



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 21, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

Meeting Number 13-10

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; Thomas Sweeney, City Attorney; Bryan Schafer, Planning Director; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Jean Keely, City Engineer; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Jane Cross, City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

Present: 7 - Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Kolb, Councilmember Bourke, Councilmember Herbst, Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, and Councilmember Swanson

[WS 13-18](#)

SLP SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON SERVICES

Sponsors: Safety Services Manager / Police Chief Olson

Safety Services Manager/Police Chief Olson stated the Spring Lake Park School District has over 5,300 students with more than two-thirds of these students coming from the City of Blaine. He stated there are over 1,700 students at the Westwood campus with more than 1,000 students at the middle school. He stated the SLP District Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ronneberg and Police Chief Olson there is a need for a liaison services of a sworn officer at Westwood Middle School (WWMS). He stated similar to liaison services with the other two school districts within the City, services to WWMS would be funded 100% of the time by the school district while the officer is at the school and the remainder of time would be funded by the City.

Chief Olson stated a two-year contract from the SLP School Board would need to be finalized to cover services for the school years of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, and the potential for on-going services. He noted that based upon current police department staffing, this commitment would require the addition of an officer.

Chief Olson gave an overview of the School Resource Officer Program, which has a 2-year minimum assignment and dedicates an officer for entire school year. He stated the program provides a dedicated officer liaison between school and police department, partnership to work with students, classroom presentations, respond to safety/security issues, criminal cases and investigations. He noted other programs are CounterAct and Safety Patrol.

Dr. Ronneberg thanked the Council for considering the partnership. He noted grades 4 to 8 go to the Westwood School and that 65% of the students live in Blaine. He commented the school district is growing rapidly. He stated the school board is strongly in support of the program.

Councilmember Hovland stated liaison services are provided in other schools. He asked if other liaison officers could cover this school. Dr. Ronneberg replied currently SLP Police Department provides a liaison in the school district. Chief Olson replied there have been other liaisons serving the school.

Councilmember Kolb stated this request does not surprise her. She commented the school will pay for nine months of the year and the City will pay for the three months that school is out.

Councilmember Herbst stated he is concerned with the City paying for the officer for the three months in addition to the uniform and squad car expenses. He asked if schools hire private security. Chief Olson replied the Hennepin School District supplements with private security. He noted the police department also offers other programs.

Councilmember Clark arrived at 6:44 p.m.

Councilmember Kolb commented it is a different atmosphere in schools now.

Mayor Ryan stated it would be good for the City to have an extra officer during the busy summer months.

Councilmember Herbst asked for the costs for adding an officer. Police Chief Olson replied the cost would be between \$16,000-\$18,000.

Councilmember Swanson stated the best use for an extra squad in the summer would be in patrolling neighborhoods.

Mayor Ryan commented an extra officer would be good for summer vacation coverage.

Councilmember Hovland stated he does not want the City of Blaine providing all of the coverage.

Councilmember Clark stated the Council has to resolve a current budget gap before a decision can be made and further information is needed.

Discussed

[WS 13-19](#)

MNDOT TRUNK HIGHWAY 65 TRAFFIC SIGNAL STUDY

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [TH 65 Signal Report - Exec Summary](#)

City Engineer Keely stated on October 4, 2012, Council passed a Resolution asking MnDOT to analyze traffic signal timing on TH 65. She stated MnDOT had completed a TH 65 Optimization Report from Fridley to East Bethel in June 2012 and had implemented the signal timing recommendations last summer. She stated MnDOT optimized the signal timing for the over-capacity intersections in Blaine to the best of their ability. MnDOT expects the problem to get worse as traffic volumes continue to increase and the signals stay the same. She noted that MnDOT has installed cameras on TH 65 to help monitor and fine-tune traffic signal timing. She stated the cameras give MnDOT a 360-degree view of the signalized intersections from their offices. She noted that residents should forward concerns to Kevin Schwartz at MnDOT. City Engineer Keely introduced Wayne Norris and Paul Jung from MnDOT.

Councilmember Swanson stated signal timing is a problem from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. as well. He stated in the middle of the day MnDOT is stopping traffic as if it were rush hour traffic with TH 65 having the longer light. Mr. Jung replied the same timing programs run each day. He stated to give more time to the cross street takes away from TH 65. He noted he receives lots of complaints about the signals on TH 65.

Councilmember Clark stated MnDOT has closed some access on to TH 65, which has had a funneling affect to the lights. He asked what is MnDOT doing to advance interchange projects in the corridor. He commented traffic is unable to travel east and west of TH 65. Mr. Jung stated MnDOT plans to install flashing yellow turn signals. He noted a plan is being developed on which intersections this type of signal would work safely. He noted that MnDOT is also considering lengthening left turn lanes to handle more vehicles and this is planned for 2017 depending on funding.

Mr. Norris stated a meeting with MnDOT, Anoka County and the National Sports Center was held to discuss a joint powers agreement to study traffic movement and access to the facility. He suggested Blaine create a TH 65 Corridor Coalition.

Councilmember Bourke left at 7:11 p.m. and returned at 7:12 p.m.

Councilmember Hovland replied the City had a TH 65 Corridor Coalition that did not go anywhere. He stated people have a four minute wait at some intersections and they get distracted while they are waiting and do not realize when the light finally turns green.

Councilmember Swanson stated he has timed the lights and it took five minutes to cross. He asked what is the cost for the City to install flashing yellow lights. Mr. Jung replied larger polls and arms would be needed and control equipment may need to be replaced if it is older equipment. He noted costs would range between \$30,000-\$200,000.

Councilmember Swanson asked if this replacement project would qualify for MSA funds. City Engineer Keely replied this project would qualify for MSA funds. She noted there are four intersections that are listed as high priority by MnDOT in their Signal Optimization Project Report.

Mayor Ryan stated the City needs to create the TH 65 Coalition again.

Mr. Norris commented there maybe funding available.

Discussed

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:30 p.m.