

**CITY OF SHOREWOOD
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026**

**5755 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

1. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Present: Acting Mayor Sanschagrín; Councilmembers Gorham and DiGruttolo; City Administrator Nevinski; City Clerk/HR Director Thone; Director of Public Works Morreim (Via Zoom); Park and Recreation Director Czech; City Engineer Budde; Communications/Recycling Coordinator Wilson; and Acting City Attorney Amy Schmidt

Absent: Mayor Labadie and Councilmember Maddy

C. Review Agenda

Gorham moved, DiGruttolo seconded, approving the agenda as presented.

Motion passed 3/0.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked to remove Consent Agenda Items 2.E., 2.G., 2.H., and 2.J.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked if she would like to discuss the Items now or remove them for later. Councilmember DiGruttolo noted that either would work. She noted a mistake in the Work Session minutes and asked whether it should be removed or explained. City Administrator Nevinski noted that Councilmember DiGruttolo could point out the mistake to be fixed now. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that the first paragraph on page two of the Work Session minutes states "Operation Levy" and should state "Operating Levy."

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked if the other items would be discussed now. City Administrator Nevinski stated that if the Items in question did not require debate, then they could be discussed now.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that Item 2E, Strategic Communications Plan, focuses heavily on engagement but offers few accountability metrics. She asked how the Council and residents know that communications are improving trust and understanding rather than just increasing the number of impressions. She asked if the Communications metrics would be reported publicly and regularly. She asked what safeguards are in place to ensure that communications remain informational rather than promotional. Communications/Recycling Coordinator Wilson pointed out that the tool to use for the engagement piece, to turn from qualitative and put metrics around it, and would be the way to have a safeguard and present to the Council and the public, would be the Quarterly Communications report that is

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given at the Council. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that the city is very aspirational and cannot be measured, so she wants to ensure there are mechanisms in place to collect feedback and engage with it. Mr. Wilson shared that the hope was that the Quarterly Communications report was being used as a tool to capture those things, and that any misinformation or how the engagements are being used would be reported back on what is being done with those things. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that good information is being collected, and just looking at how that is used is important.

Councilmember Gorham noted that he loves the Communications Plan checklist of things to implement. He asked how the Council checks to see that things are being implemented. Mr. Wilson shared that he could include that in the Quarterly report as well, but would be happy to include it more frequently if desired. Councilmember Gorham stated that it could be done just once a year to see how things are going.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked if there was a place to receive raw feedback from residents. Mr. Wilson shared that the city could use that as a mechanism for sharing feedback. He noted that he has been looking at other cities and liked that some have an always-on forum. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that it was a good idea. She added that in the military, there was a suggestion box, and every month, a suggestion from it was featured in the newsletter. Mr. Wilson noted that any ideas would be welcomed.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked about Item 2.G. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that the item should be taken off and discussed later.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín moved on to Item 2.H. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked how supplemental service hours are tracked operationally to ensure that Shorewood's service levels are not degraded or diminished. She asked what analysis had been done for the actual fully loaded cost of the services, including benefits and overhead. She also asked the Staff to clarify the distinction between supplemental services and normal baseline policing responsibilities. City Administrator Nevinski shared that the supplemental services are in addition to what is already being provided through the membership costs. These are costs for additional services paid for by Excelsior; the money is not coming from funds budgeted for normal operations. Excelsior will reduce the number of hours listed compared to those shown in the Agenda Packet, based on needs. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked whether an additional person was being hired or whether the staff already there would be doing the work. City Administrator Nevinski shared that CSOs will be used. He shared that if the CSO is doing this additional work in Excelsior and an accident occurs, the CSO would also respond, resulting in additional responders as an added benefit. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that it seems there is a cost to Shorewood. She asked whether, if Shorewood states that an additional officer is needed, the Excelsior officer would not go because they are working in Excelsior. City Administrator Nevinski stated that they are CSOs and cannot respond to everything, but if a responder is needed for medical emergencies or traffic control, they would be available. The CSO's main task is to be in downtown Excelsior, addressing issues during the peak months of activity. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the CSOs are full-time staff. City Administrator Nevinski shared that they are part-time staff who may be in law enforcement school or exploring the field as a career. Some could eventually become a CSO in a permanent role. Several officers at SLMPD have started as CSOs and worked their way up, including the Chief.

Councilmember Gorham asked if the schools use a CSO, and this is what they might be doing during the summer. City Administrator Nevinski shared that the Police Chief could discuss that the next time he is at the meeting. He added that CSOs are usually at the college level or higher.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín shared that last year, he stated that, for this program, Excelsior needed to cover all the costs, and the memo indicated that some additional costs were covered. City Administrator Nevinski shared that Excelsior is covering the uniform, equipment, and computer. It was also contemplated in the

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Joint Powers Agreement. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if the salary was not paid for then. City Administrator Nevinski stated that the hourly wage is also being paid. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked whether the officers were needed for the rest of the year and whether there would be a degradation in service for Shorewood. City Administrator Nevinski stated that, in this case, as this is an ongoing program that Excelsior has, the position would be funded if Excelsior funds it. A position is not being taken away; it is an additional position. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if this position is just in the summer. City Administrator Nevinski shared that the position also occurs a little bit in the fall.

Councilmember Gorham asked what the CSOs are doing when it is not summer time. He pointed out that if the CSO can work only in Excelsior during the summer, then the need for CSOs during the rest of the year is in question. City Administrator Nevinski pointed out that these are part-time positions, so when activity increases, the CSO is scheduled accordingly. He added that the Police Chief could speak more to the program. Councilmember Gorham asked for a follow-up to the conversation to see what happens after the summer. He added that it may be an area for cost cuts. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that several major costs are coming up for the SLMPD, so any ways to cut costs would be helpful.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín moved on to Item 2.J. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked why the city is always hiring at the top of the band. She noted that in six months, she does not want to promote the new hire. She added that he has only three years of experience out of college and that, generally, seven years are required for a Senior hire. She asked for the framework for the position classification and the step placement so that the Council can understand how consistency and internal equity are maintained. City Clerk/HR Director Thone shared that the new hire is not at the top; he is at mid-range and is quite a few steps lower than the last couple of hires. Councilmember DiGruttolo noted that she is happy with that, but the packet seemed to state that after he is off probation, he would be promoted. Ms. Thone shared that after the six-month probationary period, there would be a review, and if the new hire passed, they would move to a permanent position. However, there is no increase at the six-month mark; he will have to wait a year to get a step increase on the compensation schedule. She noted that, as far as the Senior Accountant position, there is a quite a variance in whether someone's title is an Accountant I, Accountant II, or Senior Accountant, and what that means in every city is somewhat different, and what the job description entails. She explained that the position used to be an Accounting Tech role, and the last person was promoted to Senior Accountant, which changed the job description. She noted that the job duties and description aligns with the state pay equity program, which the city is required to perform every 3 years. It also aligns with the city's compensation schedule that the Council approved in 2024. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that there still needs to be discussion about the hiring and the bands. A lot of money has been spent on Financial Management, so that the top dollar would not have to be spent on hiring a Senior Accountant. She added that the city has so much redundancy and continues to spend money on a problem that may no longer exist. Ms. Thone noted that there have been many discussions regarding the city's compensation study and schedule and it would be good to review it during the budgeting cycle.

Councilmember Gorham shared that some discussion took place during the Planning Position. He asked why the city needs a Senior Accountant. Ms. Thone stated that this person handles all payroll, all utility billing, all accounts receivable, all accounts payable, all year-end reporting to the State and Federal entities, and a portion of the back-end of employee benefits. She added that the role is fairly technical.

Councilmember Gorham asked how the Council knows that this role is needed. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín shared that Councilmember Gorham is asking why the Council is getting this information at the tail end of the process. Councilmember Gorham shared that the salary is high and that it is during budget season. There is nothing that shows why this position is needed, but this is what it is. Ms. Thone shared that when Staff comes to them with a recruitment request at the beginning of the process, all these items are laid out in that memo for approval. Staff asks for approval to recruit for the position and for any changes. She

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added that when the city went through the compensation study with the DDA, every position and job description was reviewed and aligned. Then, once every job description was aligned to the roles, each role was classified to the compensation schedule. She added that seven positions were reclassified as a result of the 2023 study. Councilmember Gorham stated that he thought he heard her say that the Council is more engaged for bigger positions, but for backfilled positions, the Council would not normally hear about them until the end. He asked where the information on the study would be, because some were not on the Council in 2023. Ms. Thone noted that it is a valid question because the work was done before many of the existing council members were here. Councilmember Gorham shared that it is not so much about him seeing it as about the public and the story of this position and all the work that was done to get there. He added that the explanation is valid, but that does not come through. Ms. Thone asked whether the questions being asked serve to validate to the public that the Staff has done its due diligence. Councilmember Gorham stated, " Yes, that is what is being asked. He shared that the information on the position needed and how the staff determines the salary. Ms. Thone stated that the point is valid and that the information may not be out there. She added that she goes through many processes that support the process: salary, surveys aligned with other cities, a review of the compensation schedule, and the State's pay equity process every three years. She added that all the information is out there, but not necessarily in one place that the public can see and some of it, like the salary information, can be sensitive. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that the Council is working to increase transparency, and some members are seeking to cut costs wherever possible. Knowing that some of the Council would like more justification than that information should just be available with each new hire. She added that the Council has to answer the questions, and to do so, the information must come from the Staff. She added that it is not that the Council does not trust the Staff to do their job, but that the Council needs to be able to give the answers. Ms. Thone stated that the information is helpful and will encourage her to add more detail to both sides of the recruitment request when coming to them for approval. Councilmember Gorham stated that it would be great and that, before someone is hired, it would be helpful to discuss more transparency. Ms. Thone shared that the Council does get more involved in hiring for a management or department head position, and there is a slight difference in Council involvement depending on the level being hired. Councilmember Gorham shared that the Council does not need to be involved in interviews for all positions, but if Council approval is needed, more buy-in should come at the beginning of the process.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that for many of the Consent Agenda Items, there seem to be recurring issues when significant operational and policy direction is being set incrementally through Consent Agenda Items rather than through clearly bounded strategic decisions. She added that she did not think that was the way it was supposed to work. She noted that several Items are just asking the Council to rubber-stamp decisions after major operational choices have already been made. She shared that at what point does the Council meaningfully shape policy direction versus ratifying what the Staff has already operationalized. Councilmember Gorham stated that there is a fine line between micromanaging some decisions made by the Staff and those the Council weighs in on. Whenever the City is hiring, the Council should be more involved. He added that the Staff needs a certain amount of liberty, not every decision needs to be brought to the Council. He agreed that too many items are going to the Consent Agenda. Acting Mayor Sanschagrin agreed.

DiGruttolo moved, Gorham seconded, Approving the Motions Contained on the Consent Agenda and Adopting the Resolutions Therein.

- A. City Council Work Session Minutes of April 27, 2026**
- B. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2026**
- C. Claims List**

- D. **Expiration of Approvals for Shorewood Carriage Homes, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 26-27, “A Resolution Acknowledging the Expiration of Development Approvals for Shorewood Carriage Homes Located at 24560 Smithtown Road.”**
- E. **Strategic Communications Plan**
- F. **Annual Data Practices Policy Review, Adopting RESOLUTION NO. 26-28, “2026 City Data Practice Policies.”**
- G. ~~**SCEC Task Force (moved to 4.D.)**~~
- H. **2026 Supplemental Services Proposal, SLMPD and City of Excelsior**
- I. **Hennepin County CDBG Program Renewal**
- J. **Senior Accountant New Hire**

Motion passed 3/0.

3. **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Dwayne Lorelei, 5595 Eureka Road, stated that he was shocked and taken aback by the quarterly utility bill. He noted that he had come to City Hall to ask why the Watershed District and the storm sewer were so high. He shared that he was told it was because of the Watershed District. He explained that he did some research on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and found that the fee is paid annually with property taxes at \$40.31. On the bill he received, the amount rose from \$56.61 to \$90.45, a 62 percent increase. He shared that he called another city, spoke with the stormwater engineer, and asked why the prices went up so high. The engineer stated that typically, they only go up two or three percent a year for the city’s portion of the storm sewer. He stated that, upon further review, he found that Northland Securities, with whom the City does business, suggested that the City bring it to that price. He suggested talking to the Public Works Director to have him speak with the Watershed District and see what they want and what will be required for maintenance. He noted that little maintenance is required for a storm sewer, especially in Shorewood. He stated that he does not understand what the 62 percent increase is for. He moved on to the water, with a \$32.51 maintenance fee assessed to people even if they are not hooked up to the water. He asked what maintenance is being done. He added that the sanitary sewer was \$142.85 and is now \$184, and that would not be disputed with the city, as that is the Met Council. He added that his bill went up over \$100 a quarter. He added that, for the water maintenance fund, the City must believe there is plenty of money in it, because no one on Birch Bluff or Peach was assessed. He noted that he asked who made the decision, and no one knows. He shared that on Mill Street, where a water main is being installed, nine homes may or may not hook up to the water, and the city will not assess them. He stated that since the city is not going to assess anyone anymore, then the city should reimburse everyone who had water put on their streets and was assessed. He shared that he did not want water going down Eureka Road, that very few homes wanted it, and that the only reason it was put in was for the development of Watten Ponds. It was cheaper for the developer not to install wells.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrin asked if there is information on the website for utility increases. City Administrator Nevinski stated that information about the increases has been disseminated. He added that it could be discussed as soon as the budget process starts, but if the issues need to come back sooner, it

could be discussed. Acting Mayor Sanschagrin stated that there should be clear communication explaining it all to the public.

Barry Brown, 6050 Burlwood Court, stated that when the last speaker mentioned Northland Securities, there were many puzzled looks, and he wanted to clarify something that may have been missed. Northland Securities prepared the Long-term Financial Management Plan, which suggested a 60 percent increase in the storm sewers and a 30 percent increase in the sanitary sewers. He noted that they also suggested an increase in water, but the Council stated that it would not be implemented this year and would be implemented next year. He noted being fully behind the last speaker, when he says that if he had to pay \$10,000 and many others had to pay that as well, but that is not being done in the city anymore, then something should happen for the people who had to pay.

4. GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS

A. Change Order Policy

City Administrator Nevinski presented the change order policy as found in the Agenda Packet.

Councilmember Sanschagrin asked whether the Policy would prevent the Staff from fixing a situation in which there is no water. City Administrator Nevinski stated that if there is a water main break, the City would be out there dealing with it. He noted that the estimate was that two-thirds of change orders go back to the Council before the work proceeds. There are times when decisions need to be made, and there is not a Council meeting soon enough, but the policy is the Staff's charge to get the matter before the Council quickly.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrin asked whether the policy applies only when things are under budget. Councilmember Gorham noted that the budget and the contract are two different things; this would be a change to the contract.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that, under the policy, the Public Works Director or City Engineer was removed and replaced with the Project Manager. She asked if the Project Manager works for the city. City Administrator Nevinski stated that the Project Manager works for the city. It could be the City Engineer or the Public Works Director, but someone else could also be the project leader, making them the Project Manager.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked whether the Council would receive periodic aggregate reports on all administratively approved change orders to identify patterns or lessons learned over time. City Administrator Nevinski shared that the intention is for all change orders to be tracked, and if they fall below a certain threshold, they will come to the Council at the end. However, if a threshold is hit, the Staff will come to the Council. He stated that a sample change order track is included in the Packet. Councilmember DiGruttolo pointed out that she is just seeing whether data will be available to identify a pattern, especially in contractor behavior.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked how the city ensures that cost savings on projects are treated with the same level of transparency as cost increases. She noted, highlighting the savings more, and it is a good news story to tell. City Administrator Nevinski stated that when a Public Works-type project is finished, the Staff returns the project to the Council, which is ready to accept the improvements. At that point, the opportunity would come to talk about where the city is at, budget-wise. Councilmember DiGruttolo pointed out that seeing the good change orders would also be worth highlighting.

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Councilmember Gorham noted that the policy's thresholds are solid and make sense. He shared that the exceptions are oddly specific. City Administrator Nevinski stated that those are just examples. Councilmember Gorham pointed out that the Statute speaks to health and safety and gives the administration flexibility. He added that a change order related to permits or traffic flow seems interesting, unless there is a safety issue. City Administrator Nevinski explained that the thought was that, if something needed to be addressed in terms of buttoning up a road so traffic could get through, it would be addressed until something more formal could get back to the Council. He noted that the Council requested some examples and that it is difficult to provide them when speaking in the abstract. Councilmember Gorham noted that the policy gives the administration leeway, and if there is a question, the City Attorney could be called. City Administrator Nevinski asked whether the Council would like the examples removed. Councilmember Gorham stated that the examples are fine, given the small percentage that those occur, and that there is enough leeway to interrupt what might need to be done. City Administrator Nevinski added that the Policy should be reviewed periodically, particularly as it is implemented.

Action Mayor Sanschagrin stated that he is on board as well and that the Policy is a significant process improvement.

Gorham moved, DiGruttolo seconded, Adopting the Change Order and Work Scope Modification Policy.

Motion passed 3/0.

B. GIS Equipment

Public Works Director Morreim presented the GIS Equipment information as found in the Agenda Packet.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrin stated that he can easily see how this can enhance the City's operations. He noted that one helpful thing for this and any future purchases would be to provide the payback. He asked Public Works Director Morreim to articulate the payback time. Mr. Morreim shared that the biggest payback on the unit will be from the utility locating. There is generally one person doing utility locating during the construction season, and their time with the new unit would be much less, with all the utilities 100 percent mapped out. He added that the mapping could be done in-house and would save on consulting costs. Utility locating would become about 25 to 50 percent more efficient, allowing points to be located or relocated during difficult periods of the year. He noted that the unit would pay for itself sooner rather than later, especially with the utility locating. Councilmember Sanschagrin asked if it would be six months or a year. Mr. Morreim stated that he would be guessing, but within two to three years. He added that one of the other features is the laser operations. So when the City goes out to do sewer and water inspections, the staff go out, inspect, and then put together a drawing to locate the utilities. With the unit, the Staff would be able to point the laser at the water to find a location, and then, in the future, all the Staff would have to do is walk to that point. He noted that the equipment allows the Staff to be more accurate and safer in the inspections.

Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that when Mr. Morreim stated the equipment is being bought with money saved from last year, that is how things should be done. She thought it was a good purchase.

DiGruttolo moved, Gorham seconded, Approving the Purchase of the EOS Skadi Gold Unit with the Detailed Options.

Motion passed 3/0.

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C. Water Connection Program

City Engineer Budde presented on the Water Connection Program as found in the Agenda Packet.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín stated that Councilmember Gorham had left at 8:33 P.M. He asked whether the meeting could continue. City Administrator Nevinski shared that the meeting could proceed, but if a vote were needed, Councilmember Gorham would need to be present.

City Engineer Budde continued with the presentation.

Councilmember Gorham returned to the meeting.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that the Program looks pretty good, the Staff did what they were asked to do, and that it is clear and easy to follow. She asked when the residents pay the \$1,000. City Engineer Budde noted that, in previous conversations, there would be more work for the Engineering Staff. Still, the Staff has been able to scale that back to about an hour-long meeting, so there is no expectation that the residents will pay anything up front. He added that there are about two to two and a half hours of work where the resident has the engineer's estimate. Then everything would be packaged together, with more of the cost coming in. Councilmember DiGruttolo pointed out that the initial \$167-per-hour cost to determine the cost was high. She added that the City is asking residents to pay the \$10,000 water access charge, plus a consultant to tell the resident how much it will cost, and then however much it will cost for the internal plumbing changes, and the amount of money to abandon the well, plus the cost of the actual water connection. She asked how many houses can be built with only \$175,000 being fronted by the City. That would be only about ten houses. City Engineer Budde stated that only 10 houses are being considered for the first round. Public Works Director Morreim noted that the \$10,000 water access charge, and in many of the places mentioned, the city has already borne that cost. He added that, in addition to the resident's \$17,000 cost, the only additional cost would be the curb stop, which is already at the house and may be less than \$20,000. The \$10,000 already there is for infrastructure to bring water to their property line.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that she likes what the Staff has done; most of it is clear. She added that some of the claims might put people off, saying the water is cleaner than the well water. Many people do not believe that. She asked if that spot could be word-smithed a little to make it sound better. The objective is to get the residents to think this is a great idea and that it should be done. She noted that the quick FAQs are good, except for the "old plumbing, and that adjustments may need to be made to meet current building codes. She suggested adding additional costs so that the information is not hidden. She noted that this will be a huge ask for people and is glad that only ten people will be doing this at first. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked whether mitigating language, such as "it can do certain things," would be helpful. Councilmember DiGruttolo agreed that stating it can do this would be better than saying it will do this. Declarative language can be argumentative. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín noted that the city does not want to overpromise and then underdeliver. There are also perception issues, such as the fact that some people might like the iron in their water. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that her goal is to make the language as honest and transparent as possible while also making it attractive to people.

Councilmember Gorham shared that things look great and that he is really pleased with how far the program has come. He added that the sample email to residents could use some more detail and is missing a thought or two. He suggested adding a sentence to help with the sales pitch. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín stated that something that might be helpful, and one of the reasons the water quality might be better, is that the aquifers are deeper, which would help to give further explanation. City Engineer Budde stated that it goes into a lot of detail and would be good information for the website, but the Staff would once again go over all of the communication. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that Communications/Recycling Coordinator

Wilson might have some good ideas about resident language and what resonates with residents. If asking residents to spend money, it may be helpful to discuss the overall savings they achieve. She added that the language need not be the same for everyone. City Engineer Budde stated that Councilmember DiGruttolo is right and that not everyone feels the same way about their water. He noted that the hope is that the meeting will be very informative for both parties, because oftentimes the City hears about people's treatment systems. Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that the city wants to attract people who are water curious. She added that she has a well, has paid her \$10,000, and is curious how much this would cost her to hook up. If the cost is reasonable, then she would be willing to hook up.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked how the priorities for the houses came about. City Engineer Budde stated that there are certain areas where people have shown interest. The second spot is an area that has been underutilized, with its street in poor condition. The third spot has attracted significant interest from residents and remains underutilized. That is how the top three started, and a similar methodology was used for the other areas. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín pointed out that Glenn Road has a new road, but the stubs are right out to the road. City Engineer Budded shared that the stubs are GPS-located and can be found easily.

Gorham moved, Sanschagrín seconded, Directing Staff to Initiate the Program by Distributing Communications, Coordinating with Residents, and Soliciting Quotes.

Motion passed 3/0.

D. SCEC Task Force (formerly Consent Agenda 2.G.)

Park and Recreation Director Czech presented the memo as found in the Agenda Packet.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked how many on the Task Force are Shorewood residents. Mr. Czech stated that four people were: Tena, Janet, Barry, and Gina.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked for clarification on whether the Task Force is intended to explore the full range of strategic operations or to operate under a narrower financial recovery. Mr. Czech stated that the project's scope is to achieve 70 percent, so that will be the Task Force's focus as it develops recommendations. He added that, as noted in prior meetings, potential partnerships or collaborations could be part of that. Still, the Council's overall intent was to maintain current operations as much as possible while improving utilization and narrowing the gap between revenues and expenses. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked if that includes repurposing or doing what is being done now, but better, so more money is made. Mr. Czech explained that it is following the current operational structure. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked what would happen if the Task Force could not reach 75 percent. Mr. Czech stated that this had been discussed at prior Council meetings. If that number is not achievable, it will be brought back to the Council, and alternative options will need to be explored. Still, the goal is to maintain current operations while increasing utilization and closing the gap.

Councilmember Gorham asked that a Chair be elected for the Task Force. Mr. Czech explained that a Chair will not be elected; the consultant will lead and facilitate. Councilmember Gorham asked whether, ahead of time, the consultant prepares an agenda and leads roundtable discussions. Mr. Czech stated that it is correct and that more information is available, but did not want to push it out until the Task Force approved it. Councilmember Gorham asked what the end product would be. Mr. Czech shared that the consultant will provide a summary of the minutes and a memo from the meetings, and that the outcome will be recommendations to the Council on options for proceeding with the building. Councilmember Gorham asked if the consultant would prepare the document. Mr. Czech noted that the consultant would prepare with assistance from City Staff. He added that those not designated for the Task Force, as well as the

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general public, will be able to provide input through various channels. Councilmember Gorham pointed out that there is a Task Force, and that is a great accomplishment. Councilmember DiGruttolo asked how many meetings were held. Mr. Czech shared that there are three with the option of one more if needed. The Staff is super excited about the Task Force.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked for a reminder of the timeline. Mr. Czech shared that at the end of August, there should be final recommendations to the Council. As the process takes place and things develop, there will be updates on the status.

Gorham moved, DiGruttolo seconded, Approving the SCEC Task Force.

Motion 3/0.

5. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Staff

Park and Recreation Director Czech shared that the Task Force Kick-off Meeting would take place on May 20. He stated that for Movie in the Park, there were a few changes: moving from the end of August to September 19, with hopes of increasing engagement, and voting on the movie to be shown via the City website.

City Engineer Budde stated that the contractor for the 2025 Mill and Overlay should be out within the next two weeks to finish punch list items. He shared that the Southeast area, where the City replaced the well's filter media, is complete and up and running. He noted that the Mill Street trail project, which the County is leading, has a preconstruction meeting scheduled for two weeks. Then he will have a better idea of the schedule.

Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked about the new filtration for the well and whether there is a way to measure how much the filtration improved the water quality. Public Works Director Morreim shared that the well, without any treatment, has about 2.0 to 3.0 milligrams per liter of iron, and with the filter, before being taken offline, 0.2 to 0.5 milligrams per liter of iron. With the initial filtration test, the reading was 0.02 milligrams per liter of iron, which is within the expected range. He added that water consumption has not increased much. Acting Mayor Sanschagrín asked whether those measures are at a point where people would no longer need an iron filter in their homes. Mr. Morreim stated that minimal, if any, would be needed.

City Clerk/HR Director Thone shared that spring cleanup at the Public Works facility would be on Saturday, along with the Shred Event at City Hall. She stated that in preparation for elections, staff will be trained on Thursday. Sixty election judges have been recruited, three seasonal Public Works employees will be starting soon, and the Senior Accountant.

Councilmember Gorham asked those considering running for office what the filing period is. Ms. Thone stated that candidate filing runs from July 14 to July 28, and has been moved up this year. She noted that two Council seats are available and will be on the general election ballot.

Attorney Schmidt noted that she was filling in and does not have a report.

City Administrator Nevinski gave an update on the Highway 7 Transit Management organizational study that has been working on over the last year. The study had its last meeting. There will be a report out with

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all the recommendations, documenting the conversations and the directions that the organization wishes to take. He added that one highlight is that, rather than creating a new organization, individual cities can decide whether to join the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition and work through that existing structure. He noted that the Highway 7 communities want to continue to have discussions so that Highway 7 does not get lost in the bigger picture. There was a commitment by the group to keep it going. He shared that the communities are all on board with completing an application for a regional solicitation grant. That part of the process will involve reviewing the various intersections and projects likely to receive the highest funding. He added that hopefully there will be some bonding dollars coming out of the Legislative session.

i. Tentative Upcoming Agenda Topics

Councilmember DiGruttolo shared that if the Staff is looking for future topics of work sessions or regular meetings, then she would like to get the engineering discussion back on the schedule. City Administrator Nevinski stated that it is on there for June 8.

Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that, for police and fire reporting, given the number of issues over the last year, she asked whether there could be regular reporting rather than just the annual report. City Administrator Nevinski stated that the intent was to have Public Safety before the Council, beyond the budget process, because that is not enough. He added that a lot is going on with Public Safety, and that is the intent to see them more and get more information. He noted that he also added minutes from the SLMPD board meetings, and that this will be seen more in the future for information. Councilmember DiGruttolo stated that it is part of transparency, even if the information is for informational purposes. She appreciated that thought was being put into making more information available and into providing opportunities for input and questions. City Administrator Nevinski shared that there is a conversation about improving communication and information flow.

Councilmember DiGruttolo asked that the compensation schedule be put on the agenda. She added that it has come up several times, and not all of the Council is familiar with it. If the schedule comes every three years, then she would like to be prepared. City Administrator Nevinski stated that it could definitely be put on an Agenda. He added that one of the reasons it came up in 2023 was that the staff was running into issues and did not have a current system to review. The process was put in place to establish a system for hiring and compensation. He noted that it could be part of the budget discussion.

B. Mayor and City Council

Councilmember Gorham stated that he had read the Shore Report and was struck by how much content it contained. He gave credit to Mr. Wilson for his work and acknowledged that a lot of big things were happening, and it was fun to see it all in one report. He saw the election information in the report and wanted to point out that it was happening in July. He noted that, with the elections coming up, the signs would be going up. He asked if there was any information in the Shore Report about where signs can go. Ms. Thone noted that she did not recall whether that was in the Shore Report, but all candidates receive the sign procedures, and most of the sign ordinances go away. Councilmember Gorham stated that it might be with it to put the information in the Shore Report. Ms. Thone thanked the Council for recognizing Mr. Wilson. She noted that by finding a new printer, a lot of money was saved, and the City was able to make the Shore Report longer. Acting Mayor Sanschagrin asked if there would be a place to document all the areas where the Council is saving the residents money. He added that he would be at the Recycling event.

6. ADJOURN

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DiGruttolo moved, Gorham seconded, Adjourning the City Council Regular Meeting of May 11, 2026, at 9:18 P.M.

Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Sandie Thone, City Clerk



Jennifer Labadie, Mayor