

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 20, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Carlson, Beattie, Caron, Miller (arrived at 6:08 p.m) and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Luger, City Engineer Dawley, Finance Director Tumberg, Public Works Superintendent Amundsen, and City Clerk Orlofsky

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Beattie moved, Carlson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Pavement Management Plan

Engineer Dawley provided the background on the MCES and Pavement Management Plan Phase 2 Improvements that have been identified for the 2016- 2018 construction seasons. It is anticipated that final construction and punchlist items may be completed in 2019.

Dawley explained five potential pavement management plan approaches for the next city project.

Carlson asked if Option 5 – Full PMP Reconstruction included everything. Dalwley answered that was correct.

Dawley said that it is hard to determine which option is best, because there are so many variables to consider, such as the different types of materials for pipes as well as soil testing throughout the city to monitor what is going on in the section of town with the oldest infrastructure.

Caron asked what the preferred water pipe is today. Dawley explained that it ductile iron.

Miller asked if Excelsior had a concern about lead in the pipes. Dawley explained that the City performs regular tests to make sure there is no lead in the water.

Carlson asked where Excelsior's weakest links are throughout town. Dawley explained that generally, the weakest areas are determined based on the number of water main breaks and other issues that have occurred.

Dawley explained that sometimes there are multiple reasons why a watermain break occurs. It could be related to corrosive materials in the soil, shifts in the ground due to weather, or other factors.

Beattie asked if the City should test the soils every time the City has a break to verify if the soil caused the break. Dawley said that the City certainly could if they wanted to.

Luger asked if it is a common practice to test the soil every time there is a break. Amundsen and Dawley responded no.

Dawley added that testing and investigations commonly take place during the feasibility study.

Gaylord added that Option 5 doesn't seem like a viable option.

Tumberg explained that water rates are going to increase higher than we have projected in the past. The Sewer fund is doing well and rates have been slightly decreased to offset water increases.

Beattie asked if there are more funding options available with the recent public concern and what has been happening in Flint, Michigan.

Dawley explained that there isn't anything new at this time, but that certainly may change.

Miller asked how these projects are built into our finance plan. Tumberg explained that it is difficult to plan far in advanced for these projects because by the time the funds are increased enough, the cost of the project has increased, and it's difficult to keep up.

Tumberg added that this would be a really nice time to issue another bond for Phase 3 due to the spacing of the previous bond issuance. Miller agreed.

Beattie wondered why not do the whole project at one time including underground utilities so that the City doesn't have to redo it by the time the project is paid off again.

Carlson likes the hybrid approach. Option 1 has the least impact – for least amount of money, but the risk would be that the City could have a water main break and have to tear up new streets.

Caron would like to make a comparison to Minneapolis who also has 100 year pipes that are still functioning.

Tumberg added that it's more effective to plan it out versus one street at a time, and that the City won't get the best pricing during an emergency situation.

Miller stated that the City should plan for what amount they can financially handle and then set a priority list.

Caron asked that the Council remain sensitive to how many construction projects there are for a particular neighborhood so that the neighborhoods don't have ongoing construction projects all at the same time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Carlson moved, Beattie seconded, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Orlofsky
City Clerk