

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, September 23, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Beattie, Caron, Fulkerson, Miller
(arrived at 6:49 p.m.), and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: None

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

2. Agenda Approval

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

3. Potential Projects in Conjunction with 2014 Forcemain Project and Financing Options

Dawley provided a continuation of the 2014 Forcemain Project presentation from the September 9, 2013 Work Session and provided a more detailed cost breakdown by item for the Council.

Staff is seeking direction on which items the Council would like to keep on the list. Beattie asked if staff has an order of priority for the projects. Dawley stated no; staff believes all of the projects are necessary.

Council discussed the Capital Improvement Fund and how many projects can be paid for from this fund. Johnson stated that funding for all improvements not utility related would be paid for out of the Capital Improvement Fund, including any work in The Commons and the possible roundabout. Approximately \$100,000 from debt levy is deposited into this fund every year, along with assessments and building rent revenues. Johnson reassured the Council that there is adequate money in this Fund to pay for these projects. She noted that this fund would have an estimated \$824,000 at the end of 2013.

Beattie asked if some of the \$96,900 for Beehrlle Avenue could be assessed to the property owners. Dawley said it could be assessed but getting four properties off the one small service line is something that the City needs to take care of and assessing costs may not be favorable to the property owners. Caron questioned if the City could go with a 6-inch or an 8-inch pipe. Wisdorf said the City needs to have a 12-inch pipe in order to have an emergency interconnect with Shorewood. Wisdorf also said that City's cost for the installation will be much less if it is completed as part of the Met Council project than if it is a project by itself.

3. Potential Projects in Conjunction with 2014 Forcemain Project and Financing Options - (continued)

Dawley discussed the street width and parking configuration of George Street and how it interacts with sidewalk, boulevard, and right-of-way. Because of the right-of-way constraints, the sidewalk will abut right up to the curb. Dawley stated that the sidewalk will be wider where there is no boulevard and, where there is boulevard, the small green space will go away. In some areas, the sidewalk will be about 7 feet wide. Beattie and Caron thought a 7-foot width was too wide, especially in a residential area. The Council stated that it would like to keep some of the boulevards. The Council was interested in going out to George Street to look at the design issues.

Dawley stated that the power poles will not be moved, so pedestrians will need to walk around the back side of the poles. If the Council wants to have green space on George Street, the City would need to post no parking on both sides of George Street.

Bob Bolles, 229 George Street, stated that the power poles are closer to the street on George Street. He asked if the width of George Street will get narrower or will the curb butt up against the power poles. He agreed with the Council that a 7-foot wide sidewalk would be too wide.

Wisdorf stated that the sidewalk could be 5 feet and the extra two feet could be placed on the property owner's side of the sidewalk. Mayor Gaylord agreed that this would be another option for the design.

Dawley stated that the first one to two feet of the sidewalk is not really usable since signs go in this area.

Bolles stated that he thought the City was planning on putting watermain in Beeman Place, but he didn't see this on the plans. He also asked why the City would repave Courtland Street but not Beeman Place. Bolles also questioned the spacing of the fire hydrants. Dawley stated that the Fire Department has approved the plans; staff will have the Fire Department review the plans again.

Council directed staff to move forward with the list of project items.

4. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Beattie seconded, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Murphy
City Clerk