

WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
July 9, 2019
5 PM

Attendance

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota.

Present: Mayor Paul Reinke

Council Members: Jake Ingebrigtsen
Susan Olson
Colleen Swedberg
Kevin Zabel

Absent: None

Also Present: Susan Barry, City Clerk
Bart Fischer, 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

North Electronic Message Sign

Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek reviewed a report that provided two options for installing the single-sided electronic message sign that had been located at Highway 36 and Hadley Avenue. She explained that the sign had to be removed due to the construction of the interchange in that location. Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek provided an overview of options: Discovery Center and the North Fire Station.

In response to a question from Council Member Swedberg, Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek indicated that if placed at the Discovery Center, the sign could face Hadley Avenue instead of facing south.

Council Member Zabel expressed concern with sign distracting drivers on Hadley Avenue as well as illumination from the sign disturbing residents living in that area. He added that the sign at that location did not fit the natural aesthetics of the site.

Mayor Reinke provided some background on the decision to locate the sign at Highway 36 and Hadley in 2013.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen suggested placing the sign along I-694.

Council Member Zabel suggested selling the sign.

Mayor Reinke envisioned the sign being placed at either the fire station or along Hadley Avenue cross from the Park Tool building. He also suggested postponing a decision until the bridge over Highway 36 has been completed to determine if the sign could be located in the area.

Council Member Zabel suggested that the sign be placed at the former 3M development site.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen suggested it be placed at the new Public Works facility.

Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek noted that electrical service costs would need to be factored in to wherever the sign is installed. She also shared the Recreation Department's strong interest in an electronic message sign to replace the manual sign being utilized.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen expressed concern with the sign at the Discovery Center adversely affecting residents in the vicinity and said he would consider supporting it provided it was supported by the residents living across the street.

Senior Community Development Specialist Hassebroek noted that once a location was selected, the process would include notifying property owners in the vicinity.

Mayor Reinke would support the Discovery Center location if the sign was two-sided.

Council Member Swedberg commented on the difficulty of reading the messages on the manual sign currently used at the Discovery Center. She commented on the importance of placing the sign in a visible location.

After further discussion, Mayor Reinke asked staff to gather more information on the site across from Park Tool as well along 50th Street, just south of the fire station.

Council Member Zabel asked about options on the east side of the city.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen suggested along Helmo Avenue and 12th Street by the water tower.

Council Member Olson suggested the CR 14 and Inwood Avenue area.

Mayor Reinke noted that should none of the three new options be viable, that a decision wait until the Highway 36 and Hadley Avenue bridge project is completed.

Senior Community Development Director Hassebroek noted that there is no city-owned land in that area and that the grade changes along Hadley Avenue might not be conducive to a sign.

Susan Vento – Metropolitan Council, District 11

Metropolitan Council Member Vento provided an overview of her background and her role on the council.

The group discussed rapid transit, area road construction, development of the former 3M site, and the city's business community.

Council Member Vento talked about a recent residential project in Hugo that included a significant water quality element and to watch for information on water quality grants that could be considered for the former 3M site. She suggested the City Council consider a tour of the sewer treatment facility in Saint Paul to learn more about the operation.

Council Member Vento indicated that top priorities for the Metropolitan Council are equity and public engagement. She invited the City Council to contact her at any time.

Community Development Director Streetar shared that the city obtained a \$1.4 million grant from the Metropolitan Council toward the redevelopment of the former Oakdale Mall site.

Police Facility Tour and Project Overview

Also Present: Karin LaTour, Police Captain
 Bill Sullivan, Chief of Police
 Cindy McCleary, Leo A. Daly Architects
 Todd LaVold, Leo A. Daly Architects

(City Council and staff toured the police facility).

Following the tour, Todd LaVold, Leo A. Daly Architects, provided an overview of the police department expansion project.

In response to a question from Council Member Olson, Police Chief Sullivan noted that he desired to keep the shared entrance with City Hall for the convenience of visitors.

In response to a question from Council Member Ingebrigtsen, Mr. LaVold noted that other police facility in the area have indoor parking.

In response to a question from Council Member Ingebrigtsen, Police Chief Sullivan noted that the proposal plans for future growth of the department.

In response to a question from Council Member Swedberg, Cindy McCleary, Leo A. Daly Architects, noted that project cost would depend on the timing of the project.

City Administrator Fischer noted that in the interest of time, the police department expansion project as well as the public works facility project would be brought back on August 13.

Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Barry,
City Clerk