

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
MAY 7, 2019**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 5:34 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Craig Johnson, Greg Urban, Patricia Youker and Bob Morse. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Finance Director Bob Sundberg, Fire Chief Ed Leier, Public Works Director Jesse Farrell, City Attorney Caroline Bell Beckman, and Deputy City Clerk Peggy Aho.

Others present were: Evan Cordes and Martin Jokinen, Planning Commission Members,

**1. Tobacco/Smoking Ordinance:**

Mayor Gunderson said that the Association of Non-Smokers of Minnesota, Jeanne Weigum, President, Jess Nolan and Bethlehem Yuwhalawork, presented on the Association's T-21 initiative. She noted that the Association has also made the presentation to the City's Health and Public Safety Committee. Weigum said that the Association has been working with many surrounding communities.

Council Member Morse asked what is happening at the Legislature regarding T-21. Weigum said that it is included in the House's Omnibus Bill but is not in the Senate's version.

Gunderson asked for data on sales of tobacco products in cities and counties that have enacted the new age limits. She also asked what retailers say about this change. Weigum replied that sale of tobacco products to people between the ages of 18 and 21 makes up only about 2% of the retailer's tobacco sales.

Morse asked what surrounding communities are enacting the 21 age limit. Weigum said that Little Canada is acting on enacting T-21 at its meeting this week and the City of New Brighton is scheduled to act next week on T-21 and flavored tobacco products and is holding a public hearing. The Cities of Mounds View and Maplewood are just starting to look at it.

Council Member Urban said that while he doesn't much care for smoking, he doesn't know that this should be regulated by government. Morse noted that the makers of Juul are pushing the T-21 initiative. Gunderson said that she would prefer to wait to see what happens at the State level in the 2019 session and then decide whether to revisit it.

**2. Budget 101 and Usage of Funds:**

Finance Director Sundberg reviewed the City's fund structure which includes: a general fund, four special revenue funds, a debt service fund, multiple capital projects funds, multiple enterprise funds, and two internal service funds. Sundberg also reviewed the various funding sources and discussed how each fund may be used. Sundberg said it is now time to begin the 2020 budget planning process. Sundberg said that staff would like to know how the Council feels about the levy amount.

Council Member Johnson asked if Sundberg could put together a schedule on when the Council Workshop should include budget process items. Assistant City Administrator Sandvik said that staff will put a schedule together and bring to a future Workshop. Sundberg said the first thing the Council should discuss as part of the budget planning process is the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which will help the Council set its priorities because the CIP has long term implications. Johnson said it would be nice to work on the budget, department by department. Sundberg asked that the Council let Tim Sandvik, Kevin Watson or himself know if you have any suggestions on the budget planning process.

**3. S.E.H.'s Revised Proposal for Design and Construction Services on the City's Lift Station:**

Public Works Director Farrell gave an update/overview of the City's lift station located at the intersection of Foothill Trail and Meadowood Lane. Farrell noted that he is looking for Council approval for staff to work closely with S.E.H. on developing improvement plans for the lift station. He said that the first proposal from S.E.H. that he previously brought before the Council included every type of work he could possibly have anticipated for this project and the revised proposal brought before the Council is basic, but should be sufficient in scope to provide services to the City to design a functional lift station site.

Farrell noted his concern that nearby property owners may want something that is aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. He told the Council that he appreciates being able to get assistance from S.E.H for the design and he is hoping for the support of the Council for the proposal tonight. Council Member Urban said that this proposal looks better, but he still questions some of the expenses for services he doesn't feel necessary. Urban suggested contacting the area residents to see how they would like to see the improvements look. Farrell responded that he has reached out to the residents. Council Member Johnson said he would like a list of what items at the lift station don't currently meet code.

**4. Staff Updates:**

None.

**5. Future City Council Requests:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator

Approved