

**WORKSESSION OF THE ANOKA CITY COUNCIL
ANOKA CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION ROOM
JUNE 27, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rice called the worksession meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at roll call: Mayor Rice, Councilmembers Anderson, Freeburg, Schmidt, and Weaver.

Absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Lee; Deputy Community Development Director Doug Borglund; Public Services Administrator Lisa LaCasse; Communications Coordinator Pam Bowman; Public Works Streets Supervisor John Holmes; Recording Secretary Cathy Sorensen.

3. COUNCIL BUSINESS and/or DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Discussion; Trunk Highway 10 Anoka Solution Implementation Plan.

City Manager Greg Lee shared the staff report stating the Trunk Highway 10 Access Planning Study was completed in September 2014. He reviewed steps since that time and said staff has been working with our engineering consultant, Bolton-Menk, to develop an overall implementation plan for the Trunk Highway 10 Anoka Solution. This implementation plan has also been incorporated in to the City of Anoka's Capital Improvement Program. Staff is seeking direction if the Council wants the City to take the lead and start applying for funding for the Fairoak/West Main Street Project on Highway 10.

Eric Johnson and Joe Rhein of Bolton-Menk explained the process to date, stating the trend going away with 18 interchange projects at \$320 million, 28% City, 28% MnDOT, and the rest County funding which relies on local funding to fix. They explained they are limited in ways to assemble complete funding packages as it takes time and over 60% had funding from regional solicitation through the Metropolitan Council with money available, the majority of which is for roadway improvements. Mr. Johnson said this process will start the clock for 2020/2021 funding and if not can always turn the award back, adding this is likely the only way improvements on Highway 10 will occur in the current climate.

Mr. Lee said he is recommending that the City not contribute anything more than \$2 million of the entire \$32 million project, which is 6% of the total project cost and the same as the City of Ramsey contributed.

Councilmember Schmidt said he is good with the \$2 million portion but asked what we need for the first \$7.8 million and how much more will it cost with Bolton-Menk for staffing, etc.

Councilmember Weaver said the project needs to be shovel ready and noted there is no engineering work to date. Mr. Johnson said the work is good for all funding sources and if regional solicitation dollars are received the first step would be for MnDOT staff to approve the layout. He said it will take two years to be shovel ready.

Councilmember Weaver asked who is responsible for the dollars if not complete. Mr. Johnson said it would fall back to the lead agency to complete.

Councilmember Freeburg asked if anything is slated for Ramsey that would take priority over Anoka. Mr. Lee said this project is the highest priority over Ramsey Boulevard or other projects, however, Ramsey is going to be aggressive to seek funding sources.

Mayor Rice asked if Ramsey is not supportive of this track. Mr. Lee said Ramsey is continuing to solicit funding as well and if no one takes the lead the funding will just stay in place.

Councilmember Weaver asked what happens if not funded as our residents will be paying for much more versus larger cities. Mr. Lee said Anoka County will provide assistance and that this makes sense instead of the County as they apply and get only so many and Anoka has better chance as a small city. He reiterated the \$2 million is our only contribution to this project.

Councilmember Anderson said that is true but noted if the project does not happen it will not go anywhere.

Councilmember Schmidt asked about the costs to apply besides the \$2 million. Mr. Lee said the application for \$5,000-\$7,500 will start the clock.

Mr. Johnson said MnDOT has done the final design in the past as well as others and could donate staff/labor.

Councilmember Weaver said MnDOT is maintaining what they currently have only.

Mayor Rice said Highway 10 warrants attention but is affordable with the assistance for other programs and they have to start assembling to get this on the radar.

Councilmember Freeburg asked if there is a chance it could cost more. Mr. Lee said there is always a chance which is the reason he included the \$2 million cap.

Mayor Rice asked how many cars drive Highway 10 each day. Mr. Lee say 60,000 cars per day drive Highway 10.

Councilmember Weaver inquired about the funding. Mr. Lee said the funding has been included as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Council consensus was to take the lead on the Trunk Highway 10 Anoka Solution Implementation Plan project and submit the federal application which is due July 15, 2016.

Mr. Rein said they should find out in January 2016 if the project is selected.

Councilmember Schmidt said there is congressional interest at this level. Mr. Johnson said the biggest advocate will be MnDOT support for this funding source. He said they have detailed this out including scoring and comparisons and are confident that the use and safety benefits are very large so they should score well.

Mr. Lee said the next step is to send out a press release to get the word out to other agencies, mainly MnDOT as this is a high priority for them too.

Councilmember Schmidt said they should share the intent to include Bolton-Menk throughout this process too.

3.2 Discussion; Amendments to City Code Related to Use of Sidewalks and Public Spaces.

Deputy Community Development Director Doug Borglund shared the staff report stating that now that summer has arrived, the use of public sidewalks and spaces in the downtown has become more active. The activity includes the use of public sidewalks and spaces in the downtown for the placement of tables and chairs, planters, benches, displays of products, and temporary signage. The standards that have been applied to regulate the use of public sidewalks and spaces in the downtown were highlighted and focus on the placement of merchandise for sale only. The City Code does not currently allow the use of the public sidewalks for placement of private/business owned outdoor tables and chairs, planters, benches, etc. Staff has treated the above mentioned items like merchandise in the past because the ordinance did not address the issue.

Councilmember Freeburg asked how this issue come to be. Mr. Borglund said the ordinance does not align with what is actually happening.

Councilmember Freeburg said we made sidewalks as wide as possible to allow for tables and that he would like to see this happen along the building side at least as he wants seating for people enjoying the outdoors.

Councilmember Anderson said he is surprised this even came up as he does not see merchandise but parts of old town charm and changing it would be a disservice but agreed can do an ordinance clean-up.

Mayor Rice said we can encourage certain activity but need to control this occurrence.

Councilmember Weaver this happened because of different interpretations by different administrations and said we need to define this better, adding this started with an agreement the City had with a patio on City property and alcohol being consumed and that we should try to figure this out.

Mayor Rice said having obstacles on both sides causes obstructions for pedestrians and creates a winding path and that he likes the right-of-way and having to be independent of the pedestrian corridor.

Councilmember Anderson said the City has made an investment in trees and light poles and they are out by curb so maybe everything to the curb line is best.

Councilmember Weaver said he feels obstructions adds to the charm.

Councilmember Freeburg disagreed as they slow bicyclists.

Rick Ritter, Two Scoops, said he purchased benches 24" wide to be less obstructive, stating these are needed as they have a small seating area inside. He said they remove the benches for the parade and do not put them out until May 1 for possible snow removal and sweeping and that he would like to see a compromise.

Councilmember Weaver said the Legion patio and Beer Belly's patio is on City property and that we want to figure this out with a timeline of when to be removed.

Councilmember Freeburg said tables along the building should work.

Mr. Lee said staff is not proposing changes but said McGillicuddy's and 10K Brewing want to have outdoor seating. He said Beer Belly's lease expired in 2010 but is continued to be used, adding there are concerns with liquor liability insurance.

Councilmember Schmidt referred to the percentage of the sidewalk allowed to be constricted and said that is a reasonable proposal.

Council consensus was to expand sidewalk areas to those who do not have outside seating and to allow for more seating on sidewalks if possible with allowances for alcohol.

Public Works Supervisor John Holmes said permanent fencing cannot be allowed.

Mayor Rice said he would like to see a clearly defined area.

Sheri Ritter, Two Scoops, said they anchor their benches as an option.

Mr. Borglund suggested wrought iron temporary fencing could be utilized.

Councilmember Schmidt inquired if fencing is required for alcohol service. Mr. Lee said most likely fencing is required.

Mayor Rice said fencing would likely be a more substantial barrier. Mr. Borglund said the Police Chief wants to see defined containment areas.

(?) Garzia (**individual did not sign in**) with Chamliia Publo, said they are located on Main Street next to Truffles and Tortes and thanked Council for allowing this seating.

3.3 Discussion; City Sponsored Special Events – Future Vision.

Mr. Lee shared the staff report stating Anoka hosts several annual community events and supports various community activities by providing behind the scenes assistance, such as, set up/take down, garbage/recycling, street and lot signage/barricades associated with closures, printing/advertising, administrative tasks, police services, etc. In addition, each year there is the potential for additional new events that the city may agree to sponsor, permit or assist with such as *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* and the *First Day of Issue Stamp Release*. In addition, staff is regularly receiving requests for new events that often require assistance that is not covered by the event fee or billed back to the sponsoring agency. Staff would like to discuss the Council's desired outcome and vision for Winterfest and the Ice Cream Social, and whether a dedicated special event budget should be created so that expenses for all events can be better managed and tracked.

Communications Coordinator Pam Bowman said they tend to focus on Anoka businesses and end up double-dipping for repeated requests, stating our businesses are very generous but that we should set budgets to help alleviate these requests.

Councilmember Freeburg noted Winterfest was created to showcase Green Haven golf course.

Ms. Bowman said Lancer Catering always sees a large turnout for brunch during Winterfest.

Councilmember Weaver said this will evolve and will take funds so we should not be afraid to get rid of less popular events. He said Winterfest puts people in Green Haven and will get people to return.

Mayor Rice said the exposure is to highlight opportunities at Green Haven.

Councilmember Anderson said using streets is important just like these events and whether we budget or not the City ends up paying for these costs and that Council should give staff direction.

Public Services Administrator Lisa LaCasse said staff will still work for sponsorships but if not the event keeps going.

Mr. Holmes noted Anoka Halloween costs approximately \$50,000 from the Parks budget.

Mayor Rice said we should know what we are doing.

Ms. LaCasse said they have tracking software that will help identify key activities of all tasks so they have a pretty good handle on Parks staff and costs.

Ms. Bowman said the stamp release event this fall will include Public Works staff time and cost but will be easy to track.

Councilmember Anderson asked if we will have any reimbursement for this event. Ms. Bowman said she did not think so outside of publicity.

Mayor Rice said there is an important distinction for a one-time event like the stamp release versus an annual event such as the ice cream social that should be budgeted for.

Councilmember Weaver said the City is paying for overtime now but it is not being tracked. He said he likes the ice cream social but it may be getting stagnant and we should consider partnering and doing during a baseball game as it is a great tradition.

Ms. LaCasse said the high winds affected the concert last evening at George Green Park and said people were expecting the concert at the pavilion in the same location but that River Park was not ready.

Councilmember Schmidt asked how many people attend the concerts. Ms. LaCasse said they typically get 200-250 per show with 1,200 attending the ice cream social.

Councilmember Schmidt noted the water fowl event is very specific but added he did not want to see it go. Ms. LaCasse said they have attendees outside of Anoka and that this is a new event which incurs time and is not on the radar yet.

Councilmember Schmidt said they spent \$250,000 for all events, including overtime and that this is an important reason for working hard on the downtown area.

Councilmember Weaver said staff does great but the hardest part is getting new volunteers. Ms. LaCasse agreed, especially getting returning folks as they are invested.

Mayor Rice said we have to place a value on what we do and decide if it is appropriate.

Councilmember Weaver said the businesses must see a large increase during these events that could result in trickle-down effect.

Councilmember Schmidt inquired about the fireworks costs. Ms. Bowman said they cost \$12,000 but they received reimbursements of \$8,800 in 2012 which are now around \$4,000.

Councilmember Anderson said he appreciates the knowledge and enthusiasm of staff regarding special events.

Council consensus was to continue to see a complete list of events we sponsor as a City and the associated costs and provide budget funding for these events while staying with the current event list and working with Finance to start special event funding and a calendar of events as well as creating chargebacks where possible.

3.4 Discussion; City Communications.

Ms. Bowman shared the staff report stating that a 2016 goal of the City Council was to enhance City communications by utilizing the latest tools and resources to relate to all generations. To enhance these current tools and methods used, staff would like Council input on new tools, methods, formats, and technologies you feel would be valuable in enhancing our communication efforts.

Ms. Bowman highlighted proposed additions, including Sharepoint for employee communications, website redesign, and employee biographies.

Councilmember Anderson said he believes staff is doing a fine job already, adding by doing you find out what is available.

Ms. Bowman said she would like to create a communications plan which would be good to use as a guideline for internal direction.

Councilmember Weaver said he liked the quirky stuff and special events as it goes over well but asked how that could be written into a policy as he does not want to see that part hindered.

Councilmember Anderson asked if the City sends Ms. Bowman to training. Ms. Bowman said no but added she would like to attend training as this field changes constantly

Councilmember Anderson agreed, stating it would be very worthwhile.

Ms. Bowman reviewed the news brief that was distributed years ago to all City staff and said that is one piece she would like to implement again.

Councilmember Weaver said he really enjoyed the department head updates and housing updates. Mr. Lee said he currently has been including a department snapshot each week.

Ms. Bowman said staff intends to utilize the reader board more and would like to attend seminars to develop methods of measurement on who is utilizing Facebook and other social media avenues through some type of quarterly report.

Councilmember Weaver suggested when staff has successes that they be shared with the Council. Ms. Bowman agreed, noting the Facebook post regarding the horses in the downtown area reached 1.5K hits which is one example of a successful post.

Council consensus was that staff was doing a great job with City communications.

3.5 Discussion; Temporary Family Healthcare Dwellings, Opt-Out Ordinance.

Mr. Borglund shared the staff report stating on May 12, 2016, the Governor signed into law the creation and regulation of temporary family health care dwellings which permits and regulates temporary family health care dwellings. Subdivision 9 of Minn. Stat. §462.3593 allows cities to “opt out” of those regulations. The law provides the following definition: "Temporary family health care dwelling" means a mobile residential dwelling providing an environment facilitating a caregiver's provision of care for a mentally or physically impaired person that meets certain requirements, including square footage, temporary utility service and a timeframe of up to one year.

Staff is seeking input from Council if the City should adopt an opt-out ordinance and not allow these temporary family healthcare dwellings. The deadline to do so is October 1. Mr. Borglund shared that the Planning Commission supports the opt-out ordinance and noted it is not really a zoning item but can be done as City Council directive.

Councilmember Anderson said that due to the lot sizes in Anoka this temporary family healthcare dwellings would be a real detriment to the community.

Mayor Rice noted this could result in only a couple requests a year.

Councilmember Freeburg agreed but said once we allow this it will be difficult to rescind.

Councilmember Weaver said he prefer to opt-out to see how other cities handle the effects and then decide.

Mayor Rice said the aging population could allow some of these opportunities.

Mr. Borglund said there are a number of communities that allow this type of housing prior to this law but noted they have much larger lots with septic systems in place and that it is different in an urban environment.

Council consensus was to bring forward an ordinance to opt-out of temporary family healthcare dwellings.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Staff Update.

None.

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilmember Weaver asked for an update regarding a situation that occurred early Saturday morning of people sleeping in City parks. Mr. Lee said he spoke with Police Chief Phil Johansen regarding photographs taken of people sleeping in areas within the City and how adjustments are needed to prevent this from occurring. He said the Chief will have security patrol earlier beginning at 6:00 a.m. and possibly even at 5:00 a.m. as individuals found in parks at that time would then be in violation of City ordinance. Mr. Lee said the increased patrol on weekends will increase identifying individuals in order to check for outstanding warrants. He said Anoka County currently offers \$110 per person per month through a food allowance program which may be one reason individuals come to Anoka but said the stipend requires participating in job location services which are offered in Blaine and is a disconnect that needs to be reviewed.

Councilmember Anderson suggested the stipend payment be made at the facility in Blaine.

Councilmember Weaver said he wants reassurance that the Police Department is addressing this 24/7 and that there needs to be consequences.

Mayor Rice said Police have determined that there are 6-12 “regular” homeless individuals in Anoka that result in approximately 1-15 interactions but said these interactions need to be assertive and direct that this behavior is not tolerated in our community. He said the City has homeless shelters but those choosing to be homeless in our community is a problem that has to be addressed.

Councilmember Weaver said he has heard from residents that will not use the parks and trails because of this activity and that the City is paying for security and a full-time officer and that this needs to be addressed.

Mayor Rice said we need to find those things that are chargeable crimes and charge the individuals.

Councilmember Weaver said have created many tools and if the police need more tools let us know but then those tools need to be used.

Mayor Rice said some individuals choose homelessness over shelters and with the amount of resources we have Anoka is doing way more than our share but said that does not mean it is acceptable to have this behavior in the City. He said we have to support the business community as well.

Mr. Lee shared a statistic that Anoka has one shelter bed for every 280 residents in Anoka which far outweighs surrounding cities, such as one for 7,000 residents in Coon Rapids. He said we are going above and beyond and supporting other communities.

Councilmember Freeburg said the City’s obligation is to the taxpayer.

Councilmember Weaver asked Mr. Lee to share this zero tolerance policy with Chief Johansen.

Mayor Rice agreed, stating the police need to be informative and directive but not friendly with these individuals.

Doug Jacob, Anoka, commented on the need for security patrol to get out of their cars and search areas where this activity is occurring.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rice adjourned the Regular Worksession meeting at 7:30 p.m.

June 27, 2016 (Worksession)

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Submitted by: Cathy Sorensen, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Approval Attestation:

Amy T. Oehlers, City Clerk