

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

November 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rausch at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Rausch.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Rausch.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Neven Taylor, Deb Groat, Tracy Richardson, JR Rausch, Alan Seymour, Mark Reams, and Henk Berbee.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Terry Emery, Finance Director Justin Nahvi, Police Chief Floyd Golden, Deputy Chief Tony Brooks, Fire Chief Jay Riley, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, IT Director Aaron Story, HR Director Brian Dostanko, Zoning Administrator Ron Todd, Senior Executive Assistant Anna Krutowskis, Recreation, Aquatics & Event Manager Amanda Morris, and Clerk of Council Rebecca Dible.

REPORTERS PRESENT: Will Channel- Journal Tribune

CITIZENS PRESENT:

AGENDA ITEMS:

1) **Discuss Chapter 1319.09: Appeals; Exterior Property Maintenance Commission**

Mr. Todd explained the proposal to dissolve the Exterior Property Maintenance Commission (EPMC) and streamline the responsibilities between the Design Review Board (DRB) and the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Zoning felt that the DRB and BZA members had more qualified backgrounds for the responsibilities. He proposed the DRB would handle the Connie Patterson Beautification Program and the Lights, Sights & Holiday Nights Program. The BZA would handle the exterior property maintenance appeals from code enforcement. Mr. Todd mentioned key factors for dissolution were the lack of a full, five member governing board since the beginning of 2017 and that only five (5) appeal cases had been requested to the commission in the last 2 years. Mr. Emery stated he believed the change made sense and it would streamline processes. Mrs. Richardson asked if the DRB and BZA members had been canvassed to see if they were interested in taking over the new responsibilities. Mr. Todd stated that Tim Schacht, a member of the DRB had stated they would be willing to take over the City sponsored programs. Mr. Seymour stated that in order to take on the program responsibilities, the committee would need enthusiasm to carry out the Beautification Programs. Mrs. Richardson agreed and stated she believed the EPMC had been originally created to carry out the Beautification Program and asked about the possibility of current members completing their terms as a subcommittee of the DRB. Mr. Todd stated he would look into that possibility. He proposed taking legislation to Council to bring about this change at the beginning of 2019.

2) **Evaluation & Assessment of October DORA**

Mrs. Morris addressed Council regarding the October MORA event and stated the biggest take away was explaining to participants what they could and couldn't do. She also stated a survey had been sent to obtain feedback and that the Journal Tribune had done a nice article on the MORA. The Uptown merchants were happy and all feedback seemed positive. Mrs. Morris stated they would like to incorporate a MORA into the Christmas Walk this year. Mr. Emery stated that the MORA would continue to be monitored and they would be cognizant of public input and asked Council if they had any comments.

Mr. Taylor stated he would like to see the parking lot behind the Elks included, as it would allow for easier movement for participants and additional trash cans would not be needed. Mayor Rausch agreed and stated if the area were to be included, it would allow for easier enforcement of the MORA as well. Mrs. Morris stated that the Law Director, Mr. Aslaner, would work on an amendment to the Ordinance to present to Council to amend the MORA map.

Mr. Reams asked about the particulars of the F permits, as to purchasing a drink and carrying it; Mrs. Morris stated that the State had recently changed the rules on the F permits. They agreed that it would be beneficial to move forward with the plan to make the City's F permit area into a smaller "beer garden," thus allowing everyone to mingle at the Pavilion, regardless of where they had purchased their drink.

Mayor Rausch asked if the MORA would be rolled out to other City events in 2019, as the feedback had been positive. Mrs. Morris agreed that would be the plan and stated that they would be working on the particulars which would allow vendors to apply for the MORA to be open for their events.

3) Bicentennial Update

Mr. Emery stated that he felt it appropriate since they were going through the budget, to give a brief overview of the Bicentennial status and budget. Mrs. Morris presented Council with a handout (Exhibit A) and stated that items at the top of the page were complete or largely completed. She explained the regular August Friday Night Uptown (FNU) budget line would cover the typical FNU expenses. Also, many of the items might look as though they are in the negative, however Mrs. Morris stated they expected to recuperate the monies by the sale of items, listing a limited-edition, bicentennial t-shirt as an example. Mr. Emery stated the plans were going well, however he wanted to ensure there would be no surprises to Council once things began to roll out.

Mr. Hoyt gave an update on what was being referred to internally as "Bicentennial Park," which was property at 9th Street and London Avenue. Mr. Hoyt explained that money for the project had been incorporated into what was referred to as the Plumb Street Project. Mrs. Richardson questioned the future name of the park, to which was responded that the official name would go before Council for approval. Mr. Hoyt explained this was a joint project between the City and Memorial Hospital which was expected to be complete by early fall of 2019. He stated he would get a rendering from the consultant to present to Council. Mr. Emery stated that Memorial Hospital had shown a specific interest in being responsible for the maintenance of the park, as they would like to make sure it remains pristine as it would be the "front door" to the Hospital. Mr. Reams asked if the triangular area across the street could be incorporated into the park or at least maintained with a cohesive design. Mr. Hoyt explained that thought had been given to erect an arch, connecting the two areas. Mr. Berbee stated that the "Morey entrance" currently at the hospital would be done away with due to construction, and in the spirit of continuing to give tribute to Dr. Morey, the hospital was looking at this park as a way to memorialize his invaluable contributions. Mr. Hoyt stated that because the hospital board had agreed to bury the lines in the area, the future park would be a beautiful focal point of the area. Mrs. Richardson asked if the Bicentennial Historical Marker would be placed at the park. Mrs. Morris stated that it was currently set to be placed at 6th Street and Main Street, but the placement may be able to be altered. Mayor Rausch stated that the placement was initially set for the location of the first City Hall as well as the Opera House, in which Susan B. Anthony was the first performer.

In wrapping up the discussion of events, Mrs. Morris passed out a handout showing the final report of the Municipal Pool for the 2108 season (Exhibit B). She stated that the restrooms and concessions areas were in the process of being renovated. The work was being done in 2018 in order to have all renovations completed by the 2019 pool season. Mr. Berbee conveyed approval for addressing the concerns of the aging pool facilities.

4) 2018 Year End Budget Adjustment Ordinance

Mr. Nahvi explained that he planned to submit legislation to Council to make year-end budget adjustments to correct projected appropriation deficits with various departments. He presented Council with a handout (Exhibit C) which outlined supplemental appropriations along with various transfers to ensure there were sufficient appropriations for each department through December 31, 2018. Mr. Nahvi explained the majority of the corrections were attributed to the additional health insurance withholding that occurred on the June 29th, 2018 pay date as well as changes to employee's health care coverage as elected by employees.

Mr. Nahvi also gave a PowerPoint budget presentation (Exhibit D), reviewing the highlights of the proposed budget. Mr. Emery stated the budget process for 2019 had been presented in a way that Council had become aware of many details in the budget early on; it had allowed for questions and conversations and allowed them to reach a solid budget for 2019. Mrs. Richardson conveyed concern regarding the continued ability to fund the new positions for 2019, as they were primarily funded through the Enterprise Funds. Mr. Nahvi explained that in his forecast projecting through 2024, the positions had been included. Mr. Berbee spoke of the projects the City had accomplished in the past year. He then stated that both he and Mr. Nahvi had concerns beyond 2019, referencing the possible projected downturn of the economy. He stated that the City was only \$53,000 ahead of where they had been the previous year, however it was being compensated by not completing all projected projects. He stated that looking at 2020 and beyond, the City might not be able to move forward with all of the projects they would like, as the City needed to pay off debt. He encouraged everyone to think seriously about the City's expenses, especially in regards to the General Fund.

5) Recommended Strategic Plan Presentation

Mr. Emery stated that the Recommended Strategic Plan was complete and had been presented to Council in draft form the previous week. Administration planned to present it to Council, in the form of an adoptive resolution, at the second meeting in November. He asked Council to reach out if they had any comments or adjustments they would like made. He praised Mr. Dostanko for the work he did in putting the document together. Mr. Dostanko reviewed the table of contents and stated the document was more than just a plan, it was the creation of a historical source. He recommended a SWAT Analysis in February of 2020 and a Work Session in March of 2020 to review and update the document. Mr. Emery stated the Strategic Plan was used in a daily manor to make sure Administration was striving to achieve goals that Council had helped them establish.

Discussion ensued regarding how the President of Council/Acting Mayor would be referenced throughout the Strategic Plan, and it was decided to mirror the language in the City's Charter. It was also stated that Mr. Seymour had spoken with Mr. Andrako, resulting in an update to Section 7.3. The update would include the idea of beautifying and standardizing parking lots Uptown as they were built and upgraded. Mr. Seymour and Mayor Rausch also discussed the importance of the City's relationship with the Historical Society, mentioning the possibility of including the Historical Society in the Strategic Plan in the future and as well as assisting with funding.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.