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 5:32 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Greg Urban, Craig Johnson and Bob Morse. The following member was absent: Patricia Youker.

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

Others present: Tim Wald, White Bear Lake Schools.

1. **Presentation regarding White Bear Lake Schools Bond Referendum**
   Tim Wald, White Bear Lake Schools, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Building Our Future, Bond Referendum.

   Mayor Gunderson asked where the varsity sports facilities would be. Wald replied that there will be a mix of South and North Campuses but that most will take place at the North site.

   Council Member Morse asked how long the referendum will run. Wald replied 24 years and should be level throughout that time.

   Council Member Urban asked if there is any savings in operating only one campus, such as administrative costs and said that there is an idea that this is a 50 year investment and perhaps the operational cost savings should be noticed.

   Wald said that the first project that would be done is building a new bus garage. He said that this would be done in less than a year. Then Hugo Elementary in the spring of 2020 and that each year there will be work done on all the elementary locations. He said that the design of the new high school would be worked on the first year. He noted that once the referendum passes they would start on the design.

   Council Member Morse asked if there are early childhood programs now. Wald responded, yes, at Normandy Park and some in various elementary schools.

   Gunderson questioned how this bond referendum would affect the operating levy currently in place. Wald said when you’re operating schools, the operating levies are in place for 10 years, if the school needs to come back to ask for an adjustment it would
have to come back with a new operating levy but there is no talk about increasing the operating levy. He said that there are other levies that the District has in place, such as a voter approved capital projects levy for technology, tubas, textbooks, etc. which expires in 2022 or 2023. At that time they will come back to the voters to renew it.

Gunderson asked what will happen if the bond referendum fails. Wald said that they would figure out why and put together a plan as quickly as they can to get back in front of the voters, because the kids are coming and they will have to put them somewhere.

Urban asked if there are any properties that are needed to be acquired for the North High School. Wald responded that they can build what they need on the property that the school already owns and that the School District has said it will not use eminent domain. Urban asked if they will acquire more property. Wald said they may if property owners near the school wish to sell.

2. **Update on North Oaks Sewer Connection**

Public Works Director Farrell noted that the previous City Council met and discussed a North Oaks sewer connection into the City’s sanitary sewer system in 2018. Farrell said that there could be a wide variety of issues. He said he doesn’t think that it’s a good idea for the City and that it’s not generally a good practice to allow connections to our municipal sewer system from properties outside of our borders, and that the City shouldn’t accept additional inflow and infiltration risks, especially if there are reasonable alternatives. He noted that he has reached out to other engineers and gathered information about this concept. He thinks it would be preferable for North Oaks and Vadnais Heights to pursue other alternatives. Farrell reviewed the other alternatives.

Council Member Urban asked if this just being sewer this would make Vadnais Heights a middle man and not a money generator. Farrell responded that the City would have to gather meter information about the flow and bill North Oaks for it, but he doesn’t think it would offset the risks, and worse, that we wouldn’t have the ability to enforce or inspect outside our municipal boundaries. He stated that he thinks that the City should not recommend allowing the connection to the City’s system.

Mayor Gunderson said that she supports Farrell’s position, as did the rest of the Council.

3. **Fire Relief Association’s Gambling Request**

City Administrator Watson introduced the item. He noted that the Fire Relief Association had contacted him regarding the monthly fee of 10% of net profits and said that some months the Association loses money and that the City’s forms don’t take the losses into consideration. The Association asked if the City would consider letting organizations make a yearly 10% donation based on net profits. Watson asked if the Council would be okay with staff coming back with proposed Code changes regarding the 10% fee being annually collected. The Council agreed.
4. **Draft 2020 Budget**
Mayor Gunderson encouraged Council Members to reach out to staff with any specific questions about the budget before the next meeting and hopefully the Council can reach agreement at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator