



City Council/Manager

April 14, 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, City Attorney Cisneros, City Engineer Oliver, Finance Director Virnig, Physical Development Director Nevinski, Parks and Recreation Director Birno, Assistant City Engineer Kakach.

1. Discussion with Representative Omar

Representative Ilhan Omar introduced her staff and thanked the City for hosting her. Omar discussed her office's work in the district, including constituent's assistance in Golden Valley. Omar also discussed the CARES Act and a breakdown of the allocation of funds– in particular at a state and local level.

The Council and Representative Omar discussed funding on the Blue Line Light Rail and its implementation including work and coordination with the Minnesota Delegation and governor Walz. The Council also discussed infrastructure funds, workers compensation for first responders and Affordable Housing relief efforts in relation with the current economic crisis, among various other items.

The Council thanked representative Omar and her staff for their time and efforts.

2. Boards/Commissions 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan

a. Open Space and Recreation Commission

Bob Mattison, Chair of the Open Space and Recreation Commission presented the 2019 annual Commission report. Mattison provided an overview of the Commissions workplan and the issues that have been discussed throughout the year. Mattison summarized the main focuses of the Commission: Brookview, and Golf Course Capital Improvement Plan, Luce Line Regional Trail and community member engagement.

Mattison presented the 2020 Proposed Workplan, exploring ideas for future parkland use, like a sand volleyball court and updating park amenities and facilities. Mattison also explained the OSRC will take on the role of the Bike and Pedestrian Task Force focusing on enhancing rider's experience throughout Golden Valley Trails.

The Council discussed Brookview Programming and the 2020 Workplan. The Council inquired about the addition of "Cooking in the Valley" Series. Birno explained that the addition of a new commercial grade kitchen allows for great flexibility in the program and that there is potential to

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hire independent contractors to support the program. It would include, baking classes, healthy cooking options, among other things. Birno also acknowledged the Coronavirus Pandemic has become a burden in the implementation of the program.

The Council thanked the Commission for their work and support throughout the year.

3. 2020 Bike Lane Project

City Engineer Oliver presented the staff report. As part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, staff prepared plans and specifications for on-street bike lanes included in the plan. Staff is now presenting a proposal of new designs and segments to add to the 2019 approved bike lanes.

The Council discussed the plans and specific comments and concerns by community members, including proposed no parking and vehicle accessibility and how it impacts adjacent local businesses. Staff and the Council also addressed traffic patterns and feedback from businesses as well as roadway needs (striping and signing).

The Council debated postponing certain projects due to financial and budgetary constraints, especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak and how it has impacted City business.

4. 2020 Budget Update and 2019 Unassigned Fund Balance

Finance Director Virnig presented her report. Vining provided a breakdown of certain City revenues and expenditures. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had economic impact in the form of additional expenditures i.e. COVID-19 related supplies, cleaning supplies, computer/IT needs, etc. Staff explained the City should consider budget implications of facility closures, program cancellations and delays, penalty write-offs, and other financial impacts of state and federal emergency orders as well as the Executive Administrative Actions adopted by the City Council moving forward.

The Council discussed the fund balance and how to continue to provide critical government services. This Council discussed debt reduction and the unassigned fund balance.

5. Discussion Regarding City Fees

Finance Director Virnig presented a list of fees for the Council to consider in light of the Coronavirus pandemic and the current economic environment. This includes Rental License annual renewal fees, Parks & Rec program fees, special assessments, license fees, City SAC and WAC charges, inflow and infiltration and utility billing fees.

The Council discussed the implications of delaying and pro-rating certain fees. The Council also debated the effect of not collecting certain funds and deferring them for a year, in terms of City budget and City operations (since without income received certain rates would go up). The Council discussed specific items to be brought up at the next Council meeting with potential to waive certain fees and charges.

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6. Council Review of Future Draft Agendas: Housing and Redevelopment Authority April 21, City Council April 21, City Council May 5, and Council/Manager May 12, 2020.

No changes were submitted for future draft agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.

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Shepard M. Harris
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tomas Romano
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Tomas Romano, Assistant to the City Manager's Office



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