

City of Excelsior  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES  
EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

February 17, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Beattie, Caron, Fulkerson, Miller, and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Luger, City Planner Smith, Planning Consultant Richards, and Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Caron moved, Fulkerson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5/0.

3. PARKING METERS ANALYSIS

Richards stated that staff is looking for further direction from the Council. He said that staff has looked into replacing existing meters, adding them to areas near Maynard's and in the downtown area. Richards said that the Planning Commission recommended grouping the parking meters and using those that are based on license plates, rather than parking space numbers. He said the Planning Commission also recommended using a solar-powered system, which would eliminate the need for hardwiring the meters. Richards said that meters in most cities don't allow for paper money. He also said that the hourly rates of the meters may be changed according to time of day or the season.

Richards said that Digital Payment Technologies and Strata are the two meters being examined. He said that the Sentry meter is a third system that has cameras built into the meters and takes pictures of the cars. Richards said they would install them at no cost but they want half of the revenue and also want to have them along Water Street. Richards said that Sentry is only used in Canada at this time.

Richards said that Excelsior currently has 160 meters along Lake Street near The Commons that are currently charging .25 cents per 15 minutes. Richards said that an analysis of the costs for installing the meters was included in the Council's packet. He said that the Luke II and Strata have the same costs and revenue projections.

Richards said that, with the Luke II and Strata systems, they send out a signal if the parking time expires. He said that the Sentry system issues tickets immediately. Richards said that the Planning Commission would like the City Council to decide if they want to put meters in the downtown area. Beattie noted that the City of Stillwater is looking at adding pay lots. Beattie asked if there would be an issue if parking overflows into the free residential areas, if parking meters are installed

3. PARKING METERS ANALYSIS - *Continued*

downtown. Richards said that the Planning Commission looked at installing meters in the parking lots, but decided that prime spaces in front of businesses should be charged, but that people should also be given a choice.

Caron mentioned that the cities of Waconia, Wayzata and Mound don't charge for parking. Caron said she believes that parking meters may be a disadvantage for businesses. Luger stated that the downtown businesses meetings have been well attended and generally did not favor parking meters in the downtown.

Beattie questioned what the City's public policy is for installing new meters. He said that parking meter funds could be used for a variety of uses. Caron questioned the goal of constructing a parking ramp. Miller noted that one of the rationales for installing meters along Water street was to ensure turnover in front of businesses; however, he stated that there is a negative impression for people using the meters.

Caron questioned if the meters would prevent people from coming downtown. She said that Excelsior is a community that provides a variety of services. Mayor Gaylord stated that, with the electronic meters, the City could charge fees in the summer but not charge any fees during the winter.

Richards said that Maynard's would prefer not to have meters in front of their business and said that other restaurants in Excelsior do not have meters in front of their businesses.

Beattie said that this could be done in phases and that the Council doesn't need to make a decision tonight. Mayor Gaylord asked about doing a study on the behaviors of consumers. Caron suggested talking to other cities. Luger said that she will contact the City of Stillwater. Luger also stated that the downfall of the Sentry system is that it requires a meter for every two stalls.

Beattie questioned where the funding would come from for installment of the meters. Mayor Gaylord suggested replacing existing meters first and then study the other areas. He said that the reason the City installed meters in The Commons was because those parking there were typically non-residents. Caron said that the downtown area is full on Friday and Saturday nights in the wintertime.

Richards stated that representatives from Luke II and Strata could come and demonstrate their meters for the City Council. Luger said a good place for a demonstration is at the docks. Beattie suggested that the Council also see Sentry's system. Richards said the Planning Commission recommended installing 21 meters in front of Maynard's.

4. FOOD TRUCKS

Richards asked the Council if they are interested in allowing food trucks on public streets. Mayor Gaylord is concerned about the locations of food trucks. Caron said that she doesn't think food trucks should be allowed, except for special events. She said that the City of Wayzata doesn't allow food trucks at all. Fulkerson said that she

4. FOOD TRUCKS - *Continued*

doesn't favor allowing them either. Luger stated that the City does not regulate food trucks right now. Beattie said he doesn't think food trucks should be allowed in residential areas or along Water Street. He said they should only be allowed in private commercial residential lots for private parties. Caron also said that they should only be allowed in private parking lots.

Richards said that the Planning Commission recommended restricting the operational hours of food trucks to 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m

Beattie questioned the difference between a food truck and a caterer. Richards stated that food trucks must be parked on private property in commercial or residential areas.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Beattie moved, Fulkerson seconded, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Smith  
City Planner