

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW  
MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 3, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Martin called the regular meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 3, 2012.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom and Withhart.

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

As we begin this new year, we can all take a great deal of pride in our City's many accomplishments and continue to look forward to Shoreview's bright future. We appreciate the high quality of life that is characteristic of Shoreview – great schools, a tremendous parks and trails system, a low crime rate, numerous lakes and open space areas, outstanding public services, a strong and supportive business community, and our highly recognized Community Center that provides something for everyone in the City. Achieving this high quality of life is the result of having a vision, setting goals, and a great deal of hard work on the part of individuals and community groups.

One of the buzzwords that you continue to hear in government circles is the “new normal”. This “new normal” is characterized as a time of slower economic growth, higher energy costs, slumping housing market, increased health care costs, and an aging and more diverse population. All levels of government have been challenged by these conditions and there are many seminars on how cities should “navigate the new normal”. These sessions will often focus on developing new ways of thinking about government services, finding more effective ways to deliver services, adapting services to deal with a changing population, and encouraging collaboration with other governmental entities.

I am pleased to report that, in a very real sense, Shoreview has been “navigating the new normal” for decades. Whether it's contracting for police and fire services at a much lower cost than most cities, modifying our employee health insurance program to a high deductible plan to save both the City and our employees' money, or finding a better method to resurface roads, Shoreview has been a leader in cost effective local government. In fact, the City portion of homeowner's property tax bills continues to be in the lowest 20% of 29 comparable cities in the metropolitan

area. As a Council, we are extremely proud that we can continue to provide a “quality of life” that is among the highest in the metropolitan area at such an affordable cost to our residents.

### **Financial Condition**

As a result of our strong financial planning efforts and a solid tax base, Shoreview continues to be in excellent financial condition. This resulted in the City’s AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s. This is the highest bond rating available and was achieved as a result of sound financial management policies and practices, low debt levels, solid income levels of our residents and the expansion of our commercial/industrial tax base.

The City Council is also working hard to limit the growth in property taxes. The City’s tax levy for 2012 decreased by about .5%. As noted earlier, the City share of a median value homeowner’s property tax bill is significantly lower at \$765 than comparable cities where the average tax is \$980. The largest increases in the City’s budget have been for public safety (police and fire) services and capital replacement funds for streets, buildings and other City assets.

The Lake Johanna Fire Department is in the process of implementing a new service model to better serve our community. They are now staffing stations with paid on-call firefighters to improve response time to both fire and medical emergencies. Currently, stations are staffed during all weekday daytime hours, Friday and Saturday evenings, and weekday evenings until 9 pm. In April 2012, weekday evening hours will be expanded to 11 pm and stations will also be staffed on Saturdays from 8 am – 5 pm. Although this model is more costly in the short run, the Fire Department leadership believes it is more sustainable and will help maintain a more cost effective paid on-call department for many years into the future. During 2012, we also plan to transition our animal control services from a contract provider to the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department.

### **Economic Development**

Although economic development and redevelopment has been slowed the past few years by the struggling economy, we are encouraged by some recent development activity that will be occurring over the next few years.

Earlier this year, Wells Fargo completed a \$20 million dollar addition to their data center building in the Rice Creek Corporate Park. Also, Cummins Power Generation is nearing completion of interior renovations at their new corporate headquarters, located at I-694 and Victoria Street. It is anticipated that more than 800 employees will be relocated to this site within the next few months.

One of the things we learned from our community survey is that residents would like more dining and restaurants in Shoreview. It is gratifying to report that the Stonehenge Retail Center will be constructed just south of I-694 and east of Lexington. This new retail center, which is part of a larger development plan for the site, will feature both Chipotle and LeeAnn Chin restaurants. The developer expects to announce other tenants, which may include another restaurant, for this retail center in the next several weeks.

We are looking forward to the planned construction of The Cascades, a 105-unit senior housing development on Hodgson Road just north of Highway 96. This senior housing project will provide a variety of housing types, including 30 independent living units, 43 assisted living units, and 32 memory care units, which greatly expands options for seniors who would like to remain in Shoreview. Completion is expected in 2013.

In addition, the City was recently awarded a \$655,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council to assist in the redevelopment of the Midland Terrace apartments located on Victoria Street just south of County Road E. This redevelopment project will include the removal of the older retail center, relocation of Owasso Street to align with County Road E and construction of a more contemporary market rate apartment building. The roadway realignment and preliminary work on the project is expected to occur in 2012, while the construction of the new apartment building is expected to begin in 2013.

### **Maintaining Quality Neighborhoods**

The City Council, along with the Economic Development Authority, has continued to focus on maintaining and encouraging reinvestment in our many quality residential neighborhoods. A year ago, we created the Shoreview Home Energy Improvement Loan Program. As part of this program, residents can obtain loans for energy related home improvements including windows, siding, mechanical systems, etc. To date, this new fund has provided 10 loans to Shoreview homeowners.

Based on our community survey, we know that our residents are increasingly concerned about the appearance of yards and homes in their neighborhoods. Our City staff is continuing to respond to code complaints, and is also conducting pro-active code enforcement through the SHINE program. Our Community Development staff also license and inspect all rental properties on a regular basis to insure that they are complying with our housing maintenance code; and they also monitor blighted and foreclosed properties.

### **Community Center, Parks and Trails**

The Shoreview Community Center continues to be the most popular attraction in Shoreview. When the Community Center opened in 1990, its goal was to serve as the social, cultural and recreational gathering place for the community. As a member of the design task force that helped plan the building in the late 1980's, I can proudly say that the Community Center has not only met this goal, but greatly exceeded all expectations. More than half a million customers visit the Community Center each year. However, when attractions like the Tropics Indoor Water Park, Tropical Adventure Indoor Playground, and a state-of-the-art fitness center are combined with affordable daily admission and membership rates, it should not be surprising that the Community Center continues to be the best place in the Twin Cities for family fun and fitness. For residents who are interested in better health and wellness in the coming year, I encourage you to consider a membership at your very own Community Center. State of the art exercise equipment, classes, and personal trainers are there to assist you with your goals.

The City's Park and Recreation staff does an outstanding job planning a variety of recreation programs, as well as special events and activities at the Community Center. In 2012, we look forward to a return of the extremely popular Farmers' Market that runs from mid-June through October. The always popular Concert in the Commons summer music series will also be back on Wednesday evenings this summer. Many families also enjoy the Friday Night Outdoor Flicks and the Dive-In movies at the Community Center.

Our largest and most popular community event, the Slice of Shoreview, will be held from July 27-29 at Island Lake County Park. The theme for this year's event will be announced at the Taste of Slice event that will be held on February 23 at the Community Center. Through the hard work of our Sister City Association and the Shoreview Northern Lights Band, we will be hosting a visit from the Musikcorps Band from Einhausen, Germany. Thirty-nine band and family members will be enjoying a visit to Shoreview and the performance of a joint concert.

Our City park system continues to be well utilized by residents and various youth athletic associations, however, it is starting to reach an age where several of the parks need some updating and improvements. About two years ago, the City completed a significant renovation of Sitzer Park, one of the oldest parks in the City's system. During 2012, we anticipate making improvements to both Bucher and Wilson parks. Bucher Park is scheduled for some major updates including new playground equipment. At Wilson Park, the playground area is expected to be replaced and relocated, the hockey rink will be relocated, and a picnic shelter will be constructed. These improvements at Wilson Park are consistent with a Master Plan update that was completed in the mid-2000's.

The City's trail and sidewalk system is our most widely used recreational resource in the City. According to our community survey, nearly 50% of Shoreview residents use the trail system on a weekly basis. During 2011, Ramsey County paved the crushed limestone trail through the Grass Lake Open Space area making it far easier to navigate on bicycle or rollerblades. Our Bikeways and Trails Committee and our City staff continue to look for opportunities to expand the trail system as part of various road or park improvement projects that are scheduled in the City.

### **Environmental Initiatives and Other Projects**

The City is maintaining its focus on environmental issues in the community. While much of our focus is on water quality since there are eleven lakes and numerous wetland areas located in the City, we are increasingly concerned about the urban forest. In July, the Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in the Shamrock Park neighborhood in northwest Shoreview. The Emerald Ash Borer is one of the most destructive tree pests and it has killed millions of ash trees in 15 states. Shoreview is the fourth community in the metro area where this beetle has been discovered. Our Council, in conjunction with the Environmental Quality Committee, is in the process of developing a management plan and updating our ordinance to address this threat to our urban forest. The City held an informational meeting regarding the EAB in August, and hopes to hold another community meeting on this topic to provide information to homeowners about various methods to combat the spread of the EAB.

The City also successfully transitioned to a new recycling provider, Allied Waste, last January. Although the number of residents that recycle is at an all-time high, recycling volume and tonnage has dropped due to fewer households receiving newspapers. In response to requests from many residents, we will be able to recycle many more plastics, including items such as yogurt, margarine, and cottage cheese containers, plastic bags, and juice boxes as part of the 2012 curbside recycling program. Check out our website to see a more complete listing of items that can now be recycled.

We were also pleased to learn that the expansion and renovation of the City's 35 year old Maintenance Center received the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification by the Green Building Council. The City's Maintenance Center was the first in the nation to be certified Gold under the 2009 LEED rating system and was only the fifth City facility in the state to be LEED certified.

Our Environmental Quality Committee is also continuing its annual speaker series in 2012. The speaker series will run from January through April on the third Wednesday of the month and will cover topics ranging from rain gardens and attracting birds to your yard to public transit.

### **Conclusion**

The City Council and I are committed to insuring that our government process is open and accessible, and that our residents are well informed. We televise all of our regular City Council and Planning Commission meetings, have increased the number of ShoreViews issues from four to six per year, and are expanding the amount of information and content on our website as part of our effort to provide residents with more timely information. As I have done since first elected Mayor in 1996, I will continue to hold office hours on most Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. to discuss residents' issues and concerns.

I was very honored this year to receive the C.C. Ludwig Award for outstanding service and leadership from the League of Minnesota Cities. While it is always nice to receive recognition, this award says far more about the type of community that we have in Shoreview. From my colleagues on the City Council who contribute countless hours to make Shoreview a better place to live, work and play; to our commission/committee members who provide sound recommendations and advice to the Council; to our outstanding City staff who provide high quality service and programs to our residents; and finally, and most important, to all of our residents who demonstrate "community spirit" throughout the year – we have all helped to make Shoreview a premier suburb in the Twin Cities area.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. Thank you for listening, I look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Martin requested a brief discussion on the Cleanup Day date for spring and a brief discussion on the DNR request for a kiosk in the Community Center under the *Special Order of Business* portion of the meeting.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to approve the January 3, 2012 agenda as amended.

**VOTE:** Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were none.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

#### **Mayor Martin:**

The Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) will begin its series of workshops on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. The first session will be by a representative from the Rice Creek Watershed District on the benefits of putting in rain gardens.

#### **Councilmember Wickstrom:**

The Yellow Ribbon Committee will meet on January 19, 2012, at Roseville City Hall at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping military families in the area is invited to attend. There will be a holiday party for military families at the new Arden Hills Readiness Center, which is north of the public works garage on Hamline Avenue. Help is needed for setup, cleanup and decorating. Donations are also needed for deserts and non-alcoholic drinks. The party will be on January 22, 2012. Anyone wishing to contact Councilmember Wickstrom regarding the Yellow Ribbon Committee can email her at [ady@adywickstrom.com](mailto:ady@adywickstrom.com).

#### **Councilmember Withhart:**

A reception will be held Friday, January 6, 2012, at the Community Center for retiring Park and Recreation Director Jerry Haffeman.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Huffman requested separate consideration of the December 19, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Withhart, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to approve the Consent Agenda for January 3, 2012, and all relevant resolutions for all items, except item No. 2, December 19, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes:

1. December 12, 2011 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
3. Verified Claims in the Amount of \$599,303.08
4. Purchases
5. Change Order #2 - Buffalo Lane Reconstruction, CP 11-09
6. Authorizing the Request for Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds Amending Resolution No. 11-82
7. Acceptance of Donations for New Year's Eve Party

Discussion:

Councilmember Quigley expressed his appreciation for the significant gift of Dairy Queen cones for the New Year's Eve party. City Manager Schwerm added that over 700 people attended the New Year's Eve event.

Mayor Martin read an email she received thanking the City for a wonderful New Year's Eve party event.

VOTE:           Ayes - 5                           Nays - 0

MOTION:       by Councilmember Withhart, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to approve the December 19, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes.

VOTE:           Ayes - 4                           Nays - 0                           Abstain - 1 (Huffman)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**DESIGNATION OF LEGAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2012**

City Manager Schwerm stated that state law requires the City to designate a legal newspaper at the first meeting of the year. Two quotes were received. The *Shoreview Arden Hills Bulletin* submitted a quote for \$3.25 per column inch. The *Shoreview Press* quote is \$4.45 per column inch. It was learned recently that the *Shoreview Press* will now be published bi-weekly, which is of concern to staff regarding timely legal notices. Staff is recommending the *Shoreview Arden Hills Bulletin* for 2012.

Councilmember Wickstrom noted that the City does put many ads in the *Shoreview Press*. However, for legal notices, she would have the same concern about them being timely. Mr. Schwerm agreed, stating that many ads are put in the *Shoreview Press*, as it hits the City's target audience for the Community Center.

Councilmember Huffman asked if there would be a cost difference in the number of times published in a bi-weekly paper as opposed to a weekly paper. Mr. Schwerm responded that legal

notices are generally published once, but there are some circumstances when they are published more than once, such as bid-related items. It is approximately a \$1500 budget item. If the *Shoreview Press* were used, the cost would be approximately \$2000 with the increase in rates. His concern is the timeliness of when notices need to be published. An example would be a late Planning Commission application that does not fall on the right schedule for publishing, which would push the application back a month.

Councilmember Huffman stated that he would support staff's recommendation but would be interested to know how other cities work around bi-weekly publication.

Mayor Martin stated that the Community Survey shows that 54% of Shoreview residents get their local news from the *Shoreview Press*, which provides a good service to the community. However, she added that there are instances when there are accelerated time frames when projects are on a rush for approval. If there is a delay in publishing notices, it could jeopardize a project. She noted that this is an antiquated requirement from the state, as so many notices are online, and the City does such a good job notifying residents with letters. However, it is still a requirement.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that the League of Minnesota Cities is working to abolish the requirement for newspaper notices and allow notice to be given online.

**Mr. Carter Johnson**, *Shoreview Press*, stated that local newspapers are the best read for local news. He does not understand why the League of Minnesota Cities would seek to change the notice requirement, residents get minimal information from the website and only 17% of residents get news from the City newsletter. His concern is to keep the flow of information in the community. In September 2011, the *Shoreview Press* purchased the local newspaper in Hugo, which is a bi-weekly product. The City Council in Hugo has been successful in getting legal notices published on time. He would like Shoreview to continue legal notices with the *Shoreview Press* and/or continue in other ways to use the *Shoreview Press*. He urged the Council to pay attention to the 54% who get their local news from the *Shoreview Press*.

Councilmember Quigley agreed with all comments relating to the good coverage provided by the *Shoreview Press* but agreed that when there are rushed deadlines with applications moving from the Planning Commission to the Council, he can understand staff's concerns.

Mayor Martin agreed that the *Shoreview Press* covers Shoreview news much better than the *Bulletin*. Maybe *Access Shoreview* can be put in the *Shoreview Press*, if legal notices are being put in the *Bulletin*.

Councilmember Withhart noted that *Access Shoreview* was one of many cuts to the budget this year. He does not believe a bi-weekly paper would be much of a lag time for notices but would like to know how big of a problem it would be. Mr. Schwerm stated that it would hurt customer service. Sometimes additional days are given for submitting planning applications. If the publication deadline does not coincide with the newspaper publication date, some applications could be pushed back a month. The alternative would be to move the public hearing from the Planning Commission to the City Council, but that is not the preferred method.

Mayor Martin noted that even though *Access Shoreview* was cut, it would be half the cost this year if it were only published in one newspaper. Mr. Schwerm stated that the City will be under budget in communications this year until the new position is filled, which would allow some funding for *Access Shoreview*.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Withhart to designate the *Shoreview/Arden Hills Bulletin* as the legal newspaper for the City of Shoreview for the 2012 calendar year.

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom, Withhart, Martin  
Nays: None

It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to begin putting *Access Shoreview* back in the *Shoreview Press*, using the funding not used for the new communications position.

### **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Martin stated that the applicants are not new but are members already serving who would like to have their terms renewed. Mr. Schwerm noted that applications are being accepted for commission/committee vacancies until January 27, 2012.

Councilmember Withhart urged interested residents to submit an application to serve on one of the commissions or committees. New people and new ideas are welcome.

**MOTION:** by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Wickstrom to reappoint the following individuals to their respective committees/commissions for terms expiring January 31, 2015:

Bikeways and Trails Committee	Craig Francisco Judd Zandstra Pat Evans
Economic Development Commission	Ben Stephens Gene Marsh
Environmental Quality Committee	Tim Pratt Susan Rengstorf
Human Rights Commission	Richard Bokovoy Samuel Abdullai Cory Springhorn
Lake Regulations Committee	Gene Soderbeck

Park and Recreation Committee	Catherine Jo Healy Carol Jauch Linda Larson
Public Safety Committee	Justine Greene
Telecommunications and Technology	William Radmer

Discussion:

Councilmember Wickstrom noted that the Lake Regulations Committee only met once last year. She asked if it would make more sense for it to become an ad hoc committee.

Councilmember Quigley stated that he had the same question. Also, the Telecommunications and Technology Committee only met three times.

Mayor Martin suggested making the requested appointments and having further discussion on the issues raised by Councilmember Wickstrom and Councilmember Quigley at a workshop meeting.

ROLL CALL:           Ayes: Quigley, Wickstrom, Withhart, Huffman, Martin  
                              Nays: None

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2012**

MOTION:     by Councilmember Huffman, seconded by Councilmember Withhart to appoint the following individuals to represent the City of Shoreview on various organizations for the year 2012:

Fire Department Board of Directors  
Delegates: Terry Quigley and Terry Schwerm

Fire Department Benefits Association  
Delegate: Terry Quigley  
Alternate: Ben Withhart

League of Minnesota Cities  
Delegate: Ady Wickstrom  
Alternate: Terry Quigley

Municipal Legislative Commission  
Delegate: Mayor Martin, Terry Schwerm  
Alternate: Ben Withhart

**North Suburban Communications Commission**

Delegate: Blake Huffman

Alternate: Ady Wickstrom

**Northwest Youth and Family Services**

Delegate: Blake Huffman

Alternate: Mayor Martin

**Ramsey County League of Local Governments**

Delegate: Ady Wickstrom

Alternate: Blake Huffman

**Suburban Rate Authority**

Delegate: Mark Maloney

Alternate: Terry Quigley

**Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities)**

Delegate: Ady Wickstrom

Alternate: Blake Huffman

**Acting Mayor**

Delegate: Blake Huffman

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Wickstrom, Withhart, Huffman, Quigley, Martin

Nays: None

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS****Allied Waste**

Mr. Schwerm reported that Allied Waste has indicated that they can service the traditional first Saturday in May as Cleanup Day. However, they have a number of other cities that have the same Cleanup Day and are not able to commit as many resources in Shoreview as they would like. Allied Waste has requested that Cleanup Day in Shoreview be moved to the third Saturday in May, when many more resources would be available for the event.

Councilmember Withhart stated that he would favor keeping the same date. Mr. Maloney stated that the issue is the limited number of packer trucks available. Mr. Schwerm added that the line would be more efficient if packer trucks could be changed more quickly. He also has some concern about changing the traditional date.

Councilmember Withhart asked if information could be obtained as to how much quicker the line would move, if the date were changed.

Mayor Martin noted that the date has been reserved with Ramsey County Public Works and Arden Hills. Her preference also would be to keep the same traditional date on the first Saturday

in May. She would not want it to conflict with the fishing opener. Mr. Maloney added that coordination with hazardous waste also must be checked.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that if the date is changed, she would want residents to receive plenty of notice.

Staff will get more detailed information to bring back to the Council.

### **DNR Request**

Mr. Schwerm stated that the DNR has requested to place an interactive kiosk in the Community Center for state parks and trails. It would be located on the lower level.

It was the consensus of the Council to support the DNR request.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: by Councilmember Withhart, seconded by Councilmember Huffman to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

VOTE:                   Ayes - 5                   Nays - 0

Mayor Martin declared the meeting adjourned.

THESE MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2012.

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Terry C. Schwerm  
City Manager