

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, December 2, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Beattie, Fulkerson, Miller, and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: Councilmember Caron

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

2. Agenda Approval

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

3. Food and Beverage Tax

City Manager Luger presented information on adopting a food and beverage tax.

Currently, Minneapolis and St. Paul are the only municipalities in the Twin Cities that have a local sales tax. Luger stated that the first step is to gain support from local representatives and suggested a meeting between Mayor Gaylord and staff prior to bringing this item forward. Mayor Gaylord said the City needs a general direction first. Luger said the City will need to know what dollar amounts are needed, which projects will be funded, and the tax rate, and stated that, once the amount is raised, the tax goes away.

Luger suggested a bonding bill might be more palatable to the Legislators to pay for the roundabout. Beattie would like to dedicate the revenue to The Commons rather than the roundabout so the tax would continue for a longer period. Miller agreed and said that the City could define regional projects for the bandshell, bath house and other improvements and hope Legislators will see it as a regional asset to be funded.

Beattie said that Minneapolis and St. Paul have a food and beverage tax currently at 1 and 1.5 percent respectively, and questioned what that amount would generate for Excelsior. Miller said the Minnesota Department of Revenue could provide this information. Miller also stated the fact that Excelsior receives no Local Government Aid (LGA) or aid for streets, and is a contributor to the fiscal disparities program, along with the wear and tear on The Commons, there may be good argument for assistance from our representatives. Mayor Gaylord would like to have another discussion and requested staff bring bullet items. Miller stated that the last time the City discussed food and beverage tax, the Representative was not in support of it.

3. Food and Beverage Tax - (Continued)

The Council agreed that a food and beverage tax is worth pursuing. Miller said this would need to be a referendum on the 2014 election, staff should find out what the deadline is for getting a referendum on the ballot. Luger stated that the City would also need to get support from residents and local businesses.

4. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Murphy
City Clerk