion but that extended hours would be authorized by the City and may include nighttime paving.

Councilmember Barnett asked if there were any concerns about pedestrian traffic from Federal or Pentair. Mr. Nelson said based on neighborhood feedback most would come down Bob Ehlen and use the signal for the safest route. He confirmed infill and concrete could be done at Sandburg for a small cost increase and would update the project specs accordingly.

Mayor Rice asked when Cutters Road Boulevard would be done. Mr. Nelson said that road was up to construction limits of the Highway 10 project in front of Kwik Trip and done in 2022 at the same time as Fairoak. He said while it will look odd for a while the delay is for a reason to coincide with the Highway 10 project.

Motion by Councilmember Freeburg, seconded by Councilmember Barnett, to adopt a resolution approving the 2020 Combined Street Improvement Project; Approve Plans & Specifications, Authorize Advertisement for Bids, And Set Bid Date.

Upon a roll call vote: Mayor Rice, Councilmembers Barnett, Freeburg, and Skogquist voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS
12. **UPDATES AND REPORTS**
   
   12.1 **Tentative Agenda(s).**

   The Council reviewed the tentative agendas of the upcoming Council meetings.

   12.2 **Staff and Council Input.**

   Councilmember Barnett said Anoka Winterfest would be held February 8 at George Enloe Park and encouraged the public to attend.

   Councilmember Skogquist asked about ice rink quality. Mr. Anderson said staff continued maintenance but the frequent temperature changes has affected the rinks. He added staff was currently doing pothole cold patching where needed and while this process helped a little and that staff was doing their best unfortunately cold patching was not a long-term solution.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

   Councilmember Freeburg made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council meeting. Councilmember Skogquist seconded the motion.

   Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

   Time of adjournment: 9:10 p.m.


Approval Attestation:

Amy T. Oehlers, City Clerk