

CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES

City Council Work Session

Monday, November 19, 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.), Olson (left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.), and Mayor Ruehl

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

2. Agenda Approval

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

3. Review Long Term Financial Plan

Luger said that all of the projects that are included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan are also included in the Long Term Financial Plan. Staff has various funding scenarios prepared for the Council that will demonstrate the effect each funding scenario will have on the Long Term Financial Plan. The Council's decisions can then be incorporated into the numerical portion of the plan and approved along with the 2013 budget at the December 3rd City Council meeting. A more detailed Long Term Financial Plan will be presented for Council and public review in May of 2013 per the City Charter.

Mayor Ruehl said that the Long Term Financial Plan is a confusing document for the staff and public. This isn't a plan or planning document, it is a tool used for discussion.

Luger said that there should be two documents. The Long Term Financial Plan should have the actual projects that have been approved and the second document should have potential projects for discussion purposes. The potential project list items will need to have a funding mechanism and schedule identified before these projects are approved. Miller said the second one could be a "wish list".

4. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project

a. Shorewood Emergency Watermain Interconnect

Luger said that staff needs the Council to discuss the Shorewood Emergency Watermain Interconnect.

4. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project

a. Shorewood Emergency Watermain Interconnect – (Continued)

Caron said the Shorewood interconnect would include additional users, and wouldn't there be a return on the investment from the new users. Dawley said yes, but he hasn't completed the calculations on what the return would be. He said there would be no new customers if the interconnect was by the Garden Patch. The Greenwood/Shorewood interconnect could bring on 22 new customers. He said that Greenwood is willing to assess their residents for the individual service line and curb stop, and Greenwood is also proposing to charge a trunk connection fee that Excelsior would receive whenever someone connects to the water line.

Fulkerson asked what Shorewood would pay. Dawley said Wisdorf and he met with representatives from Shorewood last week and came up with the costs. Details still need to be worked out, but he believes each city will pay a third. He noted that Greenwood is willing to pass an ordinance that lays out criteria as to when a property owner will need to connect to the water line.

Mayor Ruehl said that people may say no now, but once the pipe is in the ground they are going to want to connect to the water line. Greenwood Councilmember Quam told him that it makes sense to do this now in conjunction with the Met Council project.

Dawley said that the City of Victoria's well broke down this past year and for three weeks the City had to truck in treated water to fill up the well until it could get fixed. The connection is a large expense, but it would be considerably higher if it is done as a standalone project.

Caron said she would like to know how the City is getting paid back. She is not convinced that this is necessary right now and wants to understand how Excelsior will benefit from this.

Dawley said that Greenwood will support assessing all property owners along the corridor, which will cover the services, hydrants, etc. That leaves approximately \$420,000. If the connection fee is \$4,000 times 22 properties that will cover another \$88,000. The remaining can be divided between the cities of Shorewood and Excelsior. He said that Excelsior will probably need to front about \$250,000.

Miller said that if the City is putting the money upfront there should be a plan to recapture the cost. One possibility might be to require future connections to pay a higher cost than someone who signs up to connect right away.

Dawley said that if there is a consensus of the Council that the City is interested in considering the connection he will contact Greenwood tomorrow to set up a meeting to work out some of the details and provide a financial analysis for each city.

4. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project

a. Shorewood Emergency Watermain Interconnect – (Continued)

Wisdorf said that there should be something written in the agreement that addresses any issues that may arise with existing plumbing in the individual homes.

Mayor Ruehl said there are projects on the capital improvement plan list that the City has no plans to do at this time, while there are other items on the list that may need to be completed. There should not be anything on the long term financial plan that does not have a funding mechanism determined. Right now the Met Council project is a high priority; the City will never get another deal where this much infrastructure can be completed for such a low cost.

Caron said she agrees that all wish list items should be removed from the long term financial plan.

Miller said that the City should have two versions, one list of capital improvement projects that the City has committed to do, and a capital improvement project list of potential projects. Then as funding becomes available, items can be moved from the potential project list to the committed projects list.

b. Configuration of Five Corner Intersection

The Council said that this project is not viable due to the cost. The Council agreed to leave this on the potential list of capital improvement project at this time.

5. Other

None

6. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson
City Clerk