Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Brainerd City Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Bevans.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted as present: Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans. Mayor Badeaux was also noted as present.

Council President Bevans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Member Czeczok requested that the agenda be amended. He sent an e-mail regarding his request.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE APPROVAL OF BILLS FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR AND ADDITION OF DISCUSSION OF ABOLISHING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO NEW BUSINESS.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CZECZOK AND STENGLEIN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

A. **Approval of Minutes**
B. **Department Activity Report**
C. **Approve Tobacco License Renewal by Dollar General Store 30773, 402 Washington Street**
D. **Approve Taxi Cab License Submitted by Grab-A-Cab, 912 4th Ave NE**
E. **Approval of Transfers of Funds**
F. **Approve of Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Crow Wing County Fair Board for Snow Storage**

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Approval of Bills

Member Czeczok stated that the bill he is referring to is the payment to Ratwik, Roszak, and Maloney. In particular the legal fees for abolishing the Public Utility Commission. The Public Utility Department is supposed to pay for half of this fee. If the bills are approved, does the Public Utility Department have the opportunity to deny payment of legal fees for research that would abolish their commission.

Attorney Langel stated that the approval of any bill is separate and distinct from how the bill is paid internally.

Member Czeczok stated that that does not answer his question. If the bills are approved, is the City then telling the Public Utilities Commission that they are responsible for half of the cost.

Finance Director Hillman stated that City Council is authorizing the payment of the bill, how it is split can be determined internally.

Member Czeczok stated that by approving these bills, the Public Utilities Commission has no say in how the bill is paid, for something that they know nothing about the research that is being done.

Member Johnson stated that he agrees with the sentiment that if the City is conducting research on getting rid of the Public Utilities Commission that they shouldn't have to split the cost. However, he thinks that the Council approves paying the bill, and which funds the bill gets paid out of is determined by Staff.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CZECZOK AND O'DAY TO NOT SHARE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

Council Members Czeczok and O'Day voted "aye". Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, and Bevans voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion failed.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CZECZOK AND JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS.

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". Member Czeczok voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Presentations

The Center Annual Presentation

Kathy Tousa, President of the Board of The Center, 14075 Firewood Dr, gave an overview of monthly activities that take place at The Center.

DeAnn Berry, Director of The Center, 803 Kingwood St, thanked the City Council for the opportunity to receive the Charter contributions. There are many fulfilling activities that The Center provides. She also stated that The Center will be starting a continuing education series. There is something for everyone at The Center, it is a great support system for the aging.

Member Terry stated that Ms. Berry is a force, she thanked her for all of the things that she does for the community.

Northland Arboretum Annual Presentation

Trevor Pumnea, Director Northland Arboretum, 1000 Conservation Dr, thanked the City Council for their support in applying for regional park designation. He gave an overview of all of the improvements that are happening at the Arboretum, including a bike track and accessible trails and playscapes.

Member Terry thanked Mr. Pumnea for all of his amazing work since starting at the Arboretum. It has been an honor to serve on the Board as a Council Member, and she and her dog Oliver will be out at the Arboretum just as much.

Member Johnson stated that it is absolutely amazing to see everything he has done since starting at the Arboretum. He thanked him for all of his hard work.

Brainerd Community Action Annual Presentation

Bill Satre, Board Member Brainerd Community Action, 13814 Crooked Lake Rd, stated that the focus of the board continues to be on creating opportunities for Brainerd residents to create lasting memories and deep connections in our neighborhoods. Community events are at the heart of the Brainerd Community Actions mission. The Community Empowerment Fund has been a massive success, start up programs have been able to receive funding.

Council Committee Reports

Personnel and Finance Committee

Ratify Hiring Kayla Huether for Recreation Specialist

Committee Chair Johnson stated that the City is excited to have Ms. Huether on board.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND STUNEK, DULY CARRIED, TO RATIFY THE HIRING OF KAYLA HUETHER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 30, 2024; FURTHER, THAT SHE BE PLACED ON STEP 2 OF THE RECREATION SPECIALIST WAGE GRID ($32.22 PER HOUR).

Approve the Promotion of Toni Gage to Administrative Assistant

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND TERRY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF TONI GAGE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 17, 2024, AT STEP 2 ($28.08 PER HOUR).

Ratify Hiring New Paid On-Call Firefighters

Committee Chair Johnson stated that this brings the City to 39 Paid On-Call Firefighters.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND STUNEK, DULY CARRIED, TO RATIFY THE HIRING OF JASON DANN, ISAIAH MACEJKOVIC, PATRICK NELSON, AND NATHAN SIEVERT AS PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025; FURTHER, THAT THEY BE PAID AT THE TRAINEE FIREFIGHTER RATE ($11.05 PER HOUR).

Adopt a Resolution Setting the 2025 - 2026 Wages for the City Administrator, Department Heads and Non-Union Supervisors

Committee Chair Johnson stated that this resolution is the same wage adjustments as union employees that have settled contracts in 2024, it does not include the new union of Utility Division Manager’s Union as negotiations have not been initiated.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND TERRY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2025 - 2026 WAGES FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT HEADS, APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DIVISION MANAGERS, AND NON-UNION SUPERVISORS.

RESOLUTION 57:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O’Day, and Bevans voted “aye”. No member voted “nay”. The Chair declared the motion carried.

Adopt Resolution Allowing for One Time Election to Contribute to PERA Defined Contribution Plan for Public Utilities Commissioner

Committee Chair Johnson stated that a law change allows appointed government officials to contribute to PERA.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND STUNEK TO RESOLUTION AS REQUIRED BY PERA FOR THE ONE-TIME ELECTION PERIOD

ALLOWING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN.

RESOLUTION 58:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Authorize Staff to Advertise for 2024 Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) Funds

Committee Chair Johnson stated that the City has funds available to award for housing solutions in our city.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND TERRY, DULY CARRIED, TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS FOR AVAILABLE SAHA FUNDS WITH A JANUARY 24TH SUBMITTAL DEADLINE.

Approve Shared Services Agreement with the Brainerd EDA

Committee Chair Johnson stated that City Staff track their time doing work for the EDA, this is the same amount of time proposed as 2024.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND STUNEK, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE 2025 SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE EDA IN THE AMOUNT OF $17,000.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Update

Committee Chair Johnson stated that the funds will pay for projects that are already complete and the motor grader which has already been purchased. The mainstreet grant, park projects, and historic water tower project will be paid out of the capital fund.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND TERRY, DULY CARRIED, TO AMEND THE SLFRF BUDGET AS PROPOSED AND TO PAY THE MAINTSTREET GRANT, THE REMAINING PARKS PROJECTS AND THE HISTORIC WATERTOWER PAYMENT OUT OF THE CAPITAL FUND.

Safety and Public Works Committee

Award Proposal - Ash Tree Removal

Committee Chair O'Day stated that the City received a grant for $45,000 from the MnDNR to remove 14 ash trees, the rest of the grant will go toward replacing the ash trees.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND STENGLEIN, DULY CARRIED, TO AWARD THE PROPOSAL TO TOENYAN TREE SERVICE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF $8,500.

Adopt Resolutions Supporting Grant Applications

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPLICATION FOR CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDING.

RESOLUTION 59:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR 2024 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.

RESOLUTION 60:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND STENGLEIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AGREEING TO MAINTAIN FACILITIES AND BE THE SPONSORING AGENCY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT.

RESOLUTION 61:24 & 62:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND STENGLEIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN FACILITY FOR THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

RESOLUTION 63:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Approve Transit Americans With Disabilities Act Policy Plan

Committee Chair O'Day stated that the policy was not reviewed by the TAC committee due to the timeline. If the TAC reviews and has any changes, it will be returned to the City Council for further approval.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE UPDATED TRANSIT ADA POLICY.

Authorize the Public Utilities Department to Reject Bid for Water Reclamation/ Backwash Building

Committee Chair O'Day stated that the project was budgeted for about $6 million. The City received a congressional appropriation for $5 million. The bids came in over $10 million, the Commission wanted to reject all of the bids to consider ways to receive more necessary funding. Staff was asked to have City Council ratify that vote.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK, DULY CARRIED, TO CONCUR WITH THE RECOMMENDATION TO AND DECISION OF COMMISSION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO REJECT ALL BIDS FOR THE WATER RECLAMATION AND BACKWASH PROJECT.

Approve 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2025-2034)

Committee Chair O'Day stated that the Capital Improvement Plan has had some changes since June, he feels there were no major changes.

Member Czeczok asked about City Engineer Dehn's statements during committee.

City Engineer Dehn stated that the one item called out during the committee was the addition of the Evergreen Outfall in 2025 or if the City Council would like to see that project planned in another year.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND STENGLEIN, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR YEARS 2025-2034 AS PRESENTED.

Unfinished Business

Call for Applicants – Informational:

Mayor Recommended: (terms to expire on 12/31 of said year)
Airport Commission - **1 term** (2027)
Charter Commission – **2 terms** (Expire 2025) 2 **terms** (Expire 2026) **3 terms** (Expire 2028)
Housing and Redevelopment Authority **- 1 term** (Expire 2029)
Parks & Recreation - **1 term** (Expire 2029)
Public Utilities Commission - **1 term** (Expire 2029)
Transportation Advisory Committee- **4 terms** (Expire 2026)
Mayor Recommended: (terms to expire on 9/7 of said year)
Economic Development Authority- **1 term** (Expire 2026)
Council President Recommended: (terms expire on 12/31 of said year)
Planning Commission-- **1 term** (Expire 2027)

Final Reading and Public Hearing- Proposed Ordinance 1577- Annexation of 15106 Riverside Drive

Community Development Director Kramvik gave an overview of Ordinance 1577.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STENGLEIN AND O'DAY TO CONDUCT THE FINAL READING AND DISPENSE WITH THE ACTUAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 1577, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 15106 RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

The Chair opened the public hearing at 8:17 p.m.

No one came forward.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 8:18 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND CZECZOK TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1577.

ORDINANCE 1577

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Public Hearing and Adopt Resolutions- Vacation of Public Right of Ways

City Engineer Dehn gave an overview of the proposed vacations.

Member Czeczok asked whether Engineer Dehn received any communications about concerns of the vacations.

City Engineer Dehn stated that he had many conversations with homeowners answering questions. He directed each of these owners to contact their Council Member if they had concerns.

The Chair opened the public hearing for Rademacher's Addition at 8:19 p.m.

Ginger Almer, Owner Jack's House, 300 Hwy 25 S, stated that the sign has already been placed onto the property. She is in favor of the vacation.

The Chair closed the public hearing for Rademacher's Addition at 8:20 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS O'DAY AND STENGLEIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO VACATE FRONTAGE ROAD, RADEMACHER'S COMMERCIAL ADDITION ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 45, RANGE 30 WEST, CROW WING COUNTY MINNESOTA, WHICH LIES WEST OF THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY NUMBER 25.

RESOLUTION 64:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

The Chair opened the public hearing for Madison Heights Addition at 8:20 p.m.

Samantha Lemke, 2029 Graydon Ave, she had questions about what a vacation is. She stated that she would be in favor of the vacation.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 8:21 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND STENGLEIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION VACATING OUTLOT B, WALK, AND PARK- MADISON HEIGHTS AND SECOND ADDITION TO MADISON HEIGHTS IN BRAINERD, MN.

RESOLUTION 65:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

New Business

Adopt Resolutions - Approve Plans, Authorize Advertisement, and Authorize and Direct the Use of the Power of Eminent Domain - Improvement 23-13 - TH 371B/Willow Street Roundabout Project

City Engineer Dehn highlighted that there are two resolutions one is to approve the plans, the other is to approve eminent domain. He clarified that the eminent domain process will not be adversarial, rather is in order to keep the process moving. There have been a number of responsive home and commercial property owners that have already made agreements. There have also been a number of owners that have not made any contact. The City needs all agreements in order to move the project along. The intent is to construct next summer, prior to the Highway 210 construction, within the time constraints of school letting out and the Crow Wing County Fair.

Member Czeczok asked about the eminent domain process and the predicted timeline.

City Engineer Dehn stated that the SEH staff will continue to attempt to have conversations with property owners but will begin the process in January. A hearing will need to be scheduled, and papers served as well, the City Attorney is working through that process.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STENGLEIN AND O'DAY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS.

RESOLUTION 66:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Member Johnson thanked staff for being proactive on the eminent domain process. Still trying to reach out to people is the right thing to do, but sometimes that can take too much time and cost more money.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STENGLEIN AND JOHNSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE USE OF THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN, AS NECESSARY, TO ACQUIRE LANDS, EASMENTS, AND OTHER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS.

RESOLUTION 67:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, O'Day, and Bevans voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Adopt Resolution Setting the 2025 Levy for the City and Brainerd HRA

Finance Director Hillman gave an overview of the levy requirements and changes made to the levy since the preliminary was set at $7,515,698, an 8% increase, and the HRA levy at $173,960. To achieve a balanced budget, the City levy could be set at $6,984,091. Staff was directed to prepare the budgets with a 2% increase. This was done by not using $113,188 of fund balance, from the 2024 levy for implementing the wage study. The Council can set the levy anywhere up to an 8% increase over the 2024 levy.

Member Czeczok asked about the City funding half of one of the proposed employees that were included in the BPU budget.

HR Director Schubert stated that the positions have not been finalized, so there has not been a wage negotiated. This was included in the BPU budget for 2025.

Member Czeczok asked if there was a position needed in 2025 that is not in the budget, could the City add the position.

Finance Director Hillman stated that the Council could use fund balance or other savings to fund the position if need be.

Member Terry clarified that the amount includes the $1,000 for the Airport levy. She asked Council Members the purpose of setting the levy for the airport at $1,000.

Member Czeczok stated that he has expressed his purpose several times.

Member Terry stated that she will vote no if the levy goes forward without the increase airport appropriation.

Member Johnson stated a levy of $7,098,160 is a 2% increase over 2024. He feels that this is a compromise. There is about $113,000 in fund balance in case there is another IT position or there is a change of heart about the airport.

Member Stenglein stated that she shares Member Terry's concerns about the airport. She believes that funding them with only $1,000 is undermining the good work done by staff and the value we get as a City from the airport. However, she is not willing to throw the levy and budget up into the air.

Member Stunek stated that as the liaison he thinks that $1,000 is peanuts, he will be voting no on the levy to support the staff at the airport.

Member O'Day stated that $1,000 for the airport is a statement, but also an offer of good faith to stay in the conversations with the County. The fund balance at the airport has been contributed to far more than is necessary over the years. As we learn more and if the County is willing to have conversations, the Council can come back with plenty of options.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND O'DAY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING THE CITY OF BRAINERD LEVY AT $7,098,160 AND THE HRA LEVY AT $173,960 FOR PAY YEAR 2025.

RESOLUTION 68:24

Upon roll call, Council Members Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, and O'Day voted "aye". Members Stunek, Terry, and Bevans voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Adopt 2025 Budgets

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS JOHNSON AND CZECZOK, DULY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE BUDGETS AS PRESENTED WITHOUT ADJUSTMENTS.

Determine Selection Process for the 2025-2026 City Council President & Vacant Seat

Member Czeczok stated that he has given a lot of thought to the process. In the past, the process changes depending on who is at the table. He prefers a secret ballot, as a personal preference. It is a better way for someone in his position as hand votes cannot be seen by all, and voice votes can be influenced.

Chair Bevans stated that the only thing he doesn't like about the proposal is that each round is secret, he thinks all rounds should be public.

Member Stenglein asked about the use of this method in the future.

Member Czeczok stated that he thinks this could be included in the Rules of Decorum.

Member Johnson stated that he supports the process and having a policy is a good thing.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CZECZOK AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE METHOD OF SELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VACANT SEATS ON THE COUNCIL AMENDING IT TO STATE THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS' NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR VOTES ARE PROVIDED PUBLICLY DURING EACH ROUND; FURTHER TO INCORPORATE METHOD IN THE RULES OF DECORUM.

Discuss Abolishing the Public Utilities Commission (added item)

Member Czeczok stated that the concept of abolishing the Public Utilities Commission is new to him. It seems that the research done is outside the norm of what City Hall should be doing without the Council's direction. He would be grateful for the Council to be asked for direction for research on topics like these before it is asked to approve bills to pay for such research. It looks as if there were also results of the research. He thinks that the Council should be privy to this information. He is not asking that Staff come to the Council prior to contacting our Attorney on all matters, but this particular subject seems highly unusual.

Member Johnson stated that he supports the sentiment, Ratwik is the Council's Attorney, not Staff's. He does not know if setting policy on things such as this is clear enough to understand. He thinks that after talking with a former commissioner, the role of the commission is a good conversation to have.

Member Stenglein agrees with Member Johnson, she does not want to prevent staff from brainstorming which can warrant contacting legal counsel in some cases.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CZECZOK AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH DONE REGARDING ABOLISHING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

Public Forum

The Chair opened the public forum at 8:55 p.m.

Tom Prusack, 2117 Crestview Ln, thanked the Council for the civics lesson. He was confused during the public hearing about the vacation in Madison Heights, he is in favor of the vacation as long as the contiguous homeowners are deeded the land. Otherwise, the property should remain public.

Sean Spaid, 1108 Oak St, stated that he was assisted by Habitat for Humanity with getting an accessible home. He has issue with city navigation for those with disabilities, specifically snow clearing being complaint based. He does not believe that individuals with disabilities should have to wait 3-5 business days to be able to navigate sidewalks after a snowfall. When his daughter is old enough to be independent, he wants her to be able to navigate the world with ease. He also believes that there should be more available for individuals with disabilities in our parks.

The Chair closed the public forum at 9:02 p.m.

Staff Reports

HRA Director Charpentier stated that Eight05 Laurel is abating asbestos with demolition scheduled once that is complete. The developer continues to look for opportunities to bridge the funding gap.

Police Chief Davis stated that the Christmas with the Homeless event that was included with the packet has been cancelled.

Finance Director Hillman wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She wished Council Members Terry and Stenglein farewell.

Public Works Director Habighorst stated that Brainerd Community Action has helped to provide the entry fee to Winter Wonderland to our Transit riders. There will be a couple of opportunities for our riders to take the transit buses through the arboretum to see the lights.

Community Development Director Kramvik stated that the EDA recommended that Country Manor be granted additional tax abatement from the City. This will come before the City Council at a future meeting. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the proposed crypto mining ordinance at its meeting on December 18th.

Attorney Langel noted that the Council should adjourn to the “joint meeting” instead of “workshop”. He stated that the closing of the Roberts Property is complete.

Administrator Broyles thanked Council Members Terry and Stenglein for their service to the City. He encourages staff to be creative and innovative in serving taxpayers and ratepayers, they will provide the research requested by the Council. Finally, there has been a Council Communications section to the end of the agenda as the City periodically gets pieces of mail that staff would like to inform the Council about.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Badeaux thanked his fellow Council Members for their work on the Council. Finally, he stated that Brainerd is supportive of developers, but he will be more vocal about getting moving on some of these properties. There needs to be money put in and get developments done. He trusts that Eight05 will be completed.

Council Member Reports

Member Stunek wished everyone Merry Christmas and thanked Council Members Terry and Stenglein.

Member Terry thanked Staff for all of their amazing work in service to the City.

Member Johnson wished everyone Merry Christmas. It was a pleasure to serve with Members Terry and Stenglein.

Chair Bevans thanked Members Terry and Stenglein and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Member O’Day thanked Members Terry and Stenglein quoting former Council Member Pritschet saying “it’s not always fun, but it’s always interesting”. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Member Stenglein stated that she will be attending the Special Meeting on Thursday, December 19th. Region 5 held their annual awards for the regional businesses.

Member Czeczok wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He appreciates the service of Members Terry and Stenglein. He especially thanked Member Stenglein for her graciousness as an opponent.

<u>Adjourn</u>

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CZECZOK AND STUNEK, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN TO THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 19TH AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m

Nicholas W. Broyles
City Administrator