

UNAPPROVED

CITY OF BLAINE
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Thursday, June 21, 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 6:51 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Julie Jeppson.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Clark Arneson; Planning and Community Development Director Bryan Schafer; Public Works Director Jon Haukaas; Finance Director Joe Huss; Economic Development Coordinator Erik Thorvig; Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Bob Therres; City Attorney Patrick Sweeney; Senior Engineering Technician Jason Sundeen; Accounting Supervisor Bonnie Friedrich; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3.1 Corrections Work Crew Update.

Public Works Director Jon Haukaas provided the Council with an update on the work that has been completed by the Corrections Work Crew. He introduced Scott Miller with the Department of Corrections to discuss this program in further detail with the Council.

Scott Miller, Department of Corrections, thanked the Council for their time. He indicated this program started in 1995 and reported this was a voluntary program that taught skills and a work ethic. He stated the City was receiving a crew of workers for the price of one full-time employee. He commented there was great value in this program for both the City and the crew workers. He discussed the State's recidivism rate (36%) and noted the individuals who go through this program had a recidivism rate of only 15%.

Councilmember Hovland asked what type of supervision these individuals had while working in Blaine. Mr. Miller reported each crew of eight to ten workers had one supervisor. He noted all offenders were in a minimum-security facility. He explained all supervisors received a thorough background check. He noted the last incident these crews had was eight years ago. He provided further comment on what would happen should a crew worker decide to walk away from a crew. Mr. Haukaas discussed the work crews have been completing that included clean-up in City parks and addressing Emerald Ash Borer.

Councilmember Swanson questioned how close the crew members were to being released. Mr. Miller noted the crew members were 24 to 48 months from being released.

Councilmember Hovland encouraged staff to create a list of tasks that need to be completed in the City in order to keep this crew busy and that provided an opportunity to teach some skills.

Mayor Ryan stated he appreciated the great work being done by the crew workers in this program.

Council consensus was to continue to support this program.

3.2 2017 CAFR/Audit Review.

Finance Director Huss stated representatives from the City's external auditing firm, Redpath & Company, Ltd., were present to discuss the City's 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the auditing process. He explained discussion will focus primarily on the Report on Internal Control, the audit process, and new auditing standards that are forthcoming.

Peggy Moeller, Redpath & Company, Ltd., presented the Council with the 2017 CAFR and Audit results. She congratulated the City for receiving a clean or unmodified opinion and commended the City for their outstanding CAFR. She provided further comment on the City's revenues, expenditures and fund balances at the end of 2017. She discussed the GASB changes that would occur in 2018 and asked for comments or questions.

Councilmember Clark asked how the City would be addressing the payroll duty concerns noted in the report. Mr. Huss reported measures have been taken to segregate those duties and that staff would be coming before the Council in August with a new policy for review and approval.

The Council thanked Ms. Moeller for her thorough report.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Arneson reminded the City Council of the neighborhood meeting that would be held on Thursday, June 28th at City Hall to review the proposed Cedarpoint Apartments at 117th Avenue and Ulysses Street.

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Tom Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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