

CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES

City Council Work Session

Monday, August 19, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Beattie (arrived at 6:29 p.m.), Caron, Fulkerson, and Mayor Gaylord

Councilmembers Absent: Miller

Also Present: Interim City Manager Johnson, Finance Officer Tumberg, City Engineer Dawley, Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf, and City Clerk Murphy

2. Agenda Approval

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3/0.

3. Review of General Parking Restrictions Ordinance

Interim City Manager Johnson reviewed the general parking restrictions ordinance and provided information from other cities regarding their time restrictions for parking on city streets. Council discussed the enforcement of the 72 hour parking limit and whether exemptions could be made for residents versus unattended vehicles.

Caron mentioned that some residents do not have garages or driveways, making it harder for them to find parking, and Fulkerson questioned if just a warning could be issued if it's not during winter. When there are over two inches of snow, Wisdorf stated that vehicles should be parked in designated areas between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Mayor Gaylord mentioned that the snow emergency ordinance covers the issue of parking on streets in the winter.

Leigh Harrod, 220 Bell Street, said she believes someone has targeted her by calling the Police Chief directly to mark her tires and indicated that this has happened three times. She would like the ordinance changed so residents would be able to leave their vehicles parked in front of their home. Johnson stated that parking spaces in front of houses are City streets, and not designated parking for these homes.

Council agreed it would be a good idea to add an exemption for Excelsior residents or make the ordinance for non-residents only. The Council directed staff to discuss ordinance language with City Attorney Staunton.

4. 2014 Preliminary General Fund Budget

Tumberg updated the Council on the 2014 Preliminary General Fund Budget. At the end of the last Work Session, the Council discussed a preliminary tax levy of 3 percent. Tumberg said she has updated the budget to reflect the 3 percent increase. To fund the new debt for future capital improvement projects at the \$40,000, the tax levy would need to be increased 4.56 percent. A 3 percent tax levy would provide approximately \$17,000 worth of funding for future projects. Tumberg said that the cost for the roundabout option was lowered from \$550,000 to \$200,000 per the Council's direction.

Caron said at the last Council Work Session that she had asked for an accounting of how long it would take to replenish the capital improvement fund, if the money is used to do the capital improvement projects that are in the City's Long Term Financial Plan over the next few years. Tumberg said that, with all of the projects slated to be completed in the next few years, the lowest the fund balance will get down to is \$350,000. The fund will start accumulating more for planned projects and, by the end of the ten year plan, it will be up to \$800-\$900,000, contingent on the lease arrangement for the 810 Excelsior Boulevard property.

Mayor Gaylord asked about the roundabout and if there was any feedback on how the City will make up the money. Dawley stated that the target is to secure Federal grant dollars at 80/20 split. WSB just completed the traffic counts. The City currently has a placeholder of \$1-\$1.5M for the roundabout. Mayor Gaylord asked if projecting \$200,000 as the City's portion is reasonable or should the amount be higher? Dawley said it's hard to judge but if \$200,000 is affordable at this time, the amount can be adjusted on an annual basis. He noted that MnDOT may also provide some funding for the roundabout.

Tumberg asked if the Council would like a 3 percent preliminary tax levy presented at the next Council meeting. Fulkerson said yes, but she would like to see it decreased for the final levy. The Councilmembers agreed. Tumberg stated that the City also needs to submit a report with an estimate on the cost savings to the City with the sales tax exemption.

5. Potential Projects in Conjunction with 2014 Forcemain Project

Dawley stated that the work on the east portion of Excelsior Boulevard between the City limits and Division Street is underway. Next year, the project will continue west on Excelsior Boulevard. The City has the ability to include additional items in the Met Council's contract. Staff is working with Met Council staff to revise the plans for next year's project. Dawley talked about other areas for consideration. Some are by special agreement (utility service items) and others are large items (Morse Avenue, Beehrle Avenue). One item also being discussed with the Met Council Forcemain Project is the expansion of water to Shorewood Yacht Club.

5. Potential Projects in Conjunction with 2014 Forcemain Project – (Continued)

Tumberg said she is concerned that there will not be adequate funds in the Water Utility Fund to handle all of the projects that have been identified to be completed in 2014.

Caron noted that she did not remember discussing these improvements previously. Dawley said that the list of improvements was discussed with the Council last year. Caron said that there are two new Councilmembers this year who were not on the Council last year for the discussions.

Dawley said if Morse Avenue is reconstructed, the City could reconstruct the watermain under the road. It would not be an essential item, but listed as a possible or potential item. The sidewalk from the substation to Highway 7 could also be included in the preliminary plans for next year. He noted a couple of smaller items that could be included - an overlay of a small section of Courtland Avenue and lighting conduit for future streetlights along Excelsior Boulevard.

The Council requested that staff provide the information that the Council received last year regarding the improvements for the next Council Work Session.

Dawley said that Met Council hopes to put the 2014 project out for bid in November 2013. He will need feedback from the Council on what improvements the City wants to include in the 2014 project to the Met Council before the end of September. Dawley agreed to provide more information and cost breakdowns for the improvements for the next Council Work Session.

Caron said she would also like to discuss what impact the proposed projects will have on the Water Utility Fund at the next Work Session.

Bob Bolles, 229 George Street, suggested that watermain be installed down Beeman Place. Wisdorf stated that there is a stub in the plan but not a full waterline. Mayor Gaylord said this item is on the list and can be discussed further at a future meeting.

6. Adjournment

Caron moved, Beattie seconded, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Murphy
City Clerk