



**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.*

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Thursday, June 6, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

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Meeting Number 13-28

**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; Bryan Schafer, Planning Director; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Bob Therres, Public Services Manager; Kerry Fenner, Police Captain; Dennis Peters, IS; Dan Schluender, Assistant City Engineer; Rebecca Olson, Assistant to the City Manager; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Catherine Ekstrand, Deputy City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

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

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**ANOKA COUNTY FIBER CONNECTIVITY AND  
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER (ISP) DISCUSSION**

**Sponsors:** Huss

City Manager Arneson stated Anoka County contracted with Zayo to install a fiber-optic system of 280 miles of fiber at 142 locations throughout the county including eight locations in Blaine. He noted there are no costs to activate the fiber, but there are monthly costs for the service. He stated staff is proposing to activate five locations in Blaine which are City Hall, and the water towers at Aquatore, Paul Parkway, Hamline and Lexington. He stated the City currently uses two Internet Service Providers (ISP) which costs \$1,100 per month. He stated staff solicited Requests for Proposals for an ISP and based on the proposals received, the City will be able to increase its service speed for a lower monthly cost.

He noted the upgraded service is more important for the residents of Blaine.

He stated services used are remote email, community standards remote inspections, building inspections, GIS mapping, web based education, UB online payment, P&R online registration & payments, eAgenda, email spam filter, and Fire Department. connect. He noted upcoming and future services: AMR (hosted by Sensus), phone system (voice over IP), email server, email archiving and offsite live backup.

Councilmember Clark arrived at 6:39 p.m.

He stated the City currently has 9 Mbps ISP service and staff is proposing ISP service of 100 Mbps. He gave an overview of the costs:

- Current service monthly cost \$1,100.00
- After upgrades \$1,640.00
- Replacement load balancing/failover box \$7,500.00 for Sensus water meter reading system. Half the cost would be funded from Water Utility Fund and half from General Fund. One-time fee for the box.

City Manager Arneson stated the service could be upgraded with no extra cost.

Councilmember Swanson asked if the County will guarantee the 100 Mbps service. City Manager Arneson stated yes.

Councilmember Clark asked if there are service problems with the current service. City Manager Arneson stated the service is at capacity and at times over capacity.

Councilmember Clark asked what happens when the service is over capacity. Mr. Peters responded the service is very slow for users.

Councilmember Clark asked what percent of time is the service at or above capacity. Mr. Peters responded the service is above capacity regularly.

Councilmember Clark asked if there is another option for going to 50 Mbps versus 100 Mbps. Finance Director Huss responded the ISP is a subscription service and each ISP has different pricing points for various services. He stated the service is “burstable” when the usage is high.

City Manager Arneson distributed an ISP comparison chart showing eight providers, speeds, non-recurring charge and monthly recurring charge, separate pipe, diverse path, cross connect included, and term.

Councilmember Bourke asked if the police and fire would be included in the ISP service. Finance Director Huss responded the service charges are for the whole infrastructure.

Finance Director Huss commented the staff is still reviewing all the proposals.

Councilmember Herbst asked if the provider is regulated. City Manager Arneson responded no. Councilmember Kolb commented the ISP market is very competitive.

Councilmember Herbst left at 7:10 p.m. and returned at 7:11 p.m.

Councilmember Clark asked if the terms are locked in the agreements. City Manager Arneson responded yes.

Finance Director Huss stated the City would like to implement the new ISP in July.

Councilmember Clark stated the upgrade would be an additional cost of \$10,000 to the City. Finance Director Huss noted there is funding available in the Water Utility Fund for a portion of the upgrade cost.

#### **Discussed**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Assistant City Engineer Schluender stated bi-annual counts are being conducted on all MSA roads.

Council discussion on various topics.

#### **ADJOURN**

The Workshop adjourned at 7:30 p.m.