

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
September 10, 2019
5:45 PM**

Attendance

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, September 10, 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
Alyssa MacLeod, Communications Specialist
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director
Dallas Pierson, Planning Commission

Susan Kent, Senator
Leon Lillie, State Representative
Chuck Wiger, Senator
Tou Xiong, State Representative

Meet with Legislators

State Representative Lillie asked about the Highway 36 and Hadley Interchange Project, Mayor Reinke noted that it progressing well and should be passable for the holidays.

Highway 36 and 120 Intersection

State Representative Lillie noted that it was in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's ten-year plan.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen added that Washington County would like to see it constructed in 2024.

Local Sales Tax

Mayor Reinke provided an overview of the city's Police Department expansion and Public Works facility projects and cost estimates and the potential of establishing a local sales tax to help fund the projects.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen asked for the legislators' support of the local sales tax and encouraged them to tour the two facilities to see that they are "needs", not "wants."

State Representative Lillie commented on the importance of all members of the City Council supporting the tax.

Administrative Services Director Petersen noted that the city is considering a one-half tax with a 20-year payback.

State Representative Xiong recommended that the city use a lobbyist.

Council Member Zabel commented on the importance of the two projects in planning for the upcoming population growth.

In response to a question from Senator Kent about timing, Mayor Reinke explained that plans for the Police Department expansion have been completed but a site needs to be determined for the Public Works facility before plans can be prepared.

In response to a question from Senator Wiger on opposition to the local sales tax, Mayor Reinke noted that the local chamber of commerce will be contacted regarding support.

Council Member Zabel added that he has heard support from a number of residents.

Senator Wiger asked that the city's lobbyist contact the state's revisor for drafting of a bill to be presented to the Legislature when the session opens.

Council Member Zabel indicated that the city would like the local sales tax question on the 2020 ballot.

I-694 Noise Walls

Council Member Zabel shared concerns expressed by residents who meet the criteria for noise walls but are unable to have them installed for a number of years due to inadequate project funding.

Senator Kent noted that noise walls have been a topic across the metro.

Senator Wiger added that he has visited the Oakdale neighborhood requesting the wall and will visit again in a few weeks.

Drinking Water

The group discussed the city's water filtration facility and process as well as the 3M water settlement.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen mentioned the potential of building an additional water filtration system on the Public Works campus.

Housing First Minnesota Building Permit Report

The group discussed the recent building permit fees and reporting requirement stories in the news.

Council Member Zabel noted that Oakdale's fees cover costs that have been incurred and should the calculation formula change, the city would make the necessary adjustments. He also commented on the need for "cost for service" to be defined by the Legislature.

Mayor Reinke added that Oakdale's building permit fees are in the mid-range of the metropolitan communities.

Geneva and Century Avenue Improvements

Senator Wiger recommended that the cities along Geneva and Century avenues collaborate on developing a master plan for the area.

Council Member Zabel noted that the potential of the State of Minnesota turning back Highway 120 was still being considered.

Senator Kent noted that the State has many things being considered for turn back but they first need to be brought into certain shape. She added that a collaborative Highway 120 project could possibly move it up on the list. Senator Kent suggested including Ramsey County Commissioners in on discussions.

Bus Rapid Transit

Mayor Reinke provided an overview of the city's Bus Rapid Transit projects and the 4th Street bridge improvements. He noted that the city would be passing a resolution of support and asked for continued support from the Legislature.

Completion of Silver Lake Trail

Senator Wiger noted that plans are underway to complete the final segment of the trail around Silver Lake.

Metro Area Fire Training Center

Senator Wiger noted that there had been some discussion on expanding the use of the Metro Area Fire Training Center on Highway 120.

Sale of Tobacco

The group discussed that some communities have raised the age to sell tobacco to 21.

Mayor Reinke commented on the benefit of having the State set the age.

Growing Hemp

Senator Wiger noted that he had been contacted by an Oakdale resident concerned with the potential of an adjoining property owner growing hemp.

Mayor Reinke indicated that he would provide the group with more details on the matter.

Senator Kent noted that hemp may be grown as an agricultural product.

State Representative Lillie added that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture tests hemp and THC levels.

(The meeting recessed at 6:56 PM)

(The meeting reconvened at 7:20 PM)

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
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Parks and Recreation Commission:

Janet Cunningham
Jane Klein
Paul Lockhart
Jenny Nyberg
James Roettger
Debbie Xiong

Walton Park Skating Rink and Future Parks CIP Funding

City Administrator Fischer noted that although there is no longer an influx of park dedication funds to use for projects, \$100,000 is levied annually.

Referencing the Walton Park warming house project, approved by the City Council to be done in 2019, Council Member Zabel expressed concern with the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to postpone the project.

Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that the Walton Park skating rink is unusable as currently designed but scheduled to be resurfaced in 2022 so the Parks and Recreation Commission determined to not flood the rink for the upcoming season and to hold off on building the new warming house until such time that the rink is resurfaced. He also reviewed the issues with the design of the rink and methods used over the years to try to make and retain ice.

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Council Member Zabel asked that a process be put into place so that changes being sought to the approved CIP would be brought back to the City Council as was done for the additional modifications made at the dog park.

Council Member Swedberg agreed. She added that as the council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, she could bring such matters to the City Council.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen supported the reasons for postponing the warming house project but agreed that the change should have first come to the City Council. He also supported having a process in place to bring budgetary changes to the City Council.

Mayor Reinke supported the decision to not spend the money on the warming house at this time. He also supported having staff bring back approved expenditures to the City Council when a change is being sought.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Klein explained that the commission decided to remove the existing warming house due to its condition and move the \$100,000 allocated for a new warming house to 2022 to build the new warming house concurrently with the rink improvements.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Cunningham asked about putting a warming house at the Eastside Park skating rink and also about flooding the Walton Park rink for the upcoming season.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen noted that the Eastside Park skating rink is used frequently.

Mayor Reinke asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission make a recommendation on whether to put a warming house at Eastside Park.

Recreation Specialist Williams noted that last year, the Walton Park warming house replacement had been moved to 2019 due to its condition.

Staff was directed to bring commission recommendations relating to approved CIP or budgetary adjustments or established plans to the respective department head and then to City Administrator Fischer and Administrative Services Director Petersen.

In response to a question from the City Council, Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that the rink can continue to be flooded; however, the ice in the center deteriorates rapidly due to the poor design of the rink. He added that the warming house could be used for the time being.

In response to a question from Mayor Reinke about flooding the rink, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Klein explained that the commission supported removing the warming house and closing the rink due to the condition of both.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel, Parks Superintendent Koesling noted that the Walton Park ballfield backstop project needs to be done in 2020 but the lighting upgrade project could be delayed.

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Council Member Ingebrigtsen asked about replacing the warming house in 2020 in lieu of the lighting upgrade.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel about the need for a warming house at Walton Park, Parks Superintendent Koesling shared that other options could be considered, such as renting or purchasing mobile units.

Administrative Services Director Petersen indicated that staff would provide cost information on other options, including portable units.

In response to a question from Mayor Reinke about security at the warming house, Parks Superintendent Koesling noted that security cameras were not an option at that location.

Commissioner Cunningham ask about warming house structures that could be dual purpose.

After further discussion, it was decided to not flood the Walton ice rink for the 2019-2020 season. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission was directed to look at placing a temporary warming house at Eastside Park for the 2019-2020 season.

Recreation Superintendent Williams share her desire to have a permanent warming house at Walton Park.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen commented on having the Walton rink resurfaced and the new warming house in 2020.

Park Capital Improvement Program

Council Member Zabel commented on the decline of the Parks Capital Improvement Program funds beginning in 2021 and the need to increase the amount going into the park levy to accomplish projects. He also commented on how a local sales tax would impact the city's budget.

Council Member Olson stated that she also has a concern with the reduction in funding.

Mayor Reinke replied that the City Council would discuss the park levy in the future.

Council Member Swedberg noted that Park Escrow funds could be used to purchase the Brockman property.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Klein noted that the commission would need direction on utilizing the proceeds from the sale of the Titan Park property.

City Administrator Fischer noted that Administrative Services Director Petersen would work with the commission.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Barry, City Clerk