

## **UNAPPROVED**

**CITY OF BLAINE  
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
Monday, September 16, 2019**

6:30 p.m.  
Cloverleaf Farm Room  
10801 Town Square Drive

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tom Ryan, Councilmembers Andy Garvais (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Julie Jeppson, Richard Paul, and Dick Swanson.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Wes Hovland and Jess Robertson.

Quorum Present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Public Works Director Jon Haukaas; Police Chief/Safety Services Manager Brian Podany; Finance Director Joe Huss; Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Bob Therres; City Engineer Dan Schluender; City Planner Lori Johnson; City Attorney Patrick Sweeney; Senior Engineering Technician Jason Sundeen; Budget/Fiscal Analyst Ward Brown; Communications Technician Roark Haver; Communications Coordinator Ben Hayle; Fire Chief Charlie Smith; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

Police Chief/Safety Services Manager Podany presented the Council with a 2018 annual report.

#### **3.1 Proposed 2020 Pavement Management Program.**

City Engineer Schluender stated the Engineering Department has begun selection of streets for the 2020 Pavement Management Program (PMP). Following the plan that was adopted in 2010, streets have been selected based on street condition ratings. Engineering staff has developed a rough cost estimate for the proposed streets and the Finance Department will update the PMP capital improvement plan to reflect the latest cost estimates. The final list of street projects will then be prepared based on the available funding and will be presented to the Council for authorization to begin preparation of feasibility reports. Staff reviewed the projects stated for inclusion in the 2020 PMP and requested feedback from the Council.

Public Works Director Haukaas explained the City would have a pavement rating process and would have recommendations for the Council. He described how staff would like to complete streets more by neighborhood within the project areas versus being scattered throughout the City.

Mayor Ryan requested staff also investigate the needs for sealcoating throughout the City. Mr. Haukaas stated this would be evaluated by staff.

Councilmember Paul requested further information on Jefferson Street reconstruction. Mr. Schluender discussed the progress of the Jefferson Street reconstruction noting watermain work was currently underway.

Council consensus was to direct staff to proceed with bidding the project and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

### 3.2 2020 Proposed Capital Fund Budget.

Finance Director Huss distributed a first draft of the Proposed 2020 Capital Budget to the Council for review and consideration. Capital requests have been submitted and Finance is compiling these requests and integrating them into the five-year Capital Budget Plan. Staff reviewed the information and requests with Council, along with funding alternatives.

Mayor Ryan requested the City consider purchasing a new senior van as the current van has been having issues for a long time.

Councilmember Jeppson indicated this would be a large expense and suggested the recent estate donation be considered when reviewing any proposed purchase.

The Council thanked staff for their work on the 2020 proposed Capital Fund Budget.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Jeppson requested an update on the Metro Transit transportation hub at Northtown Mall. Community Development Director Thorvig stated staff met with representatives from Northtown, Metropolitan Council and Spring Lake Park and said the mall explained why this location was chosen for the transportation hub. He indicated staff discussed the importance of proper screening for the transportation hub then shared that Metro Transit agreed to review proposed plans with both cities prior to any application submittal. Mr. Thorvig said Metro Transit would also hold an open house for residents of both cities then noted Spring Lake Park still objected to the transportation hub location.

Mayor Ryan recalled when the City of Fridley was unhappy with the original transportation hub location. He commented he supported the change given the improvements Northtown Mall was trying to make to the area.

Councilmember Swanson discussed the tax and employment implications the mall has on the City of Blaine. Mr. Thorvig stated it was his hope the mall representatives would be able to spread the message why the transportation hub was being moved and that the public would come to understand that this was an investment the mall owners were making in the property.

Councilmember Paul asked if any of the mall property was in Spring Lake Park. Mr. Thorvig reported all of the mall property was in Blaine, but the adjacent neighborhood that was opposing the new location of the transportation hub was in Spring Lake Park.

Police Chief Podany shared about a recent pedestrian fatality that occurred on University Avenue/85<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mayor Ryan commented on the upcoming Local Government Officials meeting with Anoka County and the importance of improving intersection safety for pedestrians. City Clerk Sorensen stated she would email the County to confirm the date of the meeting and share with the City Council.

Communications Coordinator Hayle explained Blaine was named one of the best 100 places to live in the United States by money.com. and was one of only three named in Minnesota.

Mayor Ryan reported he and Councilmember Jeppson had the pleasure of teaching government classes at Blaine High School today.

The Council welcomed new City Manager Michelle Wolfe.

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Tom Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Catherine Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

*Submitted by TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*