

**CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

MINUTES

**City Council Work Session
Tuesday, August 23, 2011**

8:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Ruehl called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. Council members present: Caron, Fulkerson, Miller (arrived at 8:12 p.m.), Olson, and Mayor Ruehl. Also Present: City Manager Luger, Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf, Finance Director Carlson, and City Clerk Johnson.

2. Agenda Approval

Olson moved, Fulkerson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Third Street Fire Lane

Luger said that at the August 15, 2011 Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to look at blocking off the Third Street fire lane while the City works on a long term plan for the fire lane. A number of options have been identified. Staff is looking to the Council for direction on the type of fencing and the location for the fence.

Wisdorf said he has received proposals from three fence companies. The bids are for galvanized chain link, vinyl coated chain link, and ornamental fencing. The bids also include costs for two different lengths of ornamental fencing. One bid is for placing the fencing straight across the fire lane and the second bid includes the overlook. Wisdorf said that the fence will have a gate with a lock so staff still has access to the lakeshore.

The Council discussed the different types of fencing and whether the fence should go straight across or be placed along the overlook.

Caron and Olson said that they would prefer the ornamental fencing because this is a visible area and the fencing will be there at least until next spring.

Mayor Ruehl and Fulkerson said the fence is a temporary solution, so they couldn't justify spending the extra money on the ornamental fence. Miller said he also did not want to spend over \$2,000 more for a seven to nine month solution.

The consensus of the Council was to have a vinyl coated chain link fence installed straight across the Third Street fire lane.

4. 2012 City Budget

Luger said that staff needs direction from the Council on the preliminary tax levy, the full-time planner position, and the market rate adjustment for the City Manager and Finance Director positions.

Carlson said that the proposed budget includes the GASB 54 changes, a 5% market adjustment to the City Manager and Finance Director positions, and the full-time planner position.

The Council discussed how the tax levy was proposed to increase \$65,000 and how \$35,000 of that increase is needed to cover the City's costs for the change in the formula and increase in the budget for police services.

The consensus of the Council was that a 5% tax levy increase was alright for the preliminary levy. The Council stated that it would like to continue to find ways to reduce costs so the tax levy could be reduced when the final levy is adopted.

Luger distributed salary and benefit information that she had received from other cities for the city manager/administrator and finance director positions. The Council discussed the City Manager salaries. The average salary for the city manager/administrator position in cities with populations less than 5,000 was around \$82,000. With the 5% market adjustment, the salary for the City Manager position would be approximately \$79,000. The Council agreed to leave the 5% market rate adjustments for the City Manager and Finance Director positions in the preliminary budget.

The Council and Luger discussed making the City Planner position full-time. The consensus of the Council was that the full-time planning position could remain in the preliminary budget. The Council questioned whether the amount in the budget for professional services would be adequate for the consulting planner with the full-time planner position. The Council requested that staff review this again to make sure there is adequate funding for the consultant planner.

5. Other

None

6. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson
City Clerk