

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
MARCH 1, 2017**

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 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Fletcher, Councilmembers: Terry Nyblom, Craig Johnson, Heidi Gunderson, and Greg Urban.

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Administrator Kevin Watson, City Engineer Mark Graham, Finance Director Bob Sundberg, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, and Deputy Clerk Beckie Gumatz.

**1. Discussion of Flowerpots and Banners on City Center Street Lights**

- Watson explained that there is about \$10,000 in the budget to pay for flowers and flowerpots.
- Staff has been working with Urban Farms and Gertens to try different options.
- Watson noted he has also talked with one vendor about banners. Banners will cost about \$100 each. There are seven light poles that have the ability to hold banners on the bridge that goes across I-35E.
- The taller light poles have electrical outlets as well.
- Watson also outlined some options for decorations during the holidays as well.
- There is nothing in the budget currently to pay for any decorations. Funding would need to come from contingency.
- Fletcher stated that the previous City Council's intent was that the smaller poles have electrical outlets as well.
- It is estimated that it will cost about \$300 per pole to add electrical outlets to the smaller poles.
- Urban asked what the lifespan of the poles will be. Graham estimated 35 years.
- Nyblom asked for a total cost estimate for electricity, flowers and flowerpots, and other decorations. An estimate for adding electricity was discussed.
- There was discussion of which smaller light poles to add electricity to. Would it be added to all small light poles, or just the small light poles along County Road E?
- Watson recommended using TIF funds to add the electrical to the small light poles.
- Nyblom stated that he does not think residents are in favor of paying for flowerpots and he is not in favor of using taxpayer dollars to pay for flowers and flowerpots.
- Watson noted the next step is to meet with the City Center Task Force to further discuss banners and other decorations.
- Graham cautioned having new decorations that need to be put up for each holiday.
- Direction from a majority of the City Council was to add electrical to the small light poles using TIF funds and utilize the already budgeted \$10,000 to get the flowerpots, flowers and banners.

**2. Other Staff Items**

- Fletcher recapped the major objections regarding the comprehensive plan amendment regarding the Garceau site from the Planning Commission meeting: traffic concerns, character of the neighborhood, the proposed development turning into Section 8 housing, obstructing views of the lake.

- Urban added that there was some confusion about removing the density limit as well. Any proposals would still need to be approved by the City Council.
- Fletcher stated that the City Council needs to decide if concern with fitting the character of the neighborhood is enough of a concern to kill the proposed project.
- Nyblom would like to try and get the Planning Commission on board with the proposed project.
- There was discussion of how to get the Planning Commission to support the proposal.
- Watson explained that amending the comprehensive plan is just one of several decisions that need to be made in this process. There would still need to be re-zoning, site plan approval, etc. There is still opportunity to discuss the project with the Planning Commission and attempt to get their support.
- Urban also noted that the Planning Commission has a different purpose than the City Council in terms of reviewing the project.
- Gunderson believes that majority of people from the Planning Commission meeting are not just opposed to the comprehensive plan change, they also do not want the proposed project to happen.

**Adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**

Prepared for and approved by:

Attest:

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator

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Bob Fletcher, Mayor