



City Council/Manager

November 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Virtual WebEx Meeting

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Harris and Council Members; Rosenquist, Fonnest, Sanberg and Harris.

Staff present: City Manager Cruikshank, Physical Development Director Nevinski, City Engineer Oliver, Assistant City Engineer Kakach, Environmental Resources Supervisor Eckman, Environmental Specialist Chirpich, Finance Director Virnig and Physical Development Assistant Schwalbe.

Also present: Mike Kotila (SEH consulting)

1. Local Residential Street Speed Limit Discussion

Assistant City Engineer Kakach presented the staff report. The Minnesota State Legislature adopted a bill which was signed into law that provides limited authority to cities to set speed limits for streets under their jurisdiction. The City contracted with consulting traffic engineer firm SEH Inc. to perform a speed limit study on roadways. The attached report provides background for consideration of potential speed limit changes and outlines three courses of action:

Option 1: Maintain the current speed limits within the City.

Option 2: Adopt the statutory 25 mph on all residential streets and make no changes to other streets in non-residential areas in the community.

Option 3: Adopt a 20 mph speed limit on all residential streets with speed limits on nonresidential streets based upon the nature and function of the roadway.

Kkach explained that the primary point of discussion for this meeting was the speed limit at local neighboring streets. Neighboring cities like Minneapolis and St. Paul have already implemented a 20 mph speed limit for local streets. St Louis Park is looking at implementing a similar model as Minneapolis. Kakach added the cities of Robbinsdale and Crystal have no plans to make adjustments at this time. He said that if so decided by the Council, implementation of option 2 or 3 would occur in 2021 and would require additional signage and public education. While there would be some cost, the cost difference between option 2 and 3 would be negligible. It is worth noting that both of those options would be more expensive than leaving the status quo.

Councilmember Rosenquist asked about school speed zones and if the City had the ability to regulate speeds differently in those areas. Mike Kotila explained the City has the ability to treat school zones independently and that school speed zones can be implemented. These speed zones vary based on roadway and circumstances, he said.

The Council discussed the role of continuity of speed limits across cities and its importance. Engineering staff pointed out that there is concern of varying speed limits in different communities and that there is no state wide residential roads speed limit to this date. Staff established that uniformity within our community is something Golden Valley can aim form.

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The Council agreed that they have heard from neighbors and residents who are concerned about speeding in Golden Valley. The Council is supportive of 20 mph limit on residential streets. Aside from the data that shows that crash risks for pedestrians is reduced at lowers speeds, the Council points out that there are many streets in Golden Valley that do not have sidewalks, where people walk, bike and exercise in. The Council is supportive of taking a proactive approach with a focus on educating the community, utilizing signage instead of a patrol and enforcement mode of operation around this issue.

Council consensus was to re visit this item at an upcoming City Council Meeting, following some public outreach through the newsletter and website, where there would be opportunity for the public to provide input prior to potential implementation.

2. Review of 2021 Master Fee Schedule

Finance Director Virnig presented the staff report which includes the 2021 Master Fee Schedule up for review on the upcoming City Council Meetings on November, 17 and December, 1, 2020. Virnig presented the major changes in administration fees by department. Mayor Harris inquired about the emergency water supply fee. Virnig explained the fee started in 2014 and will go until 2025, to pay for an emergency pipe that broke and for wells needed for emergency use. The Council had no concerns with the schedule or its additions and will be re visiting the topic on the upcoming City Council Meetings.

3. Discussion of Organic and Recycling Request for Proposal

Environmental Resources Supervisor Eckman presented the staff report. He explained that following the June 9, 2020 Council/Manager meeting, staff has been working on next steps to implement curbside organics recycling collection in Golden Valley. Eckman explained that the Environmental Commission's recommendation to expand the City's contracted recycling services by adding an "all in, everyone pays" curbside organics recycling collection service seems to offer the lowest cost for residents, with the opportunity for higher participation rates. Eckman added that the City will consider the recycling company's commitment to equity as part of the evaluation criteria with the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Councilmember Sanberg asked about the City's ongoing conversations with haulers. Environmental Specialist Chirpich said the City has maintained ongoing correspondence with currently licensed haulers to help guide specifications within the contract. Among other topics, discussion was centered on: the size of carts for organics recycling; pricing of services for one vs two separate contracts; sticker, tag education on carts; and the plan of action for residents to return carts should they want to opt out after the initial roll out.

Councilmember Sanberg asked if participation rates increased when every resident receives a cart in their home. Staff indicated that data supports that notion.

Councilmember Rosenquist asked if there was a way for residents to opt out of using a durable cart to collect their recyclables and use a durable bag system. Staff explained the preference would be a durable cart system but noted there could be alternate methods to achieve the goals of this program.

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Councilmember Harris asked about grant funding from Hennepin County to offset some of the increase in cost to the Recycling Program and the addition of the Organics Collection service. Eckman said that the grant program funding from Hennepin County is score based and that under the current formula, if the City decides to roll out the Organics Collection service program, it could receive more funding. Hennepin County is in the process of reviewing and updating its grant funding program and staff will continue to monitor progress and look for opportunities to engage with the County in its effort.

Physical Development Nevinski added that the expansion of the City's contracted recycling services by adding an all-in, everyone pays Curbside Organics Collection service will represent a budget increase, and that the amounts could vary depending upon a number of factors.

4. Temporary Paid Leave Policy

City Manager Cruikshank presented the staff report. In April 2020, the City Council approved various Temporary Employment Policies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The policies included a temporary PTO and Vacation Policy which allowed staff to continue to accrue PTO and Vacation beyond their existing maximum annual through the end of the year. As the City continues to operate under the pandemic, several staff members have not been able to use PTO or vacation. Staff is proposing a policy amendment to mitigate some PTO and vacation loss for City employees. The proposal includes:

- Buying back PTO or Vacation hours from employees who are over their maximum accrual by December 6, 2020.
- Allowing certain employees to continue accruing PTO or Vacation hours beyond their existing maximum accrual until August 29, 2021.

Cruikshank explained there are several employees in various departments who do not have the ability to take time off due to staffing shortages in the current situation.

The Council is supportive of the proposed changes and thanks staff for their service and commitment to the City in these challenging times.

5. Council Review of Future Draft Agendas

11-17-20: City Council Meeting
12-01-20: HRA Special Meeting
12-01-20: City Council Meeting
12-08-20: Council Manager Meeting
12-15-20: City Council Meeting

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No changes were submitted for future draft agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

DocuSigned by:
Shepard M. Harris
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tomas Romano
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