

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MAY 16, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Mike Krachmer and Council Members Erik Goebel, Steve Rogers, Kelly Jozowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator, Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator, Kaylin Clement; Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Engineering Technician, Nick Ousky; Fire Chief, Chris Hearnden; Recreation & Facilities Manager, Katie Everett.

OTHER STAFF ITEMS

No items were added.

YEAR END REVIEW

Finance Director Sundberg summarized the report from the packet. Still mid-audit but the report contains the bulk of activity. Packet contains information for all the funds. Descriptions of sources of income and tax base provided. Council Member Doll Kanne inquired about landscape supplies. Recreation and Facilities Manager Everett responded. Discussion of how certain funds can only be spent on specific costs. Explanation of PEG funds provided by Administrator Watson. Discussion of Fire grant funds provided by Fire Chief Hearnden regarding training. Discussion of Heritage Days costs and budgeting had by Council Member Doll Kanne, Finance Director Sundberg, and Recreation & Facilities Manager Everett. Detailed discussion of funds, sources, and projects associated with each by Finance Director Sundberg.

MANY FACES OF WHITE BEAR LAKE

Follow up from presentation. There was interest in pursuing partnership with the organization.

**ADDITIONAL FULL TIME POSITION IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION**

Recreation and Facilities Manager Everett provided list of goals. Adding staff capacity the largest barrier to starting new programs but over time the budget will become the largest limiting factor. The packet provided a breakdown of goals that could be accomplished with added staff capacity. Council Member Rogers inquired about the amount of time spent at the Commons and Recreation and Facilities Manager Everett responded at around a fifth of her time is spent there. Evaluation capacity exists within current software and can contribute to Parks Master Plan and

planning for how many people use which parks to better inform park updates and equipment. Support from Council Members Jozwowski and Doll Kanne. Council Member Rogers indicated planning for future growth and use by particular age groups.

WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST POSITION

Through litigation water conservation is likely going to be a city focus. Gallons per capita per day is a data point that is often looked at. Below 75 is the goal, and according to the City's analysis places the City below. Total water usage is near goal. This position would help with the White Bear Lake lawsuit, and would investigate transition from ground water to surface water. Having a position to consolidate all the water and lawsuit tasks would be more effective as these efforts are divided between several roles currently. Could transition role to other conservation efforts. Would be more effective for City Engineer/Public Works Director as that role encompasses so much. Would come from utility funds. VLAWMO assisted with position. Council Member Goebel asked if there are similar cities that have similar roles that can model this position. Administrator Watson brought up how cities vary so widely. Council Member Rogers responded that it is important to have the narrative of due diligence and explain the

FUTURE COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Doll Kanne brought up that Juneteenth is a holiday and it is valuable to declare it a holiday. Discussion of logistics for Public Works and Fire. Fire Chief Hearden added detail about how Fire is staffed for holidays. Mayor Krachmer pointed out support but logistics are complicated. Council Member Doll Kanne suggested showing some support such as a proclamation or other recognition of the holiday.

Mayor Krachmer followed up on Just Deeds information he had sent out as a future discussion item in June. All Abilities would be a discussion item for the second June workshop.

ADJOURN

Mayor Krachmer adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin Watson, City Administrator