

**CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN
ANOKA COUNTY**

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES
OCTOBER 13, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Work Session via Zoom was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

2. **Roll Call:**

Present were Mayor Steve Feldman, Council members Robert Bauer, Kevin Robinson and Joe Muehlbauer. Robert Bauer joined meeting at 5:46 pm. Sarah Udvig absent. Also present were City Administrator Joe Kohlmann and Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom.

3. **John Letourneau**

Mr. Letourneau did not sign on to introduce himself to the city council during the Zoom meeting.

4. **Broadband**

Thunstrom reported at the September 21st City Council meeting several residents along with ISD #15 Superintendent Beth Giese voiced their concerns and issues surrounding internet connections in the area. At that meeting CARES Act funds was discussed as being a possible short-term as well as gathering more information for a long-term solution. As of tonight, CARES Act funds were unable to be used due to the deadlines and no response from Century Link within the timeline. The discussion for the City to support residents with “hot spots” raised concerns from some residents saying it would draw from the services they have.

We now have contact with a representative from CenturyLink. We will continue to gather information from them. Midco will review the east side to determine if it supports an expansion of services with municipal involvement. Since that meeting I have also heard from some council members who are concerned about the funding of a project like this. With no funding source at this time do you want staff to continue to research and try to obtain grant funds for a project of this sort. Even if we are to obtain a grant, we need two quotes; one from CenturyLink and one from Midco. They have to be willing partners too.

Council’s concerns mainly were with funding. Some of the council agreed we should provide the utility just like we do with gas and electric. While others still brought up the potential cost associated with this to the city.

Two residents; Merrick and Rochelle addressed the council about their frustrations about their lack of service. The two residents both live in the Windsor Farm Development and stated they believe lines were put in at the time the development went in approximately ten years ago. They asked if Midco could come out and check the lines that are there.

Feldman asked who the developer was in Windsor Farms. The residents indicated it was Dellwood Construction and he too thought the lines were laid when the development went in. Feldman said I know him and I can call and ask. Thunstrom said I can also look at the construction plans regarding utilities. Feldman said I thought after the council meeting Midco said they were going to check this out because it was brought up at that time too.

After more conversation regarding whether the city should proceed and monitor grant opportunities.

5. **East Shop Site:**

Thunstrom reported the city has been approached by a developer to build a senior living facility on the 3518 Bridge Street parcel. The City has completed designated design standards and guided the property through the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning to also meet the downtown vision in this area. The senior living facility would deviate the property from the commercial use and eliminate the restaurant and retail possibilities as laid out in the St. Francis Forward Plan. Thunstrom stated she put together pro's and con's for the council to consider if they choose to move forward with the idea of a senior housing facility or if they want to continue redevelopment efforts as identified in the St. Francis Forward plan.

Feldman said so you have had several parties interested in this site. Thunstrom said yes over the last couple of years but right now I do have a design concept but currently it is not zoned or in our comprehensive plan for senior housing. Is that what you want there.

Council discussed the pro' and con's in length. The council's general direction was to have staff continue be in contact with the senior housing company that is interested in the Bridge Street parcel.

Thunstrom said the next step would be to review the concept plan and Comp Plan amendment and zoning changes would need to happen.

6. **Adjournment**

Mayor Feldman adjourned the work session at 7:08 pm.

Submitted by,

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk