



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
January 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilbert at 8:15 am.

Present: Council: Mayor Randy Gilbert; Councilmembers Brian Carpenter, Sharon Henderson, Liz Olson, and Sam Rettinger

Staff Present: City Administrator Terrance Post

Guests: Resident Eric Jones, 231 Lindawood Lane

APPROVE AGENDA

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Ayes: all.*

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discussion of Second Draft law Enforcement Agreement

In light of the potential for longer discussion time requirements on the goal setting agenda item, the council collectively decided to limit discussion on this Police Agreement agenda item to thirty minutes. After discussion involving various issues with the Second Agreement Draft, staff was instructed to draft a letter to the City of Orono that would attempt to document concerns and state remedies, request a response date, and identify a June 1, 2010 date to resolve issues or consider other options. Council agreed to comment on the letter draft in the interim and to edit as appropriate further before issuance of the letter to the City of Orono. Council would review the letter draft again at the February 3, 2010 work session and either authorize its release or recommend additional editing.

Discuss City Council Goals

The purpose of this item was to update and discuss the status of eighteen-month goals identified at the February 28, 2009 council goal-setting retreat. Comments and direction on each of the six goals were as follows:

1. TIF District 2 Funds – consensus was to utilize remaining funds before decertification into water infrastructure projects that would benefit future redevelopment. Project possibilities included a Willow Drive water main and gate valve replacement as well as an upgrade of well No. 2 to provide increased fire sprinkler water pressure. Another use discussed was the incorporation of solar LED tree planting up lighting along the landscaped berm area on the eastern entrance to downtown.
2. TH 12 Turnback – although the turnback committee is not currently meeting regularly, the inclusion of CR112 into Hennepin County's long range CIP as well as the budgeted \$1,000,000 county planning expenditure in 2010, it is likely that this subject will be a higher priority item later in 2010.
3. Meet Upcoming Financial Challenges – In an environment of declining state aid, reduced property valuations, and minimal building permit activity; the City has taken budgeting steps to produce a balanced budget without reducing core services.
4. Work with Neighboring Communities – although major items including a utility agreement, fire agreement addendum, and future police agreement with the City of

Orono remain unresolved, the climate for cooperation between the two cities being the long term solution is still present. Another concern discussed was potential ramifications of future fire pension liability obligations.

5. Position Long Lake for post by-pass era – discussion included the current economic reality having a dampening effect on redevelopment, the need to schedule an EDA meeting in the near future, and the benefits of the City purchasing various land parcels at this point in time.
6. Improve Long lake Water Quality – the lake will be declared an impaired water body by the DNR in 2010 and this designation will cause the city to have future financial cleanup effort obligations. It was suggested that the City could be proactive in organizing a carp harvest project with neighboring communities. Council member Carpenter commented on the creation of a volunteer lake organization during 2009 that could use more MCWD facilitation and support at this point in time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Olson expressed hope that the Planning Commission would refocus on a 2009 “green initiative” during 2010 and that the Council would be able to provide more direction to the Park Board in terms of priorities and projects. On this subject, Mayor Gilbert added that he would welcome a Park Board initiative in pursuing the Hennepin County grant program funded by the “Twins ballpark” tax. There was also a request to determine if the City’s website displayed the latest map information showing the new TH 12 bypass roadway and the new Brown Road bridge.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrance Post, City Administrator