

**Cambridge City Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 15 and February 22, 2019**

Special meetings of the Cambridge City Council were held on Friday, February 15 and February 22, 2019 at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator Woulfe, Community Development Director Westover, Finance Director Moe; Economic Development Director Gustafson (2/22 only); Deputy Fire Chief Pennings, Police Chief Schuster; and Public Works-Utilities Director Schwab.

Call to Order

Godfrey called the February 15 meeting to order at 4:00 pm and the February 22 meeting to order at 4:30 pm. The purpose of the special meetings was to conduct a visioning session and set Council priority projects for the next five years.

Visioning – Goal Setting

Council and staff reviewed responses to the following questions:

1. What have been the City's biggest successes in the last three years?

- Downtown beautification project, Community Art Fair, Christmas Tree. Working with downtown businesses and providing the revolving loan and grant funds to assist them with updating and revitalizing their business.
- Park improvements and parks programming
- Passing the local option sales tax referendum and the work done to move a new library forward.
- Staying true to the long-range financial plan and continuing to lower the tax rate.
- All the businesses that have moved to the city
- The work on annexation.
- Working with the state to move the 1st Avenue (TH95) project along.
- The continuation of street improvement projects.
- The enhancement of public safety, especially with the great deal on the new aerial.
- Proud the Council and citizens work as a cohesive unit. It took many years to really earn their trust. Cambridge has had many physical changes and steps forward in the past years and everyone has celebrated and supportive of our people.

2. What is the City doing right?

- The City is so transparent and open to the citizens. The five councilmembers are approachable and our citizens appreciate that. The staff is helpful and problem solvers. Respect for each other is our greatest common denominator.

- Using social media to our advantage
- Improving our GIS mapping
- Getting our permit application forms online
- Invested a lot of time on helping the residents understand their taxes and the levy with the new software- Balancing Act.
- Right-Public Safety coverage and training.
- Long Term Disaster Recovery team creation.
- Excellent work in keeping the levy increases at a responsible level. That being said, I think the city need to change some of the priorities to reflect true city government and fully fund basic services at a higher level. (Public Works, Public Safety, Water and Sewer).

What could we do better?

- Attracting/keeping new families with adequate facilities and programming
- Focus on communicating in three different ways to our residents. People learn and retain things in different ways (emails FB posts, newspaper, Channel 10, videos, etc.).
- Implement a city survey from the city, on asking for feedback on what the city is doing right, what they can do better, asking for ideas/recommendations, etc.
- Ensuring that we are sending our communication upfront before big projects and decisions.

3. What do you want the City of Cambridge to look like in 5 years?

- A great place for people of all ages but also a place where taxes are not the main topic of conversation.
- A place of beautiful parks and activities for all.
- A place where people can get from one side of the city to the other without waiting 20 minutes at the rail road tracks
- A place with a beautiful library.
- Progressive, positive and solvent. A lovely blend of our history and on the cutting edge of the 21st century. Our citizens are satisfied they found the ideal place to work, play, and raise their children.
- Park improvements.
- Vital business districts.
- Highway 95 improved.
- NLX stopping at a new station in town.
- See the city in a growth cycle – businesses, arts and entertainment, commercial industrial and of course, residential.
- Cambridge to be a safe place to live, where residents can find whatever they need and want. I want Cambridge to be a city that other cities want to emulate with regard to public safety, public works, economic development and amenities – pretty much in that order.

Project Goals Discussion

Council identified future one-year goals as:

- Public Safety – review organization structure for patrol staffing to strive for a minimum of two patrol officers on per shift
- Continue with park upgrades – overlook garden at City Park, create another multi-purpose field at Sandquist Park,
- Create an Adopt a ... Program for gardens, Downtown maintenance, etc.
- Continue to work on local option sales tax and library project
- Continue to work on communications with residents – survey, sound off meetings, Facebook live Council meetings

Council identified future two to five-year goals as:

- Splash pad or some form of water recreation at Central Green
- One more softball field at Sandquist Park
- Replace Zamboni
- Add items from Parks Commission priority list to the City's long-range plan
- Hire additional staff members in public works, patrol, and wastewater operator
- Continue to work on improving Highway 95
- Finish annexation work

Council identified 5+ year goals as:

- Complete two more baseball fields at Sandquist Park
- Cover outdoor ice sheets
- Plan for connectivity within Cambridge for all bike-walk trails
- Connect CI Bike Walk Trail to Brown Park
- Support the creation of Northern Lights Express (NLX)
- Partner with ARCC on specialized training program to fit a niche industry within Cambridge

Woulfe indicated that staff would prepare action steps for the one to five-year goals and bring them back to Council for review on February 22.

City Council reviewed the action steps that staff presented with respect to the goals and the goals were approved by unanimous consent.

Adjournment of Special Meeting on February 15

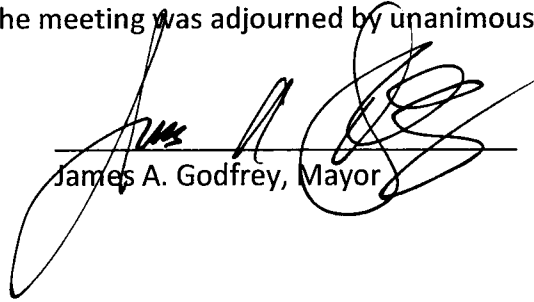
Being no further business before the City Council, Conley moved, seconded by Shogren, to adjourn the February 15 special meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator's Performance Review on February 22

The City Council conducted a review of the City Administrator's performance and the Council's consensus was that Woulfe exceeded position requirements and represents the City well in her position.

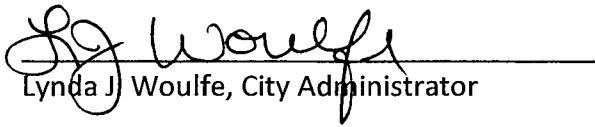
Adjournment of Special Meeting on February 22

Being no further business before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:05 pm.



James A. Godfrey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynda J. Woulfe, City Administrator