

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

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES
APRIL 22, 2019

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

The Work Session was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Roll Call: Present were Steve Feldman, Kevin Robinson, Joe Muehlbauer, Robert Bauer and Sarah Udvig. Also present were City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Community Development Director Kate Thunstrom and Public Works Director Paul Teicher.

2. **City Hall Hours**

Feldman stated he has not heard concerns, the four ten hour work week roughly in place for ten years, no delays or inefficiency. Muehlbauer agreed with Feldman.

Udvig has heard from people looking to come in to city hall on Fridays. Being available Monday through Friday is important. One issue is during elections, every Friday city hall is closed. Cost savings is lost with staff being open part days on Fridays. Feldman said maybe could address voting hours every two years. Udvig stated 15-20 people have expressed concern. Muehlbauer said just like anything, just want it, not necessarily to use it.

Bauer thinks four tens is about the best use of staff, Monday-Friday 8 to 4:30 pm would shrink hours.

Some of the council did not want to see the 50-hour workweek where you would have to split shifts. Closing at 4:30 pm cuts off those that use the 7 am to 5:30 pm hours.

Robinson said it was brought up when he was on the campaign trail. Six to seven cities around us are open 5 days a week. It hinders daily city to city business. Plus others that work four tens and want to visit the city on Friday, its closed. Businesses are open 5 days a

week, voting, council packet out on Thursday, not staff to answer questions on Friday, we are a business here to serve the people, we should be open for business 5 days a week and 8 to 4:30 pm is reasonable.

Feldman said you are going to create animosity because there is no justification to do this. What was the actual complaint?

Udvig said just that we were not open and there is not staff available. Muehlbauer said off-set work schedules would be difficult and so you would anger 200 people who like the longer hours to make 1 person happy?

Public Works Director Paul Teicher spoke on how the public works department hours work for on call, summer/winter hours.

Discussion on working 5 ten hours days would require more staffing because you would need to stagger staff. Various schedule would create a logistical issue. After further discussion on the Monday through Friday 8-4:30 pm or the 5 ten hours days the majority of the council agree to leave it alone for the time being.

3. **Council Meeting Starting Time**

Discussion was on whether to change the time of the council meetings. A history of when the meetings started and the years they were change was provided to the council.

Feldman stated right now we have two open discussion for people to speak. Informal meetings and if people are interested they will find a way to get there. Where is this coming from? Both Udvig and Robinson said from residents. Udvig said it doesn't mean more will show up but it gives them the ability. Muehlbauer asked what is the goal to change the time. Robinson said that's what we have heard and to create more participation. We are in people business/customer service. Bauer not opposed to 6:30 pm but thinks 7 pm. Remember you have staff that attends the meetings. If residents find it that important they will make time.

Council discussed further reasoning of why the meetings should start later or stay the same. Will the attendance even change if the

meetings started later. Consensus was to maintain the 6 pm start time for council meetings.

4. **East Shop Site**

This parcel along the Rum River on Bridge Street is included in the St. Francis Forward redevelopment plan as a key parcel for a restaurant and /or outfitter. This use was determined to compliment the river and create a destination for the city.

Council discussion was they too want to take advantage of the river, would like a reputable nice business, something the residents can enjoy, like to see it back on the tax roll.

5. **180+ Acres Land Sale Discussion**

The City acquired the 183 acres in Isanti County in 2007 with the intent to construct an additional wastewater treatment facility. Since that time, the City has leased out the property for agricultural purposes. The lease payments cover the annual cost of taxes and insurance. City staff will be in contact with the bond counsel for legal review of the bond purchased for this parcel. Discussion was on the potential uses of this parcel of land, calling of the bond, and does the city sell the land. Consensus of the council was to hold off on the sale and let staff explore some of the questions we have by contacting the city's bond counsel.

6. **Rivers Edge Park, Trail & Property**

The Rivers Edge developer has chosen to provide a 7.27 acre parcel and cash for park dedication. This park will benefit the Rivers Edge and Rum Rivers Bluff neighborhoods. The park placement within the city is based on the Park Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Discussion on what will be in this park, timing of when the park equipment would go in and cost. Some suggestions besides park equipment and tennis court was a dog park and pool.

Staff has also been working with Anoka County in regards to the Rum River Region Trail. The trail currently follows the Rum River roadway. However if it were to be realigned it would exit the park and head north and follow the river. In order for the trail to be realigned, the developer from Rivers Edge would need to provide land to the City/Council. This land would not qualify for Park Dedication. Council

could consider land exchange between the two parties. The land would be the northern portion of the land that was recently obtained from Anoka County along Rum River Blvd. Consensus of the council was to exchange land (north section of city lot) with Rivers Edge providing land to the City/County to satisfy the needs of the trail.

7. **Bridge Street Trail Update**

The Anoka County trail system connecting the Rum River North County Park crosses over Bridge Street. Councilmember Bauer and residents contacted Commissioner Look to initiate a change to bring the trail connection under the bridge to make a safer connection. Commissioner Look requested the County Highway and Parks departments to review the situation and provide an opinion. From the review, Anoka County has determined it was a feasible and safe option to bring the trail under the bridge. The current estimated cost for the trail connection is \$325,000 with a potential completion date of 2021. Anoka County will be bringing forward a cost participation request in the next couple of months with a better defined timeline and cost. Consensus of the council was to keep discussion moving with Anoka County.

8. **The Meadows Property Update**

An update was given to the council on the Meadows Townhome lots on the legal dispute. An EDA meeting that was to be potentially being held on April 29th has been postponed.

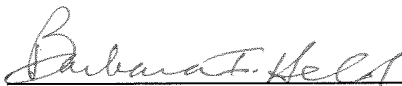
9. **Hwy 47 Improvement Update**

Staff presented potential design concepts on the Hwy 47 Improvement plan. Bauer voiced his concerns with the plans.

10. **Adjournment**

Mayor Feldman adjourned the work session at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by;



Barbara I. Held, City Clerk