

**Cambridge City Council Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 3, 2019**

A special meeting of the Cambridge City Council was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center, Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 430 8th Avenue NW, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor James Godfrey; Council Members Kersten Conley, Lisa Iverson, Joe Morin, and Bob Shogren. All present, no absences.

Staff Present: City Administrator Woulfe, Director of Finance Moe.

Others Present: All members of the Isanti County Board, all members of the Cambridge Isanti School District Board, Chris Kampa (CI Schools Finance Director), Elisha Long (Isanti County Assessor) Chad Struss (County Auditor) and Kelsey Lakeberg (Isanti County Finance Director).

Property Tax Video and Budget Presentations

A video on how property taxes are calculated was played for the public in attendance. Budget presentations for each jurisdiction were given by:

Chris Kampa, Cambridge Isanti School District
Kelsey Lakeberg, Isanti County
Caroline Moe, City of Cambridge

Public Comments

Approximately 30 citizens were in attendance. All in attendance requested the governing bodies to reduce taxes and questioned how their valuations work. Elisha Long tried to explain how valuations work and asked people to call her office with specific questions so they could receive answers specific to their parcels. Citizens stated they are frustrated with how their valuations increase without doing anything new to their property.

A citizen asked about who pays for travel to the City of Cambridge's sister cities. Woulfe responded the City does not pay for any travel for visits to sister cities. Woulfe noted the people travelling either fundraise for the costs or pay for the costs themselves.

A citizen asked about the \$50,000 given to Roosevelt Gardens apartment project. Woulfe responded the City did not give \$50,000 to the Roosevelt Gardens project but did create a tax increment finance district which helps pay for the costs of infrastructure improvements. The tax increment district refunds a portion of the property taxes paid each year for a period of 25 years.

A citizen asked about what projects the City had planned for the future. Woulfe responded the main project is the 2020 street improvement project and the construction of the Cambridge Public Library.

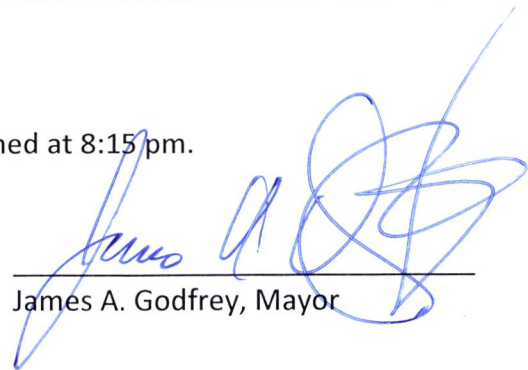
A citizen inquired about what new businesses were coming to Cambridge. Woulfe responded that the City is in discussions with a few prospects but since they are pending projects the names of the businesses are confidential at this time.

A citizen asked about wages paid to public employees and what cost of living adjustment (COLA) was provided to their employees. Each jurisdiction responded with their COLA and informed people where to find information on salaries.

A citizen was concerned about being taxed out of her home since she is a senior citizen on a limited income and was against a splash pad project.

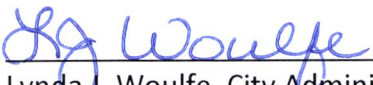
Adjournment of Special Meeting

Being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



James A. Godfrey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynda J. Woulfe, City Administrator