

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
May 11, 2021**

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting began at 5:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Paul Reinke

Council Members: Jake Ingebrigtsen
Susan Olson
Colleen Swedberg
Kevin Zabel

Also Present: Christina Volkens, City Administrator
Jim Thomson, City Attorney
Susan Barry, City Clerk
Mary Cutrufello, Planning Associate (virtual)
Alyssa MacLeod, Communications Specialist
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director (virtual)
Emily Shively, City Planner
Bob Streetar, Community Development Director
Bill Sullivan, Police Chief
Kevin Wold, Fire Chief (virtual)

Stan Karwoski, Washington County Board of Commissioners, Chairperson

OUTDOOR PATIOS

Planning Associate Cutrufello reviewed a request to establish an ordinance that would allow businesses without patios to use parking lots and/or sidewalks as temporary (seasonal) outdoor dining areas as has been allowed during the COVID pandemic.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen asked that applicants be required to submit a letter of support from the property owner, particularly in retail centers. The application will be updated accordingly.

In response to a question from Council Member Swedberg, Planning Associate Cutrufello noted that having an ordinance in place would allow business owners to apply annually for a temporary outdoor patio.

In response to a question from Council Member Swedberg, Community Development Director Streetar noted that staff would bring back on a recommendation on the fee.

Council Member Swedberg supported issuing outdoor patio licenses on a trial basis prior to enacting an ordinance.

Community Development Director Streetar explained that without an ordinance in place, allowing businesses to create temporary dining areas would conclude with the mayor's executive order relating to the pandemic.

City Planner Shively added that staff would evaluate the safety aspects of each request, particularly vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the vicinity. She further added that the outdoor patio license would be similar to the temporary garden center licenses the city issues. This would be outlined and asked in the application.

The City Council discussed various timeframes for the license.

Council Member Zabel did not support creating an ordinance. He added that temporary outdoor dining areas were allowed to offer flexibility to businesses during the pandemic.

Mayor Reinke supported the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen supported the proposed ordinance.

Staff was directed to present the proposed ordinance, including license fees and license period, to the Planning Commission and then bring it back to the City Council at a work session, with all documents such as the application.

PROPOSED POLICY: SURPLUS: DONATING, TRANSFERRING, SELLING

The City Council reviewed a proposed policy to allow the city to donate certain surplus items to nonprofit organizations, transfer certain surplus items to another public corporation, and sell surplus items by sealed bid or through auctions.

Mayor Reinke announced that the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club planned to donate \$2,000 to the city toward updating the kitchen at the Walton Park picnic shelter.

The Council supported bringing the policy back on May 25 for formal adoption.

PROPOSED POLICY: DONATIONS TO PARKS; MEMORIALS IN PARKS; INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

The City Council reviewed a revised proposed policy relating to requests from the public to place donations and memorials into city parks.

Mayor Reinke shared a resident comment asking that the city not cap the number of memorials allowed at each parks.

The Council supported bringing the policy back on May 25 for formal adoption.

10TH STREET ACCESS

This topic was discussed by the City Council on March 23 and April 13.

City Administrator Volkens noted that it was recently learned that HOM Furniture supports leaving the access from their site onto 10th Street open and they are willing to cover the cost of placing speed bumps between the 10th Street and Helmo Avenue access points.

City Attorney Thomson proposed ways to respond to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) letter of May 3: do not agree to terminating the Limited Use Permit, allow Washington County to proceed with their project, and after three years, the city would pay for a safety evaluation, conducted by an independent party, and both parties would need to agree to the outcome of the safety evaluation and whether the access remains open or is closed.

County Commission Chairperson Karwoski suggested that the change in use at the site might result in improved traffic flow in that area.

In response to a question from Commission Chairperson Karwoski, Council Member Ingebrigtsen stated that discussion had occurred about creating a street through the site.

City Attorney Thomson indicated that approval from MnDOT would still be required because they own the access.

City Administrator Volkens noted that Public Works Director/City Engineer Bachmeier asked MnDOT to provide the amount the city paid for the access to consider paying it back; however, MnDOT was not able to locate documentation showing the purchase price. She also noted that the safety evaluation cost done cost \$7,500.

The City Council supported keeping the access on 10th Street open, keeping the Limited Use Permit in place, and letting Washington County proceed with their planned projects.

City Attorney Thomson indicated that he and City Administrator Volkens would draft a response to MnDOT.

Mayor Reinke accepted the offer from HOM Furniture to add speed bumps, if needed.

COUNCIL TOPICS

Property Deeds – Racial Covenants

Council Member Zabel shared a comment from residents that the city consider identifying whether racial covenants existed on any property deeds from the 1840s as is the case with some other communities. He noted that there were very few homesteads in Oakdale and the city could work

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with the “Just Deeds” organization. Council Member Zabel further noted that the only associated costs would be for refiling deeds.

No direction was provided on this item.

CCEFS Today’s Harvest

Council Member Zabel shared that the Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf would be opening Today’s Harvest, akin to a neighborhood grocery store, in northern Oakdale. He suggested considering other storefronts for similar concepts.

Police Chief

Mayor Reinke announced the Police Chief Sullivan would retire July 31 after serving the city for almost 34 years and that the city would need to begin the process for selecting a chief of police.

City Administrator Volkens recommended that the city hire BakerTilly to recruit a new chief of police. She added the process would take up to 13 weeks so discussion would be needed at some point on assigning/hiring an interim chief of police.

In response to a comment from Council Member Zabel, City Administrator Volkens noted that although staff resignations used to be accepted by the City Council, it is not required.

City Administrator Volkens indicated that a special workshop may be set for May 18 to discuss the chief of police recruitment process with BakerTilly.

In response to questions from the City Council, City Administrator Volkens asked that any questions from the public be directed to her.

Protests

The City Council discussed the potential of developing an ordinance restricting protests on private property and also making security updates to the council dais.

Council Member Zabel expressed concern with city advisory body members publically dissenting about an approved city project, such as the police and public works facilities.

Age Friendly Community

Council Member Swedberg noted that the Oakdale Wellness 50+ group would attend the June 22 City Council meeting to request support for Oakdale to be designated as an “Age Friendly Community”.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully requested,
Susan Barry, City Clerk