

UNAPPROVED

**CITY OF BLAINE
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Thursday, May 3, 2018**

6:45 p.m.
Cloverleaf Farm Room
10801 Town Square Drive

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tom Ryan, Councilmembers Dave Clark, Andy Garvais, Wes Hovland, Julie Jeppson, Jason King, and Dick Swanson.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Clark Arneson; Planning and Community Development Director Bryan Schafer; Public Works Director Jon Haukaas; Police Chief/Safety Services Manager Brian Podany; Finance Director Joe Huss; Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Bob Therres; City Engineer Jean Keely; City Attorney Patrick Sweeney; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3.1 Proposed Senior Center Facility Use Policy

Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Therres reviewed a proposed Senior Center Facility Use Policy with the Council and requested feedback.

Councilmember Clark stated he struggled with the language regarding caterers and explained he did not want to see the City competing with the public sector. City Manager Arneson commented the City was proposing to allow trays of prepared food from a local restaurant for an event held at the Senior Center.

Councilmember Clark commented his first choice would be to not allow caterers. He indicated if caterers were allowed, only businesses from Blaine should be utilized.

Councilmember Swanson stated he did not mind visitors to the Senior Center using the butler's kitchen for food service.

Councilmember King questioned how the City would delineate who could and who could not supply food to the Senior Center. He believed this would be a difficult situation for the City to regulate.

Councilmember Hovland stated he believed the difference would be who was renting the space. He anticipated residents would rent the Senior Center for a birthday party or anniversary and then a caterer could be brought in to assist with food. He explained he did not support a caterer coming in and renting the space.

Councilmember Clark said he believed this would still bring about direct competition with local businesses.

Councilmember Jeppson commented she supported caterers being allowed to bring in catered food at the Senior Center.

Councilmember Garvais suggested the language within the policy be amended to state an eligible user shall be allowed to bring in catered food and no caterer shall be allowed to prepare food in the Senior Center facility.

Councilmember King asked if the use of sternos would be allowed. Mr. Arneson commented sternos would be allowed but not candles.

Councilmember Clark requested all catered food brought into the Senior Center be from a Blaine business.

Councilmember Swanson and Councilmember Garvais stated this was not a sticking point for them and may be difficult for the City to enforce.

Councilmember Clark requested that all fundraiser events held at the Senior Center have a confirmed hardship and be a non-profit organization.

Councilmember Garvais commented he would not support fundraisers being limited to non-profit organization, adding he did not understand how the City could prove a hardship.

Councilmember Jeppson explained she had concerns with holding children's birthday parties at the Senior Center and suggested an age range be included in the policy. The Council supported this recommendation and suggested no birthday parties be allowed for those under the age of 21.

Councilmember Garvais questioned how the Council wanted to confirm a hardship for fundraisers and stated he would support staff validating the hardship.

Further discussion ensued regarding events at the Senior Center for non-profit organizations such as Boy Scouts.

Mayor Ryan indicated the City could make amendments to the policy over time if issues were to arise. He stated he did not want it to be so difficult to use the new Senior Center facility that groups were forced to use City Hall space.

Councilmember King agreed the City may have to tweak the policy at some point in the future.

Councilmember Garvais suggested events for non-profit organizations be approved by staff if held more than once a year.

Councilmember Jeppson commented she supported the overall draft policy being proposed for the Senior Center and believed the rest of the language was guidelines and procedures.

Council consensus was to move forward with the policy as amended with exceptions allowed, no children's parties, staff to confirm hardship, and that Blaine caterers be allowed but no food prep allowed onsite.

3.2 2019 Budget – Discussion on Tax Base and Establishing Preliminary General Fund Budget Guidelines.

Action on this item was postponed to Thursday, May 10th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the order of the Council agenda.

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tom Ryan, Mayor

Catherine Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk
Submitted by TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.