



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, April 4, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

Meeting Number 13-17

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; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Mike Ulrich, Public Works Director; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Jane Cross, City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

Present: 5 - Councilmember Kolb, Councilmember Herbst, Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, and Councilmember Swanson

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Clark, and Councilmember Bourke

1 [WS 13-25](#)

MEDIAN MAINTENANCE ON LANDSCAPED MEDIANS

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [Median Length for City Council Vegetation](#)

Public Services Manager Therres stated the City maintains approximately four miles of landscaped medians on both City and County roads and there are an additional 11.25 miles of landscaped medians that are maintained privately by associations and developments. He stated landscaping maintenance requires all available staff (parks, street and utilities), and approximately \$10,000 in materials and equipment rentals. He noted that the cost does not include labor costs. He also noted that rental equipment is needed for lane closures in order to provide a safe work zone. He stated the City is reaching a point where additional funds are needed in order to restore the landscaping to its original condition and irrigation systems replaced.

Councilmember Swanson suggested getting rid of vegetation on Radisson or put metal bars in to restrain cars from driving into the median. He stated 89th

went through a redesign where the neighborhood did not want vegetation. He noted drivers cannot see through the vegetation.

Mayor Ryan is in favor of removing the vegetation on Radisson Road. Public Services Manager Therres stated working in the median is a safety issue. He commented the flower beds could be filled in with concrete.

Public Works Director Ulrich stated the irrigation system has been destroyed by vehicles driving onto the medians and rodents.

Councilmember Hovland stated he is not opposed to pulling out vegetation, but would like to see something other than concrete (i.e., rocks/boulders). Public Services Manager Therres stated staff will research other options.

Councilmember Kolb suggested concrete statuary. She commented the median on 89th by Aquatore and Paul Parkway is beautiful. She agreed the median on Radisson is a hazard.

Mayor Ryan suggested doing Radisson first.

Councilmember Herbst agreed the median vegetation on Radisson should be removed.

Public Works Director Ulrich commented the County has rules on what can be put in the median (i.e., no trees) because County Roads have high speeds.

Councilmember Swanson noted Rice Creek Parkway has tall evergreen trees growing too close together making a wall and creating a safety hazard.

Public Services Manager Therres stated staff will start with the median on Radisson and do as much work as the 2013 budget will allow.

Mayor Ryan asked if the irrigation system dead-ends in the median. Public Works Director Ulrich stated there are valves throughout in the median.

Discussed

2 [WS 13-18](#)

SLP SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON SERVICES

Sponsors: Safety Services Manager / Police Chief Olson

Safety Services Manager/Police Chief Olson stated the City would be responsible for the costs of a liaison officer from when the replacement officer starts around June 1, 2013 until the start of the 2013/2014 school year;

approximately three months of wages and benefits and other hiring costs. He stated there are three vacant positions in the Police Department which these cost savings will cover the unbudgeted amount for the liaison officer.

Chief Olson stated the City currently has two partnerships at Blaine HS and Roosevelt MS, and Centennial HS. He noted the liaison builds a relationship between school and the police department, and a partnership with students, staff and parents, and provides classroom presentations, responds to safety/security issues, works on criminal cases and investigations in the school. He gave an overview of the student populations in the five schools. He noted the resource officer is a veteran officer with at least 3 years of service with the City. He noted the officer will use an out of service squad car. He stated the school pays for 100% of wages and benefits when officer is in school and the City pays the wages for the 3 summer months, uniforms, and benefits. He stated the City has budget funding for 59 officers, but currently has 58 officers. He noted the police department has 3 vacancies.

Councilmember Swanson stated there is available funding for the liaison officer.

Mayor Ryan stated he is ready for this to go to the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Kolb stated she is in favor of the liaison officer.

Councilmember Hovland stated he is in favor of the liaison officer. He stated he would like the school to cover the cost year round. He stated the school districts have the ability to ask the public to pay for the liaison with a referendum. He noted it would not be fair to ask one school district to pay for the liaison and not the others. So when contracts are up the school districts would go through the same process.

Councilmember Herbst stated the Federal government may be mandating school officers in the near future, but they will not pay for them. He noted once the officer is in the school it will be a permanent position. He agrees officers should be in the schools, but the City has a fixed budget.

Councilmember Kolb commented the schools are unable to conduct lock downs due to the children being frightened that it is real.

Councilmember Swanson stated he is in favor of the Council voting on the liaison officer at the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Herbst stated he agrees liaison officers should be in the schools, but he disagrees with the City paying for the positions.

Discussed

3 [ORD 13-2264](#)**DRAFT RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE**

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [US Bench Comments.pdf](#)
 [Xcel Energy Comments.pdf](#)
 [Ordinance 13-2264](#)

Public Services Manager Therres stated Council directed staff to draft a right-of-way fee schedule and a procedure for issuance of permits. He stated staff has created a draft fee schedule based on the estimated staff time required to administer each process or permit. He stated the language change will give adjacent property owners a voice in the permit process and will give the City the ability to weigh property owner and neighborhood concerns before determining whether to issue or renew a permit.

Mayor Ryan commented the new fee will need to cover staff time.

Councilmember Hovland asked if the City has minimum standards for the benches such as concrete underneath, grass repair/replacement, maximum height, etc. Public Services Manager Therres stated there are established standards for the benches such as height, width, concrete underneath, etc.

Councilmember Hovland asked who is responsible for maintaining the benches.

Councilmember Herbst asked if the fee cover staff time. Public Services Manager Therres replied yes and the fee can be adjusted annually.

Councilmember Kolb stated the City should try establishing this Right-of-Way Ordinance with a service fee.

Councilmember Hovland asked about the right-of-way for county and state roads in the City. Public Services Manager Therres replied the county and state have their own standards, but the City has the authority to manage the rights-of-way under its jurisdiction.

Councilmember Kolb commented some of the City's monument signs are old and need to be removed.

Discussed

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Arneson stated there will only be street parking at the swimming beach. He noted this will be published in the upcoming newsletter.

Councilmember Swanson stated the Park Board still needs to approve their budget. Public Services Manager Therres stated the Park Board has issues with the Lexington Complex and parking at the beach.

Councilmember Swanson commented Mounds View has rejoined the 35W Coalition.

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:30 p.m.