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

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES
JANUARY 15, 2020
5:30 P.M.

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

The Work Session was called to order at 5:35 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Steve Feldman, Council members Sarah Udvig, and Kevin Robinson. Councilmembers Joe Muehlbauer arrived at 5:43 pm, and Robert Bauer arrived shortly after. Also present were City Attorney Dave Schaps, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom, Liquor Store Manager John Schmidt and Fire Chief Dave Schmidt.

2. **Liquor Store – Building Renovation**

The City Council reviewed the various plans that had been mocked up for a liquor store expansion and renovation. The City Council discussed the need for spaces and the infrastructure improvements such as HVAC, cosmetic and more stable internet access for the credit card machines. The Council determined that the 2,520 square foot expansion was the most suitable for the Bottle Shop's current needs. They determined a cap limit of $650,000 for the project. Also, the City Council discussed the potential future of the municipal liquor stores in Minnesota with ever changing legislation on the matter. The Council provided direction to pass any ordinances that would help preserve the City's ability to regulate alcohol sales. Also, the City Council was committed to enhancing the Bottle Shop to remain competitive in the industry and acknowledged that improvements need to be made because the store has been essentially outgrown.

3. **River's Edge Development**

The Council reviewed and discussed the Rivers Edge Development and the impact the DNR ruling had on the subdivision. The following direction was provided to Staff: move forward with a purchase agreement submitted by the developer for the City owned parcel; continue to pursue the agreed upon utility amount for the approximate $380,000; move forward with substantial development of the park located within the Rivers Edge Development, without adding the basketball court and tennis court identified - this includes parking lot, landscaping, playground area, and grass area; and updating the Letter of Credit ordinance language to allow flexibility for the City Council to adjust the Letter of Credit amount away from 150% at the City Council's discretion.

4. **Highway 47 Improvements**

The City Council discussed the items presented regarding the Highway 47 improvements. The Council provided direction that it preferred the actual road way be realigned to the easterly portion of the existing right-of-way. Also, the Council preferred to explore the 20 foot median option that was presented but required more detailed plans to fully make the commitment to this median size. The City Council also provided direction on retaining landscape architecture consulting services from HKGi to work through the design phase with MNDOT and the City. Finally, Council was updated that any aesthetic improvements over and above the "base" improvements MNDOT would provide, requires the City to absorb the cost burden.

5. **Public Works Director Position**

Council provided Staff direction to schedule interviews on Wednesday, February 5th, starting at 5:30 p.m. Staff will schedule the interviews.

6. **Adjournment**

Mayor Feldman adjourned the work session at 7:42 pm.

Submitted by,

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk