

**MELROSE CITY COUNCIL, AND
THE MELROSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

A.I. #1 CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Melrose City Council and Melrose Public Utilities Commission met in a Special Joint Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Melrose City Center pursuant to due notice being given thereof. Present were Council Members, Tony Klasen, Justin Frieler, Travis Frieler, Joeline Wieling, Mayor/Public Utilities Commission Member Joe Finken, Public Utilities Commission Member Jeremy Kraemer, Eric Seanger, City Administrator Colleen Winter, Finance Director Jackie Niehaus, and Payroll Clerk/HR Generalist Doris Rieland. Mayor Finken presided thereat.

A.I. #2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Travis Frieler, seconded by Ms. Wieling and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as submitted. A motion was then made by Mr. Kraemer seconded by Mr. Finken and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

A.I. #3 OLD BUSINESS

- a. The Council and Commission conducted labor negotiations and market rate adjustments. The information was sent out under separate cover.

According to State Statutes, there are certain exceptions to the Open Meeting Law, which allow councils to close meetings.

Labor negotiations under PELRA Minn. Stat. § 13D.03. A meeting to consider strategies for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies or development or discussion of labor-negotiation proposals, may be closed. However, the actual negotiations must be done at an open meeting if a quorum of the council is present.

The following procedure must be used to close a meeting under this exception:

- The council must decide to close the meeting by a majority vote at a public meeting and must announce the time and place of the closed meeting.
- Before closing the meeting, the council must state on the record the specific grounds permitting the meeting to be closed and describe the subject to be discussed.
- A written record of all people present at the closed meeting must be available to the public after the closed meeting.
- The meeting must be recorded.
- The recording must be kept for two years after the contract is signed.
- The recording becomes public after all labor agreements are signed by the city council for the current budget period.

If an action claiming that other public business was transacted at the closed meeting is brought during the time the tape is not public, the court will review the recording privately. If the court finds no violation of the open meeting law the action will be dismissed and the recording will be preserved in court records until

it becomes available to the public. If the court determines there may have been a violation, the entire recording may be introduced at the trial. However, the court may issue appropriate protective orders requested by either party.

A motion was made by Mr. Justin Frieler, seconded by Mr. Klasen and unanimously carried to close the meeting. A motion was then made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Finken and unanimously carried to close the meeting.

The Council and Commission continued labor negotiation, and market rate adjustment discussions.

A motion was made by Mr. Finken, seconded by Mr. Kraemer and unanimously carried to open the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

A motion was then made by Mr. Klasen, seconded by Mr. Travis Frieler and unanimously carried to open the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

A.I. #4 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Travis Frieler seconded by Mr. Justin Frieler and unanimously carried to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:40 p.m.

A motion was then made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Finken and unanimously carried to adjourn the Public Utilities Commission meeting at 6:40 p.m.



PATRICIA HAASE, CITY CLERK