

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
JANUARY 16, 2018**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 4:44 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Bob Fletcher, Councilmembers: Terry Nyblom, Craig Johnson, Greg Urban and Heidi Gunderson. The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, City Engineer Mark Graham, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Finance Director Bob Sundberg, Fire Chief Ed Leier, and City Attorney Caroline Bell Beckman.

**1. Water Meter Upgrade Discussion**

- Watson indicated SL Serco would no longer provide meter-reading services to the City after 2018.
- Challenging position to fill on regular basis. Serco has different vision for company.
- Cities are switching to antenna based automatic systems
- Systems are 20 years old and some cities are on their 2<sup>nd</sup> generation
- Graham has discussed cost scenarios with vendors - \$1.3-1.5 Million.
- City Council raised concerns about costs. Funds are available in fund balance.
- Discussed what phasing might look like
- Discussed hiring new employees or temporary employees to provide service internally
- Council directed staff to work with Councilmember Urban to identify a plan.

**2. Rice Street Bridge Discussion**

- Mayor laid out City Council concerns and discussions he had with Commissioner Huffman.
- Zippering impact on northern roundabout
- Two lost businesses totaling \$75,000 in lost property taxes
- Lost gambling tax dollars and lost liquor license fees.
- Councilmember Nyblom reiterated the loss of \$200,000 earned by Lions Club that gets invested in community and neighboring communities. Additionally lost jobs.
- Discussed the obligation to retain the Vadnais Blvd Bridge as it was paid for by federal/state dollars. Watson will follow up with County for better details.
- Need letters from County making promises.
- Nito Quitevis, a shoreview resident, addressed the Council on the dangers of roundabouts and the impact to businesses.
- City Council reviewed the simulations about peak hours from the County.
- Reviewed all the past layouts that were considered by the County
- City Council believes the northern roundabout may not be necessary.
- City Councilmembers commented on their greatest concerns related to the design
- Consensus was to fight for every incentive we can and consider those versus a design we do not agree with.
- Fletcher and Urban will meet with SEH engineer to identify alternatives.
- Council agrees there is not a traffic problem
- If discussions go well, maybe the City Council can consider this on Feb. 7th

**3. Residential Zoning District Review**

- Wall identified a number of issues, conflicts and obsolete sections within the code related to residential zoning districts. City Council to advise on a potential zoning code amendment to bring back to Planning Commission and City Council.

- Recommending eliminating Chapter 8
- City Council wants to remove all schools, churches and public buildings from all districts and keep in residential only.
- Council agreed to amending the crop/truck farming language
- Council agreed to removed livestock from the residential zoning districts
- Council agrees to amend home occupation code language but still wants to retain some control on hours and noise. Willing to review.

**4. Parks and Trails Component of Comprehensive Plan**

- Issue postponed.

**5. Other Items**

- Mayor discussed banners and staff will install banners again this spring. Leave up all year long. Staff will bring proposal on twinkle lights for holidays.

**Adjourned at 6:59 p.m.**

Prepared for and approved by:

Attest:

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator

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Bob Fletcher, Mayor