

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
June 8, 2021**

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, June 8, 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
Susan Barry, City Clerk
Linnea Graffunder-Bartels, Senior Community Development Specialist
Nick Newton, Police Captain
Chelsea Petersen, Administrative Services Director
Bob Streetar, Community Development Director
Bill Sullivan, Chief of Police
Kevin Wold, Fire Chief

ADVISORY BODY REAPPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS: EDC

The City Council interviewed the following persons seeking reappointment to the Economic Development Commission: Dave Halper, Mark Landis, Gary Livingston, and Scott Oeschner.

BETHESDA – HELMO STATION PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director Streetar reviewed a request from Bethesda Lutheran Communities for \$1.7 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance to develop a 71-unit apartment building at 390 Helmo Avenue, with 17 units dedicated to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He noted that the TIF would be used to address extraordinary costs related to soil conditions and construction cost increases.

Tom Campbell, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, explained that they although they were not seeking TIF at the start of the project, it is now needed. He provided an overview of the other financial components for the project.

Sue Foley, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, spoke on behalf of other parents present and explained the need for housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The pastor from Grace of God Church on 4th Street supported the project.

Several members of the City Council requested that additional detail be provided before making a decision.

COUNCIL DAIS SECURITY UPGRADE

Staff was asked to bring back quotes on security upgrade options for the existing dais to be considered as part of the 2022 Budget.

City Administrator Volkens added that police staff would provide an overview of security protocol and the use of panic alarms with the City Council in the near future.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Fire Chief Wold, Emergency Management Director for Oakdale, provided a brief overview of the city's Emergency Management Plan and noted that a copy of the plan be provided to the City Council later in the year after it had been updated.

ADVISORY BODY REAPPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS: EMC

The City Council interviewed the following persons seeking reappointment to the Environmental Management Commission: Keith Miller; Bonnie Wilson was not able to attend.

The City Council briefly discussed reappointing Keith Miller and Bonnie Wilson to the Environmental Management Commission, reappointing Dave Halper and Gary Livingston to the Economic Development Commission, and not reappointing Mark Landis and Scott Oeschner to the Economic Development Commission.

40TH STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Council Member Zabel reviewed a memorandum asking the City Council to consider seeking a bonding request to fund the construction of a pedestrian bridge, with safety fencing, on the 40th Street overpass. He indicated that the bridge would provide a safe, dedicated walking space on the overpass, located west of the new Willowbrooke project. Council Member Zabel commented on the possibility of submitting it for the 2022 legislative session.

The City Council supported the suggestion.

COUNCIL TOPICS

Council Member Olson noted that Independent School District 622 Superintendent Osorio-Tucci planned to speak with cities about issues relating to mental health and learning disabilities prior to the 2021-22 school year.

Council Member Swedberg suggested that the city restart the engraved paver program at the Discovery Center by offering persons to purchase "Friends of Nature" pavers.

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In response to a comment from Council Member Ingebrigtsen, City Administrator Volkens noted that body cams for police officers would involve labor negotiations and costs relating to technology and staff.

Council Member Ingebrigtsen indicated that he was leaning toward not supporting Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the Bethesda project.

Community Development Director Streetar provided clarification on the materials provided relating to the TIF request.

Council Member Zabel requested an update from Recreation Superintendent Williams on the registration status of the programs and events being offered at no cost to residents. He also asked for information on the accommodations being made by the Recreation Department for programs affected by the high heat and humidity.

In response to a question from Council Member Zabel, Fire Chief Wold noted that the Fire Department had resumed its program of driving by birthday parties in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Barry,
City Clerk