



MINUTES CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

**January 22, 2024 - 6:30 PM
Lakeville Water Treatment Facility**

1. Call to order, moment of silence and flag pledge

Mayor Hellier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Hellier, Council Members Bermel, Lee, Volk, Wolter

Staff Present: Justin Miller, City Administrator; Julie Stahl, Finance Director; Allyn Kuennen, Assistant City Administrator; Courtney Miller, Assistant to the City Administrator; Brad Paulson, Police Chief; Tina Goodroad, Community Development Director

2. Citizen Comments

None.

3. Discussion Items

a. Legislative Roundtable and 2024 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Hellier thanked the legislators and other elected officials for making time to attend the work session. The Mayor provided an overview of the 2024 legislative priorities that were adopted at the December 18, 2023, City Council meeting. Council and elected officials discussed the priority items including state mandates on local authority, school resource officers, and capacity improvements at County Road 50 and Interstate 35.

b. Regional Public Safety Training Facility Preliminary Design

Assistant City Administrator Kuennen provided background on the regional public safety training facility and introduced representatives from Leo A Daly, the architectural firm developing plans and specifications for the project's construction.

Representatives from Leo A Daly presented their findings to the Council. They identified the former Public Works Facility as an ideal site. The proposed facility would have range spaces, range support spaces, reality-based training, a mat room, a virtual reality space, and a classroom space. The building would be 46,339 square feet. The preliminary cost of construction, including base construction and construction of a warehouse, is \$21,480,834. The preliminary project cost, including construction cost and soft costs is \$24,257,423. State funding that the City has already received would cover \$7,170,000 of the total cost. Leo A Daly staff explained possible ways the City could structure its contractual options it offers to other agencies. Further, Leo A Daly

conducted a survey of area public safety agencies to better understand interest, needs, and willingness to subscribe at the various rates.

Phase Two of the project includes:

- Design
 - Begin in February 2024
 - Anticipated completion by November 2024
- Bidding/Negotiation
 - Anticipated completion by February 2025

Phase Three of the project includes:

- Construction
 - Anticipated start by April 2025
 - Anticipated completion by April 2026
- Move-In and Open For Business
 - Closeout anticipated completion by May-June 2026
 - Open to agencies anticipated July 2026

Council discussed the ongoing operational costs, potential ways to cut costs, and names for the facility. Council directed staff to define the costs further and continue discussions with potential partners.

c. Lakeville Fire Relief Association Pension Amendment Request

Dan Quam, President of the Lakeville Fire Relief Association Board, provided an overview of the association's pension amendment request. Mr. Quam stated that in less than two months, the Lakeville Fire Department will evolve into a hybrid department with both full-time and traditional paid-on-call ("POC") firefighters providing fire and rescue services to the City of Lakeville. He added that the viability and success of this transition is conditioned on maintaining a strong and committed foundation of at least 50 POC firefighters. The POC membership has expressed concern with retention, recruitment, and cultural solidarity.

Mr. Quam stated that the Lakeville Fire Relief Association Board has invested significant time and effort over the past 12 months to organize and address the members' concerns. As a result, the Lakeville Fire Relief Association requests the following changes to its pension:

Vesting Schedule Change:

- Current: Full vesting at 20 years; partial vesting initiating at 7 years of service (48%)
- Request: Full vesting at 20 years; partial vesting initiating at 5 years of service (40%)

Annual Pension Benefit Level:

- Current: \$12,000
- Request: \$15,000

Mr. Quam added that this request is supported by both new and long-tenured POC firefighters and aligns with the substantial increases in personal risk and overall time commitment directly attributable to Lakeville's significant growth. It is also consistent with other neighboring departments' improvements to their respective pension benefit plans.

Council discussed potentially phasing in the annual pension benefit level but ultimately directed staff to move forward with both requests as written. Staff warned the board that if it requests Council's approval in the future to change the full vesting schedule to 10 years, it could be detrimental to the fund. The board understood and thanked Council for its support.

d. Cannabis Zoning Discussion

Community Development Director Goodroad provided an overview of cannabis zoning restrictions. She stated that cannabis legalization was signed into law on May 30, 2023. The new state Office of Cannabis Management ("OCM") will begin licensing commercial growing, processing, and retail sales as early as January 1, 2025. She stated that cities will be responsible for registration. If a business has a valid license issued by the state, passes compliance checks, and has paid all fees and taxes, the city must issue registration. Minnesota state statute requires cities to issue at least one registration per 12,500 residents.

Ms. Goodroad stated that local ordinances can be adopted to regulate reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of operation of a cannabis business. The statute describes setbacks that may be incorporated into ordinances, such as 1,000 feet from a school and 500 feet from a daycare or residential treatment facility. Staff asked for the Council's direction on zoning districts for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and retail locations (dispensaries) and whether the uses should be permitted, conditional, interim, or accessory.

The Council discussed various restrictions. The Council indicated that it would be interested in establishing 500-foot restrictions from schools.

4. Items for Future Discussion

None.

5. Committee/ City Administrator Updates

Hellier: Attended a recent joint meeting between the Dakota County Mayors/Managers and the Dakota County Community Development Agency where they discussed potential and allowable funding uses.

Bermel: Will be attending the Dementia Friendly Cities Kickoff at the Heritage Center on January 25.

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Lee: Will be attending the upcoming ALF Board meeting on January 25.

6. Adjourn

Motion was made by Wolter, seconded by Bermel, to adjourn. Voice vote was taken on the motion. Ayes - Hellier, Bermel, Lee, Volk, Wolter
The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Miller, Assistant to the City Administrator Luke M. Heller, Mayor