

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, November 18, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Beattie (arrived at 6:22 p.m.), Caron, Fulkerson, Miller (arrived at 6:11 p.m.), and Mayor Gaylord

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

2. Agenda Approval

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to amend the agenda and move Item 4, Parking Permit Fees, before Item 3, and approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried 3/0.

4. Parking Permit Fees

Johnson stated that the Council needs to decide what the parking permit fees will be for 2014 so residents can begin purchasing their parking permits in December.

Caron and Fulkerson stated that they did not want to raise the parking permit fees. Caron said she would prefer that the residents get a permit at no cost. Mayor Gaylord stated that he thinks the parking permit fees should be raised, and Miller said he was supportive of raising the parking permit fees slightly. Fulkerson said she is against raising the parking permit fee for residents.

Fulkerson suggesting raising the rate for the meters. Wisdorf said it would be too costly to install new mechanisms in the meters to change the rate.

The Council suggested the parking permit fees be raised to \$12 for the first permit, \$17 for the second permit, and \$22 for the third permit.

3. 2014 Rates of Residential Docks/Buoys/Slides

Tumberg presented information on the boat lengths and amount collected from the 2013 season for the docks. Tumberg also provided research from other cities and private marinas regarding rates.

Mayor Gaylord asked what the age is to be eligible for senior rates. Tumberg said the senior eligibility rate is for people 62 years and older, retired and reside in Excelsior.

Fulkerson said if the Council decides to go with a flat rate for the docks versus charging by the foot, the City should grandfather in the current dock renters and start new dock renters at the new rate structure. Miller said he likes the idea,

3. 2014 Rates of Residential Docks/Buoys/Slides - (Continued)

especially for those renters with smaller boats. Caron stated she will not vote to raise rates to the flat rate for a 24 foot boat, even for the new renters. Caron said she is concerned that changing the rate structure will make the docks unaffordable for most residents; she would prefer to keep the docks affordable for everyone in Excelsior. Miller agreed with Caron. Miller suggested phasing in the new rate structure or raising the minimum size boat from 15 feet to 17 feet.

Caron questioned if the goal is to try to generate more revenue. If that is the goal, maybe the City should petition the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to allow the docks further out. Mayor Gaylord said he believes it is important to generate more revenue, which can also be used to cover other items where the City does not have funding.

Miller said that the City references on the Dock/Buoy/Slide Application that a certain percentage of the dock/buoy/slide fees are used to help offset general operating expenditures. Tumberg stated that \$50,000 was transferred from the Dock Fund to the General Fund. Johnson said that the City is also building up capital for dock replacement.

The Council discussed the depreciation schedule for the docks.

Beattie suggested raising the rates, phasing in the flat rate, and moving towards collecting more revenue.

Mayor Gaylord said a fixed fee would help people for planning purposes. Miller agreed and said that rates need to be raised by a reasonable amount. Miller asked where the City is with paying back the interfund loans that were taken out to build the docks.

Tumberg stated that all of 2013 increases received from the docks were kept in the Dock Fund to build that up.

Miller suggested saving money for dock replacement so the City does not need to take out bonds. Mayor Gaylord said some of the money in the Dock Fund was used to build Pier 5.

Beattie stated that only 18 of the 66 boats in 2013 were less than 20 feet in length.

Fulkerson said she is concerned with raising the price for the dock renters to a flat rate for a 24 foot boat.

Miller and Beattie stated that raising the minimum boat size to 15 feet will have no effect since most boats are 20 feet in length or more. Miller suggested changing the minimum to 20 feet.

Caron said the real dollars are in adding more docks. Tumberg said that most of the dock renters who pay for a 15 foot boat have boats smaller than 15 feet.

3. 2014 Rates of Residential Docks/Buoys/Slides - (Continued)

Beattie stated that the flat rate would still be about \$2,500 less than what someone would pay at a marina. Caron said the residents with the smaller boats cannot afford the rates that marinas charge.

Miller suggested raising all of the rates by five percent, raising the minimum size boat to 20 feet, and phasing everyone in over a three-year period to the 20 foot minimum rate.

Caron and Fulkerson suggested that this item be properly noticed and discussed at a Council meeting, rather than at Work Session.

Johnson asked the Council to identify what information they wanted to have for the December 16, 2013 Council meeting for the dock discussion. The Council stated that it wanted a listing of the rate increases back to 2003, a chart indicating when piers were added and what the cost to build each pier, and an accounting of the interfund loans that were used to build the piers.

Fulkerson asked what the rate was of the consumer price index this past year. Tumberg stated it was 2.2 percent. She noted that a 5 percent increase would net approximately \$7,400 in additional revenue.

Caron requested that the residential dock renters be notified that the Council will be discussing the dock rates at the December 16, 2013 Council agenda.

5. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Beattie seconded, to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Murphy
City Clerk