RESULTS MATTER

This November vote for:



KristaWolterforMayor.com GregPetersonForCouncil.com MarkAzmanForCityCouncil.com

REELECT KRISTA AND MARK

Under the leadership of Mayor Krista Wolter and the strong support of Councilmember Mark Azman, the City Council has achieved significant accomplishments over the last 4 years. Based on their dedication and meaningful contribution to making our City better, safer and more financially secure, these solution-oriented candidates should be reelected to the Council. See their accomplishments below.

ELECT GREG

And with a demonstrated an ability to lead, Greg should join the Council. Greg will bring his decades of fiscal discipline and budget-mindedness, and he cares deeply about protecting the environment for future generations.

Adoption of a 10-Year Financial Management Plan.

We retained an expert financial advisor (Ehlers) to study and make recommendations for the prudent, long term financial health of the City. The result of our efforts produced a comprehensive, data-driven, sensible, ten year **Financial Management Plan**. This is a critical step in ensuring that our City remains financially healthy, fiscally prudent, and ready for the future. Our Unassigned Fund Balance (aka reserves) is based on several sensible, prudent, expert-driven factors:

- City Policy for nearly 15 years requires a fund balance of 60-70%. Ehlers continues to recommend this level.
- The fund balance allows sufficient funds for the City's cash flow.
- The fund balance allows the City to be ready for any unplanned or unexpected events. • A healthy fund balance allows the City to maintain a AAA bond rating, which saves the City significant funds. For example, our AAA rating saved the City $145,000 related to the Fire Station bond.

Supporting a Financially Disciplined, Sustainable and Responsible Budget

• Fixed Costs. Over 83% of the City's 2027 draft budget of $4.479 million is comprised of fixed costs. • Variable Costs. Little room remains for trimming non-fixed costs (e.g., planner, engineer, attorney, septic and building inspectors, forester, animal control (deer, coyote, goose), office supplies, staff training, etc.) • Levy. Revenues offset expenses, resulting in a preliminary levy of $3.155M (excluding the fire station bond and projected future city hall).

• Property Valuations. Ramsey County property valuations – which are outside of City control - have increased considerably in recent years, which plays an integral part of any property tax increases.

FIXED COSTS

Police $1.4M (including our dedicated deputy)

(From 2022 - 2027, police costs increased 61.6%)

Fire $925k (operating and capital)

(From 2022 - 2027, the fire operating budget increased 111.4%; a federal grant expired in 2026, which primarily caused a $220,000 increase in 2027. The FD also added three full-time firefighter positions in 2026 for improved consistency with 24-hour staffing at the stationhouses)

Office Staff $530k (wages and benefits)
IT $100k (IT and internet)
Recycling $411k
Office rent $117k
LPR $61k
Pleasant Lake Study $50k
Insurance $48k
NineNorth $41k (cable TV)
Election costs $25k
Audit $24k

Total $3.732M = 83.3% of the budget.

A Money-Saving Agreement for Continued East-Side Water Service.

White Bear Township's notice that it would end a long-standing agreement put service to several hundred east side households at risk and forced North Oaks to take responsibility for measuring and managing its own water utilities. The Township demanded additional infrastructure at a cost approaching a million dollars and more. With support from the City Engineer and Krista's hard-driving negotiations, the City convinced the North Oaks Company to fund the new infrastructure and contribute an additional $100,000 to the city. The result was a practical, economical resolution, saving the City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As part of this effort, based on excessive premiums for water service from suppliers, and contamination concerns, the City undertook a modest engineering effort to model a broader water system for planning purposes. The inquiry focused on whether it continued to make sense to purchase water from others, or seek better, more cost-effective, long-term sustainable options.

Prepared and paid for by Mark Azman, 1 Hay Camp Road, North Oaks, MN 55127

Sensible Infrastructure Planning – Protecting our Health and Environment with Local Control.

Protecting our Health and Environment. We have initiated studies to protect the waters and woods that define North Oaks. Aging septic systems, lake water quality, pollution risks and the condition of our environment are interrelated issues. On future infrastructure, we have initiated a master water plan, feasibility work on a municipal system, discussions with Shoreview, and the effortsto secure a path to regional sewer service without being forced into much higher densities by the Met Council that our deed restrictions do not allow. We are still in the early stages, and there is no adopted plan. But we have refused to wait for contaminated wells or failed septic systems to set the timetable.

Obtaining Local Control. We objected to the Met Council's recent population forecasting for the City. Through this objection, we were able to negotiate a favorable settlement with the Met Council and successfully achieve an incremental step towards City control of our municipal infrastructure planning. With this success, the City is much better situated to determine our future.

New Fire Station and Increased Fire Fighter Staffing.

In support of the desire and need for fast, dependable and expert firefighting resources, the City participated in the construction of a new Fire Station, at a cost millions lower than budget estimates initially predicted. The result is a high-functioning, state of the art fire station that was built on time and under budget.

And with our support, we added a new fire truck and additional fire fighters to ensure each of our three stationhouses have the resources needed to meet demand and respond quickly when minutes and seconds matter.

Improving Community Safety and Reducing Crime.

We have undertaken cautious, data-driven steps to improve our safety and security, and assist law enforcement in protecting our City. The use of LPRs protects our City and helps reduce crime.

Better Communication and Coordination with NOHOA.

Under the leadership of an expert consultant recommended by Council Member Azman and approved by Mayor Wolter, we established multiple working sessions with NOHOA to allow the parties to directly engage, develop productive relationships among leaders, establish mutually important objectives, identify redundancies, and pave the way for long-term cooperation and communication.

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Protecting Pleasant Lake.

In partnership with NOHOA (including VLAWMO and St. Paul Water), the Council has approved and is committed to a comprehensive study of Pleasant Lake.

• The City and its partners are developing a long-term plan to protect Pleasant Lake as a recreational resource, an important part of the regional drinking water system, and a healthy lake ecosystem. • The work is intended to provide the City with a clear, practical basis for future lake management decisions

Studying Options for a Future City Hall.

Our City Hall lease is up for renewal. Over the last year, we began a process to evaluate the needs of the City and NOHOA on a long-term financially sensible solution. We have partnered with NOHOA leaders and community members to evaluate current and future facility needs, resident needs and convenience, consulted with a real estate professional to evaluate all potential sites, including the current site, reviewed purcha sing versus renting, studied new construction versus existing, considered potential financing options, and worked with legal professionals. We have engaged an architect to provide focused insight on design, construction timelines, and related costs. And we have regularly reported to the Council and the community on progress of the Committee's efforts.

* * *

We need strong, financially prudent, practical-minded leaders with an eye to maintaining the vision of the founders. Protect the environment, maintain our privacy, keep us safe, secure our natural resources, and prudently plan for the future to ensure our community remains vibrant and enduring for decades to come.



THIS NOVEMBER VOTE FOR

Wolter, Azman and Peterson TO

PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE VISION AND BEAUTY OF NORTH OAKS



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