

CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES

City Council Work Session

Monday, November 5, 2012

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Councilmembers present: Caron, Fulkerson, Miller (arrived at 6:10 p.m.),
and Mayor Ruehl

Councilmembers absent: Olson

Also Present: City Manager Luger, Public Works
Superintendent Wisdorf, Finance Officer
Tumberg, and City Clerk Johnson

2. Agenda Approval

The Council added Item 5 - Pleasant Street Outlet and Item 6 - Hayes System to agenda. Miller moved, Fulkerson seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Review 2013 Fee Schedule

Luger said that in 2007, the Council contracted with the City's Auditors to conduct a study of our license and permit fees. The intent was to have the study updated by the auditors every three years. Based on this schedule, the update would have been completed in 2010. However, when the 2010 budget was prepared, only absolutely necessary expenditures were included so the fee study update was not accomplished. The City was going to undertake the fee study in 2011, but due to the pending changes in personnel and job descriptions it was decided to delay the study for another couple of years. The data from the 2007 fee study is severely outdated and it is difficult to update due to all of the personnel changes. It is staff's recommendation that the license fees remain the same for 2013, because the City does not have the data to determine if an increase in fees is reasonable.

The Council agreed with the staff's recommendation that the fees remain flat for 2013.

4. Finalize 2013 General Fund, Capital Project Fund, and Enterprise Fund Budgets

Luger said that the budget remains the same as what was presented at the last work session. The purpose of this work session is to finalize the City's budgets.

4. Finalize 2013 General Fund, Capital Project Fund, and Enterprise Fund Budgets – (Continued)

Luger said that the Council approved the preliminary General Fund budget and tax levy at the September 4th City Council meeting. No changes have been made to the General Fund budget since that time.

At the September 17th work session the Council reviewed the preliminary enterprise fund budgets. The layout of the enterprise fund budgets has been changed, but the contents are the same with the exception of updates related to capital improvements. The Capital Improvement Plan has been updated to reflect the most current project and cost information.

Mayor Ruehl asked which alternative staff is recommending for the modifications to the water plant. Luger said alternative 4.

Mayor Ruehl asked how will the modifications to the water plant affect the rates? Tumberg said that the City could possibly use some of the sewer and water availability fees from projects to help fund the improvements, or the City could bond for this improvement along with some other projects.

Mayor Ruehl asked when the Council will see the long range plan. Luger said that will be on the Council's next work session agenda.

Miller said some residents are unhappy that their utility bills are so high. If the water rates need to be increased, the City needs to explain why the rates are increasing. Luger said that some residents did see a substantial increase in their water bill when the new tiered rate system was put in place.

The Council asked staff to incorporate the Long Term Financial Plan in the budget calendar and place the updated calendar on the City's website.

5. Pleasant Street Outlet

Luger said that the strip of land that connects both ends of Pleasant Street has been used as a pathway by residents for years. One of the neighboring properties recently denied access to the pathway to one of the residents in the neighborhood.

Luger said that she had the City's real estate attorney, Rolfe Worden look at this strip of land to see who owned it. Worden reported to staff that the strip of land is private property. Luger said that unless the City is interested in purchasing the strip of property, the property owner can deny access.

6. Hayes System

Luger said that a resident had contacted Caron wanting to know why the City doesn't use the Hayes System when it looks at salaries. Luger said the Hayes System is mostly used for pay equity by larger organizations and this

6. Hayes System – (Continued)

resident works for an organization that uses the Hayes System and that is why they are familiar with it. The Hayes System basically ensures that people doing the same work are being paid the same regardless how long someone has worked there. This works well for a larger organization where you have people doing the same work; it doesn't make sense to use it for a city of our size.

7. Other

None

8. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson
City Clerk