



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, January 3, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

Meeting Number 13-01

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Clark Arneson, City Manager; Patrick Sweeney, City Attorney; Bob Therres, Public Services Manager; Bryan Schafer, Planning Director; Jean Keely, City Engineer; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Ward Brown, Budget/Fiscal Analyst; Steffen Higgins, Assistant 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

1. [WS 13-01](#)

DRAFT RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [ROW Ordinance DRAFT](#)

Public Services Manager Therres stated staff has completed a draft right-of-way ordinance that is based off a comprehensive model developed by the League of Minnesota Cities with the express purpose of managing issues with right-of-way and provide proper policy, procedures and standards. He stated the draft ordinance establishes the legal authority for the City to manage the public right-of-way; establishes policies and procedures for those wishing to locate facilities, such as private utilities, within the public right-of-way and serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and ensures the integrity of the City streets and right-of-way. He stated the draft ordinance lists the requirements for anyone who has facilities in or works in the right-of-way. These requirements include registering with the City; obtaining a permit before doing the work; restoring the right-of-way in a manner and condition acceptable to the City and warranty said restoration for

12 months; establishes certain obligations and standards that any permittee must follow; provides mapping information to the City showing the locations of all facilities owned by the registrants and permittees; regulates bus benches and shelters (transit amenities); and regulates newspaper vending machines with respect to location.

Councilmember Bourke confirmed that the ordinance would regulate bus benches and shelters. Assistant City Engineer Higgins replied yes and noted that other cities do not regulate bus shelters. He stated US Bench will need to provide the City with the location of their benches and apply for permits annually.

Councilmember Hovland asked if different rates would be applied to the underground and above ground permits. Assistant City Engineer Higgins replied the same rate applies to both. City Engineer Keely stated the registration fee of \$150 will be a new one-time fee for recording. Assistant City Engineer Higgins noted other cities charge more.

Councilmember Hovland asked about location controls. Assistant City Engineer Higgins replied the ordinance does state specific locations. He noted that Brooklyn Center asks for the abutting property owner's permission for a bench to be placed near their property.

Councilmember Kolb commented there are so many bus stops along Jefferson Road and benches at every stop are not necessary. Assistant City Engineer Higgins replied the benches have to be at least 500 feet apart and that multiple amenities will need approval by the Council.

Councilmember Clark arrived at 6:49 p.m.

Councilmember Hovland suggested a paid service to maintain the right-of-way.

Mayor Ryan noted the City's sign ordinance is strict, although the signs on the benches are not regulated by the City.

Councilmember Swanson asked if the ordinance would affect Northtown. Public Services Manager Therres stated the ordinance is only for right-of-way.

Discussed

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Arneson stated the Anoka County Commissioners will be attending the meeting on the 17th to introduce themselves.

City Manager Arneson asked if February 23, 2013 would work for the Council

to hold an annual retreat. Councilmember Herbst suggested the first part of March would be better.

Planning Director Schafer stated staff met with George Sherman's representatives about the Walker land. He stated Sherman's representatives will attend the January 10, 2013 Workshop. Councilmember Swanson stated he did not like the density of the apartments. Councilmember Kolb stated the vision for the property is not the same as the Sherman plan.

Mayor Ryan stated he met with Anoka County on the letter received by the City.

Councilmember Kolb asked if the Park-n-Ride is moving forward. City Manager Arneson stated Anoka County needs to complete an application.

Council discussion took place on the status of the two schools that are relocating to the City.

Councilmember Swanson questioned if bonds could be used to fund the EDA.

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:15 p.m.