

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
August 27, 2019
5 PM**

Attendance

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota.

Present: Mayor Paul Reinke

Council Members: Jake Ingebrigtsen
Colleen Swedberg
Kevin Zabel

Absent: Council Member Susan Olson

Also Present: Brian Bachmeier, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Susan Barry, City Clerk
Bart Fischer, City Administrator
Alyssa MacLeod, Communications Specialist
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director
Dallas Pierson, Planning Commission
James Roettger, Parks and Recreation Commission
Bob Streetar, Community Development Director
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

2020 Budget: Special Revenue/General/Sales Tax

Administrative Services Director Petersen followed up on items discussed at the August 13 work session:

- Metro-Wide Broadcast Fee: Although listed in most recent budgets, the \$2,000 fee was last paid in 2017, per the direction of the City Council. Cable Commission Representative Pulkrabek to meet with staff to discuss a variety of services the city may utilize through the Government Television Network.
- Neighborhood and Strategic Initiatives: Estimated amount for sale of Tanners property not listed until property is sold.
- Police Staffing: Offer to be made to Community Services Officer Dalton Pavel to become a police officer for the city.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the City Council that, in certain circumstances where a hiring needs to be accelerated, the department head is to submit a hiring request that explains why the hiring is needed. It was also the consensus of the City Council that financing the position would be provided from an escrow fund; however, the fund must be reimbursed as quickly as possible.

Local Option Sales Tax

Administrative Services Director Petersen reviewed the factors to consider for seeking approval of a local sales tax that would be used for the police department expansion and a new public works facility.

She noted that the city would need to first seek legislative authorization and hold a referendum on the tax. Administrative Services Director Petersen added that such projects now need to offer regional significance.

City Administrator Fischer noted that the two proposed projects would likely not meet the regional significance component.

Council Member Zabel noted that voters would support the projects.

Administrative Services Director Petersen shared some local sales tax projects approved for other communities: Elk River: community center and regional trails, West Saint Paul: collector roads, Rogers: aquatics center and regional trails, and Excelsior: water park.

Council Member Swedberg suggested submitting other projects such as LED lighting in parks and hockey rink.

In response to a question from Council Member Swedberg, Administrative Services Director Petersen indicated that a half percent local sales tax could produce \$1.7 million per year over 20 years. She added that the estimated cost for the police and public works projects was \$27 million.

Council Member Zabel indicated that no decision had yet been made on what to do with the existing public works site.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen supported retaining the structure for a different use.

Mayor Reinke commented on utilizing a combination of debt service and local sales tax revenue to fund the two projects.

Staff was directed to start the process for seeking legislative authorization to conduct a referendum to institute a one-half percent local sales tax over 20 years and for the police expansion and the public works facility to be listed separately on the ballot.

Special Revenue Funds

Administrative Services Director Petersen provided a brief overview of the park capital reserve, recreation activity, surface water management, and utility system replacement special revenue funds.

The City Council discussed whether to open the Walton Park skating rink.

Gary Mulcahy Project

Gary Mulcahy presented a proposal to construct a 24,000 square foot warehouse and small office at 5262 Glenbrook Avenue that would replace three buildings at that location.

David Gummel, architect, stated that they had been advised that the proposed warehouse is not permitted and were seeking direction from the City Council.

In response to a question from Council Member Ingebrigtsen, Mr. Gummel indicated that, to his knowledge, property owners in the area are not aware of the proposed project.

Community Development Director Streetar explained that per city code, 20 percent of an office warehouse must be office space and the interior height of the building must be a maximum of 14 and one-half feet.

Mayor Reinke asked that the applicant submit an application to the Planning Commission that would include a request to rezone the property from Industrial-Office to General Industrial.

Mr. Gummel asked that the Industrial-Office zoning remain in place.

Community Development Director Streetar commented on issues that could arise should the current zoning remain in place and the proposed project proceed. He commented on the importance of having a long-term vision for the area.

Mr. Mulcahy was asked to submit the necessary applications relating his request.

Titan Park

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier reviewed the history of Titan Park, 1.67 acres located along 4th Street, west of Hadley Avenue. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends selling the buildable portion as a single-family parcel and retaining the balance.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Roettger stated that the park serves only three or four families that live nearby and recommended that it be sold and the revenue used toward park projects.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen supported selling the buildable portion.

Council Members Swedberg and Zabel agreed.

Mayor Reinke did not support selling any portion of the park and asked that the parcel be retained as natural open space.

Dog Park Fencing

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier reviewed a rendering showing where fencing could be installed to address requests from the public to keep dogs out of the water and to create a separate area for small dogs. He added that the cost estimates for both would total \$40,000.

Council Member Zabel supported the two fence projects proposals.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen agreed.

Mayor Reinke did not support investing another \$30-40,000 in the park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission was directed to provide the City Council with a proposal and cost information to install the fencing at the dog park in 2019.

Bike and Pedestrian Planning Process (continued from July 23 meeting)

Community Development Director Streetar summarized the request to do a wholesale updating of the city's bike and pedestrian plan, with the assistance of Toole Design.

Council Member Zabel supported updating the plan but asked that the costs associated with updating the plan be expended in 2020 and from a fund other than the Park Tool land sale proceeds.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen supported updating the plan as long as the city has the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan.

Community Development Director Streetar explained that Toole Design and staff would work over the next year to identify the needs of the community and compile data and then present alternatives to the city.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen commented on new bike lanes going in adjacent to his business.

In response to a suggestion from Council Member Zabel, Community Development Director Streetar felt it would be best to do both components together as there would be little time or cost savings to do the pedestrian trail first.

Mayor Reinke supported using the Park Tool land sale proceeds to cover the cost of updating the plan.

Council Member Swedberg indicated that the Park Tool funds should be held for emergencies or similar.

Community Development Director Streetar suggested using the Park Tool fund in order to begin the project in 2019 and reimbursing the Park Tool fund in 2020.

Mayor Reinke, Council Member Ingebrigtsen, and Council Member Swedberg supported that plan.

Council Member Zabel asked that the Park Tool reimbursement be a line item in the 2020 budget.

Council Discussion

Sound Barriers along I-694

The City Council discussed requests from residents for sound barriers to be constructed along I-694.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier reviewed some of the criteria used by the State of Minnesota in identifying where they install sound barriers and also noted that when sound levels meet the criteria, it typically takes a number of years before the barrier is installed.

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Council Member Zabel noted that residents he has spoken with have said they would be willing to pay an \$8-10,000 assessment toward having a sound barrier constructed adjacent to their property. He suggested that another option could be to allow affected residents to construct privacy fences at heights higher than currently allowed by city code.

Mayor Reinke stated that fence height may not suppress freeway noise as desired and that having a variety of fence materials and heights would need to be factored in.

Council Member Zabel noted that other fences in the city are not uniform.

Council Member Swedberg asked about having plan developed and then meeting with residents.

Mayor Reinke cautioned against developing a plan at this time.

A suggestion was made to lobby legislators to increase the funding for sound barriers.

Walton Park Skating Rink

The City Council briefly discussed whether to flood the Walton Park skating rink.

Council Member Swedberg noted that because the rink was not built correctly, it has been difficult for the Public Works Department to produce good ice.

Staff was directed to bring the matter back to the City Council at the September 24 work session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Barry,
City Clerk