



**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, March 15, 2012

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

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, Community Development Director; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Chris Olson, Safety Service Manager/Police Chief; Bob Fiske, Community Standards Director; 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

1. [WS 12-15](#)

RIGHT OF WAY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Sponsors: Therres

Public Services Manager Therres stated the City has no guidelines, official policy or ordinance regulating bus stop benches. He stated bus benches in public right of way have been installed without permission from the City or Anoka County so it is unknown how many benches are located within public right of way, their exact locations, or if there is an active bus stop at locations where benches are currently installed. He stated the benches are owned and maintained by private companies which use them for advertising and are responsible for maintaining the bench and snow removal around the bench. He stated the City's zoning ordinance does not have any provisions to deal with the advertising signs on bus benches. He stated research indicates many local cities have adopted a right of way ordinance to regulate private usages of the public right of way. He stated the City does have some written policies in place which govern specific public right of way usages.

Councilmember Bourke commented he had stopped at a bench recently because there were newspapers littering the ground and he picked them up.

Councilmember Herbst commented he watched a bench being installed in Fridley and it appeared the workers didn't have the right equipment to install the bench.

City Manager Arneson stated Universal Bench owns the majority of the benches.

Councilmember Hovland stated the benches are a nuisance.

Councilmember Kolb stated the benches are prime advertising spots.

Public Services Manager Therres stated he received one phone call thanking the City for placing a bench in a location. He stated staff will work on a comprehensive ordinance for the Council to consider.

Discussed

2. [WS 12-14](#)

**APPROVE COMMENT LETTER ON RICE CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT PROPOSED CWPMP MINOR
PLAN AMENDMENT**

Sponsors: Hafner

Attachments: [CWPMP amendmen tcomments.doc](#)

Stormwater Manager Hafner stated the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is proposing a minor plan amendment to five (5) of their Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plans (CWPMP). He stated if approved the change in rules would allow the RCWD to mitigate wetland impacts resulting from ditch maintenance and repair anywhere in the state as opposed to replacing the lost functions and values within the area where the impacts occur. He stated staff has cited reasons that the change is not in the best interest of the City. Mr. Hafner stated comments were due to the RCWD on March 16, 2012. He stated the RCWD believe the changes are economical and if they could mitigate where it is less costly to make replacements would save money. He commented in the long-term extra costs would be incurred and their economical argument is flawed. He commented that the RCWD could not find a suitable location for wetland mitigation to create a bank. He stated ditch 5362 is being affected by the change and RCWD has not approached the City to offset ditch replacements.

Councilmember Herbst commented that 5362 is a small part of RCWD watershed mitigation. He stated Blaine does not have the flood problems that are experienced in other cities.

Councilmember Bourke stated Blaine should take the position against the changes.

City Manager Arneson stated it is too late for the City to take a position. He stated the City will be able to comment on specific plans on 5362.

Mayor Ryan asked what authority does RCWD have with the smaller cities. Stormwater Manager Hafner replied the smaller cities would look for wetland credits or buy credits to cover flooding.

Mayor Ryan stated does the property owner have a say. Stormwater Manager Hafner stated no.

Councilmember Herbst asked about Blaine's wetland credits. Stormwater Manager Hafner stated he anticipates 15 acres of credit and up to 52 acres of credit.

Councilmember Herbst asked about using credits for another project. Community Development Director Schafer stated the City will be able to use the credits anywhere.

Discussed

3. [WS 12-16](#)

DISCUSSION ON CITY SURVEY DRAFT QUESTIONS

Sponsors: City Manager Arneson

Attachments: [Blaine MN Resident Survey Draft](#)

City Manager Arneson stated the City has a contract with a consultant and a timeline to conduct a city survey. He stated Councilmember Swanson and Councilmember Clark were appointed to work with staff to work on drafting residential survey questions. He stated a meeting is scheduled for March 19 to further discuss the attached draft questions.

Councilmember Herbst asked about business survey. City Manager Arneson replied that Councilmember Herbst and Councilmember Bourke and staff will work on a business survey that the City will conduct.

Community Development Director Schafer commented retail will be excluded from the business survey.

Mayor Ryan commented the City will hold a meeting with the businesses in April at the college.

Discussed

OTHER

City Manager Arneson stated there is no new information on the Walmart on Ball Road.

City Manager Arneson stated plans for a permit have been submitted for the Walmart on Central Avenue.

City Engineer Keely stated work continued through the winter on the bridge on Highway 14. She stated construction completion is anticipated for August 2.

City Engineer Keely stated Anoka County will approve bids on June 12 for the Lexington Avenue project.

City Council discussed miscellaneous items.

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Adjourned