

CITY OF BLAINE
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Monday, December 21, 2020

5:45 p.m.
Virtual meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 5:45 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this hybrid meeting was held virtually.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tom Ryan, Councilmembers Andy Garvais, Wes Hovland, Julie Jeppson, Richard Paul, Jess Robertson, and Dick Swanson.

ABSENT: None.

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 Chris Nelson; Communications Technician Roark Haver; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; Human Resources Director Cassandra Tabor; Deputy Police Chief Dan Szykulski; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3.1 City Hall/Police Department Improvements Cost Estimate.

Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Therres explained as mentioned at the December 14 workshop meeting on the city hall improvements, a final estimate for the improvements from the construction manager, RJM was available.

Eric Sonneberg, RJM Construction, reported the estimate for the City Hall/Police Department Improvements came in at \$3,302,790 with soft costs of \$892,000 for a total of \$4,194,790.

Mayor Ryan stated he was pleased to see the estimates coming in within budget.

City Manager Wolfe explained this estimate had come in within the City's budget and plans will be created in order to bid the project in February of 2021.

3.2 Virtual Farewell Celebration to Honor Mayor Tom Ryan and Councilmember Dick Swanson (6:00-7:30PM).

Communications Manager Hayle thanked all who were in attendance at this meeting. He stated the city was making the best of the current pandemic and had brought together a number of individuals in order to recognize and bid farewell to Mayor Tom Ryan and Councilmember Dick Swanson. The individuals in attendance at the meeting included local and state representatives, Pastor Al Goracke, LMC Executive

Director, Anoka County Board Chair, mayors of neighboring communities, former staff and councilmembers, NSC Executive Director, NMTV Executive Director, the I-35W Coalition Administrator, Twin Cities Gateway Director, MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce President, Steve Guider, Terry Wold, Blaine Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee member, Police Chief Brian Podany and the Blaine Historical Society President.

Mr. Hayle showed a video for all individuals attending the meeting to view honoring Mayor Ryan and Councilmember Swanson.

Councilmember Swanson thanked all of the speakers for their kind words. He reported it had been enjoyable thinking back on all that had been accomplished over the years. He explained he was most proud of the trails and sidewalks that had been completed in the City of Blaine during his time on City Council. He stated he was thankful he had been allowed to serve as many years as he had.

Mayor Ryan stated he has enjoyed the people he has worked with over the years and felt lucky to have served with these individuals. He thanked the City Managers, Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs who served the city over the past 34 years. He discussed the importance of teamwork at a city level. He stated he has been fortunate to have had Councilmember Swanson by his side throughout his tenure. He appreciated how the City Council always worked through its issues. He stated he was very proud of all the city has accomplished. He thanked everyone for their kind words and for the memory video and explained he appreciated all of the efforts from staff and noted he would continue to serve at the Mary Ann Young Center. He indicated he was honored to see all of the people who had taken the time to attend this meeting then thanked his wife, children, and grandchildren for supporting him while he served the City of Blaine as Mayor.

Ms. Wolfe shared the mementos that would be delivered to Mayor Ryan and Councilmember Swanson to honor their years of service to the city.

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tom Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk
Submitted by Minute Maker Secretarial