CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska met in regular session in the Council Chambers, 309 North 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska on the 19th day of December 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Following a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Josh Moenning called the meeting to order. Roll call found the following Councilmembers present: Corey Granquist, Frank Arens, Justin Webb, Thad Murren, Gary L. Jackson, Shane Clausen and Kory Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: Andrew McCarthy.

Staff members present were: City Administrator Andy Colvin, City Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle, City Clerk Brianna Duerst, Finance Officer Randy Gates, Public Safety Director Scott Cordes, Administrative Secretary Bethene Hoff, Public Works Director Steve Rames, Director of Administrative Services Lyle Lutt, Wastewater Superintendent Robert Huntley, Water and Sewer Director Chad Roberts, Economic Development Director Candice Alder, Communications Manager Nick Stevenson, Street Supervisor Will Elwell, Street Shop Manager Matt Ernesti, City Planner Val Grimes, Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Powell, and Police Chief Don Miller.

The Mayor presided and the City Clerk recorded the proceedings.

The Mayor informed the public about the location of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the City Council Chambers and accessible to members of the public.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Norfolk Daily News, Norfolk, Nebraska, the designated method of giving notice, as shown by affidavit of publication.

Notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Agenda Motions

Councilmember Murren moved, seconded by Councilmember Clausen to approve the consent agenda as printed. Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Arens to adopt the full agenda as printed. Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Consent Agenda Items Approved

Minutes of the December 5, 2022 City Council meeting

Minutes of the December 16, 2022 Emergency City Council meeting

Keno comparison report for October and November 2022

Cancel the January 3, 2023 City Council meeting

Mayor's reappointment of Councilman Thad Murren, Councilman Gary Jackson, and Councilman Andrew McCarthy to the Railroad Transportation Safety District for a one-year term as required by state statute

Subcommittee appointments by Council President Shane Clausen as follows:
Public Services, Traffic and Infrastructure: Kory Hildebrand, Frank Arens, Justin Webb and Thad Murren
Public Health and Safety, Emergency Services: Corey Granquist, Gary Jackson and Andrew McCarthy
Community and Economic Development: Corey Granquist, Shane Clausen, Frank Arens and Thad Murren
Culture and Recreation: Kory Hildebrand, Justin Webb and Gary Jackson
Policies and Procedures: Shane Clausen, Andrew McCarthy, Corey Granquist and Gary Jackson

Mayor's appointment of José Nuño and Tracy Kaczor to the Vehicle Off-Street Parking District No. 1 for a term ending January 2026

Maintenance Agreement No. 19 with the Nebraska Department of Transportation for calendar year 2023, and authorization for the Mayor to execute Certificate of Compliance at the end of 2023.

Advertise for bids for the removal and replacement of a Trickling Filter Support Mast at Water Pollution Control (WPC)

Purchase a fleet vehicle for $43,889.00 from Anderson Auto Group through State Contract #15725, for use by the Street Division

Ratify the approval of an addendum agreement with North Fork Area Transit, Inc., a Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation, to amend the terms of the original agreement dated October 18, 2021, to allow additional options for the payment of City's annual contribution to fund ongoing operations for transit services

Ratify the approval for City of Norfolk to pay $88,155.98 to North Fork Area Transit, Inc., a Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation

Bills in the amount of $2,815,281.84

Public Hearings and Related Items

Public Hearing
(Citizen Advisory Review Committee)

A public hearing was held to receive a report on findings and suggestions from the economic development Citizen Advisory Review Committee as required by State Statutes Section 18-2715. Finance Officer Randy Gates provided information to the Mayor and City Council. State Statutes require a Citizen Advisory Review Committee (CARC). The citizens serving on CARC are: Cindy Morrow, Brandon Day, Aaron Otten, Jan Einspahr and Kathie Means. The City's Finance Officer serves as an ex officio non-voting member of CARC. State Statutes require the CARC to meet at least once in every six-month period and to report to the City Council on its findings and suggestions at a public hearing called for that purpose. The committee reviewed and discussed the following: 1) Current funding. 2) LB 840 Plan amendment to include film production as a qualifying business 3). 4) Economic development update. 5) CARC findings and suggestions for public hearing.

This item was for informational purposes only.

Public Hearing
(Universal Resources, Inc. zone change, 706 Columbia Street)

A public hearing was held to consider a zone change from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential District) and C-3 (Service Commercial District), to C-3 (Service Commercial District) generally located at 706 Columbia Street and property to the south at the request of Universal Resources, Inc. City Planner Valerie Grimes provided information to the Mayor and City Council. Grimes said if the zoning change ordinance does not pass on all three readings, the plat that goes with the zoning change will need to be pulled from the agenda, as it cannot be considered unless the zoning is changed. Grimes described the general layout of the plan and the discussion at Planning Commission, where no major things came up. If this land changes to C-3 and expansion of storage is desired, the owner would need to come in for CUP, and the highway corridor overlay would kick in. Access is off Columbia Street and will have continued access from existing storage units. One lot is zoned R-3 and has house that will be non-conforming, but the house will come down once storage units are expanded.

On December 6, 2022, the Norfolk Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the zone change request of Universal, Inc. The City Clerk read the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval into the record.

No one appeared either in favor of or in opposition to the zone change and the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

Ordinance No. 5815
(Universal Resources, Inc. zone change, 706 Columbia Street)

Councilmember Granquist introduced, seconded by Councilmember Arens, Ordinance No. 5815 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, MADISON COUNTY,

NEBRASKA; AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA; PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM and moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading. Said ordinance was then read into the record by title by the City Clerk.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. Ordinance No. 5815 passed on first reading.

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Arens, that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days was suspended for consideration of said ordinance.

Thereafter Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Arens, that the statutory rules requiring reading on three different days be suspended and for final passage of the ordinance. The Mayor then stated the question "Shall Ordinance No. 5815 be passed and adopted?"

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. The passage and adoption of said ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor signed and approved the ordinance and the City Clerk attested the passage and adoption of the same and affixed her signature thereto. The Mayor then instructed the City Clerk to publish said Ordinance No. 5815 as required by law.

Resolution No. 2022-65
(Hupp-Pile Addition final plat)

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Murren, for adoption of Resolution No. 2022-65 approving the final plat of Hupp-Pile Addition.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. Resolution No. 2022-65 was adopted.

Regular Agenda Items

Ordinance No. 5814
(Promise Land Properties, LLC zone change, 301 South 8th Street

Councilmember Arens moved, seconded by Councilmember Granquist, to remove from the table Ordinance No. 5814 approving a zoning change from I-1 (Light Industrial District), to R-1 (Single Family Residential District) on property addressed as 301 S. 8th Street. This ordinance was tabled at the December 5, 2022 City Council meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Councilmember Granquist introduced, seconded by Councilmember Clausen, Ordinance No. 5814 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA; AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA; PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM and moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading.

City Planner Val Grimes provided information to elected officials. This zoning change was tabled as there were concerns with the bufferyard requirements between industrial and residential zoning districts. Options for the property: 1) rezone to residential. If this is done, Grimes would file an affidavit with the Madison County Register of Deeds that alerts future owners to the bufferyard issue. 2) Leave industrial and have acceptable business request a watchman's conditional use permit. 3) Rehab the property into an industrial use. Staff has done an inspection of the property. City code requires any property that will require more than 50% of it's value to rehab, that the structure be demolished. This structure needs new plumbing, all new electrical and structural repairs so could hit that 50% threshold. This requirement applies to any property. Grimes also noted that the back of the house is approximately five feet from the wall of the warehouse, which is a safety concern. Bufferyard requirement between residential and industrial is 40-feet.

Councilmember Clausen expressed concern with the 50% rule and would like to see a change to that requirement. Clausen said he is in favor of changing the zoning on this property to residential and would like to look at changes to code to more easily allow people to buy and fix up properties.

Councilmember Clausen asked about the Planning Commission recommendation. Duerst said at the Planning Commission meeting there was a motion to approve the zoning change; that motion failed unanimously.

Councilmember Hildebrand expressed concern of potential safety issues with the proximity of the warehouse and liability to the City if someone were injured.

Jasmin Gomez, applicant, said the plan is to rehab and sell the house. Timeframe for the rehab is anticipated to take 3-6 months.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Webb, Jackson and Clausen. Nays: Arens, Murren and Hildebrand. Absent: McCarthy. There being a tie vote, Mayor Moenning voted Aye and broke the tie, therefore, the motion carried on a 5-3 vote. Ordinance No. 5814 passed on first reading.

Ordinance No. 5810
(Amend City Code Section 25, tree and shrub planting)

Councilmember Granquist introduced, seconded by Councilmember Arens, Ordinance No. 5810 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-1, 25-2, 25-3, AND 25-9 OF THE OFFICIAL CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT THE REMOVAL OF CITY CORRIDOR TREES FUNDED AND/OR PLANTED BY THE CITY WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE CITY; TO ALLOW PLANTING A TREE CLOSER THAN 5 FEET TO THE BACK OF A CURB ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL STREETS; TO PROVIDE WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM and moved that the ordinance be passed on third reading.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson and Clausen. Nays: Hildebrand. Absent: McCarthy. The passage and adoption of said ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor signed and approved the ordinance and the City Clerk attested the passage and adoption of the same and affixed her signature thereto. The Mayor then instructed the City Clerk to publish said Ordinance No. 5810 as required by law.

Ordinance No. 5811
(annex property, First Christian Church)
(southeast of East Benjamin Avenue and North Victory Road)

Councilmember Granquist introduced, seconded by Councilmember Murren, Ordinance No. 5811 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, TO ANNEX TO SAID CITY THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE 6TH P. M., MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA. REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM and moved that the ordinance be passed on third reading.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. Ordinance No. 5811 passed on third reading. The passage and adoption of said ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor signed and approved the ordinance and the City Clerk attested the passage and adoption of the same and affixed her signature thereto. The Mayor then instructed the City Clerk to publish said Ordinance No. 5811 as required by law.

Resolution No. 2022-63
(stop signs, South 7th Street and Madison Avenue)

Councilmember Arens moved, seconded by Councilmember Hildebrand, to remove from the table Resolution No. 2022-63 approving to switch stop signs from north/south traffic to east/west traffic at the intersection of S. 7th Street and Madison Avenue. This resolution was tabled at the December 5, 2022 City Council meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Councilmember Jackson moved, seconded by Councilmember Murren, for approval of Resolution No. 2022-63 approving to switch stop signs from north/south traffic to east/west traffic at the intersection of S. 7th Street and Madison Avenue.

Public Works Director Steven Rames said staff has reached out to the Department of Transportation, Railroad Safety Liaison Engineer, Railroad Transportation Safety District and NE Central Railroad and are still engaged in those conversations. It was determined it would be best for all entities to meet onsite to discuss options. That meeting will bescheduled in the first two weeks of January in order to be ready to make a recommendation at the January 17, 2023 City Council meeting. Rames asked the resolution be re-tabled until that time.

Councilmember Granquist asked if the resolution could be re-tabled. City Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle explained the resolution could be re-tabled. If it is determined amendments need to be made, the recommendation would be to vote the current resolution down and bring forward a completely new resolution with the necessary amendments included.

Councilmember Arens asked if the north/south 2-way stop was the only consideration or if other options were being considered. Rames said all options for the intersection would be considered.

Roll call: Ayes: None. Nays: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Absent: McCarthy. Resolution No. 2022-63 failed.

JEO Consulting Group, Inc. Amendment No. 1
(Johnson Park Final Design Project)

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Murren, to remove from the table Amendment No. 1 to the original engineering services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Johnson Park Final Design project for an amount of $99,820.00. This item was tabled at the December 5, 2022 City Council meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Clausen, for approval of Amendment No. 1 to the original engineering services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Johnson Park Final Design project for an amount of $99,820.00.

City Administrator Andy Colvin said, per Council direction at the last meeting, he did reach out to JEO to request a meeting to discuss the justification for the change order in more detail. That meeting had to be postponed due to time constraints but should occur in the next two to three weeks, at which time Colvin would be able to provide a full report, likely at the January 17, 2023 City Council meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: None. Nays: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Absent: McCarthy. Motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to the original engineering services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Johnson Park Final Design project for an amount of $99,820.00 failed.

Advertise for bids, Concrete Improvements FY 2022-2023 project

Councilmember Hildebrand moved, seconded by Councilmember Murren, for approval to advertise for bids for the Concrete Improvements FY 2022-2023 project.

Public Works Director Steven Rames provided information to elected officials. This project includes concrete improvements to the following areas: Golfview Drive, Center and Michigan Avenue intersection, 10th Street and Ann Avenue, and Darrus Drive. A bid letting is tentatively scheduled for early 2023 with Council approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder following.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Ordinance No. 5816
(Paving District No. 520 creation, Walters' East Knolls 14th Addition)
(Starr Avenue, Walters Drive and Penney Lane)

Councilmember Hildebrand introduced, seconded by Councilmember Granquist, Ordinance No. 5816 entitled: AN ORDINANCE CREATING PAVING DISTRICT NO. 520 IN THE CITY OF NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, ORDERING THE CONSTRUCTION OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS THEREIN AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM. and moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading. Said ordinance was then read into the record by title by the City Clerk.

Public Works Director Steven Rames provided information to elected officials. The property owner requested creation of a paving district for the thirteen lots in Walters' East Knolls 14th Addition. This will connect the subdivision to Benjamin Avenue. Work will be completed in early spring 2023 and will be assessed in early fall the same year.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. Ordinance No. 5816 passed on first reading.

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Arens, that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days was suspended for consideration of said ordinance.

Thereafter Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Arens, that the statutory rules requiring reading on three different days be suspended and for final passage of the ordinance. The Mayor then stated the question "Shall Ordinance No. 5816 be passed and adopted?"

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy. The passage and adoption of said ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor signed and approved the ordinance and the City Clerk attested the passage and adoption of the same and affixed her signature thereto. The Mayor then instructed the City Clerk to publish said Ordinance No. 5816 as required by law.

Purchase Falcon 4 Ton-Transporter Asphalt Hot Box, Street Division

Councilmember Granquist moved, seconded by Councilmember Jackson, for approval to purchase a Falcon 4 Ton-Transporter Asphalt Hot Box, through Sourcewell contract number 052417-FRM in the amount of $35,576.00 + $2,260.00 shipping for a total of $37,836, for use by the Street Division.

Street Superintendent Will Elwell provided information to elected officials. This equipment will allow for cold or hot mix. The size of the equipment is sufficient for what it will be used for, which is potholes, not large patches. The hot mix creates more of a permanent patch for the potholes.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

Purchase Air Diffusers for SBR System from Vessco, Water Pollution Control

Councilmember Arens moved, seconded by Councilmember Murren, for approval for the Water Pollution Control (WPC) to purchase air diffusers for SBR system from Vessco, for the amount of $42,140.00.

Wastewater Superintendent Rob Huntley provided information to elected officials. WPC has a four cell SBR system each basin has 750 diffusers for aeration, each cell is on a 7 year rotation for replacement. Vessco is the only provider of this style diffuser. The cost with shipping for one basin is $41,250 and is budgeted for fiscal year 2022/2023.

Roll call: Ayes: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Murren, Jackson, Clausen and Hildebrand. Nays: None. Absent: McCarthy.

PROS Consulting agreement
(Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

Councilmember Hildebrand moved, seconded by Councilmember Jackson, for approval of an agreement with PROS consulting for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the amount not to exceed $90,620.

Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Powell discussed the master plan process:

- Task 1 – Project Management, which would include a kick-off meeting, setting of expectations, data collection and progress reporting.
- Task 2 – Community Profile & Needs Assessment, which would include a demographic and recreation trends analysis, benchmark analysis, focus group interviews, public forms and workshops and surveys.
- Task 3 – Facilities and Recreation Assessment, which would include looking at general conditions of facilities, compatibility with neighborhoods, access, safety and programming. Will also review current maintenance, operations and prioritization of needs as well as funding and revenue strategies.
- Task 4 – Implementation Plan, which includes the mission, vision and goals and a strategic action plan.

Powell said we are wanting to create a healthy Parks and Recreation Department and discussed the current stagnant revenues and cost recovery, which was 18% in 2022. That was accomplished by lowering expenses and increasing revenues. A healthy Parks and Recreation Department would be closer to a 50% cost recovery, but 30% would be great in this scenario.

Powell said the benefits of having a master plan in place include being fiscally responsible, improved facilities, accountability and direction through a public process.

Councilmember Arens asked how Powell plans to reach the cost recovery goal. Powell said we will look at fees, have conversations with schools to ensure they are paying their fair share, look at sponsorships and ultimately identity how much each of these will benefit the cost recovery goal.

Councilmember Hildebrand asked when the City last had a Parks Master Plan done and if the goals were met. Powell said a master plan was completed in 2010, but was not adopted by Council. That plan focused on the addition of Aquaventure and improvements to Memorial Field.

Councilmember Clausen expressed concern with approval of a $90,000 master plan for Parks while we have a $99,000 change order for Johnson Park still undecided. Clausen said he feels like we need to figure out what is going on with the change order first and said that considering both is too much to swallow at one time. Clausen questioned if the master plan could be tabled to give a little more time to figure out the change order for Johnson Park, as everything is parks related.

Powell said, without a master plan completed, staff will have to continue to guess needs when it comes time to do the budget. This is also a good time for staff to work on this.

Moenning said he views the master plan as a completely separate issue to what is going on with the change order for Johnson Park. The master plan will help make the Park Department more efficient. It appears the plan seems to cover a lot of aspects we haven't ever thought about.

Moenning said this is a very good, necessary exercise to do evaluation of how the Parks Department is operating now, how efficient the department is, and where we can recover costs.

Councilmember Webb asked about the cost to review current maintenance and operations and why we could not do that in-house. Webb said he feels reviewing current operations and maintenance should be done by staff instead of contracting it out. Powell said what he is proposing is that we find funding to have the money available through means other than the general fund. Powell also mentioned several other master plans that have been completed for other city divisions or projects that were done by outside companies.

Mayor Moenning said that asking the Parks and Recreation Director to do the work of a master plan in-house would be pulling him away from trying to run the division like it is supposed to be ran. Moenning noted Council has approved master plans for several utilities at much higher price tags. Powell said staff does not like the way the department has been operating and that it will take significant work to change that. Powell also said we do not want to allow our facilities to continue to deteriorate and that we are working from behind at this point.

Councilmember Jackson asked if having a master plan assists in getting grants. Powell said almost all grants are looking for a master plan.

Councilmember Hildebrand asked how long the master plan would be good for before needing to do another plan. Powell said it would be good for about ten years. By then, things would have likely changed enough to consider a new plan.

Councilmember Granquist asked about the number of employees in the Parks Department. Powell said there are 16 full-time employees, over 100 employees at Aquaventure during the summer, 10 seasonal employees and eight summer employees.

Mayor Moenning said Parks and Recreation within the city of Norfolk has not always been given the same level of importance as other divisions, which is how we have gotten to a point where our parks are in disrepair. If we want to see cultural change within the department, we want to give Parks the resources to change that and become competitive with other communities. Moenning said Powell is trying to make the division run efficiently through cost recovery and formation of collaborations, and this process helps us explore opportunities and is a necessary step in helping us improve Parks and Rec as a whole in the community.

Jim McKenzie, 1412 Longhorn Drive, said he is not opposed to the study, but questions what it accomplishes other than spending money. McKenzie noted the Parks Department now has more staff that could do a lot of the work of a master plan. McKenzie said he appreciates the Council looking out for the taxpayer's dollars and using them to the best benefit. We need to prioritize the money we have.

Olivia Matteo said most things wanted from the outside agency should be done in-house. Matteo said Powell has the background to do the work instead of hiring an outside agency and feels now is the wrong time to spend money on this.

Tim Ernst asked about Keno fund uses for parks and asked questions about purchases for the Parks Department. Finance Officer Randy Gates said there is $826,000 budgeted, minus $135,000 in Keno taxes, in Keno funds this fiscal year, which is budgeted to be spent on Parks and Recreation.

Roll call: Ayes: Murren and Jackson. Nays: Granquist, Arens, Webb, Clausen and Hildebrand. Absent: McCarthy. Motion failed.

Public Comment Period

Steve Sehi asked if the City is going to continue funding North Fork Area Transit per the agreement that was approved by Council on October 18, 2021 in light of recent events. City Attorney Danielle Myers-Noelle noted that, as part of the City's contract with North Fork Area Transit, there is a termination provision and as the investigation continues, if it is determined the termination provision should be considered, it would be brought to the Council to be decided on.

Jim McKenzie, 1412 Longhorn Drive, discussed text messages and emails received from Councilmember McCarthy on December 9 regarding McKenzie's past real estate investments and personal business. McKenzie said, as citizen of Norfolk, he has every right to ask questions, bring up information, criticize city decisions, all of which should be welcomed by the elected body. McKenzie said he has significant concerns with city operations, city spending and city decision making.

Jacque McPhearson said she is a former employee of North Fork Area Transit and worked under Jeff Stewart. McPheason said she understands everyone is angry about the situation, but there are people in the community that need transit services, and implored the Council to find a way to save it. McPheason said she reached out to the Department of Transportation on October 27, 2022 about concerns of theft of money.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Josh Moenning
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brianna Duerst
City Clerk

(S E A L)

I, the undersigned Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is the full, true and correct original document of proceedings of Monday, December 19, 2022, had and done by the Mayor and City Council; that all of the subjects included in the proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____

Brianna Duerst
City Clerk

(S E A L)