



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes - Final

10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine MN 55449

City Council Workshop

**While this is a public meeting where interested persons are welcome to attend, it is a work session for Council and staff to discuss issues before them. It is not for the purpose of receiving public input.*

Thursday, February 7, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

Meeting Number 13-07

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 p.m.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Clark Arneson, City Manager; Patrick Sweeney, City Attorney; Bob Therres, Public Services Manager; Bryan Schafer, Planning Director; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Nyle Zikmund, SBM Fire Chief; Jim Kappelhoff, Parks & Recreation Director; Jerome Krieger, Parks & Recreation Program Supervisor; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Catherine Ekstrand, Deputy City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

Present: 6 - Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Bourke, Councilmember Herbst, Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, and Councilmember Swanson

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kolb

1 [WS 13-06](#)

CONSTRUCTION CODES AND FIRE SPRINKLERS

Attachments: [Blaine Coucil Code Sprinkler Memo.docx](#)

Fire Chief Zikmund stated fire and building codes are promulgated by national organizations of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC has now become the clear code making body as they are the only entity that offers the “family” of codes: International Building Code (IBC), International Fire Code (IFC), International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Mechanical Code (IMC). He noted anyone can propose a change which then goes to a committee that makes a recommendation to committees until the majority of the entire membership in attendance at the code adoption hearing approves.

Fire Chief Zikmund stated the NFPA has a fire code that many jurisdictions have adopted and they also promulgate the National Electric Code which is the only electric code used in all of North America and all other nations using 120 volt AC power. The NFPA is the only entity promulgating a vast range of code and professional qualification standards for sprinkler requirements in any building and the type is determined by the occupancy and construction. He stated NFPA also promulgates all of the minimum standards for fire personnel. He stated sprinkler requirements for all occupancies are part of the Building and/or Residential Code. He stated the NFPA updates standards every 5 years and the ICC updates codes every 3 years. He noted codes are for the building and standards are for the components. He stated Minnesota uses code function 2006.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of the NFPA 13 and 13R systems for commercial/industrial, and NFPA 13D system for residential.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of the State of Minnesota code adoption, fire sprinkler design, and install regulation. He stated building and fire code is applicable state-wide; fire code enforced by SFM or local jurisdiction; political subdivision required to have a designated building official; no requirement for fire marshal; local board of appeals required for all codes; and 2012 edition of IBC, IRC and IFC is in adoption cycle. Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of the fire sprinkler design and install regulation. He stated contractors and fitters are licensed by the State Fire Marshal Division. He noted homeowners can install a licensed designed system in their owner/occupied home.

Councilmember Swanson asked if residents can purchase sprinkler systems at local hardware stores. Fire Chief Zikmund replied no.

Councilmember Bourke asked if home sprinkler systems need to be inspected. Fire Chief Zikmund replied no.

Councilmember Swanson asked if insurance companies discount residential sprinkler systems. Fire Chief Zikmund replied some do and some do not.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of commercial sprinkler costs and residential sprinkler costs. He stated prices for commercial are at the lowest point in 15 years and residential costs are the same or lower than five years to ten years ago.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of Chapter 1306/IBC. He stated Blaine adopted 50% of Chapter 1306/IBC in April 1989, adopted the full version of Chapter 1306/IBC in 1997, and affirmed adoption in 2007. He noted that 55 communities have reported adoption to Minnesota Department of Labor &

Industry (DOLI) as of November 29, 2012.

Councilmember Herbst asked if Blaine could repeal the code. Fire Chief Zikmund replied yes the City can choose to adopt or not adopt the sprinkler requirements.

Councilmember Hovland asked if the City goes back can new ordinances be enforced. Fire Chief Zikmund replied the building code requirement is the minimum the City has to enforce.

Councilmember Bourke asked what if the State requires residential sprinklers. Fire Chief Zikmund replied the City has to enforce the code.

Councilmember Hovland asked if the City could pick requirements for certain occupancy types. Fire Chief Zikmund replied no.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of code and sprinklers impact on the Fire Department's budget and fire fighters. He stated the Fire Department and budget is built and based on prevention and codes, code enforcement and sprinklers are the core foundational components.

Councilmember Bourke asked if every home had sprinkler systems, how many staff would be necessary. Fire Chief Zikmund replied it is unknown at this time, but currently staff is at 65.

Fire Chief Zikmund gave an overview of the benefits of sprinklers. He summarized that SBM has the lowest per capita fire costs for any similar size fire department in Minnesota; the combination of codes and pension allow the department to remain predominantly volunteer; and the Councils have supported this prevention approach for nearly three decades.

Discussed

2 [WS 13-07](#)

LEXINGTON ATHLETIC COMPLEX UPDATE

Sponsors: Kappelhoff

Attachments: [LAC Concept 1-8-13.pdf](#)

Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff stated staff and Lexington Athletic Complex project consultant, Carlson McCain have been meeting to develop a comprehensive plan for the park. He stated changes have been made to the original park plan resulting from wetland mitigation, and options in site furnishings and facilities. He noted the budget estimate has been updated to reflect the proposed changes.

Parks & Recreation Program Supervisor Krieger stated the proposal is for two lighted ball fields, four multi-purpose fields, three lighted tennis/pickle ball courts, playground, basketball court, shelter, facility (storage, multi-purpose room, warming house) and 350 parking spots.

Councilmember Hovland is concerned about balls rolling into the water of the wetlands. Parks & Recreation Program Supervisor Krieger replied fencing is an option and the water may be 2 feet high or less. He noted some of the designated wetland area may not have water and remains as a depression area.

Parks & Recreation Program Director Kappelhoff stated the Carlson McCain estimate is a great deal higher than the original estimate. He stated additional items included in the estimate: turn lane, lighting-parking and roadway, storm sewer, water main, sanitary sewer, batting cages, irrigation (computerized system) and lighting-transformer.

City Manager Arneson commented the original estimate from the first consultant did not include costs for infrastructure.

Councilmember Herbst asked if park fees will cover costs. Parks & Recreation Program Director Kappelhoff replied the park will generate revenue.

Councilmember Hovland asked about the cost of tennis court lighting. Parks & Recreation Program Director Kappelhoff replied the cost will range from \$30,000-40,000.

Public Services Manager Therres stated the Council needs to look at the design, lighting plan, and wetland issues to pursue further.

Mayor Ryan asked about park staffing. Public Services Manager Therres replied two seasonal and one full-time staff members are planned.

Councilmember Herbst stated people come from all over to use Blaine's parks.

Discussed

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:30 p.m.