

KINDRED CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 | 6:30 pm | Kindred City Hall

Present: Mayor Darrell Kersting, CMs Adam Spelhaug, Julie Johnson and Ozzie Peraza. Absent: Matt Sharp.
Others present: Park Board Members Rob Sahr, Lydia Ronningen, Kevin Mehrer and Lloyd Hoffarth, Parks Director Mike Brown, Auditor Tabitha Arnaud, Joel Ronningen, Lisa Anderson, Amy & Brandon Thilmony, Sara Fitzpatrick, Therese Schmitz, Justine Gibbon, Guest 1 & 2.

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION, passed – To approve consent calendar items: 09/04/2024 & 09/09/2024 meeting minutes; delinquent utility accounts list; bills for payment and financial reports for September 2024. Peraza moved; Johnson second. RCV (Roll Call Vote); MCU (Motion Carried Unanimously).

FALL DISCUSSION WITH PARK DISTRICT
Comprehensive & Transportation Plan

Reviewed the CTP process and the Oct 3 SRC workshop. Excited to see what the public engagement survey looks like and how the feedback and plan will help build the community's future.

Pool: End of Season Report, 2025 Sub-Lease/Management Agreement, Liners/Improvements, Others

With the absence of the PB Accountant the end of the season financials are not yet fully complete. Director Brown provided the following: Revenues were about \$55k; pool pass sales were above budget, swimming lessons a little below budget. Expenses are currently about \$13k versus the 20k budgeted; water usage/costs and chemical expenses were both much lower than anticipated, providing support that the new liners were a wise and effective investment. Once the financials are complete, they will send out to the board members. Brown also reported that winterizing on each pool is complete. Special thanks to MLGC for the use of equipment to blow out the water lines! New this year, the large pool will remain partially filled with water and covered with the tarp to help protect the life of the liner. Brown reported that with the natural gas service available next year, the baby pool heater can be converted from propane but we are waiting for a contractor to assess the heating equipment for the large pool to see if that can be converted as well or if it will need to be replaced with a natural gas unit.

City Park & Linden Lot Updates

PB Member Ronningen reported that additional concrete/sidewalk quotes will be requested over the winter and a T-Mobile grant was submitted for up to \$50k to help cover additional costs of the updates. PB will continue to look for more funding, as they would like to incorporate more ADA equipment and rubber surface/matting in at least a partial area of the new play system, so it can be enjoyed by all.

Downtown "Triangle" Park, Ice Rink

Trying a new location, the ice rink will be placed downtown this year and local volunteers are planning to construct a 10x14 warming house. The City will coordinate with Ottertail Power Co to install electrical service here. Mayor Kersting will be helping to arrange for a tree that can be placed on the lot and PB will help to organize a holiday tree lighting event!

Beautification: planters, watering, signage, etc

Mayor Kersting noted he and Public Works will take care of winterizing the planters. He also shared that a comment was made during the CTP tour stating that it was not evident what street was our "main" street. Even with the lamp post banners, he would like to consider more ways to showcase main street and downtown.

Other plans, goals, needs, etc

PB Member Mehrer shared that the PB Accountant resigned unexpectedly and they are in the process of filling that position. He and Director Brown spoke with Auditor Arnaud about helping out in the short-term to process payroll and accounts payable checks. CM Peraza expressed concern for Arnaud's current workload, which will increase with the transition of utility

billing and accounting software that will begin in December. PB assured that their goal is to find a new accountant as soon as possible, while continuing to address the pressing financial needs in the interim. Arnaud agreed to assist temporarily with the Park's payroll and accounts payable checks thru Nov.

CM Johnson asked about the 2025 sublease agreement for the pool management. PB indicated no revisions are requested; Arnaud stated this is usually reviewed again and approved at the spring joint meeting for that year's season. Johnson also requested a copy of the PB's 2025 budget. Group/guest discussion regarding meeting minutes.

Mayor Kersting commended the Park Board on another great summer season and all the different types of activities and programs offered to the community!

Group/guest discussion regarding the new Newport Ridge park area that includes the new detention pond on the southeast edge of the development; reviewed concepts and uses that are planned once the project is complete.

MOTION, passed – To adjourn meeting at 7:14 pm. Peraza moved, Spelhaug seconded. RCV; MCU.

(Minutes subject to council approval.) (Agenda deadline is noon Wednesday the week before the meeting.)

Darrell Kersting, Mayor

Tabitha Arnaud, City Auditor

Date approved