

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
LITTLE CANADA, MINNESOTA**

AUGUST 23, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 23rd day of August, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road in said City.

Mayor Tom Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and the following members of the City Council were present at roll call:

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Fischer, Council Members T. Miller, and D. Miller.
Absent: Council Members Kwapick and Gutierrez.

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Chris Heineman and City Clerk/HR Manager Heidi Heller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Miller introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

***RESOLUTION NO. 2023-8-87 – APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2023
WORKSHOP AND THE AUGUST 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETINGS AS SUBMITTED***

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by D. Miller.
Ayes (3). Nays (0). Resolution declared adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

T. Miller introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

***RESOLUTION NO. 2023-8-88 – APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH
CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:***

- Approval of the Vouchers
- Accept Donations and Charitable Gambling Funds Received January 1 – August 18, 2023

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Fischer.
Ayes (3). Nays (0). Resolution declared adopted.

STAFF REPORTS

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO RENAME SAVAGE LAKE

The City Administrator provided some background information and ongoing concerns with the name of Savage Lake. He stated that the City Council does not have a specific role in this, but Ramsey

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County is asking for input and/or support in this process and the next steps. He stated that the process requires a petition of 15 or more residents, which has been submitted by the Little Canada Historical Society and noted that Ramsey County will hold a public hearing. He stated that ultimately the recommendation would then be submitted to the MN DNR.

Curt Loschy, Executive Director of Little Canada Historical Society, stated that the petition was submitted in March, and he received a call from Ramsey County requesting more information. He stated that the history of the Savage Lake name was requested, which he was able to provide, as well as the reason for the requested new name, Metis. He explained that Metis means mixed, referring to the history of the Native Americans and French that originally populated Little Canada and mixed together. He explained that the County would like to know that the City does not object to the name change.

Mayor Fischer appreciated the work that Mr. Loschy has done to get to this point as there have been many previous attempts. He stated that this information makes perfect sense.

D. Miller commented that he has no concerns and asked the background on the different groups that were consulted.

Mr. Loschy commented that Metis describes the mixed race that was created, and the word is still used in Canada today. He stated that he interviewed a number of Historical Society members that are Metis, and they supported the name. He confirmed that they will submit this name and it can be accepted or changed by Ramsey County and/or the DNR.

D. Miller recognized that a lot of thought and history went into this process.

The City Administrator stated that this is getting media attention, noting that a link was provided to a recent *Star Tribune* article.

Mr. Loschy stated that they did also research to see if there were Native American names for the lake but were unable to find one. He summarized a brief background on the research they found on the lake.

Mayor Fischer read the draft resolution aloud.

T. Miller introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-8-89 – SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF SAVAGE LAKE IN LITTLE CANADA

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by D. Miller.
Ayes (3). Nays (0). Resolution declared adopted.

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2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY UPDATE

The City Administrator commented that the last workshop was focused on the budget and the preliminary levy was recommended at 7.06 percent as a bare bones increase. He stated that when this comes back to the Council there is a potential to increase the budget by an additional \$100,000 which would result in a levy increase of 9.90 percent. He compared the previously adopted budget and levy for 2023 to that proposed for 2024. He reviewed the primary impacts to the budget including police services and personnel services. He stated that are options as to how the additional \$100,000 proposed to be included in the budget could assist if used towards a community building, the General Capital Fund, or the Capital Infrastructure Fund.

T. Miller commented that it would be helpful for residents to see how this increase would impact residents, noting that the Council saw those numbers and it was minimal and palatable. The City Administrator noted that estimate was included in the staff report. He stated that with the additional \$100,000 the average market value property, the increase would be about \$4.30.

T. Miller commented that this scenario appeals to her because the City will be able to get more done without much of an impact to taxpayers, as it would be less than \$5 per year on average. The City Administrator noted that Little Canada was fourth lowest for tax rates payable in 2023. He noted that the continued increases to the tax base assist in keeping the impact to residents low.

T. Miller commented that she would perhaps support a larger increase as this seems to be a good time to do that. D. Miller agreed.

Mayor Fischer agreed, noting that he would like to better understand what the next investment might be. He noted that staff proposed three different uses for the funds which make sense. He stated that he would like to see the next step up, acknowledging that the preliminary levy is the highest that could be set and that could be decreased if desired before final adoption.

The Council consensus was for staff to present two additional options to consider.

Mayor Fischer recognized the reallocation between the cities for police services, with Falcon Heights exiting the agreement, but noted that two officers are also being added to increase patrol services. T. Miller commented that while she does support staffing, she does see some extraneous costs that continue to be added that seem problematic.

D. Miller asked for more information on the mental health services provided for the officers or to assist the officers and asked if that is funded through the contract. The City Administrator explained that the cities contract for services and the County has chosen to implement the crisis team county-wide as part of its services.

Mayor Fischer provided input on a ride along experience he participated in where he was able to see the benefit of the crisis team being involved.

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COUNCIL REPORTS AND MEETING UPDATES

Mayor Fischer provided an update on the recent Fire Relief meeting he attended. He commented that one of the fire fighters lost a daughter in a traffic accident this past weekend and offered thoughts and prayers to that family.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, upon motion by T. Miller, seconded by D. Miller the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Thomas Fischer, Mayor

Attest:

Christopher Heineman, City Administrator