

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
January 14, 2020**

Attendance

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at Oakdale Municipal Building, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting began at 5 PM.

Present: Mayor Paul Reinke

Council Members: Jake Ingebrigtsen
Susan Olson
Colleen Swedberg
Kevin Zabel

Also Present: Brian Bachmeier, Public Works Director / City Engineer
Susan Barry, City Clerk
Craig Dawson, Interim City Administrator
Jen Hassebroek, Senior Community Development Specialist
Alyssa MacLeod, Communications Specialist
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director
Dallas Pierson, Planning Commission
Bob Streetar, Community Development Director
Bill Sullivan, Chief of Police

Electric Vehicle Study

Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek provided an overview of the Electric Vehicle Study completed by the Oakdale Environmental Management Commission. She explained that the study offered an implementation plan to encourage the use of electric and autonomous vehicles.

In response to questions from the City Council, Ms. Hassebroek noted that there were currently 51 electric vehicles in Oakdale, that the cities of Maplewood and Woodbury offer charging stations at their respective city halls, that staff did not have data on the usage of the charging stations at HyVee, and that they are the only charging stations currently in the City. She reviewed the action items for implementing the plan.

Ride and Drive

Council Member Zabel inquired whether the city's sponsorship of ride and drive events would entail any financial obligations.

Mayor Reinke did not support spending funds on ride and drive events.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen agreed and added that he felt it was too early for municipalities to become involved in electric vehicles and charging stations.

It was the consensus of the City Council that no funds be expended for ride and drive events.

Zoning/Subdivision Code/City Code Amendments

The City Council supported allowing charging stations in all zoning districts and establishing design standards relating to charging stations but not to amend City Code regarding parking at electric vehicle charging stations.

The City Council supported having developers, rather than the City, determine the number of charging stations to install at new developments.

Staff was asked to further explore the use of incentives for installing charging stations in new multi-housing and commercial developments.

Building Permit Process

Ms. Hassebroek noted that updates for the permit process is underway.

Electric Vehicle Bulk Buy

Staff was asked to provide details that compare the cost of electrical power vs. fuel over the life of a vehicle.

City Financing for Charging Stations

Staff was directed to provide additional information on this proposal.

Local Sales Tax – Regional Significance

Interim City Administrator Dawson provided an overview of the proposed language of the resolution of support to implement local sales tax to help fund the police department expansion and public works facility. He added that the resolution would be presented to the City Council for adoption at the January 28 meeting.

Council Member Swedberg supported the wording of the proposed resolution.

Council Member Olson supported the wording of the proposed resolution.

Council Member Zabel recommended using more recent employment figures, if available.

Community Development Director Streetar explained that the employment data are from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, who relies on the US Census Bureau.

Council Member Zabel recommended including the number of miles of the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system for which the City will be responsible.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier explained that the mileage would be known once the City enters into a maintenance agreement.

Mayor Reinke asked that the documents identify the BRT stations as “major transit stations” rather than “stops” and that additional information be included on the BRT Greenway Station and to include the sizes of parks listed in the recreation and leisure attractions section. He also asked that the document include the Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce support of the local sales tax.

In response to a question from Mayor Reinke, Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier noted that Oakdale does not currently provide water to the City of Lake Elmo.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel, Police Chief Sullivan noted that a training facility is still needed at the Oakdale police facility, but a different version.

Park Capital Improvement Program: Ice Rinks, Warming Houses, Walton Park Backstops

Also Present: Janet Cunningham, Parks and Recreation Commission
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Paul Lockhart, Parks and Recreation Commission
Jenny Nyberg, Parks and Recreation Commission
Deb Xiong, Parks and Recreation Commission
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier provided an overview of the park improvement projects slated for 2020.

Recreation Superintendent Williams provided an overview of the City’s recreation programs and participation.

Council Member Swedberg asked that the park usage study be conducted in 2020 as initially planned.

Council Member Zabel agreed and suggested starting with the larger parks.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier responded that staff could look at options.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel, Recreation Superintendent Williams noted that the City’s Pop Up Park program continues to grow.

In response to questions, Recreation Superintendent Williams noted that the Recreation Department continues to attract qualified applicants for the seasonal positions and also that the City collaborates on various programs with the City of Maplewood and School District 622.

Council Member Zabel asked about offering internships for college credits.

Council Member Zabel suggested contacting Tartan High School to encourage their participation in the City's volunteer efforts, such as buckthorn removal.

Commissioner Lockhart noted that the school district no longer allows organizations to distribute flyers to students at school and, as a result, participation in Oakdale Athletic Association (OAA) sports has sharply declined. He further noted that he plans to discuss the matter with the School Board. Commissioner Lockhart also shared news of the OAA planning to partner with Special Olympics.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Community Development Director Streetar provided an overview of the park proposal for the Willowbrooke development.

Commissioner Lockhart presented a proposal for the OAA to donate funds to the City for improvements to youth fields at Tanners (Bearth fields), Northdale, and Walton parks.

Ice Rinks, Warming Houses

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, staff indicated that only a few comments had been received about the closing of the Walton Park ice rink and warming house.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen suggested that a building with restrooms be added at Eastside Park that could serve as a warming house in the winter. He added that the ice skating rink at that location is used frequently.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier explained that no structures may be built east of the hockey rink due to the underground oil pipeline.

Parks Superintendent Koesling noted that a portable warming house could be rented at an annual cost of \$4-6,000.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel, Parks Superintendent Koesling noted that constructed warming houses can last up to 30 years.

It was the consensus of the City Council to implement a pilot program to place portable warming houses at Eastside and Walton parks for the 2020-2021 season.

In response to a question from Council Member Olson, Parks Superintendent Koesling stated that resurfacing the ice skating rink at Walton ice skating rink would increase its usage.

Parks Superintendent Koesling noted he would proceed with removing the existing warming house at Walton Park.

Walton Park Backstops

Council Member Zabel commented on the City Council's work to reduce debt and, as such, commented that general obligation bonds were not an appropriate use for financing park projects. He suggested eliminating the \$120,000 from the 2020 Capital Improvement Program for replacing the Walton Complex Backstops and using \$100,000 of that amount from the Park Reserve Fund for the paving repairs needed at the Walton ballfield complex.

Mayor Reinke agreed that more discussion would occur on the use of general obligation bonds.

Council Member Zabel noted that the Walton Complex Backstops were in usable condition.

Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that the backstop project included repairing the concrete fence post footings that have become exposed over time and spoke about the importance of making the improvements for the safety of ball players. He distributed photographs showing the footings.

Mayor Reinke asked that the matter be brought back for further discussion.

Council Discussion

Council Member Zabel asked that the City Council proceed with completing the Strategic Plan, facilitated by Mike Sable, rather than waiting for the new city administrator to be hired.

Staff was directed to contact Mike Sable to schedule a Strategic Plan retreat.

The City Council discussed comments received from a resident about the City's off-leash dog park: Dogs without collars/leashes outside of the fenced area; excessive barking, fighting, noise; unsanitary conditions relating to dog waste; use of park beyond posted hours; and vehicles are parking on both sides of Helena Lane.

Police Chief Sullivan noted that the department would increase enforcement of park hours.

In response to a question from Council Member Olson, Police Chief Sullivan noted that he would ask whether a timed lock could be installed on the entry gate.

Council Member Olson shared news about the City's new Adopt a Storm Drain Program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Barry, City Clerk